

Chapter 8: Responding to this Green Paper and Next Steps



- 8.1 The Government welcomes comments on the proposals in this Green Paper. The consultation process for this Green Paper will be conducted in accordance with the Government's Code of Practice on Consultation.³⁸

THE SIX CONSULTATION CRITERIA ARE:

1. Consult widely throughout the process, allowing a minimum of 12 weeks for written consultation at least once during the development of the policy.
2. Be clear about what your proposals are, who may be affected, what questions are being asked and the timescale for responses.
3. Ensure that your consultation is clear, concise and widely accessible.
4. Give feedback regarding the responses received and how the consultation process influenced the policy.
5. Monitor your Department's effectiveness at consultation, including the use of a designated consultation co-ordinator.
6. Ensure your consultation follows better regulation best practice, including carrying out a Regulatory Impact Assessment if appropriate.

The full code of practice is available at:
www.cabinet-office.gov.uk/regulation/consultation

- 8.2 Responses should be made using the consultation response forms, which can be found at:
[http://police.homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk/
police-reform/policegp/](http://police.homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk/police-reform/policegp/)

³⁸ See <http://bre.berr.gov.uk/regulation/consultation/code/index.asp>

8.3 Completed consultation forms should be sent no later than **Friday 10 October 2008** to the following address:

Electronically:

policinggreenpaper@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

By post:

Policing Green Paper Consultation Responses
Police Reform Unit
6th Floor, Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London, SW1P 4DF

CONFIDENTIALITY AND DISCLAIMER

8.4 The information you send us may be passed to colleagues within the Home Office, the Government or related agencies.

8.5 Furthermore, information provided in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be published or disclosed in accordance with the access to information regimes (these are primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA) and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004).

8.6 If you want the information that you provide to be treated as confidential, please be aware that, under the FOIA, there is a statutory Code of Practice with which public authorities must comply and which deals, amongst other things, with obligations of confidence. In view of this, it would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential. If we receive a request for disclosure of the information we will take full account of your explanation, but **we cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances**. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your Information Technology (IT) system will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on the Department.

8.7 Please ensure that your response is marked clearly if you wish your response and name to be kept confidential. Confidential responses will be included in any statistical summary of numbers of comments and views expressed.

8.8 The Department will process your personal data in accordance with the DPA and, in the majority of circumstances; this will mean that your personal data will not be disclosed to third parties.

CONSULTATION COORDINATOR

8.9 If you have a complaint or comment about the Home Office's approach to consultation you should contact the Home Office Consultation Co-ordinator, Nigel Lawrence.

Please DO NOT send your response to this consultation to Nigel Lawrence.

8.10 The Co-ordinator works to promote best practice standards set by the Cabinet Office, advises policy teams on how to conduct consultations and investigates complaints made against the Home Office. He does not process your response to this consultation.

8.11 The Co-ordinator can be emailed at:
nigel.lawrence@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

or written to at:

Nigel Lawrence, Consultation Co-ordinator
Home Office
Performance and Delivery Unit
3rd Floor Seacole
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

8.12 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) of the Green Paper proposals is ongoing and, as a first stage, initial consultations through feedback reports have taken place with various internal stakeholders by the Police Equality and Diversity Policy Team in the Home Office's Police Productivity Unit. The exercise has been constructive and informative, and also provided an opportunity – through

consultation – to increase the awareness of equality and fairness issues surrounding the Green Paper from stakeholders’ points of view.

8.13 To support the process, there will be two Equality and Diversity workshops held in London during the three-month consultation period. The workshops will provide community representatives with an insight into the reasoning behind the Green Paper. Furthermore, it will provide community representatives with an opportunity to discuss their concerns, issues and needs from the community perspective. The evaluated responses will be included in the final EIA report to be published along with the legislative changes that go forward at the end of the process.

8.14 The proposals set out in this paper will impose costs on local authorities and police authorities; they will also deliver significant savings. In line with the Government’s new burdens doctrine, any net additional cost will be fully and properly funded by the Home Office so that no additional pressure is placed on council tax bills.

