



Home Office

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Our Ref
Your Ref

Date 11th April 2006

To: See attached list

Dear Colleague

PROPOSED MERGER OF BEDFORDSHIRE, ESSEX AND HERTFORDSHIRE POLICE AREAS

In accordance with the provisions of sections 32 and 33 of the Police Act 1996, this letter gives notice of the Home Secretary's proposal to make an order amalgamating the Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire police areas with effect from 1 April 2008.

The attached report sets out the reasons why it appears to the Home Secretary that the merger of the 3 police force areas would be in the interests of efficiency and effectiveness of policing in the combined area.

Subject to separate consultation with the Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire Police Authorities and Chief Constables on the detailed terms of the amalgamation order, the Home Secretary proposes to include the following provisions in such an order:

- the date on which the amalgamation of the precursor police forces will take place (namely 1 April 2008);
- consequential amendments to Schedule 1 to the 1996 Act, including to specify the name of the new police area;
- the establishment of the new strategic police authority before the date of amalgamation;
- supplementary and transitional provision regarding the appointment of members of that strategic police authority and senior ranks of the strategic police force;
- supplementary and transitional provision regarding the appointment by the strategic police authority of a clerk to that authority, in accordance with section 15 of the Police Act 1996;
- the dissolution of the precursor police forces and the precursor police authorities with effect from the date of amalgamation;
- provision for the transfer, on amalgamation, of all property, rights and liabilities (subject to any specified exceptions) from the precursor police authorities and precursor police forces to the strategic police authority and strategic police force respectively. This will include any monies in the police funds and all pending legal proceedings;
- the transfer of members, special constables and police cadets of the precursor police forces to the strategic police force;

- transitional provisions in respect of the position of the chief constables, deputy chief constables and assistant chief constables of the precursor forces on amalgamation;
- transitional provisions in respect of the filling of any chief officer vacancies in the period between the making of an order and the date of amalgamation;
- transitional provisions in respect of the filling of any vacancies amongst the membership of the precursor police authorities in the period between the making of an order and the date of amalgamation;
- provision for the transfer of employees of the precursor police authorities to the strategic police authority;
- transitional provisions in respect of the equalisation of the policing precepts currently set by the precursor police authorities;
- provision that anything done by a chief officer of a precursor force (e.g. a CSO designation under section 38 of the Police Reform Act 2002) is valid in respect of the new force;
- necessary transitional adaptations of provisions in primary and secondary legislation, such as the requirement on precursor chief officers and police authorities to produce annual reports;
- consequential amendments to any primary or secondary legislation which refer to the Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire police areas, police forces or police authorities; and
- provision to impose a general duty on precursor police authorities and forces to cooperate with shadow strategic police authority.

Any objections to the Home Secretary's proposed merger of the Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire police areas should be delivered to the Home Office at the address below by **11th August 2006**:

Ahmed Timol
 Police Structures Team
 Home Office
 6th Floor Fry Building
 2 Marsham Street
 London
 SW1P 4DF

Email: structuresreview@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Telephone 020 7035 1953

Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire Police Authorities will wish to engage in further consultation with their local communities on the proposed merger before deciding whether to submit any objections.

A copy of this letter and enclosure goes, for information, to the Clerks of the Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire Police Authorities, the Association of Chief Police Officers, the Association of Police Authorities, the Chief Police Officers Staff Association, the Superintendents Association, the Police Federation and Unison.

Yours sincerely



Lorraine Rogerson
Director, Policing Policy

To:

Chair to Bedfordshire Police Authority
Chair to Essex Police Authority
Chair to Hertfordshire Police Authority
Chief Executive to Essex County Council
Chief Executive to Bedfordshire County Council
Chief Executive to Hertfordshire County Council
Chief Executive to Basildon District Council
Chief Executive to Braintree District Council
Chief Executive to Brentwood Borough Council
Chief Executive to Castle Point Borough Council
Chief Executive to Chelmsford Borough Council
Chief Executive to Colchester Borough Council
Chief Executive to Epping Forest District Council
Chief Executive to Harlow District Council
Chief Executive to Maldon District Council
Chief Executive to Rochford District Council
Chief Executive to Uttlesford District Council
Chief Executive to Tendring District Council
Chief Executive to Southend-on-Sea Borough Council
Chief Executive to Thurrock Borough Council
Chief Executive to Bedford Borough Council
Chief Executive to Mid Bedfordshire District Council
Chief Executive to South Bedfordshire District Council
Chief Executive to Luton Borough Council
Chief Executive to Broxbourne Borough Council
Chief Executive to Dacorum Borough Council
Chief Executive to East Hertfordshire Council
Chief Executive to Hertsmere Borough Council
Chief Executive to North Hertfordshire District Council
Chief Executive to St Albans District Council
Chief Executive to Stevenage Borough Council
Chief Executive to Three Rivers District Council
Chief Executive to Watford Borough Council
Chief Executive to Welwyn / Hatfield District Council
Chief Constable of Bedfordshire Police
Chief Constable of Essex Police
Chief Constable of Hertfordshire Constabulary