



# Police and Crime Commissioners: The Transformation of Police Accountability

By *Bryn Caless, Jane Owens*



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Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) are elected representatives whose role is to ensure that police forces in England and Wales are running effectively. Intended to bring a public voice to policing and hold the police to account, this controversial role also controls budgets and strategic planning.

Drawing on unprecedented access to PCCs and their chief officer teams, Bryn Caless and Jane Owens performed confidential interviews with both sides and reveal in this book the innermost workings of PCCs' relationships with the police, media, partners, and the public. The authors also analyze the election process (in which some PCCs have been elected by the lowest voter turnout ever in the United Kingdom) and consider the future of this politically contested role. Amid ongoing international debates over police accountability, this fascinating look at the impact of PCCs on policing will be essential reading for PCCs themselves, chief officers, police officers, and police trainers, as well as academics, students, and researchers in criminology and policing.

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**Police and Crime Commissioners: The Transformation of Police Accountability** By Bryn Caless, Jane Owens **Bibliography**

- Rank: #6702744 in Books
- Published on: 2016-05-15
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.00" h x 1.20" w x 6.00" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 256 pages

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#### Review

"Caless and Owens provide a depth of narrative that is rich and reminiscent."

(Jonathon A. Cooper, Indiana University of Pennsylvania *Criminal Law and Criminal Justice Books*)

"Caless and Owens are to be congratulated on this rich and incisive analysis of Police and Crime Commissioners—a groundbreaking account of great value to scholars of policing and governance alike."

(Michael Rowe, Northumbria University)

"This fascinating account gives a unique insight into what Commissioners and their Chief Constables were thinking, and what went on behind closed doors, in those early months of PCCs."

(Nick Alston, PCC for Essex and chair of the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners)

"This book is the most extensive and in-depth empirical study of Police and Crime Commissioners conducted to date. It provides fascinating insight into how these new constitutional actors are flexibly interpreting and discretely adapting to their responsibilities for governing the police."

(Stuart Lister, University of Leeds)

#### About the Author

**Bryn Caless** is a senior lecturer in policing at Canterbury Christ Church University and former director of the Kent Police College. He is coauthor, most recently, of *Leading Policing in Europe: An Empirical Study of Strategic Police Leadership*, also published by Policy Press. **Jane Owens** is a lecturer in the School of Law, Criminal Justice and Computing at Canterbury Christ Church University and a former police officer.

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