

**SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE
CONSULTATION:
SUPPORTING POLICE,
PROTECTING
COMMUNITIES: PROPOSALS
FOR LEGISLATION**

MAY 2005

AT THE HEART OF
PUBLIC SERVICES



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SECTION 1: SUPPORTING THE SCOTTISH POLICE SERVICE – THE NATIONAL DELIVERY OF SERVICES

Question 1: Do you agree that a Service Authority should be created to maintain the SDEA and provide the other common police services?

CIPFA welcomes the proposal to bring the services together to avoid duplication, provided that the membership of the service authority is widely drawn and includes significant representation of police forces. Care would need to be taken to ensure that the resulting body was not too large as to be unwieldy.

Question 2: Do you agree with the proposed division of responsibilities between the Director of the SDEA, the Service Authority and the Scottish Ministers?

Yes.

Question 3: Do you agree that, in certain circumstances, it is appropriate that the SDEA should be able to recruit officers directly?

It is CIPFA's view that in certain circumstances it would be appropriate for SDEA to recruit officers directly. However, attention should be paid to the experience gained from the issues faced surrounding the creation of SOCA in England and Wales where the recruits are agents and not police officers.

Question 4: Have we identified all the initial functions to be provided by the new Service Authority?

No comment.

Question 5: Do you agree with the proposed division of responsibilities between the Service Authority and the Scottish Ministers for the provided common police services?

CIPFA agrees broadly with the proposed division.

Question 6: Do you agree that there should be a senior strategic director for the provided common police services?

CIPFA considers the appointment of a senior strategic director essential. Further, CIPFA suggests that in view of the Keegan Report and the complex funding arrangements involved for the proposed Service Authority it would also be appropriate to appoint a professionally qualified financial officer. A key responsibility of the financial officer would be to ensure that systems to ensure effective accountability and transparency for public money are in place.

Question 7: Do you agree that the Police Service Authority Board should comprise representatives from ACPOS, Police Conveners and lay members, and do you have any views on the proposed composition of the Board?

CIPFA agrees that the Police Service Authority Board should comprise representatives from ACPOS, Police Conveners and lay members and would recommend an even balance of representation between the three groups.

Question 8: Do you agree that the legislation should include an enabling provision to allow functions to be added or removed?

CIPFA would strongly support the inclusion of such provision.

Question 9: Do you agree that the SDEA's budget should be simplified, provided on a 50:50 basis by central and local government and that Ministers should be able to direct additional funding if necessary?

As noted in question 6, in CIPFA's view the funding arrangements appear complex. Arrangements to ensure transparency would be essential.

Question 10: Do you agree that the Scottish Ministers should directly provide the whole of the funding for the provided common police services?

Yes.

Question 11: Are there any other comments you wish to make with respect to our proposals to create a single Service Authority which maintains the SDEA and provides common police services where police powers are not exercised?

No further comments.