



CUMBRIA POLICE AUTHORITY

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CUMBRIA POLICE AUTHORITY SEARCH FOR NEW MEMBERS

Cumbria Police Authority is looking to appoint 3 new Independent members to the Authority. Theirs will be a demanding and responsible representative role, one they will shoulder on behalf of all Cumbrian communities. Those appointed can easily find themselves spending two days in every week on police authority work, whether in attending meetings or studying reports and background material, which is why a members' allowance and certain expenses incurred in the role will be payable.

Applications are invited from every demographic catchment in society. Because of the special qualities of independence needed in such a member, we are particularly keen to hear from women; from younger folk or those people hailing from underrepresented ethnic or other minority groups; so that together your Police Authority can more justifiably claim to reflect the full diversity of community existing within Cumbria. In addition, since at least one of our 3 appointments must be a magistrate, we are particularly inviting applications from serving magistrates, as people able to bring general criminal justice experience to bear on the key oversight role of a police authority in matters of policing.

Our new Independent members will have the opportunity to serve a term of up to four years, working alongside our existing 5 Independent members and our 9 elected Councillor members. Together, their role in law on behalf of the people of Cumbria will be to hold the Chief Constable and the Constabulary to account for their continuing, successful delivery of an efficient and effective police service.

Cumbria Police Authority's Chairman, Reg Watson OBE, said: "Anyone who lives in Cumbria - or even just visiting - wants to know that the standards of policing in Cumbria are of the highest order. Providing that reassurance is where police authorities and the ordinary people they are made up from, come in. Together, we have been entrusted by Parliament with this major responsibility, this job of holding our police to account on behalf of ordinary local people for the type of policing service we get. Whoever we appoint as the latest independent members of this authority, I can be sure will straightaway find themselves playing a vital part in that real accountability - including finding the answers if things go wrong.

"Since any police authority needs to reflect the communities they serve, we want to encourage applications not just from groups currently under-represented on this authority, but from anyone motivated to serve.

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“Another thing we are particularly looking out for is people active in their local communities; people likely to contribute a practical skill in community relations which could be of real value to the work of the Authority, as we consult with our communities about policing. We are equally looking out for potential Independent members with other forms of expertise to offer too – whether it’s in management, business, finance, equalities, or the public service generally. Eitherway, anyone appointed will have the highest standards of integrity, someone capable of constructive debate about policing issues whoever they engage with, because it is our job with them and on everyone’s behalf to ensure the highest standards of policing are maintained right across Cumbria, for the benefit of the people we all answer to – the public.”

The closing date for applications is 12 noon on Friday 8 August 2008.

To find out more contact Stuart Edwards the Police Authority’s Deputy Chief Executive; visit Cumbria Police Authority’s website at www.cumbriapoliceauthority.org or go to the APA website at www.apa.police.uk

ENDS

Notes to Editors

- For further information please contact Stuart Edwards by telephone (01768 217732) or e-mail (stuart.edwards@cumbria.police.uk).
- Police authorities, along with the Home Secretary and chief officers of police, make up the tripartite relationship responsible for the governance of policing in England and Wales.
- Police authorities are made up of local people: a mix of local councillors, and Independent members (selected from the community) represent the views of local communities.
- The job of police authorities is to:
 - **appoint (and, if necessary, dismiss) chief constables and senior police officers**
 - **consult with local communities to find out what they want the local police to do**
 - **set the budget for their police force, and decide how much local people should pay for policing in the local council tax**
 - **set the strategic direction for policing locally and decide what the police should focus attention on locally - based on their consultation with local communities**
 - **make sure the police force is continuing to do a better job**

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