

Preface and acknowledgements

This book is the first in a series that examines the making of policing policy. It looks at how and why policing policy in England has changed over recent years, and what this tells us about the relationship between policing and democracy in Britain today. Subsequent books in the series will cover the making of policing policy in France, and in the Netherlands. The English part of the study was funded jointly by the Leverhulme Trust and the Economic and Social Research Council. The Leverhulme Trust provided additional funds for the studies of policing policy in France and the Netherlands.

The original proposal for a study of the making of policing policy was developed by Christine Horton, then a research fellow at PSI. She played a leading role in the initial stages of the English study, and later carried out the research on the making of policing policy in France whilst based in Paris.

The research in England was carried out between 1990 and 1992. The overall aim was to describe and analyse how the various actors involved in the policy-making process interact to produce changes in the style, organisation and operation of policing on the ground. A central part of the research involved detailed case studies of four provincial police forces, and relevant organisations in the four areas. We would particularly like to thank the chief constables, officers and civilian staff of the participating forces. They not only welcomed PSI researchers, but in many cases provided a very high degree of extra help, far above what had been expected. Without the time and effort given by the police officers and civilians from these forces, it goes without saying, this study would not have been possible. We also would like to record our thanks to Home Office officials for supporting the project, and for the information, advice and general help given throughout.

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