

## Police and Crime Commissioner Review

On Wednesday 22 July 2020, the Minister for Crime and Policing laid a Written Ministerial Statement [[Link here](#)] in Parliament launching a review of the Police and Crime Commissioner model.

### Review Timetable

The Review will take place in two parts with the first stage beginning immediately and reporting to Ministers in the Autumn. The Home Secretary will consider the Review's final report before taking recommendations to the National Policing Board. The second part will commence after the May 2021 elections.

### Part-one of the Review

**Part-one** will focus on the changes required to strengthen the model and which can be delivered ahead of the 2021 PCC elections. It will also consider ways to strengthen the accountability of fire and rescue services in line with the Government's long-term ambitions on fire governance reform and will be aligned with the Government's commitment to mayoral devolution. In particular, part-one will look at how to strengthen:

- Accountability and legitimacy; through improving access to information, standards and profile of PCCs.
- Resilience; consider situations where a PCC cannot undertake their duties and the role of Deputy PCCs.
- Scrutiny mechanisms; examine the existing model to drive up standards, to identify and share best practice across the scrutiny body sector.
- The effectiveness of the relationship between PCCs and Chief Constables and the checks and balances currently in place.
- The mayoral PCC model, with the longer-term ambition to increase the number of mayors with PCC functions in mind

### Part-two of the Review

**Part-two** will commence after the 2021 elections and will consider further ways to strengthen and expand the role of PCCs, including the role PCCs play in tackling re-offending to help reduce crime. It will focus on longer-term reforms and the potential for wider efficiencies to be made within the system with a view to implementation ahead of the 2024 elections.

Neither Part-one nor Part-two of the review will consider a wholly new governance model for policing or examine the 43 police force model.

### Engagement

The Senior Responsible Owner for the Review is the Home Office Director of Policing. The Review Team will comprise of civil servants from within the Home Office. The Review Team will gather evidence through direct interviews, engagement with representative bodies and local/national victims' groups, and public polling/surveys.

An Advisory Group will be convened to support Part-one of the review, made up of senior external stakeholders with expertise in the policing and fire sectors. The Review Team will engage with the Advisory Group throughout the review.

## Frequently asked questions

### **How will Police and Crime Commissioners and interested parties contribute to the review?**

The Review Team will request written submissions as part of its evidence gathering phase and will supplement this with a series of interviews, bilateral meetings, sector engagement and polling. Views can also be submitted to [pccreview@homeoffice.gov.uk](mailto:pccreview@homeoffice.gov.uk).

### **Will the Review and its report be published?**

The internal review will report to the Home Secretary in the Autumn before being discussed at the National Policing Board.

### **Will changes be implemented before close of nominations for the 2021 elections?**

Part-one of the Review will report before the elections and give time for candidates and the public to consider the changes and future direction of the PCC model.

### **When will we know what the Part-two terms of reference are?**

Terms of reference for the second stage of the review will be developed post the elections next May and will, in part, be informed by the evidence gathered during this first phase.

### **Will the mandation of fire governance transfers be considered in Part-one?**

It would be wrong to second-guess the outcome of the review, however there are early indications of success from the first cycle of fire governance transfers to PCCs. It is right that we use this review to explore whether we can achieve a more robust governance model through PFCCs.

### **What is the relationship between the review and the Devolution White Paper?**

The review will consider ways in which both the PCC and mayoral PCC models can be strengthened and aligned. We believe mayors of Combined Authorities should be powerful local figures with the ability to drive public safety, as well as economic growth and local recovery. We plan to develop the role of PCCs with that longer-term trajectory in mind, building on the established mayoral models. We plan to publish the Local Recovery and Devolution Paper in the Autumn and will set out our mayoral devolution ambitions including increasing the number of mayors with responsibility for policing.

### **Will Recall or the electoral system be considered in Part-one?**

Part-one will consider options to strengthen the accountability of PCCs and take account of the Home Affairs Select Committee report on recall. Although not for consideration in part-one of the Review, we will continue to work across government on the Government's wider electoral reform agenda.

#### **Contact**

If you have any questions or comments on the contents of this note, please contact:

[pccreview@homeoffice.gov.uk](mailto:pccreview@homeoffice.gov.uk)