



Home Office

Home Secretary

2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF
www.gov.uk/home-office

Rt Hon Keith Vaz MP
Chairman - Home Affairs Select Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

10th August 2015

Dear Keith,

REFORM OF THE INDEPENDENT POLICE COMPLAINTS COMMISSION

I am writing to inform you in your role as Chair of the Home Affairs Select Committee that I have decided to commission an independent assessment of the Independent Police Complaints Commission's (IPCC) proposal for reform of their governance arrangements, and to make recommendations on the future structure. The IPCC will shortly publish its recommended structure alongside its response to the Government's Triennial Review of IPCC that was published in March.

The Government is committed to finishing the programme of comprehensive reforms to policing of the last five years. As part of this, I am taking forward a range of measures to improve integrity and public confidence in policing, including overhauling the police complaints system, implementing the recommendations of the Chapman Review on the police disciplinary system, strengthening protections for police whistleblowers, extending the remit of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) and changing the role, powers and governance of the IPCC.

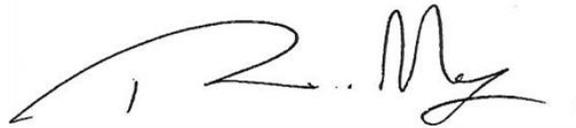
With particular regard to the IPCC, my Department conducted the first Triennial Review of the IPCC's performance in December 2014, and published the results of the *Improving police integrity* public consultation in March this year. Both of these reports highlighted the need to revisit the IPCC's governance and organisational structure, to ensure that an expanded Commission can function efficiently and effectively, and recommended that the IPCC provide proposals for reform.

I welcome the IPCC's willingness to embrace change, and its proposed organisational structure is an important first step. Given the importance of the IPCC's work, it is important that any changes to its governance and structure are thoroughly evaluated. I have requested that the independent review to provide a robust assessment of the potential of the IPCC's proposed model to help deliver the IPCC's core functions more effectively and efficiently.

The review is to be undertaken by Sheila Drew Smith OBE. Sheila has been a Member of the Committee on Standards in Public Life since 2012 and has extensive experience of governance, finance and planning in the public sector.

I expect the review to conclude in the Autumn and I undertake to update Parliament at that stage.

I shall place a copy of this letter in the libraries of both Houses of Parliament.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. May', with a large, sweeping initial 'T' and a stylized 'M'.

The Rt Hon Theresa May MP