

# POLICE

## Police Magazine Update

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### **MPs say lack of defined budget for the National Crime Agency is 'unsatisfactory'**

Ministers have raised concerns over a lack of a specific budget for the new National Crime Agency which will fight organised crime and is due to come into effect next year.

MPs questioned Keith Bristow, head of the NCA, at the Home Affairs Select Committee this week where he admitted there were question marks over the precise budget.

Keith Vaz, chairing the committee, said that the lack of defined budget was 'unsatisfactory' and they would need to know more detail in future.

The core part of NCA funding will come from SOCA (Serious and Organised Crime Agency) - £417 million worth of grant from the Home Office plus £31 million in capital, but Mr Bristow said he has no more information on the exact budget.

He told the committee: "The two things you want when you are leading an organisation is to be absolutely clear about what it is you are expected to deliver and absolutely clear about the resources you have to deliver it with and that help shapes the level of expectation that we have."

But he did say that they do have some idea of how the organisation is taking shape and that there would be additional resources as well as requirements. Mr Bristow said that they would need to have a joined up effort with local forces to combat crime and pressed the importance of shared intelligence and strong relationships but also stressed the need for the power, enshrined within legislation, to 'task' forces.

The Warwickshire chief constable is currently on secondment in his role leading the NCA as he is still leading an investigation and needs to be a serving chief constable. But he also stated he would remain an 'operational crime-fighter' rather than a civil servant.

"[I am] very clear I want the powers our workforce will have, partly because that is the way I believe in leading a law enforcement organisation, which is the head of the organisation is also a law enforcement officer and secondly I will exercise those powers operationally..."