

PRESS NOTICE

Committee on Standards in Public Life

COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE – WEST MIDLANDS - FRIDAY 19 DECEMBER

PUBLIC INVITED TO SUBMIT QUESTIONS AS PART OF POLICING INQUIRY

People across the West Midlands are invited to submit questions and comments to a national inquiry into the public accountability of policing.

Two members of the independent [Committee on Standards in Public Life](#) (CSPL) will be in Birmingham on Monday 8 December to meet [West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner, David Jamieson](#) , [Chief Constable, Chris Sims](#) and members of the [Police and Crime Panel for the West Midlands](#).

[Richard Thomas](#) and [Patricia Moberly](#) from CSPL will be in Birmingham on 19 December and are keen to hear the views of local people.

As well as meeting the elected PCC and police representatives, the Committee members are available from **9.00am to 10.00am at Sandwell Council House, Oldbury** to meet members of the public who would like to hear more about the Committee's inquiry or give their views on how police leadership, ethics and accountability.

Richard Thomas said:

“PCCs were introduced two years ago to be the ‘voice of the public’ and to bring greater local accountability to policing. We want to hear whether the new PCC role is understood and how people are being involved in policing issues in the West Midlands. We also want to hear what West Midlands Police are doing to make sure that the new police Code of Ethics is embedded at every level. The West Midlands is one of a sample of police areas we are visiting. If anyone has questions they would like us to put to the PCC, the Chief Constable or the Police and Crime Panel, we’d love to hear from them.”

Please tweet any questions to @PublicStandards or email public@standards.gsi.gov.uk

The Committee will produce a report and make recommendations to the Prime Minister after the 2015 election.

The Committee have also set aside time during the day to meet other interested parties or members of the public who would like to hear more about the Committee's inquiry or give their views

For more information or to arrange media interviews with a member of the Committee about this visit please contact Maggie O'Boyle on 07880 740627.

Key facts

Background information on Committee on Standards in Public Life

- The Committee on Standards in Public Life (CSPL) is an independent, advisory, non-departmental public body that advises the Prime Minister on ethical standards across the whole of public life in the UK. It monitors and reports on issues relating to the standards of conduct of all public office holders. CSPL was established in October 1994 by the then Prime Minister, Sir John Major, following a number of high-profile cases of misconduct by public office-holders.
- The CSPL seeks to maintain high standards of ethical conduct through the promotion of the Seven Principles of Public Life (or 'Nolan Principles' after the Committee's first Chair, Lord Nolan). These are Selflessness, Integrity, Objectivity, Accountability, Openness, Honesty and Leadership
- Over its twenty year lifespan the CSPL has published reports and advised the Government on a range of issues, from political party finance to MPs expenses and allowances and the Committee's recommendations have led to the establishment of such bodies as the Electoral Commission and the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority
- The CSPL's current inquiry into local accountability was launched on 6 October. A public consultation exercise closed on 30 November but the Committee continues to gather evidence through visits to police areas and meetings with key stakeholders.

Police and Crime Commissioners

- Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) were introduced by the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 and the first PCC elections were held in November 2012. Elected PCCs would, in the words of the then Police Minister Nick Herbert, 'swap the bureaucratic control of the police for democratic accountability' which would 'benefit police and public alike.'

- Police and Crime Panels were also established as a means of ensuring that PCCs would be subject to “effective scrutiny and appropriate checks and balances” by local representatives on behalf of the public
- The Home Secretary has said PCCs “would bring – probably for the first time ever – real local scrutiny of how Chief Constables and their forces perform.”

David Jamieson, Police and Crime Commissioner for the West Midlands

- David Jamieson was elected Police and Crime Commissioner on 21 August 2014 in an election that was triggered by the death of the previous Police and Crime Commissioner Bob Jones in July 2014.
- David Jamieson was declared the winner of the election with 50.88% of the first preference votes cast. Turnout in the 2014 election was 10.4%, lower than the 12% cast in the West Midlands in the first election in 2012, itself lower than the national average turnout of 15.4%.