



Police Act 1996

1996 CHAPTER 16

PART II

CENTRAL SUPERVISION, DIRECTION AND FACILITIES

Inspectors of constabulary

54 Appointment and functions of inspectors of constabulary.

(1) Her Majesty may appoint such number of inspectors (to be known as “Her Majesty’s Inspectors of Constabulary”) as the Secretary of State may with the consent of the Treasury determine, and of the persons so appointed one may be appointed as chief inspector of constabulary.

(2) The inspectors of constabulary shall inspect, and report ^{F1}... on the efficiency and effectiveness of, every police force maintained for a police area ^{F2} ... ^{F3} ... ^{F4}

^{F5}(2A)

[^{F6}(2B) The Secretary of State may at any time require the inspectors of constabulary to carry out an inspection under this section of a police force maintained for any police area; and a requirement under this subsection may include a requirement for the inspection to be confined to a particular part of the force in question, to particular matters or to particular activities of that force.]

[^{F7}(2BA) The local policing body for a police area may at any time request the inspectors of constabulary to carry out an inspection under this section of a police force maintained for that police area; and a request under this subsection may include a request for the inspection to be confined to a particular part of the force in question, to particular matters or to particular activities of that force.

(2BB) Where a local policing body requests the inspectors to carry out an inspection under subsection (2BA), the body must pay to the inspectors such reasonable costs incurred or to be incurred in connection with the inspection as the inspectors may require.]

^{F8}(2C)

Changes to legislation: Police Act 1996, Section 54 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 09 July 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

- [^{F9}(2D) It shall be the duty of the chief inspector of constabulary—
- (a) to enter into arrangements with the [^{F10}Director General of the Independent Office for Police Conduct (“the Director General”)] for the purpose of securing cooperation, in the carrying out of their respective functions, between the inspectors of constabulary and [^{F11}the Director General]; and
 - (b) to ensure that inspectors of constabulary provide [^{F12}the Director General] with all such assistance and co-operation as may be required by those arrangements or as otherwise appears to the chief inspector to be appropriate for facilitating the carrying out by [^{F12}the Director General] of [^{F13}his or her] functions.]
- (3) The inspectors of constabulary shall carry out such other duties for the purpose of furthering police efficiency and effectiveness as the Secretary of State may from time to time direct.
- ^{F14}(3A)
- (4) The chief inspector of constabulary shall in each year submit to the Secretary of State a report [^{F15}on the carrying out of inspections under this section], and the [^{F16}chief inspector] shall lay a copy of that report before Parliament.
- [^{F17}(4A) A report under subsection (4) must include the chief inspector's assessment of the efficiency and effectiveness of policing in England and Wales for the year in respect of which the report is prepared.]
- (5) The inspectors of constabulary shall be paid such salary and allowances as the Secretary of State may with the consent of the Treasury determine.
- [^{F18}(6) Schedule 4A (which makes further provision about the inspectors of constabulary) has effect.]
- [^{F19}(7) For the purposes of this section, a police force includes—
- (a) staff appointed by the chief officer of police of the police force;
 - [^{F20}(aa) persons designated as community support volunteers or policing support volunteers under section 38 of the Police Reform Act 2002;]
 - (b) staff appointed by a local policing body if, or to the extent that, they are employed to assist the police force;
 - (c) persons providing services, in pursuance of contractual arrangements (but without being employed by the chief officer of police of the police force or its local policing body), to assist the police force in relation to the discharge of its chief officer's functions;
 - (d) any other persons if, or to the extent that, they are engaged by virtue of any enactment in carrying out the activities of the police force.]

