



News Release

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ASSOCIATION OF POLICE AUTHORITIES CHALLENGES CONSERVATIVES CLAIM

The Association of Police Authorities (APA) has today challenged claims in the Conservative manifesto that they are 'invisible and unaccountable'

Association of Police Authorities (APA) Chief Executive, Mark Castle, said:

"Police Authorities are made up of locally elected councillors and appointed independent members of the public. This mix ensures that policing decisions are taken on behalf of the whole community and stops one group or extremist individual from controlling and potentially politicising the police.

The manifesto describes police authorities as invisible and we refute that. These are local people working on behalf of their community to hold their police force to account, supported, with the exception of the a few metropolitan heavyweights, by small, modestly funded organisations. They regularly survey local people to understand the crime and policing issues that are important to them and publish local summaries to inform the public about the performance of their police force.

Police authorities provide effective and impartial governance, they are subject to scrutiny through inspections, they ensure money for policing is spent wisely and have overseen record reductions in crime. They do not grandstand to make political gestures nor seek confrontation to raise their profile.

We will continue to work on behalf of our local communities to ensure that policing continues to meet their needs. We look forward to working with whichever party comes to power after the General Election"

ENDS

Notes to Editors

- For further information please contact APA Communications Manager Chris Cairns on 020 7664 3174, mobile 07798 50 40 77

continues

- The Association of Police Authorities (APA) represents all police authorities in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, as well as the British Transport Police Authority, the Civil Nuclear Police Authority, and the Ministry of Defence Police Committee.
- Local police authorities, along with the Home Secretary and chief officers of police, make up the tripartite relationship which is responsible for the governance of policing in England and Wales.

- Police authorities are currently made up of local people: a mix of local councillors, magistrates and independent members (selected from the community) represent the views of local communities.
- The tripartite partners are the Home Office, the Association of Chief Police Officers and the Association of Police Authorities.
- The job of police authorities is to:
 - appoint (and, if necessary, dismiss) chief constables and senior police officers
 - consult with local communities to find out what they want the local police to do
 - set the budget for their police force, and decide how much local people should pay for policing in the local council tax
 - set the strategic direction for policing locally and decide what the police should focus attention on locally based on their consultations with local communities
 - make sure the police force is continuing to do a better job