



Names/address to be added

**Plymouth City Council
Host Authority for Devon and
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Please ask for: Sarah Hopkins

29 August 2014

Dear

Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Panel Scrutiny Review - Call for evidence

I am writing to advise that at its meeting on 20th June 2014, the Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Panel (PCP) agreed to conduct a scrutiny review in relation to the *"Police and Crime Commissioner's joint announcement with the Chief Constable in respect of Devon and Cornwall Police Public Contact Strategy – Station Enquiry Rationalisation"*. A copy of the letter sent to Councils and published with Police and Crime Panel papers at their meeting held on 20 June can be viewed using the following link: [http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/mgInternet/documents/s55639/Appendix%203%20-%20PCC COR PCP CROAD enquiry-offices-RM 140514-joint-letter.pdf](http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/mgInternet/documents/s55639/Appendix%203%20-%20PCC%20COR%20PCP%20CROAD%20enquiry-offices-RM%20140514-joint-letter.pdf).

The role of the PCP is to provide support and scrutiny challenge to the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), to promote openness in the transaction of police business and also to support the PCC in the effective exercise of their functions. The PCP is not responsible for scrutinising the performance of the police force as a whole or the Chief Constable, as this is the responsibility of the PCC. Both the role of the PCC and the PCP were created as part of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, which brought in new structural arrangements for national policing, strategic police decision-making, neighbourhood policing and policing accountability.

The PCP is due to undertake the review at its next meeting on 17 October 2014 and will be adopting a select committee style approach. In order to assist the PCP Members in effectively scrutinising the topic, the Panel is seeking written evidence from stakeholders through the provision of responses to the following questions:

- 1) Is your organisation aware of the proposals and if so, how was it made aware of them?
- 2) What will be the impact for the communities and service users your organisation represents in relation to travel, contact etc?
- 3) Where closures have already taken place, what is the impact on the public's perception and satisfaction?
- 4) As part of the consultation with the public and key stakeholders in 2010/11 regarding the proposal to rationalise public enquiry offices, was your organisation consulted and how was it consulted?

- 5) Is your organisation aware of a new Public "Contact Strategy" and any local policing detailed "engagement plan" introduced by Devon and Cornwall Police and if so, what is your organisation's view of them?
- 6) Has Devon and Cornwall Police contacted your organisation to actively discuss how they will engage more effectively in the future eg. through the use of regular surgeries in libraries, supermarkets, partner agencies premises etc?
- 7) Has your organisation received any feedback from communities and service users in relation to them accessing stations and/or using the 101 number?
- 8) With regard to the preferred option of retaining 3 principal front offices along with a further 6 secondary offices, was your organisation contacted by the Chief Officer Group to discuss various options and if so, what did these discussions entail?
- 9) Has your organisation been approached by Devon and Cornwall Police to discuss alternative options and listen to any ideas your organisation might have where a police enquiry office is being withdrawn and if so, what did these discussions entail?
- 10) If required would your organisation be able to provide a witness to attend the PCP meeting on 17 October 2014 to provide verbal evidence? This witness could be part of your organisation, a member of the community or a service user.

The PCP would be grateful for any written responses your organisation is able to provide. **The deadline for written responses is Friday 19 September 2014** and responses should be sent to:

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& Lead Officer – Devon & Cornwall Police and Crime Panel
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PL1 2AA

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Yours sincerely



Cllr Roger Croad
Chair, Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Panel

(Plymouth City Council is the Host Authority for Devon and Cornwall Police & Crime Panel and views expressed by the Panel are not necessarily those of the Authority).