

Police officers get reference guide for dealing with diversity issues

The Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland (ACPOS) is delighted to announce the launch of the ACPOS Diversity Handbook, which is a pocket-sized quick reference practical guide for staff covering aspects such as age, disability, gender, faith and religion, race and sexual orientation.

The Diversity Handbook was compiled by an ACPOS working group made up of Scottish police force representatives. The involvement and consultation process, involved local community members and groups, and national organisations from all over Scotland. These groups identified what information was most relevant for front line staff to have at their fingertips.

Without the active assistance of these groups, organisations and individuals the Diversity Handbook Project would not have been possible.

Every force in Scotland, including the British Transport Police and the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service is to receive an electronic copy of the Diversity Handbook. Some forces have opted to have Handbooks issued to every officer, whereas in others it will be available online.

The Chair of the ACPOS Equality and Diversity Business Area, Mr. Ian Latimer, Chief Constable of Northern Constabulary, said: "This is an extremely useful resource for staff. It is important that our communities are given the respect and professional service they deserve. This handbook will complement and enhance our existing service delivery."

Jackie Redding, Director of Clinical Care and Service Development for Terrence Higgins Trust Scotland said: "We commend the Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland for recognising the need to work together to challenge discrimination, celebrate diversity and make Scotland a safe and supportive place for everyone to live in. The Diversity Handbook is a great resource and we believe it will really help staff increase their knowledge and confidence around diversity issues."

The ACPOS Diversity Handbook is to be officially launched in Inverness by Chief Constable Latimer on Wednesday, 25 March 2009.

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Notes to Editor:

Please see ACPOS Media Advisory sent on Tuesday, 24 February regarding the location and time of the launch: