

TAYSIDE JOINT POLICE BOARD

12 November 2001

Report by the Chief Constable No. PB 50/2001

SUBJECT: RACE RELATIONS AMENDMENT ACT 2000 – UPDATE

Abstract: This report provides members of Tayside Joint Police Board with an update on the position of Tayside Police in respect of compliance with the General Duty contained within the Race Relations Amendment Act 2000

1. RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 It is recommended that the Board note the contents of this report.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Race Relations Amendment Act 2000 was enacted on 2 April 2000 and Tayside Joint Police Board and Tayside Police are both listed as public listed authorities within Schedule 1A of the Act.
- 2.2 From 2 April 2000 both the Chief Constable and Tayside Joint Police Board have a statutory obligation to ensure compliance with the Act as set out in section 71(1). This states that every body or other person specified in Schedule 1A or of a description falling within that Schedule shall, in carrying out its functions, have due regard to the need :
- (a) to eliminate unlawful discrimination; and
 - (b) to promote equality of opportunity and good relations between persons of different racial groups
- 2.3 While the precise requirements of the legislation are yet to be published it is understood that compliance will be measured by the Commission for Racial Equality through a programme of inspection, possibly at three yearly intervals. It is hoped to publish the specific duties by the close of this year and these may include a requirement to implement positive action programmes. It may be noted that legal aid will be available to individuals who seek to challenge compliance.

3 CURRENT POSITION

- 3.1 The following measures have been taken by Tayside Police since last reporting to the Board in August 2001.
- 3.2 **Diversity Training** – Middle and junior management training will be completed by February 2002. 15 courses have been held for non-supervisory staff and have been attended by approximately 170 police officers and support staff. 7 supervisory courses have been held, involving 70 students. Evaluation of the courses has been positive and long-term knowledge will be developed by the diversity awareness guide which will address issues of disability in addition to ethnicity.

- 3.3 **Awareness session** - An awareness session for Elected Members will be arranged in due course
- 3.4 **Racial Unrest** – In view of the international situation Tayside Police continues to monitor the local position, and additional attention is being given to cultural and religious centres. The Chief Constable has personally visited one mosque in Dundee where he addressed a well-attended meeting, and further reassurance was given to the minority community at the General Council Meeting of Tayside Racial Equality Council held at Police Headquarters on Tuesday, 16 October. At this point there is no indication locally of heightened tension.
- 3.5 **Statistical Information** – Strategy at both national and local level in respect of racist incidents is informed primarily by the analysis of statistical information. To allow meaningful comparisons there is an evident need to ensure that these figures are collected in a consistent manner across the various authorities. The Scottish Executive Justice Department Statistics Unit is addressing this issue and an early draft of their proposals seeks 25 areas of information in respect of each incident.
- 3.6 In anticipation of this type of demand Tayside Police took the decision to capture all racist incidents in a common format in September 2000. This system uses the computerised crime recording system and contains most of the functionality required to satisfy the Statistics Unit. In order to establish patterns or trends an additional monthly report is compiled which attempts to analyse incidents by identifying the types of interaction between culprit and victim that give rise to incidents.
- 3.7 **Multi-Agency Reporting of Racist Incidents** – The well-established Multi-Agency Panel in Dundee continues to meet regularly following a review of its procedures and role. The Divisional Commander, Western Division has entered into discussion with senior staff within the Chief Executive's Office at Perth & Kinross Council with a view to progressing a Multi-Agency Panel. The response has been favourable and further work is required to build supporting arrangements. Discussions have also been held in Eastern Division where a draft protocol between Tayside Police and Angus Council is under consideration.

4. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no cost implications at this stage.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 Tayside Police continues to take a leading role in addressing racism both in its service delivery and internal awareness of diversity as it relates to staff. The legislative position remains fluid but we are confident that current initiatives reflect, and indeed may influence, the performance standards which will be required by the specific duties laid down by the Race Relations Amendment Act.

JOHN D VINE
Chief Constable

Police Headquarters
4 West Bell Street
Dundee
DD1 9JU

31 December, 2010

NOTE: No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above Report.