

REDUCING PRESCRIPTIVE REGULATION FOR CSPs

- INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN A SHORT CONSULTATION

26th August 2010

Dear Colleague

I am writing to invite you to participate in a short consultation exercise to enable you to provide your views on Home Office ministers' desire to reduce prescriptive regulations for Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs).

The context for these proposed changes is a move by the new Coalition Government towards localism, devolving accountability to the public and removing unnecessary bureaucracy, as set out in chapter 5 (paragraphs 5.18 - 5.20) of the recently published consultation 'Policing in the 21st Century' (<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/consultations/policing-21st-century/>). This short consultation is running in parallel with the wider Policing consultation document published in July. Many of you will have seen the Policing consultation document and will be responding directly to the questions put forward in it. If you feel you have already provided the sort of input being sought in the attached questionnaire, please feel free to submit your response to the Policing consultation as a response to this invitation.

Ministers have said that they want partnerships to be action-oriented and freed from some of the prescriptive bureaucracy that 'clutters' and complicates partnership working locally. They have asked the Home Office to explore the scope for simplifying partnership working more broadly and have agreed that an initial step should be to free CSPs from some of the prescriptive regulation that they are currently subject to.

The Home Office has put forward a proposal for some changes to the regulations for CSPs, which are set out in the attached document, and would welcome your views **as to any risks in making the proposed changes, and any further regulations they could consider removing without putting improved local partnership working at risk.**

The timings for this work are not yet fixed, although they would like to proceed quickly, potentially concluding the work before the end of the calendar year. They hope to gather views (as indicated in the attached document) by early September and will then be able to set a sensible timetable for the final changes to take effect.

CSPs and other local partnerships have played a strong role in preventing crime, and ministers want them to continue to do so over the next two years during a transition period for policing and crime, and as a key part of a new framework when the first Police and Crime Commissioners are elected in 2012. The Government's Comprehensive Spending Review is due to report in October and although they cannot predict the outcome, the Coalition

Government has given some strong indications about resources over the coming years, and continued partnership working will be particularly important in tackling local community safety issues effectively and efficiently in a period of tightening resources.

If you would like to participate in this consultation, can you please provide your comments to the questions in the attached document and return it to Paula Milner, Community Safety Directorate, GOWM **by close on Wednesday 8th September 2010** (paula.milner@gowm.gsi.gov.uk). I apologise for the short timescale but do hope that you are able to take this opportunity to shape the direction of future partnership working and we look forward to your responses.

Regards

Lisa MacDonald
Assistant Home Office Director
GOWM