

**28 September 2007****For Immediate Use****SCOTTISH POLICE WELCOME CHANGE IN LAW ON TOBACCO**

The Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland (ACPOS) has welcomed the change in the law which will prohibit the sale of tobacco products to those under 18 years of age.

The law comes into force Monday 1 October and changes the age at which cigarettes and other tobacco products can be sold from 16 to 18 years of age.

Chief Superintendent Andrew Laing of Fife Police, who has been involved with the planning for the law change on behalf of ACPOS, said: "We welcome the change in the law which is aimed at reducing the availability of tobacco products to younger people.

"The health and social benefits will soon become clear. Our colleagues in the trading standards departments of local councils will be responsible for the enforcement of the new regulations and will work closely with retailers to ensure compliance.

"If changes in the law lead to incidents of aggressive behaviour or disorder, the police will respond accordingly and give all necessary support and assistance."

**Notes to editors:**

Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland (ACPOS) is an independent, professionally led strategic body, constituted as a company limited by guarantee, registered in Scotland (Reg No 310956). In the public interest, and in equal and active partnership with Scottish Ministers and local police authorities, ACPOS leads and co-ordinates the direction and development of a strategic policing response in Scotland.

[www.acpos.police.uk](http://www.acpos.police.uk)

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