EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO THE POLICE AUTHORITIES (BEST VALUE) PERFORMANCE INDICATORS ORDER 2005

2005 No. 470

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 2005-06 performance indicators for assessing police authorities' compliance with the best value regime introduced by the Local Government Act 1999. Data from the indicators will be used to monitor, manage and assess performance of police forces in England and Wales. The Home Office set out the 'intended or proposed' indicators in Annex C of the National Policing Plan 2005-08, published in November 2004, and there have been some minor amendments subsequently.

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

3.1 None.

4. Legislative Background

4.1 Part I of the Local Government Act 1999 imposes requirements on police authorities, and other 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 local authorities, police authorities and other authorities.

4.2 This Order specifies the performance indicators by which a police authority's performance will be measured in 2005-06.

5. Extent

5.1 This instrument applies to England and Wales.

6. European Convention on Human Rights

6.1 Not applicable.

7. Policy background

7.1 Data from the performance indicators is used on a local and national basis to monitor and manage performance. The data will also be used to assess the performance of police authorities and forces under the Policing Performance Assessment Framework (PPAF). This initiative is led by the Home Office with support from the Association of Police Authorities (APA), the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) and other partners. These bodies were consulted on the indicators specified in the instrument and, apart from a few relatively minor exceptions, support the indicators specified.

7.2 Within the Police Reform white paper 'Building Communities, Beating Crime' published in November 2004, it was stated that a 'single overall grading for each police force' will be made. One of the key components of this assessment will be data collected from the indicators listed in the instrument. The grading for each force is anticipated to cause a high level of public and media interest.

7.3 An Order prepared by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister sets out the 2005-06 performance indicators for local authorities, some of which are shared with police authorities.

7.4 Full descriptions of terms used in the Order are provided in technical guidance sent to all police authorities and forces.

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. The indicators replicate, to a large extent, those applicable in earlier years.

9. Contact

Derrick Norton at the Home Office on 020 7035 3189 or e-mail Derrick.Norton@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk can answer any queries regarding the instrument.