



*Joint agreement in relation to  
Scrutiny between the Independent  
Police Complaints Commission,  
Police Ombudsman for Northern  
Ireland, the Garda Síochána  
Ombudsman Commission and  
Police Complaints Commissioner  
for Scotland*



**Joint agreement in relation to  
Scrutiny between the Independent  
Police Complaints Commission,  
Police Ombudsman for Northern  
Ireland, the Garda Síochána  
Ombudsman Commission and  
Police Complaints Commissioner  
for Scotland**

# Memorandum of Understanding

## **Joint scrutiny agreement between the Independent Police Complaints Commission for England and Wales, the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland, the Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission and the Police Complaints Commissioner for Scotland**

The Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland (PONI) is the oversight body for complaints against the Police in Northern Ireland.

The Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) is the oversight body for complaints against the Police in England and Wales.

The Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission (GSOC) is the oversight body for complaints against members of the Garda Síochána in Ireland.

The Police Complaints Commissioner for Scotland (PCCS) is the police oversight body for non-criminal complaints against the police in Scotland

The IPCC, PONI, GSOC and PCCS recognise that there will be times when their decisions and actions will be the subject of much debate and scrutiny.

There is justified and legitimate perception that the bodies that oversee the complaints process in respect of the police service are not themselves subject to any detailed external scrutiny when the need arises.

Whilst the respective legislatures of each jurisdiction have ultimate oversight of these bodies, there is a need to ensure transparency and independent scrutiny in matters that impact on the oversight bodies' reputation and integrity.

This joint memorandum of understanding seeks to address and alleviate those concerns.

The Independent Police Complaints Commission, the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland, the Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission and the Police Complaints Commissioner for Scotland agree a memorandum of understanding that:

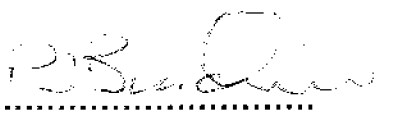
1. Each organisation can request, at Chief Executive/Director of Operations level, a review or the scrutiny of an investigation or review it is undertaking or undertook.
2. The Chief Executive/Director of Operations of each organisation can make "special requests" to each other where, in their view, a "critical incident" affecting the public confidence in their respective organisations requires an independent review.

3. Each organisation agrees that reviews would be cost neutral in respect of staffing but travel, accommodation or the requirement for specialist services would be recoverable from the organisation requesting the review.
4. Staff conducting reviews will possess the appropriate level of security vetting clearance in line with the matter they are dealing with.
5. Confidentiality agreements between the four organisations are implicit in this agreement.
6. Ownership of any product/material arising out of a review will rest with the commissioning body.
7. Reviews where appropriate may include "critical friend" debriefing/advice.
8. The agreement is subject to any legal requirements that each body has, exists or may arise.

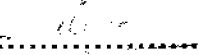
#### **Signatories**

**Signed** .....

**Jane Furniss  
Chief Executive  
Independent Police Complaints  
Commission**

**Signed** .....

**Paul Buschini  
Director of Operations  
Garda Síochána Ombudsman  
Commission**

**Signed** .....

**Samuel Pollock  
Chief Executive  
Police Ombudsman for Northern  
Ireland**

**Signed** .....

**Ian Todd  
Director  
PCCS**