



Home Office

Rt Hon Mike Penning MP
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The Rt. Hon. Simon Hughes MP
Minister of State for Justice and Civil Liberties
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Dear Simon

24 MAR 2015

Thank you for your letter of 18 March 2015 setting out your proposals for making the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) subject to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

The extension of the FOIA to cover the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) in 2011 increased transparency and accountability. It is only right, therefore, that the new coordinating body should be open to the same scrutiny and is no less transparent. This has always been our intention. Therefore I am pleased that ACPO and the NPCC agree and have been involved in developing solutions.

I also agree with your proposal for the NPCC to hold information on behalf of ACPO during the crossover period after the former is established and while the latter is wound up. I am satisfied that this provides suitable cover during this interim period and it is preferable that requestors should have a right of appeal to the Information Commissioner.

To avoid any lapse in FOIA cover the designation of the NPCC should be a priority in the next Parliament and our officials should continue to work closely with the NPCC to ensure swift progress.

I am copying this letter to Ian Readhead, Chief Executive of the ACPO Criminal Records Office and the Justice Secretary.

Regards
MP

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