This unit provides an introduction to the political structure of the UK and highlights the ways in which government policies affect the work of the uniformed public services. In order to understand this you will examine a variety of important political issues.

You will consider the different levels of government in the UK, such as central, regional and local government, and understand their impact on the work of the public services. You will find out how political representatives are elected to power and what their main roles and responsibilities are. This unit will also highlight the importance of government departments on the work of the uniformed public services and explain what their roles are in relation to a variety of services. You will also have the opportunity to identify how government policies are developed, the external factors that influence public policy and the impact that these policies can have on the work of the services.

After completing this unit you should be able to achieve the following outcomes:

- Understand the different levels of government in the UK and the democratic election process at each level
- Know the responsibilities government departments and other levels of government have for specific public services
- Know the processes involved in developing government policies and the influences that can affect government policy decisions
- Understand government policies in the UK and how they impact upon the uniformed public services
Thinking points

This unit is essential in providing you with an understanding of the policies and influences that impact on the work of the uniformed public services every day. It is really important that you have a clear grasp of the political issues that the public services must deal with. You should consider reading a quality newspaper such as the *Guardian* or *Times* once a week to help you become educated on the political world around you. If you don’t have time to do this, read the BBC news website (www.bbc.co.uk/news) as often as you can. It may also provide you with current information for many of your other units.

Remember that the business of government is your business as well – you must live and work under government policies whether you agree with them or not. Disagreeing with a government policy can be a very dangerous thing to do in some parts of the world – can you think of a country where political dissent might cost you your life?

In the UK every citizen is allowed to disagree with government decisions and protest peacefully against them if they choose.

- How does this affect the role of the public services?
- What would happen if you disagreed with a government decision to go to war but you were a serving British soldier?
Levels of government and their responsibilities

There are many different levels of government which exist and have a direct or indirect impact on people's lives and the work of the uniformed public services. The table below describes those levels.

This unit focuses on the levels of UK government, so we will be focusing our attention on the following levels:
- central/national
- regional
- local.

Each level contains a variety of different organisations and branches of government which help to keep the country and the public services running smoothly and efficiently. The diagram below shows the aspects of government we will examine.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Local</td>
<td>The managing of local resources to benefit local communities; usually carried out by the local council.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional</td>
<td>The management and distribution of resources over a larger geographical area. There are associated issues of independence and self-determination, for example regional assemblies or parliaments.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-regional</td>
<td>Several different geographical regions sharing common interests or in conflict about shared resources, for example an issue which affects several local councils or counties.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central/National</td>
<td>Issues which affect an entire nation such as changes in law and policy or taxation, for example new laws made in Parliament.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International</td>
<td>Issues which affect two or more nations who have shared interests, such as the members of NATO or the EU. Equally issues of dispute between different nations such as those over borders, territories and resources.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Multi-national  | Issues which affect many countries, for example:  
|                 | • UN Peacekeeping in which over 50 nations participate  
|                 | • declarations of war which activate systems of alliance  
|                 | • potential disease epidemics such as bird flu  
|                 | • cross-border issues such as controlling terrorism. |
| Global          | Issues affecting the majority of nations such as:  
|                 | • human rights abuses  
|                 | • the impact of environmental problems  
|                 | • the movement of refugees  
|                 | • involvement in the United Nations, which currently has 192 members. |

Table 1.01: Levels of government

All aspects of the governmental process interact and influence each other. This makes understanding and interpreting levels of government quite complex at times.
Central government is the level of government that operates at a national level. It is usually located in the country’s capital city and has very specific responsibilities which no other level of government has. These include, for example:

- signing treaties or agreements with other nations
- making laws
- defending the nation.

**Central government**

The central government of the UK is based in London at the Palace of Westminster. It contains the major central political institutions of the UK, the House of Commons and the House of Lords. Together with the ruling monarch these three institutions are known as Parliament.

**The House of Commons**

The House of Commons consists of 646 elected members of Parliament (MPs) who represent a broad spectrum of political parties. Each MP represents a localised geographical area called a constituency. Constituencies can change boundaries to become bigger or smaller or sometimes disappear altogether. At the May 2005 general election, 13 constituency seats disappeared on the advice of the Boundary Commission for Scotland.

**Consider this**

Why are the responsibilities listed above the role of central government? What would happen if all levels of government had those powers?

All MPs must swear allegiance to the Queen. The oath reads: ‘I swear by Almighty God that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, her heirs and successors, according to law. So help me God.’

The five elected members of Sinn Fein have not sworn allegiances to the Queen so are not allowed to take their seats in Parliament or use their vote. Sinn Fein representatives are Republicans, which means they do not believe in the power of the monarchy.

- Do you think it is important that MPs swear allegiance to the Queen, or should allegiance to the public be an MP’s first duty?
Election to the House of Commons

There are two ways in which you can be elected to the House of Commons:

- During a general election, representatives from all constituencies are elected simultaneously. A general election happens every five years or so.
- A by-election takes place when the current representative of a constituency dies, retires or resigns and a new representative is needed for that one constituency only. A by-election can occur at any time.

