



Home Office

Rt Hon Damian Green MP
MINISTER OF STATE FOR POLICING AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE
2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 4DF
www.homeoffice.gov.uk

Dear PCC,

09 MAY 2013

LETTER TO ALL POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONERS
MAYOR'S OFFICE FOR POLICING AND CRIME
CITY OF LONDON POLICE COMMITTEE

The UK is chairing the G8 summit in Northern Ireland in June; police officers from your force are critical to maintaining safety and security at this high-profile, important event. I am therefore very grateful to you and your force for ensuring that those officers can be made available to provide assistance to the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI). I am writing now to ask for your assistance with preparations for the deployment of these officers to Northern Ireland.

Whilst I have no doubt that police officers from England and Wales will demonstrate the highest standards of professional behaviour while they are in Northern Ireland, it is important for public confidence in the police that proper complaints systems are in place to cover all officers deployed under mutual aid provisions. Once officers from your force are on duty in Northern Ireland, they are under the direction and control of the Chief Constable of PSNI and are therefore no longer straightforwardly subject to the complaints system in England and Wales, overseen by the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC). Nor are they automatically under the auspices of the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland.

Whilst any complaints made against an officer could, in theory, be dealt with by their home force on their return from Northern Ireland, this is logistically, politically and publicly more difficult than having complaints investigated and dealt with by the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland. For this reason we would like each appropriate authority for a force deploying officers under mutual aid to enter into an

agreement with the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland to enable him and his office to assume responsibility for any complaints made against any of these officers.

The basis for doing this is an agreement made under section 60(1) of the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 1998. This allows Northern Ireland's complaints procedures to apply where the PCC, MOPAC or the City of London Common Council makes an agreement with the Police Ombudsman in relation to officers from their force.


I have attached here, and will arrange for you to receive electronically, a draft agreement. I would be most grateful if you would arrange to sign this and return it to the Police Transparency Unit, at the address below, as swiftly as possible please – by **Friday 17 May** at the latest.

The terms of this agreement have been drafted in consultation with the chief officer leads on misconduct and complaints and public order. Ian Learmonth, Chief Constable of Kent and chief officer lead for public order has already, I believe, raised this issue with you or with your chief constable or commissioner.

If you have any concerns or queries, please either contact Ian Learmonth, or get in touch with the head of the Police Transparency Unit in the Home Office, Gareth Redmond, on 020 7035 0897 / Gareth.Redmond@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk, and return a signed copy of your agreement to him at:

Police Transparency Unit
Home Office
6th floor, Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF.

Once again, thank you for your understanding and assistance.

Yours sincerely,


Rt Hon Damian Green MP