



Police Act 1997

1997 CHAPTER 50

PART II

THE NATIONAL CRIME SQUAD

Central supervision and direction

70 General duty of Secretary of State

The Secretary of State shall exercise his powers under this Part in such manner and to such extent as appears to him to be best calculated to promote the efficiency and effectiveness of the National Crime Squad.

71 Setting of objectives

- (1) The Secretary of State may by order determine objectives for the National Crime Squad.
- (2) Before making an order under this section, the Secretary of State shall consult—
 - (a) the NCS Service Authority,
 - (b) the Director General of the National Crime Squad,
 - (c) persons whom the Secretary of State considers to represent the interests of police authorities for areas in England and Wales,
 - (d) persons whom he considers to represent the interests of chief officers of police of police forces in England and Wales,
 - (e) the NCIS Service Authority, and
 - (f) the Director General of NCIS.
- (3) A statutory instrument containing an order under this section shall be laid before Parliament after being made.

72 Setting of performance targets

- (1) Where an objective has been determined under section 71, the Secretary of State may direct the NCS Service Authority to establish levels of performance (“performance targets”) to be aimed at in seeking to achieve the objective.
- (2) A direction given under this section may impose conditions with which the performance targets must conform.
- (3) The Secretary of State shall arrange for any direction given under this section to be published in such manner as appears to him to be appropriate.

73 Codes of practice

- (1) The Secretary of State may issue codes of practice relating to the discharge by the NCS Service Authority of its functions.
- (2) The Secretary of State may from time to time revise the whole or part of any code of practice issued under this section.
- (3) The Secretary of State shall lay before Parliament a copy of any code of practice, and of any revision of a code of practice, issued by him under this section.

74 Removal of Director General etc

- (1) The Secretary of State may require the NCS Service Authority to exercise its power under section 53 to call upon the Director General of the National Crime Squad, or any other member (other than a member appointed by the Director General by virtue of section 55(8)) to retire in the interests of efficiency or effectiveness.
- (2) Before—
 - (a) exercising any power conferred on him by subsection (1), or
 - (b) approving the exercise by the NCS Service Authority of its power under section 53,the Secretary of State shall give the person in relation to whom it is proposed to exercise the power (the “relevant person”) an opportunity to make representations to him and shall consider any representations so made.
- (3) Where representations are made under this section the Secretary of State may, and in a case where he proposes to exercise a power conferred by subsection (1) shall, appoint one or more persons to hold an inquiry and report to him.
- (4) The Secretary of State shall take account of any report made under subsection (3).
- (5) The person appointed under subsection (3) (or, in a case where more than one person is so appointed, at least one of the persons so appointed) shall not be an officer of police, of a Government department, of the National Crime Squad or of NCIS.
- (6) The costs incurred by a relevant person in respect of an inquiry under this section, taxed in such manner as the Secretary of State may direct, shall be defrayed out of the NCS service fund.

75 Power to give directions after adverse report

- (1) The Secretary of State may at any time require the inspectors of constabulary to carry out an inspection of the National Crime Squad under section 54 of the Police Act 1996.
- (2) Where a report made to the Secretary of State on an inspection carried out in accordance with this section states—
 - (a) that, in the opinion of the person making the report, the National Crime Squad is not efficient or not effective, or
 - (b) that in his opinion, unless remedial measures are taken, the National Crime Squad will cease to be efficient or will cease to be effective,the Secretary of State may direct the NCS Service Authority to take such measures as may be specified in the direction.

76 Reports from NCS Service Authority

- (1) The Secretary of State may require the NCS Service Authority to submit to him a report on such matters connected with the discharge of the Authority's functions, or otherwise with the activities of the National Crime Squad, as may be specified in the requirement.
- (2) A report submitted under subsection (1) shall be in such form as the Secretary of State may specify.
- (3) The Secretary of State may arrange, or require the Authority to arrange, for a report under this section to be published in such manner as appears to him to be appropriate.

77 Reports from Director General

- (1) The Secretary of State may require the Director General of the National Crime Squad to submit to him a report on such matters connected with the activities of the National Crime Squad as may be specified in the requirement.
- (2) A report submitted under subsection (1) shall be in such form as the Secretary of State may specify.
- (3) The Secretary of State may arrange, or require the Director General to arrange, for a report under this section to be published in such manner as appears to the Secretary of State to be appropriate.
- (4) The Director General shall, as soon as possible after the end of each financial year, submit to the Secretary of State the like report as is required by section 57 to be submitted to the NCS Service Authority.

78 Criminal statistics

- (1) The Director General of the National Crime Squad shall, at such times and in such form as the Secretary of State may direct, transmit to the Secretary of State such particulars with respect to offences, offenders, criminal proceedings and the state of crime as the Secretary of State may require.
- (2) The Secretary of State shall cause a consolidated and classified abstract of the information transmitted to him under this section to be included in the abstract laid before Parliament under section 45 of the Police Act 1996.

Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).

79 Inquiries

- (1) The Secretary of State may cause an inquiry to be held by a person appointed by him into any matter connected with the National Crime Squad.
- (2) An inquiry under this section shall be held in public or in private as the Secretary of State may direct.
- (3) Subsections (2) and (3) of section 250 of the Local Government Act 1972 (power to summon and examine witnesses) shall apply to an inquiry held under this section as they apply to an inquiry held under that section.
- (4) Where the report of the person holding an inquiry under this section is not published, a summary of his findings and conclusions shall be made known by the Secretary of State so far as appears to him consistent with the public interest.
- (5) The Secretary of State may direct that the whole or part of the costs incurred by any person for the purposes of an inquiry held under this section shall be defrayed out of the NCS service fund; and any costs payable under this section shall be subject to taxation in such manner as the Secretary of State may direct.

80 Regulations as to standard of equipment

The Secretary of State may make regulations requiring equipment provided or used for the purposes of the National Crime Squad to satisfy such requirements as to design and performance as may be prescribed in the regulations.