

26 January 2005  
Agenda Item No

**CUMBRIA POLICE AUTHORITY  
PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE  
Part I Report by the Clerk & Chief Executive**

**IPCC draft statutory guidance for police complaints**

**BACKGROUND:**

Legislation coming into force on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2004 reformed police authorities' powers and duties in relation to complaints about the police. The Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) has recently circulated draft guidance on which they and the APA are asking for comments.

**RECOMMENDED** that:

**The Committee notes the draft guidance and provides any comments it may have for onward transmission to the APA.**

**DETAIL:**

1. From **1 April 2004** a new regime governing the police complaints system was introduced by the **Police Reform Act 2002** ('the 2002 Act'). The Police Complaints Authority was abolished and the **Independent Police Complaints Commission** (IPCC) was established.
2. Under **section 22** of the **Police Reform Act 2002**, the IPCC has power to issue guidance to police authorities and forces. A copy is attached to this report, along with a copy of the APA circular requesting comments before 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2005.

**RACE EQUALITY / DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:**

The IPCC is responsible for resolving any race equality or other specific equality or diversity implications arising from the draft guidance. However, if members identify any specific issues they can be forwarded as part of our comments to them.

**C R Alcock, Clerk & Chief Executive**

*21st January 2005*

**Background papers:**

- **Police Reform Act 2002**
- **IPCC draft statutory guidance**