



Mal Taylor, secretary of the Federation's legislation subcommittee

New bills for the old bill

Federation views

In May, the Queen delivered her speech which laid out the new coalition government's legislative programme for the next 18 months under the theme of 'Freedom, Fairness and Responsibility'. Having recently taken over the role of secretary to the Federation's legislation subcommittee, I am looking forward to embarking on this new era to influence the formation of any new legislation which impacts on our members. Hopefully the new coalition government will focus on quality rather than quantity, in contrast to the previous administration that created in excess of 4,700 new offences of which over 1,000 had a power of arrest attached.

The legislation subcommittee is made up of representatives from each rank and representatives who focus on Westminster and Welsh Assembly issues. The main role of the subcommittee is to respond to legislative consultations on behalf of the Police Federation, and to lobby where necessary to influence key decision makers in respect of both existing and new legislation that affects operational police officers. The work of the subcommittee is organised into business areas, the key ones being drugs, custody, youth justice, roads policing, CID and criminal justice.

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At the time of writing, the finer details of the bills being put forward by the government have yet to be seen but two have been announced that will impact upon policing: The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill, and Freedom (Great Repeal) Bill.

The main strands of the first bill include police accountability to local communities through the introduction of directly elected individuals, the creation of a national border police force, and measures to tackle

alcohol-related violence and disorder. It will also encompass changes to how health and safety legislation applies to police officers.

The second bill focuses on civil liberties and covers such areas as the DNA database, public protest, anti-terrorism legislation, the use of CCTV and the storage of internet and email records.

With these and many other challenges ahead for serving police officers the legislation subcommittee will continue to lobby parliament and represent your views to ensure that your voice is heard.