

# Holding to Account

**‘A new approach’**

**Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Gloucestershire**



## 1. Background

### 1.1. Holding to Account (HTA)

*'To require a person to explain or to accept responsibility for his or her actions'*

### 1.2 Role of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)

- Police and Crime Commissioners were elected for the second time on the 5th of May 2016 in 40 force areas across England and Wales. Every force area is represented by a PCC, except Greater Manchester and London, where PCC responsibilities lie with the Mayor.
- The role of the PCC is to be the voice of the people and hold the police to account. They are responsible for the totality of policing.
- PCCs aim to cut crime and deliver an effective and efficient police service within their force area.
- PCCs have been elected by the public to hold Chief Constables and the force to account<sup>1</sup>, effectively making the police answerable to the communities they serve.
- PCCs ensure community needs are met as effectively as possible, and are improving local relationships through building confidence and restoring trust. They work in partnership across a range of agencies at local and national level to ensure there is a unified approach to preventing and reducing crime.

### 1.3 Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011

Under the terms of this Act, PCCs must:

- secure an efficient and effective police for their area;
- **appoint the Chief Constable, hold them to account for running the force, and if necessary dismiss them;**
- set the police and crime objectives for their area through a police and crime plan;
- set the force budget and determine the precept;
- contribute to the national and international policing capabilities set out by the Home Secretary; and
- bring together community safety and criminal justice partners, to make sure local priorities are joined up.

## 2. Our new Approach

The new approach will be based on two distinct themes that seek assurance, enable the monitoring of activity, and, create coherence and consistency.

1. **Thematic ( template )** e.g assurance from the Constabulary on their response to Sexual Violence , Victims, Domestic Abuse, Burglary Detection rates etc.
2. **Specific ( letter)** e.g how the Constabulary responds to HMICFRS Inspections (s.55 Police Act 1996), specific incidents.

The new approach will seek a written response from the Chief Constable including, where applicable, a plan of action or improvement plan, this plan will be monitored through the PCC Governance Board. The frequency of monitoring will depend on the theme or specific issue.

The process will be managed by the Chief Executive, OPCC.

A register has now been created to monitor each HTA process see below.

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<sup>1</sup> S.8 Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011

### 3. Thematic template

	<b>ASSURANCE ISSUE :</b>	
<b>Description of assurance activity</b>	<b>How assurance activity will be achieved i.e the Constabulary response</b>	<b>Constabulary Response</b>
<b>1. Assure that Gloucestershire Constabulary understand the problem (.....) within the Force area.</b>	<p>Data to show: (define requirement)</p> <p>Discuss challenges with this especially in terms of Intelligence gaps and limitations on recording relevant data on data bases.</p> <p>Discuss any significant changes in data, for example has increased awareness resulted in more crime recording</p>	
<b>2. Demonstrate, at an operational level, how Gloucestershire Constabulary is tackling (.....).</b>	<p>Provide an overview of any Operation and any measurable impact of this.</p> <p>Discuss measures taken to deal with the issue including evidence led prosecutions and other responses.</p> <p>How (.....) is being problem solved at a local level.</p>	
<b>3. Assure that Gloucestershire Constabulary are resourced to meet demand.</b>	<p>Explain how current demand is being met and the plan to meet future demand highlighting issues including dedicated resource or lack of.</p>	
<b>4. Assure that Gloucestershire Constabulary colleagues have appropriate awareness, training and knowledge of (.....).</b>	<p>Training – ensure every level of colleague is involved in this work.</p> <p>Explain the role of key officers / teams</p>	
<b>5. Demonstrate how Gloucestershire Constabulary are continually improving in dealing with this crime type or issue</b>	<p>Provide updates on any specific Action Plan.</p> <p>Discuss HMICFRS recommendations and which are applicable to Gloucestershire Constabulary. Provide progress against these including limitations due to capacity, on delivering these.</p>	
<b>6. Assure that Gloucestershire Constabulary are working with partners to tackle the problem.</b>	<p>Demonstrate how Gloucestershire Constabulary work with key partners and the challenges of this.</p>	
<b>7. Demonstrate that (.....) is appropriately linked within the wider Constabulary.</b>	<p>Explain the overlap and co-working with other partners.</p> <p>Explore potential links to .....</p>	

## 4. The Register

A register of all Holding to Account processes will now commence using the below template:

Ref	Subject	Recipient	Type : Thematic Specific	Date of issue	Return date	Comment
HTA 1/2019						

## 5. The Benefits

The new approach will provide a coherent and consistent methodology ensuring that the Police and Crime Commissioner fulfils one of his key responsibilities i.e holding the Chief Constable to account. Such information will then be available to the Police and Crime Panel and our communities through publication on the OPCC Website creating a transparent approach.

This approach supports delivery of the Police and Crime Plan.

Richard Bradley  
Chief Executive  
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