

ACPOS NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Use

Grampian's Chief Constable McKerracher becomes ACPOS President for 2007/08

The Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland (ACPOS) is pleased to announce that Chief Constable Colin McKerracher, Grampian Police Force, will become the next president of the Association effective July 1, 2007.

Association vice-president for the past three months, Mr. McKerracher replaces Northern Constabulary Chief Constable Ian Latimer, who will become Past-President and will retain his role as Chair of the ACPOS Diversity Business Area.

The presidency of the Association is for one year and is on a rotating basis among the country's eight chief constables, with the vice-president taking on the presidential duties on July 1 every year.

Chief Constable Ian Latimer, out-going president, said:

"ACPOS is determined that policing in Scotland should continue to be at the forefront of public service responsiveness.

"The challenges that the Scottish Police Service faces for 2007/08 are significant; however, the work which has taken place in the past year paints a reassuring picture.

"As a service, ACPOS looks forward to the year ahead and, in handing over to my successor, Colin McKerracher, I am confident that the Scottish Police Service will continue to be an active partner in any debate with an emphasis on improving both existing practices and the level of service which is provided to the public on a day-to-day basis."

In-coming president Chief Constable McKerracher said:

"As I prepare for my year as president, I believe that ACPOS has a vital role to play in a new, emerging Scotland.

"With the incorporation of ACPOS Ltd. and the emergence of the Scottish Chief Police Officers Staff Association (SCPOSA) we can begin by clearly defining our role, our purpose and our principles as leaders of the Service.

"The Scottish Police Service stands on the threshold of a time to build and a time to speak, to take a fresh look at our role because Scotland is changing. Indeed, it has already changed.

“We have a new Scottish parliament, new police authorities, and a changed political and social landscape.

“I believe that it is our responsibility as leaders of policing in Scotland to ensure that we help Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers to engage in a Scottish police agenda that meets the needs of the communities of Scotland.

“We need to seize this moment to re-engage with new and experienced politicians both nationally and locally as well as with our partners in community planning, to work more effectively with colleague civil servants and to maximise the value of the broad range of expertise that we collectively bring to bear to benefit the people across Scotland.

“ACPOS must become an agent of change – an organisation that is able and willing to be in the driver’s seat and not the passenger’s seat, that we listen to and connect with our communities to shape our plans, to drop things that are no longer relevant, to let go of structures that are no longer delivering and to be prepared to do things differently in order to benefit Scotland as a whole so that we have a safer, stronger and more successful country.

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Notes to Editors:

Photos of Chief Constable Colin McKerracher are available from the ACPOS Communications Unit or from Grampian Police Force Communications.

His biography is attached.

BIOGRAPHY OF CHIEF CONSTABLE COLIN MCKERRACHER QPM LLB

Mr Colin McKerracher was appointed Chief Constable of Grampian Police on 12 April 2004.

He was raised in Glasgow and served as a Police Cadet before joining The City of Glasgow Police on 20 May 1974.

Throughout his career in Strathclyde Police, Mr McKerracher performed many roles in both operational and support positions, including a wide variety of general policing duties. He became Divisional Commander and also worked in a number of departments, including the Force Research and Development and Force Personnel Departments, before becoming Assistant Chief Constable responsible for Management Services, Community Safety and subsequently the Operational Portfolio. On 6 September 2001, he was appointed Deputy Chief Constable.

During his career he studied for three years at Strathclyde University and in 1987 he graduated LLB.

Since joining Grampian Police, Mr McKerracher has been instrumental in achieving a more community based policing approach across the Force, under the banner 'Total Community' and he has been keen to place greater emphasis on tackling anti-social behaviour. He has ensured that national best practice and policy has been adopted by the Force to help reduce road traffic collisions and casualties.

He has overall responsibility for the policing of offshore installations, Royal residences on Deeside, as well as Aberdeen International Airport. He is a member of many local and national committees including those across the Association of Chief Police Officers Scotland Business Areas.

Of his many ambitions for the police service, he believes primarily in developing an integrated organisational and planning structure capable of supporting community based policing to achieve real outcomes that meet community needs. Core to this, he has challenged historical practice, has focussed minds on the empowerment and development of staff and, as Chief Constable for Grampian Police, he has reintroduced the Police Cadet Scheme, having identified the benefits to both the Force and youth in the local community.

In June 2005, Mr McKerracher received recognition for his Police Service to date, when he was awarded the Queen's Police Medal and in May 2006 he was admitted as Burgess of Guild as a mark of gratitude for his faithful service to the Burgh of Aberdeen.

Mr McKerracher is committed to the work of his local church and charities and is a keen sportsman with a particular interest in football.

He is married with two grown up children and two grandchildren.