

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE FIRE AND CRIME PANELS

Robert Fox
c/o Essex County Council
Chelmsford
Essex
29th April 2019

Dear Chairman,

I would like to update you on NAPFCP plans and developments since I asked you to write to the Policing Minister, copied to your local MP's, requesting a relaxation in salient part of the Police Reform and Responsibilities Act 2011, which in the opinion of the Home Office does not permit NAPFCP membership subscriptions to be met from the Home Office grant.

On behalf of the association I would like to thank all who wrote to the Policing Minister. From copies of the letters received by various panels it appears the Minister has used a generic response letter irrespective of the contents or questions asked. Any specific questions raised by Panels appear to have been largely ignored and unanswered. For information purposes I have attached a copy of the response letter received by Essex Police, Fire and Crime Panel.

The response from the Home Office, whilst somewhat disappointing, does specifically reinforce the Home Office commitment to support the role of panels and welcomes the principle of sector-led improvement albeit through support given by the LGA. As the NAPFCP is an LGA Special Interest Group with an agreed constitution entirely aligned to promote PCP cross-sector development, I suggest Panels may record membership as part of legitimate training and development expenditure.

The LGA working through the Centre for Public Scrutiny has commissioned an update of the original PCP guidance, which has been written by Frontline Consulting. Some PCP Chairs, including myself as the NAPFCP Chair, have been asked to review and provide input to the draft and final documents. It is expected the new guidance document will be launched at the annual LGA PCP workshop and following publication, will be made available through the NAPFCP web site. In reviewing the guidance document it has become clear that Panels would benefit by having access to policy documents specifically written for, or used by different panels, to use or adapt as necessary. These will be made available to NAPFCP members through the web site.

The NAPFCP executive members insist that all NAPFCP income should be used to promote training and sector development in line with the constitution. If your Panel has identified any training shortfall, especially where this would help new panel members integrate within established panels, then please let me know. The NAPFCP plan to select a preferred training partner to identify needs, create and then deliver cost effective sector specific training. It is envisaged that member panels will further benefit through discounted training costs and possibly reduced attendance fees at annual PCP conferences that include the NAPFCP AGM.

Returning to the Home Office statement on the use of PCP grants, meetings have been held with Lauren Diffey to understand the logic behind the response letter from the

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Policing Minister. Whilst satisfactory answers have not been forthcoming, these meetings have shed light on future planned developments that are expected to affect Panels. It is clear that MP's time has been focussed on Brexit and potentially little else. I believe a meeting with Mr Hurd to specifically understand his concerns in this matter would be most helpful and it is hoped that a suitable opportunity will arise in the months ahead.

In closing I would again like to thank you for your continued support of the NAPFCP.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Gili-Ross". The signature is written in a cursive style with a stylized initial "J".

John Gili-Ross

Chairman - National Association of Police Fire and Crime Panels