

“ PPP ”

People for Proper Policing in North Wales

Schism....North Wales Police and the elected Government of the UK

In Recent Blogs...the CC and DCC use the Police website to strongly disagree with government Policy on major issues of the FOI act and the Home Office structure.

*Quoting Brunstrom on the freedom of information act....The Act has been operating for several years now, and the system is rather well bedded in. **We in the police accept it as the norm**, and our democracy is much the better for it. Government departments seem to have more difficulty with it and are, as reported in the national press, **often strangely reluctant to comply; I suppose old habits die hard**. You can see what **the independent watchdog** thinks at <http://www.north-wales.police.uk/nwp/public/admin/globalimages/uploaded/report.pdf>.*

*However you may have noticed that the Act has been in the news recently because a Private Member's Bill is proposing to exempt Parliament from the provisions of its own legislation. **an almost bizarre proposal** which is clearly **doing nothing whatsoever to enhance the esteem of the Members of Parliament in the mind of the press and public**. The stated rationale is to protect the confidentiality of MPs' correspondence - a perfectly fair point, were it not for the fact that the existing legislation does this perfectly adequately already! Cynics are saying that the real intent is to prevent MPs' expenses being revealed - perhaps because the Bill follows on from a lengthy dispute about the publication of MPs' expenses which resulted in a **judgement** forcing their release, see www.north-wales.police.uk/nwp/public/admin/globalimages/uploaded/corpo officer.pdf*

*You must make your own mind up; you can read last Friday's debate in **Hansard** at www.north-wales.police.uk/nwp/public/admin/globalimages/uploaded/bill.doc*

*If this Bill goes through and becomes law Parliament will have put itself in the very odd and retrogressive situation of being less open than the Scottish Parliament and the Welsh and Northern Irish Assemblies. **I cannot believe that this is in the national interest. One to watch.***

***Quoting Wolfendale on the Home Office split....I suppose I must be one of the few remaining serving police officers who worked in a Manchester CID office in the 1970s. There was a surety of purpose in those days (at least as far as the job was concerned) and that was - nailing villains, whatever it took.** However, in the wake of urban riots and the Police and Criminal Evidence Act, the 1980s brought a new emphasis for investigators. **The search for truth superseded the search for conviction.** It was at this time that the importance of a joined-up criminal justice system emerged; agencies working together to ensure a fair and seamless process supporting victims, offenders - and the rule of law. **There were tensions in this model. Searching for the truth in an adversarial courts domain put the police on the back foot for about 15 years.** The criminal justice system never quite achieved the desired levels of co-operation. But substantial progress was made. The Crown Prosecution Service has found its feet and there have been remarkable benefits in the police working more closely with Prisons and Probation. **The decision to carve off a Ministry of Justice from the Home Office appears to reverse 25 years of co-operative evolution in England and Wales.** I find it surprising that such a decision was taken so swiftly and without wide consultation. There is, without question, a new paradigm to policing and national security; new challenges that will undoubtedly require new measures and new thinking. But I'm not sure that dismantling, at a stroke, a powerful model that was won through hard work and even harder lessons is the right solution.*

The PPP comments ... We would probably agree with many of these criticisms BUT we don't see their Role as spending time and money voicing their Political Opinions. ACPO provides a route to involve the police in Policy development and changes ...or preferably, they could resign and stand as candidates in a major election!

The build up of anti-government statements from those who previously, slavishly followed the worst of government PC meddling, smacks of opportunism ... what ever next? ... sucking up to the two Davids Cameron and Davis!