

APPENDIX B

National Association of Police, Fire & Crime Panels
Essex Police Fire and Crime Panel
Essex County Council
Chelmsford
Essex

5th November 2018

Dear Police & Crime Panel Chairman,

I am seeking your support to assist the National Association of Police, Fire and Crime Panels provide value added services to all PCP's in the years ahead. Before detailing the form of this support I believe it appropriate to provide a background reminder of the current situation.

You will be aware from past communication that the majority of Police and Crime Panels in England and Wales are in favour of forming a national association to promote public awareness of the panels role, provide continual sector development through training, networking and the development of best practice based on how different panels carry out effective scrutiny of their respective PCC's. Much of the panel documentation created by the Home Office prior to the introduction of Police & Crime Panels is now aged and in need of refresh away from a position required at the creation of new panels and more towards how panel members can more effectively undertake the role to which they have been appointed.

At the inaugural meeting of the NAPFCP last April, PCP representatives identified and agreed the NAPFCP Terms of Reference a copy of which is included as Appendix A.

An Executive Board consisting of volunteers from panel members across of England and Wales was formed to make decisions on the day-to-day affairs of the NAPFCP. The Executive Board will meet as required, mostly via audio conference to keep administration costs to a minimum. Since its formation the Executive Board has met three times to agree the outline terms of a constitution document, the setting up of a NAPFCP web presence and to make an in principle decision to part fund a refresh of documentation specific to all PCP's. The purpose of a NAPFCP web presence is to provide members with a data library for sharing good practice, case studies and reference material and linkages together with a public facing home page to provide a Panels perspective of its role and linkage between the Police & Crime Commissioner, the Home Office and the LGA.

As the Home Office grant is the only source of funding available to PCP's, a small number of panels requested confirmation that a NAPFCP annual subscription (£500) could be met through the HO grant. Dr Christopher Kemp (Norfolk PCP and Executive Board Member) provided a legal opinion based upon his reading of relevant documents, which was passed to the Home Office for comment last July. A Home Office response (Appendix A) has now been received, which refers to salient parts of the Police Reform and Social Responsibilities Act 2011 and states the purpose of the HO funding is for the maintenance of a panel to carry out its functions and responsibilities under the ACT and responsibilities of a panel are focussed on scrutiny of the relevant PCC and do not extend out of the police area of the PCC.

Whilst this HO opinion does not prevent the formation of the NAPFCP, it presents an unwelcome constraint in respect of if or how some of the NAPFCP agreed terms of reference can be delivered. For example, the design and set up of a NAPFCP web presence was planned to be awarded to a contractor at a one off cost of £700, with on going document production and web site maintenance being completed by Executive Board members on a voluntary basis. The restrictive HO grant wording prevents expenditure of this nature to be funded by the HO grant.

The Executive Board believes the restrictive wording of the 2011 Act, written prior to the formation of the current Police & Crime Panels, should be relaxed in order for PCP's to make the best use of their HO grant. Such a relaxation would engender good practice and professional development in a low cost and effective manner, whilst still discharging PCP's statutory responsibilities.

May I respectfully request that your PCP demonstrates its support by writing to the Policing Minister - Nick Hurd and copying the Home - Secretary Sajid Javid, requesting a change to the current HO grant conditions that **allows PCP's greater flexibility in the use of the grant for PCP related purposes, which may be outside of their respective policing area.** It would also be most helpful if when contacting the Policing Minister you also request the support of your local MP's. I am taking the liberty of including a copy of a letter from the Essex PFPCP to the Policing Minister that may assist you when compiling a supporting letter.

It would be most helpful if you would let me know if you write to the Policing Minister so that I can record the strength of support for an appropriately funded NAPFCP. I hope to meet with many of you at the Frontline Consulting annual conference in Warwick on 12th November

Yours sincerely,



John Gili-Ross

National Association of Police, Fire and Crime Panels

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