



**East Midlands
Police Authorities**



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Our ref: SB/APA

4 Jun 09

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**POLICE AUTHORITY INSPECTION – PROPOSALS FOR CONSULTATION – EAST
MIDLANDS REGIONAL JOINT RESPONSE**

Reference:

A. Police Authority Inspection Joint AC/HMIC Proposals for Consultation dated Spring 2009.

1. Thank you for the opportunity to comment upon Reference A. This regional response is provided in addition to the individual responses that some authorities have made as it is a subject on which we have some common thought.

2. In sum we support the proposals that are being made, and we recognise totally the need for inspections and the requirement for police authorities to be accountable and to be able to demonstrate their added value. We do however have some concerns in some of the areas within the consultation document:

a. We believe that the scoring system needs to be further refined and be more scientific in its approach. There is too much scope with the present system particularly when it comes to rounding up or down similar scores. This could result in two authorities being equally scored but being graded differently overall. The general public will not understand this and this will most certainly be the cause for concern in the future. Additionally the police authority, we believe, must be able to make representations to any such scoring and decision making process, which must be seen to be both transparent and open.

b. We notice there is no overarching score for an authority that meets the standard. A score of 2 states that the authority meets most of the minimum requirements and a score of 3 that the authority exceeds the standard; we believe that this should be revised to include a score for meeting the standard.



c. The inspection team will be looking and judging authorities who operate on differing playing fields. Some are winners and others are losers in the funding formula; others are better resourced than others and therefore there is a need we believe to take note, within reason, of the contextual environment in which authorities operate.

d. The feeling on peer representation within the region is mixed. Some authorities felt that neither option presented in the paper was suitable. One proposal is that an inspection team should consist of representatives from HMI, the Audit Commission, a PA member and a PA chief executive. Other comment was that the chief executive representative could be a deputy or a treasurer; the key being that they were suitable qualified and trained. What we are not clear on is whether the implications have been fully thought through and how the costs compare with the added value.

e. Finally, there remains some nervousness with some about the depth of knowledge the Audit Commission and HMI inspectors will have on police authorities. Inspections and knowledge must be geared specifically to police authorities and not other local authorities whose role is so different. Clearly the training package associated with the programme will need to address this.

3. We hope that these comments are useful and we look forward to receiving the final police authority inspection framework.

*Electronic Copy
Original Signed*

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For Chairman EMPAJC



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