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Call for Evidence (phase 1)

October 2019

Introduction

In September 2019 the Police Foundation launched a major, independent Strategic Review of Policing in England and Wales, the first of its kind in many years. The Review will examine how crime, fear of crime and other threats to public safety are changing and assess the ability of the police to respond, both at present and over the coming decades. The Review is chaired by [Sir Michael Barber](https://www.deliveryassociates.com/who-we-are), assisted by Sir Bill Jeffrey (as vice chair) and guided by an Advisory Board, which includes former senior police officers, politicians and leading academics.

The overall aim of the Review is to set the long-term strategic vision for English and Welsh policing and present substantial recommendations for a modern service capable of meeting the challenges of the 21st century.

More specifically, the Review will consider:

* What the police mission should be, looking in particular at the public’s expectations of the police.
* The capabilities and resources the police service needs to achieve this mission.
* The future police workforce, including the roles, responsibilities, skills and knowledge of police officers and staff.
* How the police service should be structured and held to account, locally, regionally and nationally.
* How the police service should work with other sectors to deal with complex social problems.
* How much funding the police service requires and how this should be allocated.

More information about the Review can be found at:

<http://www.police-foundation.org.uk/project/strategic-review-of-policing/>

The Review’s (draft) Terms of Reference can be found at: http://www.police-foundation.org.uk/2017/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/SR-TOR-draft.pdf

Call for Evidence

Two phases of preparatory work will inform the Review’s final report and conclusions.

The first phase will assess and define ***the challenge*** the police service should be designed and prepared to face over the coming decades. This will involve:

* Examining the changing nature of crime, threats to public safety and ‘demand’ on the police.
* Understanding contemporary public and societal expectations of the police service.
* Considering the fundamental principles that should define the police mission, remit and purpose in the current context.
* Assessing the likely implications of predicted societal change for public safety and the police service.

The second phase will look at the (broadly defined) ***capabilities*** the police will need to meet these challenges. This will include their; workforce, powers, equipment, accountability mechanisms, structures and resources.

**This Call for Evidence relates to phase one of this work only**. A second Call for Evidence, for phase two, will be issued in early 2020.

In this Call for Evidence we invite **all interested parties**, both from within and outside policing, to provide written submissions in response to a set of consultation questions. The intention is to collect evidence, insights, arguments and perspectives which (sitting alongside a programme of secondary research, key informant interviews and commissioned ‘insight’ papers) will inform the Review’s understanding of the challenge facing the police service, now and in the years to come. The findings from this first phase of the Review will be published in April 2020.

The Call for Evidence invites responses to six questions. For each question we also include several more detailed sub-questions or points for consideration, which respondents may wish to focus on in framing their response.

The questions cover four areas:

1. Understanding crime, threat and demand (questions 1 and 2).
2. Understanding public and societal expectations (questions 3 and 4).
3. Reconsidering the police mission and purpose (question 5).
4. Looking ahead (question 6).

Instructions for respondents

Respondents are invited to submit information, commentary, views and arguments in response to **one, some or all of the questions** using the form provided on the following pages.

We welcome responses to **any question from any respondent**; although (as indicated) some questions will be more relevant to police organisations and some to respondents outside policing.

The boxes provided for your responses can be expanded to accommodate additional text. As a guide, please try to limit your response to a **maximum of around 2,000 words per question**.

You are welcome to submit additional documentation or provide links or citations to relevant material to support your response. If doing so, please be clear about how the material relates to the question or your response and be specific about the location of relevant content within the supporting or referenced material.

In the final section you will be asked for permissions with regard to crediting your submission, attributing responses and potential further contact.

