

Briefing for the Home Secretary's bilateral with Sir Denis O'Connor (HMCIC)

16 November 2011 (15:45 – 16:45)

Sir Denis's office has requested the following agenda for this meeting:

[Redacted]

2. **Police Integrity Review** – The Interim Report was submitted to you on 5 October, and officials have had sight of a draft final report;

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

2. POLICE INTEGRITY REVIEW

Lines to take

- I know that officials have received an early draft of the integrity review – thank you for the work on this to-date.
- I'm told there are some helpful observations and advice for forces and authorities in getting to grips with actual issues of integrity and public perception that officers are behaving in the way that they should.
- However, I am keen to see a clear and coherent message on these issues which drives some change in the culture of the Service as well as its formal processes. The report will need to punch its weight alongside other work in this important area.
- It will be important, alongside Tom Winsor's work and planning for the professional body, that we can help forces and authorities to understand the importance of leadership by example and setting the culture and tone for officers and staff.
- All of this will be a very important resource for Police and Crime Commissioners as they get to grips with their role in assuring the public of police integrity.
- Officials will discuss the draft with you urgently, so that I can engage properly with a developed version. We can then agree a sensible date for publication.

Background

- In your statement to Parliament on 18th July on the MPS, you announced that you were asking HMIC to consider instances of undue influence, inappropriate contractual arrangements and other abuses of power in police relationships with the media and other parties and to make recommendations about what needs to be done. This work was formally commissioned on 20 July. Denis O'Connor subsequently wrote to you, indicating that HMIC would provide an interim report in September, and a final report by the end of October. His letter of 5 October provides an interim update on this work and is intended as the September interim report.
- We've now seen the draft final report. There are some biting observations but the overall message hasn't yet cohered into a clear and unambiguous message to help forces and authorities to understand how to use the report. We need to work closely with Denis and with Roger Baker, the author of the report. Otherwise, the report will not achieve what we need it to achieve. If that is the case, then there is also the risk that it looks weaker than others might look when they come out – namely IPCC and Elizabeth Filkin's review of the MPS.
- To be aware that the IPCC have let us know that they are expecting now not to have the second part of their report ready until early next year. They will write shortly to set this out.
- If Sir Denis is pushing for early publication of this report, we should be clear that we would want to ensure that the message is clear first and that publication shouldn't be driven by HASC timescales.

- **Leveson Inquiry:** Lord Justice Leveson launched his inquiry on the 28th July and it is being carried out under the Inquiries Act 2005, which means that Lord Leveson has powers to summons witnesses to give evidence under oath. He will report both to you (Home Secretary) and to Rt. Hon. Jeremy Hunt (Secretary of State for Culture Media and Sport) and is supported by 6 named independent experts. There are two parts to the inquiry. The first part focuses on the culture, practices and ethics of the press, and includes the relationship of the press to the police. The second part, will examine the extent of unlawful or improper conduct at the News of the World and other newspapers and the issue of corrupt payments to police officers. The Inquiry started taking formal evidence at hearings with the identified core participants on 14th November. The Inquiry is due to report on the first Part in September 2012. We still expect most of the second Part of the Inquiry to take place once the police investigation and any resultant prosecutions have been completed.

