

NEW COUNTER TERRORISM CO-ORDINATOR APPOINTED

THE importance placed on combating the threat from terrorists by Scotland's Chief Constables and the Scottish Government is reflected in their support of the unique role of counter terrorism co-ordinator.

That role is to be carried out by Assistant Chief Constable Colin McCashey who was previously head of CID at Tayside Police, and more recently the Police Commander at Dundee. He has served with distinction for 28 years.

The Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland and the Scottish Government share the cost of ACC McCashey's role which provides a focus for a range of counter terrorism activities in Scotland.

He will also be responsible for representing ACPOS at national and international level in the counter terrorism field and for liaising with a wide range of partners in law enforcement and government.

ACC McCashey said: "This is an exciting and challenging opportunity for me and one which is unique in British policing. The Chief Constables have identified counter terrorism as one of their key strategic priorities and I will be doing all that I can to ensure that the people of Scotland are protected from the terrorist threat.

"We have seen in the United Kingdom in recent years that the threat can come from within our communities as well as from overseas and part of my role will be to work with communities across Scotland to ensure that there is clear two-way communication and that concerns are identified and addressed."

Chief Constable Stephen House of Strathclyde Police, chair of the ACPOS crime business area, said: "The appointment of a senior officer to co-ordinate our counter terrorist activities in Scotland is a clear indication of the importance we place on this aspect of law enforcement. There has been a huge amount of work done by the forces in Scotland to make our communities safer and that work will continue.

"The current threat level is assessed as severe which means that a terrorist attack is highly likely. That state of affairs is reason enough to stress that the Chief Constables working with our partners will do everything possible to protect the people of Scotland."

Justice Secretary Kenny MacAskill said: "I very much welcome the appointment of Colin McCashey as the ACPOS Co-ordinator for Counter Terrorism.

"The Scottish Government is fully committed to working with the police and other partners to tackle the threat from terrorism and Colin is an excellent choice. I look forward to working with him to take forward all the strands of work needed to ensure that Scotland remains safe from terrorism."

NOTES TO EDITORS:

ACC Colin McCashey joined Tayside Police in 1982 and has spent the bulk of his career as a detective in various roles within and outwith his home force.

He was educated at Hayshead Primary School and Arbroath Academy before studying computer programming at Bell Street College in Dundee.

After serving in his home town of Arbroath, ACC McCashey joined the CID, first in Angus then in Dundee. He was promoted to Detective Inspector in 1996 and posted to work with the Metropolitan Police and a variety of Government agencies.

He returned to Tayside in 1998 and the following year was promoted to Detective Chief Inspector and appointed to the newly created post of Director of Intelligence. During this time, Colin was instrumental in the introduction of modern intelligence led policing, which represented a sea change in the way police resources both uniform and CID are deployed to best effect. In 2002, Colin he moved to Eastern Division as Chief Inspector in charge of Operational Policing in Angus.

In 2003, ACC McCashey was promoted to Detective Superintendent, Deputy Head of CID in Tayside, assuming responsibility for the investigation of serious crime throughout the Force and the management of CID Units such as the Drugs Branch, Special Branch and Force Intelligence Bureau.

He transferred temporarily to Special Events Planning and was the UK Intelligence Commander for the policing of the G8 World Leaders' Summit held at the Gleneagles Hotel in 2005.

In 2006 ACC McCashey was promoted to Detective Chief Superintendent, Head of CID in Tayside.

In 2007 ACC McCashey was appointed Divisional Commander, Dundee, where he worked extensively with local authority partners and communities.

ACC McCashey is married with three children and lives in Arbroath.

The Scottish Police Service plays a full and active role in the activities that collectively aim to reduce the risk from terrorism:

- Prevention of terrorism
- Pursuit of terrorists and their sponsors

- Protection of potential targets of terrorism
- Preparedness to respond to terrorist acts and reduce consequences

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