Once completed, please submit your response by email to:

**strategicreview@police-foundation.org.uk.**

**The closing date for submissions is Friday 20th December 2019.**

1: Understanding crime, threat and demand

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| **Q1: What forms of crime or other ‘threats’ to public safety are most in need of a new, revised or more concerted strategic response** (including, but not only, by the police service)**?**  You may wish to comment on:   * Why you think this/these issues are particularly pressing. * Why you think the current response is inadequate or in need of revision. * Your proposals for reform or considerations that should be taken into account when formulating a new response to the threat(s). * The respective roles for the police service and other agencies/organisations within that response. |
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| **Q2:** (Particularly for police organisations):**What sources and drivers of ‘demand’ are having a particular impact on police resources?**  You may wish to comment on:   * How (and, as far as you able, why) these sources and drivers of demand have changed over the last decade (or longer if relevant). * How this has impacted on police resources, capability and capacity. * Your views on the actions or approaches that should be taken to meet or (where appropriate) reduce these forms of demand. * How (and why) you expect these demands to change in the coming years. |
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2: Understanding public and societal expectation

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| **Q3:** (Particularly for police organisations):**How have public, partner agency and societal expectations of the police service changed in the last decade (or longer if relevant)?**  You may wish to comment on:   * The indicators or sources of evidence that inform your assessment of changing expectations. * The implications of these changes for police service delivery. * Your views on the extent to which these expectations are ‘legitimate’ (i.e. whether they are expectations the police service should strive to meet). * Your views on the extent to which these expectations are currently being met by the police service. |
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| **Q4:** (Particularly for respondents outside of policing):**What do you, (or your organisation or the people you represent) want, need and expect from the police service now and over the coming decade?**  You may wish to comment on the police approach to, treatment of and provision of services to:   * Victims of crime. * Individuals or groups who are vulnerable or who have particular needs. * Ethnic or other minority groups. * Communities (defined either geographically or in terms of shared identity or interest) * The public as a whole. |
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3: Reconsidering the police purpose and mission

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| **Q5:** According to the police Statement of Mission and Values:  *“The mission of the police is to make communities safer by upholding the law fairly and firmly; preventing crime and antisocial behaviour; keeping the peace; protecting and reassuring communities; investigating crime and bringing offenders to justice.” (ACPO, 2011)[[1]](#footnote-1)*  **In your view, does this remain a relevant and adequate description of the mission and purpose of the police service in the 21st Century?**  You may wish to reflect on:   * How the above statement might be amended, refined or supplemented to reflect the appropriate role for the police in today’s society? * The overall objectives and outcomes that the police, working with others, should seek to achieve. * The particular functions and activities that should be central to the police role and remit and/or those that should be only peripheral or beyond the police role. |
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4: Looking ahead

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| **Q6:** **What threats and challenges should the police, working with others, expect to encounter and prepare for over the next one to two decades?**  You may wish to comment on:   * The types of crime you think are likely to become higher and lower priority in the coming years and the reasons for this. * The emerging or predictable aspects of social, global and/or technological change that are likely to have implications for public safety and security. * The opportunities and/or threats that these (or other) likely developments present for the police service (working with others). * Specific proposals for action or considerations that should be taken into account in anticipation of these changes. |
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Respondent details and preferences

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| This response is submitted by/on behalf of (name of individual, group or organisation): |
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| I agree that the individual, group or organisation named above can be listed as a respondent in the Review’s reporting. |
| *Delete as applicable:* **Yes / No** |

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| I agree that the views and information provided in this submission can be attributed to the individual, group or organisation (named above), including in the form of direct quotations, within the Review’s reporting. |
| *Delete as applicable:* **Yes / No** |

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| I am happy for the Police Foundation to contact me in relation to this submission, (for instance for clarification or further information). |
| *Delete as applicable:* **Yes / No** |
| If yes, please provide contact details (email preferable) below. |

**Please submit completed forms and any questions regarding this Call for Evidence to** [**strategicreview@police-foundation.org.uk**](mailto:strategicreview@police-foundation.org.uk) **by 20th December 2019.**

1. Cited in College of Policing (2014) [*The Code of Ethics – Reading List*](https://www.college.police.uk/What-we-do/Ethics/Ethics-home/Documents/Code_of_Ethics_ReadingList.pdf) (p4). See also APCC and NPCC (2016) [*Policing Vision 2025*](https://www.npcc.police.uk/documents/Policing%20Vision.pdf) (p4). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)