



Staffordshire POLICE

NEWS RELEASE

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Issued by: Ian Fegan

PM GORDON BROWN VISITS POLICE HQ

Prime Minister Gordon Brown visited Staffordshire Police HQ today (Friday 1 February) to talk to officers about neighbourhood policing and learn more about the force's contribution to a major national report on policing due out next week.

Sir Ronnie Flanagan's 'Review of Policing' will set out a series of recommendations to improve policing in the UK. Staffordshire Police has been a key player on the section of the report that focuses on tackling bureaucracy.

The force is expecting to pilot many of the recommendations set out in the report which will benefit both officers and the public of Staffordshire.

Mr Brown's hour-long visit included a tour of the force's area communications unit followed by a focus group with officers, police community support officers and staff.

Staffordshire's Chief Constable Chris Sims said: "Today has been a real opportunity to talk to the Prime Minister about the work we've been doing to cut the bureaucracy faced by frontline officers.

"He listened very attentively to the force's views that neighbourhood policing and bureaucracy are intrinsically linked.

"By tackling the culture of form-filling we want to free up extra time and space for our officers and staff to deliver a better service, engage with communities and change public opinion.

"Our mission is to put our citizens at the very heart of our work so that we become the force that inspires the greatest levels of trust and confidence from its communities."

Mike Poulter, Chair of Staffordshire Police Authority, said: "It's been an exciting beginning to the year. The force and authority have launched a

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TELEPHONE 01785 234864
FAX 01785 232369
NEWSLINE 01785 232525
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strategy aimed at building public trust and confidence. Allied to this is a blitz on unnecessary bureaucracy and we fully support the Prime Minister's drive to improve the way we work in this area.

"It's been great to host the Prime Minister and to tell him about all the work we're doing to boost our presence in neighbourhoods, release more staff for frontline policing and enhance community safety."

During the 30-minute focus group with frontline officers Mr Brown listened to their comments and views on the work they did and how improvements could be made.

The group included:

- PCSO Gill Murphy, Tamworth
- PCSO Helen Beaumont, Burton
- PC Ed Ford, Tamworth
- PC Dean Brindley, Tamworth
- PC Adam Wood, Burton
- Sgt Darren Oakley, Tamworth
- Insp Ian Coxhead, Tamworth
- Insp Emma Griffiths, Burton
- Mrs Helen Hollis, Burton
- Mrs Nicola Motley, Chase division
- PC Paul Whitehouse, Lichfield
- PC Kelly Blagbrough, Lichfield
- Ch Insp Mark Hallam, Criminal Justice Administration
- PC Ian Furlong, HQ.

Ends

Notes to editors:

1. The chief constable and members of the executive team are available for interview. Please contact the HQ press office on 01785 234864.
2. Images of the Prime Minister's visit are available by email from the force press office
3. Video footage will be available from 3pm this afternoon. Please contact the HQ Press Office.

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