

Building a network: Membership, structure and setup

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Why setup ?

Why setup a network ?

- To create a forum for sharing knowledge and learning - To allow organisations involved in oversight to learn from each other's experiences and knowledge. This could include:
 - Learning about the best way to manage staff that have to work on highly traumatic incidents.
 - How to balance complainant and police interests.
 - Work on use of force, restraint, or approaches to anti-terrorism work.

Why setup a network ?

- To build effective working relationships between oversight bodies – This could include:
 - Developing ways of managing oversight of policing activities that cross borders.
 - Providing a resource for operational work, p
 - Providing a source of experts who through mutual agreement, could review investigations or in highly sensitive cases carry-out investigations under the authority of another organisation.

Aims

Aims of the network

- To champion effective independent oversight of policing by:
 - Supporting nations that are developing new oversight mechanisms through sharing of experiences and setting of minimum standards
 - Supporting member organisations when they come under domestic pressure which threatens their independence.

Aims of the network

- To raise awareness about different models of oversight:
 - To help us to know who else is out there, what they do, how they do it, and under what authority.

Membership

Areas of responsibility

Eligibility for core membership will be defined in relation to:

- Oversight of organisations with policing powers, such as power to search, arrest and detain.
- Oversight of other areas, such as prisons or probation, in addition to oversight of those with police powers is not a barrier to membership.

Independence

Eligibility for core membership will be defined in relation to:

- Independence from those subject to oversight.
- Organisations who employ former or seconded police officers are not excluded from membership, so long as the ultimate or strategic decision making is not carried out by those currently working for the police.

Case handling

Eligibility for core membership will be defined in relation to:

- Capacity for case handling – which includes responsibility for investigating or otherwise managing the response to individual incidents of complaint or concern.
- Those who only have a role in assessing the performance or efficiency of a force at a more general level are excluded from core membership.

Funding

- Receiving funding from the state is not a barrier to membership.

Other types of membership

- Individuals not directly involved in the oversight of organisations with policing powers will be eligible for associate membership.
- NGOs, academics, police professionals and those involved in the handling of complaints at force level could be eligible for associate membership.

Next Steps

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- Testing the water and gathering intelligence
- Establishing a steering group
- Launching the network

www.ipcc.gov.uk/international.htm