EXECUTIVE NOTE TO

DRAFT : THE SCOTTISH POLICE SERVICES AUTHORITY (POLICE SUPPORT SERVICES) (MODIFICATION) ORDER 2007

1. The Scottish Police Services Authority (Police Support Services)(Modification) Order 2007 is made in the exercise of powers conferred by section 24(1) and section 102 of the Police, Public Order and Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2006. The Order is subject to affirmative resolution procedure.

Policy Objectives

2. The Scottish Police Services Authority ("the Authority") was established by the Police, Public Order and Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2006 and came into being on 1 April 2007. The Authority is responsible for providing a range of police support services to Scottish police forces on a national basis, and for maintaining the Scottish Crime and Drug Enforcement Agency. The police support services which the Authority is under a duty to provide include those previously provided by the Scottish Police College, the Scottish Criminal Record Office and the Scottish Police Information Strategy together with a new national forensic service. The effect of the Order is to create an additional police support service in relation to information and communications technology ("ICT") services.

3. The Scottish Government concluded a Memorandum of Understanding with the Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland ("ACPOS") on 30 June 2006 which set out arrangements for the future provision of ICT support to the Scottish police service. The Memorandum of Understanding was sent to the Conveners of the Justice Committees and published. The Government and ACPOS agreed that to ensure the successful delivery of national ICT projects, and to pursue the development of common IT systems, responsibility for developing, providing and maintaining ICT for the Scottish police service should transfer to the Authority, together with the relevant staff and resources, by April 2008.

4. Accordingly the Order amends the definition of the police support services which the Authority is under a duty to provide as set out in section 3 of the 2006 Act. The Order substitutes the existing limited duties on the Authority in respect of information technology with a duty to provide a new police support service in respect of the development, maintenance, management, support and oversight, as appropriate, of information and communications technology systems and equipment to police forces and such other persons or organisations as the Authority sees fit. The Order, and consequently the duty to provide the new police support service, is to come into force on 1 April 2008.

Consultation

5. The Scottish Government has consulted the Authority, ACPOS, Scotland, the Scottish Police Authorities' Conveners' Forum, police authorities and joint police boards, HMCIC, the Scottish Police Federation, the Association of Scottish Police Superintendents and UNISON about the terms of the draft Order.

Financial Effects

6. The instrument has no financial effects on the Scottish Government's programme expenditure. A transfer will be made from police Grant Aided Expenditure to the grant in aid which is made by Scottish Ministers to the Authority for an amount equivalent to the cost of the information and communications technology (ICT) services which will transfer from police authorities and joint police boards to the Authority by virtue of this Order with effect from 1 April 2008. There will therefore be no change in overall police funding.

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9 November 2007