EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO
THE POLICE AUTHORITIES (BEST VALUE) PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (AMENDMENT) ORDER 2006

2006 No. 620

1. This explanatory memorandum has been prepared by the Home Office and is laid before Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

2. Description

2.1 This instrument sets out the 2006-07 best value performance indicators for police authorities, by amending the Police Authorities (Best Value) Performance Indicators Order 2005 (SI 2005/470). Data from the indicators will be used to monitor, manage and assess the performance of police forces in England and Wales.

3. Matters of special interest to the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments

3.1 None.

4. Legislative Background

4.1 Part 1 of the Local Government Act 1999 imposes a requirement on police authorities to secure continuous improvement in the way in which their functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness. Section 4(1) of that Act confers a power on the Secretary of State to specify by Order the performance indicators applicable to police authorities.

4.2 This Order amends the performance indicators established under SI 2005/470. It specifies the performance indicators by which a police authority's performance will be measured in 2006-07. This is not the first use of this power under the Act.

5. Extent

5.1 This instrument applies to England and Wales.

6. European Convention on Human Rights

6.1 As the instrument is subject to negative resolution procedure and does not amend primary legislation, no statement is required.

7. Policy Background

7.1 The amended Order (SI 2005/470) provides the 'short title' of each performance indicator. Full definitions of all terms are provided in (non-statutory) technical guidance to be sent to all police authorities and forces (attached at Annex A). The guidance will also be publicly available online by 31 March 2006 at http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/performance-and-measurement/assessment-methods/

7.2 Due to additions and deletions, the numbering of indicators is not necessarily consecutive. Allocating each indicator a unique reference number allows for easier identification and is supported by key stakeholders.

7.3 A complementary instrument (SI 2005/598) prepared by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister established 2005-06 performance indicators for local authorities, some of which are shared with police authorities. ODPM will be amending that Order for 2006-07 but this does not relate to performance indicators for police authorities.

7.4 Shared performance indicators do not mean duplication between the two complementary instruments. This instrument revises performance indicators for police authorities, whilst SI 2005/598 revises performance indicators for local authorities. The performance indicators applying jointly to police authorities and local authorities have been agreed after consultation between the Home Office and the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

7.6 Data from the indicators is used locally and nationally to measure, manage and assess police performance. Compared to 2005/06, two indicators have been introduced and five indicators have been deleted.

7.7 Proposed statutory performance indicators were published in November 2005 within the National Policing Plan section of the National Community Safety Plan 2006-2009. In forming proposals, the Home Secretary consulted the Association of Police Authorities, Association of Chief Police Officers, Audit Commission, Commission for Racial Equality, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. Apart from a few relatively minor exceptions, there was support for the suite of indicators.

7.8 Police authorities and forces, consistent with the National Community Safety Plan 2006-2006, will have prepared plans and budgets for 2006/07 taking account of the performance indicators listed in the 2005 Order as amended by this Order.

8. Impact

8.1 A Regulatory Impact Assessment has not been prepared for this instrument as it has no impact on business, charities or voluntary bodies.

8.2 The impact on the public sector is minimal. Development of these indicators has included consideration of cost-effectiveness, efficiency and value for money.

9. Contact

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