



Message from Stephen Rimmer, Director General for the Crime and Policing Group

We have been working particularly intensively with a wide range of stakeholders in recent weeks to take forward a significant number of key policy areas that concern the public in relation to crime, antisocial behaviour and other harms caused to communities. There have been a number of contexts to this work:

- **Setting the tone - key speeches from both the Prime Minister and the Home Secretary** on what has been achieved, and what now needs to happen in the fight against crime.
- **Delivering the legal framework** - the Policing and Crime Act 2009 comes into force next month giving the police and local communities the powers they need to deal with key issues of concern including gang-related violence, prostitution and alcohol-related behaviour (through the introduction of a mandatory code). And the Crime and Security Bill which is currently being scrutinised by Parliament would introduce measures to tackle youth gang violence, antisocial behaviour, domestic violence and a number of other key public crime concerns.
- **Giving clear strategic direction** - the '**Safe and confident neighbourhoods strategy**' has been launched. This sets out in very practical terms how neighbourhood policing teams will work together with local services, the criminal justice system and other key partners to tackle antisocial behaviour, boost local confidence and keep neighbourhoods safe.
- **Real impact on antisocial behaviour** - virtually all of the community safety partnerships are on track to deliver agreed minimum standards of service on antisocial behaviour to their communities by the end of

March. This will give the public the confidence to know that any concerns they have should be acted upon promptly and effectively.

- **Protecting the vulnerable** - the Home Secretary has announced the further roll-out of **child sex offender database pilots**, after very successful introduction in a small number of areas, which gives members of the public a proper basis to make enquires about people who are in contact with children.
- **Public awareness** - significant further campaigns on teenage relationship violence and alcohol abuse.
- **Transparency** - introduction of the police report card, to give the public a much clearer sense of what is working well in their area. The public can enter their postcode on www.mypolice.org.uk and get Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary's (HMIC) independent judgement on how well their local force is performing, and where it can improve, as well as a view on how their local area compares in terms of crime rates. This is an important milestone in the new role of HMIC, as set out in the policing green paper in 2008, and - together with crime mapping - will enable the public to hold their local force to account, through routes defined in the white paper, safe and confident neighbourhoods strategy and policing pledge.

These developments really matter to the public. None of them can be achieved without working closely with our partners - you. Thank you for your continuing support.

Current Business at the Home Office

- On 26 February, an **independent review into the sexualisation of young people**, conducted by psychologist Dr Linda Papadopoulos, was welcomed by the Home Secretary. Commissioned by the Home Office, the review forms part of the government's strategy to tackle **violence against women and girls** and looks at how sexualised images and messages may be affecting the development of children and young people, and influencing cultural norms. It also examines the evidence for a link between sexualisation and violence.
- Scientists are being asked to help in the fight against international terrorism. A new Home Office brochure looks at how experts from academia and industry working in the **social and behavioural**

sciences can improve our knowledge and understanding of terrorism and its consequences.

- Latest figures released by the Home Office show that there were 201 terrorism arrests in the year ending 30 September 2009, compared with 178 in the previous year. The latest statistical bulletin, **The operation of police powers under the Terrorism Act 2000 and subsequent legislation**, shows that 36 per cent of charges resulting from terrorism arrests made during this time were terrorism-related, and there have been 230 convictions for terrorism-related offences since 11 September 2001. The bulletin includes tables covering stops and searches in the second quarter of 2009-10.
- Four regional stakeholder events were held in February and March in the run-up to the planned publication of the CONTEST annual report due out later this month. Stakeholders debated what has been achieved one year after the launch of **the UK's strategy for countering international terrorism**. Partner organisations and stakeholders joined the office for security and counter-terrorism and government office staff in Cambridge, Newcastle, Manchester and Exeter to discuss how CONTEST is being delivered on the ground and how to take the strategy forward.
- The **National Audit Office's fourth progress report on preparations for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games** was published on 26 February and has concluded that overall planning for the Games is on time and within the £9.325bn budget.
- New requirements for student applications under **Tier 4 of the points-based system** came into effect on 3 March. Further changes will be introduced in April.
- Following parliamentary approval, the **new immigration fees** announced on 20 January and 10 February will be introduced on Tuesday 6 April for all those applying to study, visit, work in or stay in the UK.
- The **national border targeting centre** has been operational since 22 February. From that date, the centre replaced the joint border operations centre as the multi-agency operational hub processing data on all passenger and crew movements into and out of the UK.
- The national identity card was launched at the end of 2009 and there are now more than 7,000 people with cards. Eligibility has now been extended to young people (aged 16-24) living in London and to any

UK citizen who is resident here and who registers on our Directgov site www.direct.gov.uk/identity. The Identity & Passport Service has launched a website specifically to address some of the myths and concerns that young people may have about identity cards. The site can be found at <http://www.idcardsyoudecide.wordpress.com>

Consultations

- The UK Border Agency has now published formal analysis of the 2009 public consultation '**Earning the right to Stay: a new points test for citizenship**'
- **UK Border Agency consultations** are available on the agency's website.
- A list of all **current Home Office consultations** is available on the Home Office website.

Contact us

If you're having difficulty contacting the appropriate part of the Home Office relating to your area of practice, the Corporate Communication Unit may be able to help.

If your query relates to immigration, asylum, Home Office research and statistics, identity cards, passports, or visas, you should **contact the appropriate area directly via its own website** in the first instance.

If, however, you are still having difficulty making contact with the Home Office, then please feel free to email the **Corporate Communication Unit** or phone: **020 7035 6525**.

