



ASSOCIATION OF POLICE AUTHORITIES (APA)

What is the APA?

The APA was established in 1997 to represent police authorities nationally and locally in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. It influences policy on policing and supports local police authorities. It is one part of the tripartite system of policing. The other two elements are the Home Office and the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO).

How is the APA organised?

- **The Council** - is the main decision making body comprising of members from 47 police authorities including the 43 geographical police authorities and centralised services, such as the British Transport Police Authority. Each authority that holds a full membership of the APA receives one place (vote) per full million of population up to a maximum of 6 places. Northumbria Police Authority has two places.
- **The Board** - This is the Executive Committee of the Council and meets bi-monthly. It provides strategic direction to the work of the APA and makes key decisions between Council meetings. Board members must be members of the Council and the membership is as follows:
 - APA Chair and Deputy Chair elected annually by Council.
 - Five group representatives (drawn from the three largest groups of councillors on the Council and Independents).
 - A representative of the Metropolitan Police Authority.
 - Representatives from regions /Wales/Northern Ireland/non-geographic not already represented by one of the group representatives.

All are full members with voting rights.

- **Policy Networks** - are groups that are a mechanism to consult on and develop APA policy. They meet three times a year and make recommendations to the board or Council for decision. The four networks are:

1. Citizen Focus and Partnerships
2. Corporate Business
3. Strategic Policing
4. People Policy



Policy networks are made up of 12 regional/Wales/Northern Ireland representatives, 12 officers from the same and invited members and officers.

- **BME Support Network** - this network provides support information and networking opportunities to BME members of police authorities. It meets twice a year.
- **Co-ordination and Assurance Group** - this group ensures that Diversity, Equality and Human Rights issues and other issues arising under cross cutting business such as Information and Technology are properly addressed by the wider structure.
- **The APA Secretariat** - is the central servicing and co-ordinating team, undertaking day-to-day business in supporting local police authorities and representing their views at a national level. For example, it:
 - keeps members updated through circulars/newsletters;
 - consults members on issues of national importance, ensuring that national debates are informed by local views;
 - spreads good practice by organising conferences, seminars and training days;
 - publishes guidance and research documents; and
 - provides support, advice and assistance.

Can I access 'Members Only' pages of the APA website?

'Member Only' pages of the APA website - www.apa.police.uk - can be accessed by using a password and username.

How can I contact the APA?

NPA officers are happy to contact the APA on behalf of Members. Contact details for the Executive and Deputy Executive Director are provided below.

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Acting Executive Director

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For more information and your password contact NPA Policy Team