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POLICING AND CRIME ACT 2017: FORMER POLICE OFFICER AND BARRED LIST REGULATIONS

I am writing to inform you that the above regulations have now been laid and will take effect on 15 December 2017. The laying of these regulations underpins key provisions related to police discipline that fall within Part 2 of the Policing and Crime Act 2017 and are the result of extensive consultation with policing stakeholders, including staff associations, over the past 12 months. The extension of disciplinary proceedings to former police officers and the creation of the police barred list represent an integral step in the Government's reform programme to improve police integrity.

The former officer provisions will extend the police disciplinary system to officers who have left the force, in cases of gross misconduct. These changes will allow investigations and disciplinary proceedings to continue to a conclusion notwithstanding an officer leaving the force or where an allegation is raised within 12 months of an officer's departure. In the most exceptional circumstances, disciplinary proceedings can be brought beyond 12 months after an officer has left where the serious nature of the matter justifies a misconduct hearing.

These regulations will ensure that the public can have confidence that the small minority of officers who commit serious acts of wrongdoing will not be able to evade being held to account.

The introduction of the police barred list will ensure that there is accountability for all individuals dismissed from policing, even after they have left the force. This list will act as an absolute bar to working within policing whilst on the list, ensuring that those who are not suitable to work in policing cannot serve in other positions following dismissal. There will also be a public facing element of the barred list, to increase public transparency where police officers are dismissed.

The Government is committed to continuing to overhaul the police discipline system to ensure that it is robust, transparent and proportionate. There is a real opportunity for reform in this area and we see the laying of these regulations as the first step in taking these changes forward.

I am placing a copy of this letter in the library of the House.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nick Hurd". The signature is written in a cursive style with a blue ink color.

NICK HURD MP