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 54(2) omitted (16.1.2012) by virtue of [Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011](#) (c. 13), [ss. 83\(2\), 157\(1\)](#); [S.I. 2011/3019](#), art. 3, Sch. 1
- F2** Word in s. 54(2) repealed (1.4.2002) by [2001 c. 16](#), [ss. 137, 138\(2\)](#), Sch. 7 Pt. 3; [S.I. 2002/533](#), [art. 2\(e\)](#)
- F3** Words in s. 54(2) repealed (1.4.2006) by [Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005](#) (c. 15), s. 178(8), Sch. 4 para. 71(2), [Sch. 17 Pt. 2](#); [S.I. 2006/378](#), art. 4(1), Sch. paras. 10, 13(y)

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- F4** Words in s. 54(2) repealed (14.7.2008) by Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 (c. 4), s. 153(7), **Sch. 28 Pt. 8**; S.I. 2008/1586, art. 2(1), Sch. 1 para. 50(7)(a)
- F5** S. 54(2A) omitted (22.11.2012) by virtue of Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (c. 13), **ss. 83(3)**, 157(1); S.I. 2012/2892, art. 2(a)
- F6** S. 54(2B) substituted (1.4.2006) by Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 (c. 15), s. 178(8), **Sch. 4 para. 71(3)**; S.I. 2006/378, art. 4(1), Sch. para. 10
- F7** S. 54(2BA)(2BB) inserted (16.1.2012) by Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (c. 13), **ss. 83(4)**, 157(1); S.I. 2011/3019, art. 3, Sch. 1
- F8** S. 54(2C) omitted (16.1.2012) by virtue of Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (c. 13), **ss. 83(5)**, 157(1); S.I. 2011/3019, art. 3, Sch. 1
- F9** S. 54(2D) inserted (1.4.2004) by Police Reform Act 2002 (c. 30), s. 108(2), **Sch. 7 para. 15**; S.I. 2004/913, art. 2(e)
- F10** Words in s. 54(2D)(a) substituted (31.1.2017 for specified purposes, 8.1.2018 in so far as not already in force) by Policing and Crime Act 2017 (c. 3), s. 183(1)(5)(e), **Sch. 9 para. 65(4)(a)(i)**; S.I. 2017/1249, reg. 2 (with reg. 3)
- F11** Words in s. 54(2D)(a) substituted (31.1.2017 for specified purposes, 8.1.2018 in so far as not already in force) by Policing and Crime Act 2017 (c. 3), s. 183(1)(5)(e), **Sch. 9 para. 65(4)(a)(ii)**; S.I. 2017/1249, reg. 2 (with reg. 3)
- F12** Words in s. 54(2D)(b) substituted (31.1.2017 for specified purposes, 8.1.2018 in so far as not already in force) by Policing and Crime Act 2017 (c. 3), s. 183(1)(5)(e), **Sch. 9 para. 65(4)(b)(i)**; S.I. 2017/1249, reg. 2 (with reg. 3)
- F13** Words in s. 54(2D)(b) substituted (31.1.2017 for specified purposes, 8.1.2018 in so far as not already in force) by Policing and Crime Act 2017 (c. 3), s. 183(1)(5)(e), **Sch. 9 para. 65(4)(b)(ii)**; S.I. 2017/1249, reg. 2 (with reg. 3)
- F14** S. 54(3A) repealed (19.4.2010) by Policing and Crime Act 2009 (c. 26), ss. 2(2), 116(1), **Sch. 8 Pt. 1**; S.I. 2010/999, arts. 2(d), 4 (as amended by S.I. 2010/1986, art. 3)
- F15** Words in s. 54(4) substituted (16.1.2012) by Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (c. 13), **ss. 83(6)(a)**, 157(1); S.I. 2011/3019, art. 3, Sch. 1
- F16** Words in s. 54(4) substituted (16.1.2012) by Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (c. 13), **ss. 83(6)(b)**, 157(1); S.I. 2011/3019, art. 3, Sch. 1
- F17** S. 54(4A) inserted (16.1.2012) by Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (c. 13), **ss. 83(7)**, 157(1); S.I. 2011/3019, art. 3, Sch. 1
- F18** S. 54(6) inserted (1.4.2007) by Police and Justice Act 2006 (c. 48), **ss. 29(1)**, 53(1); S.I. 2007/709, art. 3(m) (with art. 6)
- F19** S. 54(7) inserted (31.1.2017 for specified purposes, 2.5.2017 in so far as not already in force) by Policing and Crime Act 2017 (c. 3), **ss. 37(1)**, 183(1)(5)(e); S.I. 2017/399, reg. 4(a)
- F20** S. 54(7)(aa) inserted (31.1.2017 for specified purposes, 15.12.2017 in so far as not already in force) by Policing and Crime Act 2017 (c. 3), **ss. 43(1)**, 183(1)(5)(e); S.I. 2017/1139, reg. 2(i) (as amended by S.I. 2017/1162, reg. 2)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** S. 54 applied (1.4.2002) by 2001 c. 16, ss. 93(1), 138(2); S.I. 2002/533, **art. 2(a)**
- C2** Ss. 54-56: power to apply conferred (7.4.2005) by Commissioners for Revenue and Customs Act 2005 (c. 11), **ss. 27(2)(a)(i)**, 53(1); S.I. 2005/1126, art. 2(1)
- C3** Ss. 54-56: power to apply conferred (21.7.2009) by Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009 (c. 11), **ss. 29(2)(a)**, 58(1) (with s. 36(4))
- C4** Ss. 54, 55: power to apply conferred (28.1.2016 for specified purposes, 28.3.2016 in so far as not already in force) by 2009 c. 20, **Sch. 5C para. 11(1)(d)** (as inserted by Cities and Local Government Devolution Act 2016 (c. 1), s. 25(2), **Sch. 2**)
- C5** S. 54(2D) applied (10.12.2012) by The Customs (Inspections by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Constabulary and the Scottish Inspectors) Regulations 2012 (S.I. 2012/2840), regs. 1, **11(1)**

