
Privatisation

Version 3

1. Policy statement

The Police Federation of England Wales believes that whilst privatisation, sometimes referred to as outsourcing, has a place within policing, core services such as neighbourhood patrol, custody and investigation should not be sold off. This would damage the resilience of the service, hinder the ability of the police service to respond to changing demand and weaken police accountability to the public.

2. Responsibility

The National Board is responsible for all policy formation.

3. Summary

PFEW believes that core policing services such as neighbourhood patrol, custody, investigation, scene of crime investigation and the management of high risk offenders should not be sold off to the private sector. The privatisation, or outsourcing as it is sometimes referred to, of core police services would remove police officers from ordinary day to day contact with members of the public including victims and witnesses. PFEW believes that outsourcing could also impact on the ability of forces to respond to evolving needs.

Whilst outsourcing may have a part to play within policing, outsourcing arrangements entered into by Police and Crime Commissioners and Chief Officers should be subject to effective scrutiny including an assessment of their long term value for money. PFEW believes that HMICFRS should be able to scrutinise companies who provide services on behalf of a force.

PFEW believes that the priority of private companies within policing is profit and not people. Core policing services such as neighbourhood patrol, investigation and the management of high risk offenders play an invaluable role in protecting and reassuring the public. We need a well-funded, fully trained and effective police service to ensure the welfare and efficiency of police officers, resilience and the provision of the best possible service to the public.

4. Procedures/implementation

PFEW will press the Home Office, APCCs and NPCC to ensure that any outsourcing arrangements are properly scrutinised including a proper assessment of the long term value for money of the arrangements.

Responsibility is delegated to the National Secretary and/or the appropriate sub-committee.

	Author	Date	Date to be reviewed	Change
Version 1	EP-KP	November 2015	November 2016	
Version 2	EP-KP	November 2016	November 2017	No change
Version 3	KP	January 2019	November 2020	Minor changes

Signed by:



National Chair



National Secretary