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PUBLICATION OF CONSULTATION ON POLICE SUPER-COMPLAINTS

I am writing to notify you of the publication of the Government's consultation on the criteria that bodies will have to meet to become part of the forthcoming police super-complaints system.

The Policing and Crime Act 2017 includes provisions for the introduction of a new policing super-complaints system, allowing organisations to raise concerns with Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) about systemic issues in policing which are, or appear to be, significantly harming the interests of the public, and require a response. Whilst there are existing super-complaints systems in the financial and commercial sectors to protect the interests of consumers, this will be the first to cover a public sector body.

The new system will enable organisations, such as charities, to apply to become Designated Bodies (DBs) so that they can raise issues on behalf of the public about patterns or trends in policing that are not otherwise dealt with by the existing complaints system.

We are launching a public consultation today to gather views on the criteria which organisations should meet if they wish to become a DB in order to submit super-complaints on behalf of the public. These criteria will be set out in secondary legislation and open to parliamentary scrutiny. We expect the new super-complaints system to be operational by the middle of 2018.

The consultation will run for 8 weeks until 8 December. The consultation document and online survey will be on Gov.uk and I have arranged for copies to be placed in the House Library.

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