

**POL/19/2009**

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**Policing and Crime Bill: UNISON Briefing**

**Attached to this circular is a short UNISON briefing on the Policing and Crime Bill currently going through Parliament.**

The Policing and Crime Bill currently in Parliament deals with a range of policing issues, mainly operational in nature.

The attached briefing highlights those key sections of the Bill which concern police staff and UNISON. In summary they are:

- New requirements on police authorities to consult with the general public
- New powers to support collaboration between police authorities

In relation to new Section 23 of the 1996 Police Act, introduced by the Bill, UNISON hopes to see an amendment tabled which would require chief constables to consult with recognised trade unions over any plans to collaborate with other forces. We hope that this amendment will be tabled later this month at the Report Stage of the Bill.

Please let me know if you have any queries.



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## **POLICING AND CRIME BILL: A UNISON BRIEFING**

The following presents an overview of the 'Policing and Crime Bill' currently going through Parliament. The key sections of the Bill, which affect police staff, are as follows:

### **1. Part 1: (Police Reform)**

Places on additional duty on police authorities to have regard for the views of the public on policing in their area.

Part 1 of the Bill also contains provisions aimed at improving the co-operation of police forces at regional and national level.

Clause 1: Duty of Police Authorities in relation to public accountability

Clause 1 (1): inserts into the Police Act 1996 a requirement for police authorities to have regard for the views of the public concerning policing

Clause 1 (2): gives HMIC the power to inspect the new requirement on police authorities to consult the public

Clause 5: replaces section 23 of the Police Act 1996, with 9 new sections providing for the creation of agreements between police forces and between police authorities to collaborate

The new sections 23 to 23l provide a framework to:

- Support collaboration projects
- Enable agreements for the transfer of the direction and control of police officers and staff seconded as part of a collaboration agreement
- Share costs for support provided or for liabilities and indemnities
- Involve consultation with the Secretary of State for collaboration agreements involving seven or more forces/authorities
- Require accountability arrangements for collaborations, and for their publication

- Require the publication of collaboration agreements
- Enable Secretary of State guidance on collaborations, including directions to consider entering into collaborative arrangements, or prohibiting such arrangements
- Enable the Secretary of State to terminate collaborative arrangements

#### Clause 10: Police Equipment

Section 53 of the Police Act 1996 allows the Secretary of State to make regulations as to standards of police equipment. This clause amends this section to explicitly include software in the definition of equipment.