



Home Office

Tony McNulty MP
MINISTER OF STATE

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BY EMAIL

Chief Constables
Police Authority Chairs
LGA (for onward distribution)
Audit Commission
Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary

24 JAN 2007

Dear Colleague

Implementation of the Assessment of Policing and Community Safety (APACS) Performance Framework.

I recently met representatives of the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), the Association of Police Authorities (APA), the Audit Commission, the Local Government Association (LGA), and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) to discuss the development of the Assessments of Policing and Community Safety (APACS). I am writing today to provide you with an update following the meeting, and to set out the plans for APACS going forward.

The development and introduction of APACS provides several important opportunities, including: better **alignment** of policies, actions, organisations, and therefore assessments of performance; **simplification** of national performance arrangements, and taking into account the relative **seriousness** of different issues when designing and delivering crime reduction and community safety strategies. It will also allow us to provide a more balanced landscape of accountability for community safety outcomes at the local level.

I am grateful to stakeholders for attending the meeting, and for expressing their support and commitment to the principles of the APACS framework and its development. At the same time, stakeholders raised strong concerns about the timetable for introduction. Whilst I wish to maintain the pace of reform in this area - particularly given the potential benefits that we perceive for partners - I am convinced of the need to take more time to develop the framework. I have therefore agreed to the development of a framework for introduction in 2008/09. This will also allow for alignment with the new set of PSAs, which will be agreed in the Comprehensive Spending Review this summer, and with the emerging framework for Local Government in England. I note though, that this does not mean that we can be complacent about development if you are to have clarity about APACS before you start to plan for the 2008/09 year in the autumn.

Clearly, we will also need to develop an interim solution for reporting performance to the public for 2007/08 which takes us forward and maintains the transparency we expect. We will seek views on how best to progress this and development of the overall framework in the very near future.

I am also keen to ensure that – going forward – the development of APACS is progressed firmly in partnership with key stakeholders. As such, I am pleased that many stakeholders have expressed strong interest in developing a joint team to work on APACS development here in the Home Office.

I am heartened by the strong support for this programme that was evident at the meeting and that we agreed to a public statement to that effect which will let the public know our commitment and direction. I look forward to working with you on this key programme and hope we can use this opportunity to improve and simplify the way we work together.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left from the top of the 'T'.

TONY MCNULTY MP