



7th June 2016

**To: PCCs, APCC, APACE, NPCC, Chairs of FRAs, CFOA, FBU, Unison,
Police Federation, LGA, Chairs of PCPs**

POLICING AND CRIME BILL: CHANGING THE TITLE OF PCCS WHO TAKE ON RESPONSIBILITY FOR FIRE AND RESCUE

I am writing to seek your views on a consequential amendment to the Policing and Crime Bill to make provision to change the name of Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) and Police and Crime Panels (PCPs) who take on responsibility for fire and rescue.

Currently, the Policing and Crime Bill makes provision for PCCs in England to take on responsibility for fire and rescue where it would be in the interests of economy, efficiency and effectiveness or public safety and where a local case is made. This will enhance the accountability of fire and rescue services to the public and provide greater clarity of leadership. PCCs are also uniquely placed to drive innovative reform of both police and fire, maximise local opportunities for collaboration between the emergency services and deliver value for money in the interests of local people.

Amending the legal title of PCCs to reflect their additional responsibility for fire and rescue would support this greater transparency and accountability to the public, a point made when the issue was debated at Report stage of the Bill on 26 April (see, in particular, the speech by Amanda Milling MP at column 1323/4 of Hansard¹).

¹ <https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2016-04-26/debates/16042639000001/PolicingAndCrimeBill>

It is important that the public understand that where a PCC is also the fire and rescue authority for an area that they are electing someone to both the role of police commissioner and fire and rescue authority and that they are able to hold them to account for the delivery of both services. A title that includes reference to a PCC's fire role will ensure absolute clarity on this point.

We also propose to change the name of Police and Crime Panels where the PCC has taken responsibility for fire and rescue. This would reflect the additional scrutiny responsibilities of the PCP where the PCC is also a fire and rescue authority and ensure consistency with the title of PCCs.

The proposed name for PCCs that take on responsibility for fire and rescue is 'Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner'. We propose naming the corresponding PCP the 'Police, Fire and Crime Panel'. We do not propose to amend the title of PCCs or PCPs where they do not take responsibility for fire and rescue.

I would be grateful for your views on the proposed amendment, including any alternative suggestions for the name of PCCs and PCPs who take on responsibility for fire, **by Tuesday 21 June**. Please send responses to emergencyservicescollaboration@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Penning". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Rt Hon Mike Penning MP