

PCCS

Police Complaints Commissioner
for Scotland

Civilian Oversight *strengthening public confidence in police*

Prof. John McNeill, Police Complaints
Commissioner for Scotland

CACOLE CONFERENCE

New Brunswick, June 2010

Public confidence in police

- Policing by consent requires
 - Robust independent oversight process
 - Failings identified and remedied
 - Changes and improvements that benefit everyone
- Holding police to account is
 - Not comfortable but not confrontational
 - No such thing as a “trivial” complaint

The legal challenges

- Police, Public Order and Criminal Justice Act (Scotland) 2006 allows a panoramic view of the policing landscape

BUT

- No protection from defamation actions
- No power to recover documents
- No power to appoint the supervisor of reconsiderations

The corporate challenges

- Three year tenure insufficient to bring about meaningful reform
- Fiscal deficit will mean doing more with less with potential for
 - Reputational risk
 - Loss of public confidence
 - Over concentration on case work
 - Reduction in engagement and access work

The relationship challenges

- Growing population 5.2million people
- Growing police force 17,400 officers
- Eight police forces
- Eight police boards/authorities
- Four Scottish bodies
- Five UK police bodies

“a shared agenda”

Team PCCS

*Increasing Scotland's
confidence in police
complaints handling through
impartial oversight and reform*

