



## South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands

Office of the Commissioner  
Government House,  
Stanley,  
Falkland Islands.

31 October 2016

### **Policing**

### **Report on Consultation**

#### Summary

The consultation on the draft Policing Ordinance took place from July to September 2016.

The proposed legislation would put in place a new policing framework for South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands to enable the appointment of police officers, provide them with the same powers as the Royal Falkland Islands Police and enable GSGSSI to call on additional resources should the need arise. This framework would replace the previous 1967 Ordinance.

The draft legislation and an accompanying consultation were made available on the GSGSSI website with a news item highlighting the consultation, stakeholders were notified by email and the launch of the consultation was 'tweeted'.

Two responses have been received from stakeholders. One response concerned being assured that when government officers are acting in the capacity of police officers, they should be clearly identified as such. This is not a matter that needs to be set out in the legislation however GSGSSI is working with the Royal Falkland Islands Police on the practical arrangements including ensuring that police officers on SGSSI will be properly equipped and readily identifiable as police officers.

The other response concerned the relationship between the Magistrate based on South Georgia and the police. The judiciary and the police have distinct and separate roles to carry out. Their respective roles will be set out in this Ordinance and the Administration of Justice Ordinance (which has already been subject to stakeholder consultation). Police officers will receive appropriate guidance and training on their role; similarly the Magistrate will be briefed on the new legislation.

Having considered representations GSGSSI considers that there is no need to make any significant changes to the proposed Policing Ordinance. It is possible that some minor technical amendments might be made when the draft Ordinance is given a further review before publication

It is intended to pass the legislation in its amended form by the end of the year.

#### Conclusion

GSGSSI now intend to move forward to passing and implementing this legislation. It is expected that it will be in force by January 2017. Any necessary guidance will be prepared and circulated in advance of implementation. Government Officers will receive appropriate training in arrangement with the Royal Falkland Islands Police.

The final version of the new Policing Ordinance will be placed in the legislation section of the website once passed.