

# PCCS

Police Complaints Commissioner  
for Scotland

## *Quis Custodiet Ipsos Custodes?*

PCCS and Police Accountability

Ian Todd Director, PCCS

SIPR Conference

Tuesday 27 October 2009

# Historical context

Central to police accountability is the mechanism for investigating complaints: if citizens are to have confidence in the police service as a whole, they must feel that when they complain about individual instances of police misconduct their allegations will be investigated thoroughly and impartially.

***Liberty 2000***



# Historical context

**ipcc** independent  
police complaints  
commission

- Not a new phenomenon
- 1929 Royal Commission on Police powers
  - 1962 Royal Commission on the Police
  - 1976 Police Complaints Board
  - 1984 Police Complaints Authority
  - 2000 PONI
  - 2004 IPCC



# Historical context

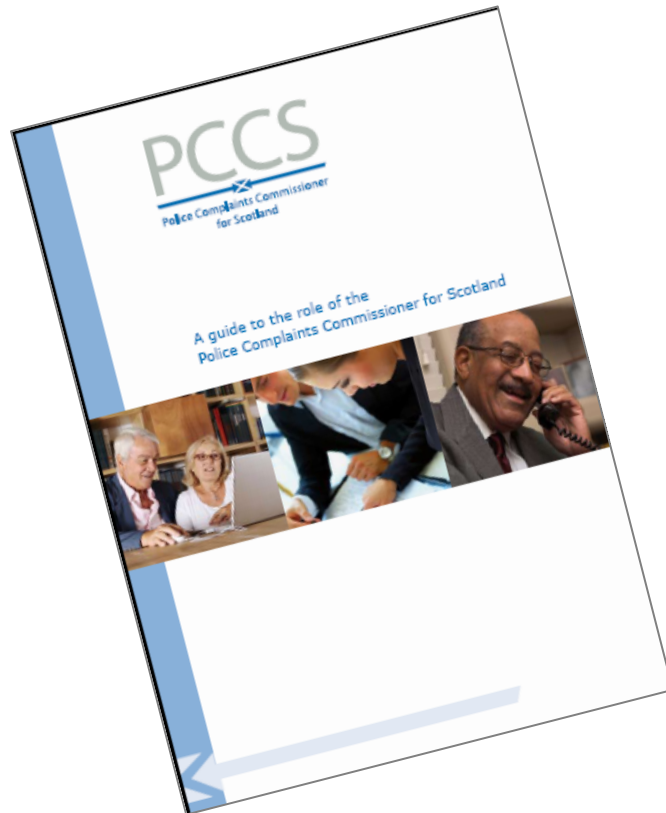


1990s debate over role of complaints led to

- 1994 HMIC
- 2000 HMICS  
“A Fair Cop?”
- 2005 HMICS
- “Quality of Service”
- 2007 PCCS



# PCCS - role



- PCCS established by Scottish Parliament in 2006
- Independent: neither an agent nor servant of the Crown
- Wide ranging remit
  - **Review** the way that complaints are handled
  - Ensure effective and efficient procedures
  - Issue guidance to police
  - Report “grave” or “serious” concerns to Ministers
  - Drive up standards
  - Promote a learning culture



# PCCS – reach and powers



- Central Scotland Police
- Dumfries & Galloway Constabulary
- Fife Constabulary
- Grampian Police
- Lothian & Borders Police
- Northern Constabulary
- Strathclyde Police
- Tayside Police
- Police Authorities
- British Transport Police
- Civil Nuclear Constabulary
- Ministry of Defence Police
- Scottish Crime and Drug Enforcement Agency
- Serious and Organised Crime Agency
- Scottish Police Services Authority
- United Kingdom Border Agency

**Police officers, employees, members of staff**



# PCCS – reach and powers

## Complaints definition

- A written statement expressing dissatisfaction about an act or omission by a police body or person

## Exclusions

- Terms and conditions of employment
- Allegations of criminality



# PCCS –achievements



## Section 35 - Manner of handling

	07/08	08/09
<b>Enquiries</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>375</b>
<b>CHRs</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>Allegations</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>288</b>

- Child custody/HMI report
- Complaint about senior officers
- Learning the lessons
- Acknowledging good practice
- Revising the process

[www.pcc-scotland.org](http://www.pcc-scotland.org)



# PCCS - achievements



- Section 42  
Efficient and effective
  - Audit Reports – Northern Constabulary 2009
  - Research 2009
  - Consultation 2010
  - Conduct Regulations
- Section 43  
Reports to Ministers
  - Annual Report
  - Annual Statistical Return



# PCCS –accountability



- Role of Police Authorities and Joint Policing Boards
- Always first point of accountability
  - Periodic scrutiny of procedures
  - Dip sampling
  - Visible and transparent scrutiny
  - Robust statistical analysis
  - Strategic analysis



# PCCS –accountability



- Impact of ECHR
- Commissioner’s view – “a rights-based approach”
- Role of the Crown
  - Articles 2 and 3
  - “effective independent investigation”



# PCCS – the future



## Increased engagement

- Stakeholders

- politicians
- police
- public
- target groups
- employees
- media

## Increased transparency

## Increased accountability

## Increased confidence



PCCS

Police Complaints Commissioner  
for Scotland

*Increasing Scotland's confidence in  
police complaints handling through  
impartial oversight and reform*

