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National Appropriate Adult Network

14 November 2025

Sarah Jones MP
Minister of State for Policing and Crime
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Subject: Abolition of PCCs – implications for provision of appropriate adults

Dear Minister

Thank you for your letter of 7th November (DECS Reference: MIN/1399603/25). I am grateful for your recognition of the progress towards ensuring the availability of appropriate adults (AAs) for vulnerable people – including those who are detained in custody, attend voluntary interviews, and/or are strip searched by police.

The home secretary's announcement regarding the abolition of PCCs puts the importance of a statutory duty into sharp relief and sets a timeline for deciding where responsibility will sit.

AA provision for children is unaffected as it is a statutory duty of local authorities. However, in the absence of an equivalent duty, many local authorities no longer provide AAs for vulnerable adults. As a result, but without intentional transition of responsibility, **approximately three-quarters of police forces now rely on PCCs to ensure AA provision for vulnerable people**.

Policing cannot function without appropriate adults: they are both required by PACE 1984 and are deeply embedded into case law. It is therefore inevitable that a solution will be found. However, many local AA schemes across England and Wales are concerned about how the abolition of PCCs will impact them, especially those outside mayoral areas and those run directly by PCCs.

We stand ready to work with you and your officials to establish a clear, stable and sustainable national framework for local provision; one that will protect vulnerable people, ensure compliance with the law and increase police efficiency and effectiveness.

Yours sincerely



Chris Bath | Chief Executive

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