

# POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONERS IN WALES – an easy guide to how the system works

Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) are the local governing body for policing in your area. Each Commissioner has a duty to secure an efficient and effective police service, which shows value for money and, above all, cuts crime. Police and Crime Commissioners only exist in England and Wales, not in Scotland or Northern Ireland.

In Wales, there are 4 Commissioners, one each for the 4 Police Force areas of Dyfed-Powys, Gwent, North Wales, and South Wales.



## WHAT IS A POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER?

The Commissioner has four main duties, which are to:

- Set out the priorities for policing in their area.
- Decide the budget for the local police service.
- Hold the Chief Constable to account.
- Listen and respond to the public's views on policing.



## HOW DOES THE COMMISSIONER DO THEIR JOB?

To carry out these duties, the Commissioner has a range of powers and responsibilities including:

- Being accountable to the electorate and representing the public in policing matters.
- Preparing a Police and Crime Plan which sets out the strategic direction and objectives for policing in their area.
- Setting the policing 'precept', which is the part of local council tax that goes towards policing.
- Working with partners to prevent and tackle crime and re-offending.
- Holding the Force to account, through the Chief Constable, for the delivery of police services.
- Appointing and, if necessary, dismissing the Chief Constable.
- Overseeing complaints against the police service.
- Commissioning community safety services and projects in the area.
- Ensuring that public priorities are acted upon, victims are consulted and that the most vulnerable individuals are not overlooked.
- Ensuring value for money.



## WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A PCC AND THE CHIEF CONSTABLE?

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and the local Police Service are two different organisations. As such, the two roles of Police and Crime Commissioner and the Police's Chief Constable have unique responsibilities:



### POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

Is elected by public vote.

Sets out the priorities for policing through the Police and Crime Plan.

Decides the budget for the police and sets the policing 'precept', which is the part of local council tax that goes towards policing.

Represents the public in policing matters and listens and responds to their views on policing.

Holds the Chief Constable to account.



### CHIEF CONSTABLE

Is chosen through a recruitment process.

Has accountability for delivery of policing and the management of policing.

Is responsible for managing day-to-day finances from the budget agreed by the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Is accountable to the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Leads and manages the performance of the police.

## OFFICE OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

Each PCC has an office made up of staff who help them carry out their role. Depending on the area, these can include administrative and support staff, the office CEO, policy officers, communications staff, and analysts.

## POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

The Police and Crime Commissioner is scrutinised by an independent Police and Crime Panel made up of local councillors and independent members. Each force area has a Police and Crime Panel to maintain a regular check and balance on the performance of the Commissioner on behalf of the electorate. The Commissioner is also required to consult with the Panel on their plans and budget for policing, as well as the level of council tax and the appointment of a Chief Constable, Chief Executive and Chief Financial Officer.

## POLICING IN WALES

Policing in Wales is the body that brings together the Police and Crime Commissioners, Chief Constables, Chief Executives and other leaders of the four Welsh police forces to discuss the key issues affecting policing across the country.

## HELPFUL LINKS

[www.dyfedpowys-pcc.org.uk](http://www.dyfedpowys-pcc.org.uk)

[www.northwales-pcc.gov.uk](http://www.northwales-pcc.gov.uk)

[www.gwent.pcc.police.uk](http://www.gwent.pcc.police.uk)

[www.southwalescommissioner.org.uk](http://www.southwalescommissioner.org.uk)