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- C6** S. 54(2D) power to apply (with modifications) conferred (1.11.2022 for specified purposes, 20.2.2023 for specified purposes) by 2006 c. 52, s. 340P(3) (as inserted by [Armed Forces Act 2021 \(c. 35\)](#), **ss. 11(3)**, 24(1); S.I. 2022/1095, **reg. 3**; S.I. 2023/158, **reg. 4**)
- C7** S. 54(2D) power to apply (with modifications) conferred (1.11.2022 for specified purposes, 20.2.2023 for specified purposes, 19.6.2023 in so far as not already in force) by 2006 c. 52, **s. 340P(3)** (as inserted by [Armed Forces Act 2021 \(c. 35\)](#), **ss. 11(3)**, 24(1); S.I. 2022/1095, **reg. 3**; S.I. 2023/158, **reg. 4**; S.I. 2023/621, **reg. 2**)

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 53B-53D and cross-heading inserted by [2009 c. 26 s. 2\(1\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. S. 2(1) omitted (16.1.2012) without ever being in force by virtue of 2011 c. 13, s. 157(1), Sch. 16 para. 378; S.I. 2011/3019, art. 3, Sch. 1)
- s. 53B(3)(c) words substituted by [2017 c. 3 Sch. 14 para. 67\(c\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. S. 53B was never inserted as the amending provision (2009 c. 26, s. 2(1)) was omitted without ever being in force by virtue of 2011 c. 13, s. 157(1), Sch. 16 para. 378; S.I. 2011/3019, art. 3, Sch. 1)
- s. 53B(6)(b) words substituted by [2017 c. 3 Sch. 14 para. 67\(c\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. S. 53B was never inserted as the amending provision (2009 c. 26, s. 2(1)) was omitted without ever being in force by virtue of 2011 c. 13, s. 157(1), Sch. 16 para. 378; S.I. 2011/3019, art. 3, Sch. 1)
- Sch. 4A para. 2(2)(ia) inserted by [2024 c. 21 s. 24\(2\)](#)
- Sch. 4A para. 5(7)(8) inserted by [2024 c. 21 s. 24\(3\)](#)