

# Criminal Law News

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# Police Accountability: The Association of Chief Police Officers, a registered charity running the UK's statutory police

Sally Ramage

## The ACPO

The Association of Chief Police Officers ('ACPO') in the United Kingdom is an independent organisation, led by a Board of Directors and its ordinary membership and registered in England with Companies House as a company limited by guarantee and its Scottish<sup>1</sup> arm is registered separately with Companies House<sup>1</sup> as a company limited by guarantee and as a separate registered charity.<sup>2</sup>

In April 2009, Sir Hugh Orde was appointed as the president of the ACPO,<sup>3</sup> taking over from Acting Chief Constable Colin Cramphorn. He is also the director of the Police National Assessment Centre. Assuming his presidency of the ACPO in the autumn of 2009, he attended the ACPO/APA Annual Conference 2009 in his capacity as ACPO president and delivered a speech, as did Stephen Kershaw,<sup>4</sup> Chris Huhne<sup>5</sup> David Ruffley<sup>6</sup> and David Blunkett.<sup>7</sup> Sir Hugh Orde said:

'Last year was Manchester's first in a decade to be free of firearms homicides; while gang-related firearms saw a 92 per cent drop....

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# Criminal offences committed in prison

Sally Ramage

## Introduction

In the aftermath of the Strangeways Prison disturbance of 1990, Lord Justice Woolf, in his report on the prison disciplinary system, recommended that a clear distinction should be drawn between prison disciplinary offences and criminal offences committed in prison. His view that the latter should be dealt with in the criminal courts was adopted by the Prison Service. Previously, prison governors adjudicated upon disciplinary offences and Boards of Visitors heard proceedings which related to 'grave' or 'especially grave' offences and offences such as escape, violence upon prison officers and riot were delegated to the Boards of Visitors who had power to loss of remission of sentence according to the gravity of the offence. ...

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<sup>1</sup> ACPO's company number is SC310956 with regard to its Scottish section.

<sup>2</sup> Charity No SC039323.

<sup>3</sup> Hugh Orde joined London's Metropolitan Police Service in 1977. He became Superintendent in the Territorial Support Group. As Deputy Assistant Commissioner Orde was assigned to the senior staff of the Stevens Report which investigated government collusion in sectarian killings in Northern Ireland. He was appointed as an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in 2001. Hugh Orde was appointed Chief Constable of the PSNI on 29 May 2002.

<sup>4</sup> Director of Police Reform and Resources, Directorate, Home Office.

<sup>5</sup> MP, Liberal Democratic Party.

<sup>6</sup> MP, Conservative Party.

<sup>7</sup> MP, Labour Party.

**Walker, C. (2009) Blackstone's Guide to the Anti-Terrorism  
Legislation, Oxford: OUP  
ISBN 978-0-19-954809-5**

**Book Review by Sally Ramage**

The ten chapters to this book are titled: (1) Background and introductory issues; (2) Extremist organisations and extremist speech;<sup>8</sup> (3) Terrorist funding and property; (4) Terrorist investigations; (5) Counter-terrorist powers; (6) Criminal offences and the processing of offenders; (7) Executive Control Orders; (8) Dangerous substances and acute vulnerabilities; (9) Northern Ireland Special Measures;<sup>9</sup> and (10) Other matters and conclusions. The publishers have also included a very useful and detailed contents list.

**Many and disparate laws**

As criminal law statutes go, I am personally dissatisfied at the disparate and piecemeal way in which the government has been tampering with, adjusting and amending criminal law legislation, and I am especially perturbed at the abundant use of Regulations without democratic parliamentary debate.

Although he has done a fine job of excellently explaining these laws,

I think that Dr. Walker is much too kind in his opinion of the terrorism statutes' usefulness, usability and comprehensiveness ....

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<sup>8</sup> *'It is good practice to intervene well before there is any evidence of a plot to commit terrorist violence, or before other activities which are now criminalised, like glorification of terrorism or possessing terrorist manuals.'* Griffiths- Dickson, G. 'Countering extremism and the politics of engagement.' See also, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The Human Rights Committee declared that Art. 20(2) is concerned with the freedom of speech. There are also some regional sources concerning freedom of speech and its possible limitations. Art. 9(2) and Art. 10(2) of the European Convention of Human Rights and Freedoms concern the limits to the rights.