

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCHED

The need for greater scrutiny of police surveillance technology

# POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONERS

## WHAT IS A POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER?

There are 40 police forces across England and Wales, and each one has a Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC).

PCCs are elected every four years by the public – so they work for you! In Greater Manchester and London, the PCC's responsibilities are taken on by each city's Mayor, who is also elected.

PCCs are responsible for holding Chief Constables and police forces to account, making the police answerable to the communities that they serve.

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 states that a PCC's job includes:

- securing an efficient and effective police force for their area.
- appointing the Chief Constable, holding them to account for running the force, and if necessary dismissing them.
- setting the policing objectives for their area.
- setting the force's budget and determining how much money to raise from local residents through Council Tax.

PCCs should be a vital way for the local community to hold the police to account. They should listen to and represent your views about how the police work in your area.

## WHAT IS A POLICE AND CRIME PANEL?

Each policing area also has a Police and Crime Panel (PCP) to challenge, scrutinise and support the local PCC.

The panel reviews police and crime plans, conducts hearings on senior appointments and deals with any complaints against the PCC.

PCPs are made up of councillors and local residents.

## HAVE YOUR SAY

PCCs have a duty to listen to their local constituencies, including consulting them when developing policies. They must also make certain kinds of information public, such as an annual report and a Police and Crime Plan.

Find out who your local PCC is and how to contact them [here](#). In Scotland, you can contact the [Scottish Police Authority](#).