A whole range of political views and interests are represented in the House of Commons. This enables the House to ensure that legislation and decisions are well debated by a variety of individuals holding different political views. The majority party is called upon to form the government and this party sits to the right of the Speaker while the opposition and smaller parties sit on the left of Speaker. If a party has a majority of MPs they can pass laws almost unopposed, so the variety of parties represented does not always mean that unfair or flawed law will be stopped.

The role of the House of Commons

The House of Commons has several main roles to fulfil, as shown in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Function</th>
<th>Explanation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Making laws</td>
<td>Nearly 50 per cent of the time of the House of Commons is spent on making new laws. These laws can have an extremely wide impact on the country and public services alike.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Controlling finance</td>
<td>The House of Commons controls the raising of finances through taxation and the selling of government assets. It must also give its approval to any plans the government has to spend money. The House can also check up on the spending of government departments through the Public Accounts’ Committee.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scrutiny</td>
<td>The House of Commons scrutinises the work of the government. The government must explain its policies to the House and be prepared to accept criticism and questioning. This ensures that all decisions have been examined by a variety of individuals before they happen.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delegated legislation</td>
<td>The House does not have the time it needs to debate, discuss and pass all the laws needed by the country. The solution to this problem is the creation of delegated legislation – the House creates the parent law and then monitors how delegated legislation is implemented by local authorities and councils.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Examining European proposals</td>
<td>The House of Commons must examine all proposed European laws in order to assess their likely impact on the UK, its population and its public services.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protecting the individual</td>
<td>Members of the House of Commons are often contacted by individuals with difficulties. In addition, large petitions are often put forward to the House on a variety of issues of importance to individuals, such as road building, reducing taxes and changes to law.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1.02: The main roles of the House of Commons

Remember!

- The House of Commons is based in London at the Palace of Westminster
- There are currently 646 members of parliament and nine parties represented in the House of Commons.
- All MPs must swear an oath to the Queen before taking their seat.
- The House of Commons performs a variety of functions such as making laws, scrutinising the work of government and controlling finance.

The House of Lords

The House of Lords dates to the fourteenth century and has a long, distinguished and, more recently, controversial history. The House of Lords can have a variable amount of members; currently there are around 730.

There are four different types of Lords:

- *Life peers.* These are Lords for their lifetime only; they cannot pass their title on to their children. These individuals are appointed by the Queen on the advice of the Prime Minister and they make up the majority of the Lords; there are currently around 600 of them.
- **Law lords.** These are salaried full-time senior judges. They are also known as ‘the Lords of Appeal in Ordinary’. The Queen appoints these judges on the advice of the Lord Chancellor; although the Independent Judicial Appointments Board is due to take over this role in 2007. There can be up to 12 Law Lords but this function of the House of Lords is due to end in 2008 when a separate UK Supreme Court is likely to be established.

- **Bishops and Archbishops.** There are currently around 25 bishops and archbishops who represent the Church of England in the House of Lords. They pass their title onto the next most senior bishop when they retire.

- **Elected hereditary peers.** These Lords received their title through inheritance from a family member. Hereditary peers lost the right to vote on House of Lords matters in 1999, but around 90 of them currently remain.

**Consider this**

Since there are representatives from the Church of England in the House of Lords, should other religions have an automatic right to be represented? Give the reasons for your answer.

The House of Lords is currently undergoing a series of radical reforms. These proposals are still under development, however, it is likely that all members of the Lords will be elected in the near future.

**The role of the House of Lords**

The House of Lords carries out a variety of roles. Some are similar to those of the House of Commons while others are quite different, as the table below shows.

### Role | Description
---|---
Judicial work | The House of Lords is the most senior court of law in the UK, although this will change with the establishment of the UK Supreme Court in 2008.
Law creation | The House of Lords plays a large part in the process by which a bill is created (this is described later in the unit). The Lords spend around 60 per cent of their time on this kind of work.
Scrutiny | As with the Commons, the House of Lords scrutinise the government, using questioning and criticism as a form of control of government.
Independent expertise | The Lords conduct a variety of investigations and inquiries. They have a range of expertise which can be used on government business.

**Table 1.03: The roles of the House of Lords**

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**Remember!**

- The House of Lords contains four different types of Lords – law lords, elected hereditary peers, bishops and life peers.
- There are currently around 730 Lords.
- The House of Lords acts as a check on the House of Commons.
- It plays a key role in the creation of law.
- It offers independent expertise to the government.

**Consider this**

The House of Lords used to consist of hereditary life peers. In essence our upper chamber was made up of the aristocracy. This is no longer the case. What are the advantages and disadvantages of hereditary life peers?
The monarch

The UK is a constitutional monarchy which means that the Head of State is the current reigning monarch. However, laws are generated and approved by an elected body – in the UK the Houses of Parliament.

The current monarch is Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II who has reigned since 1952. Her formal title in the UK is ‘Elizabeth the Second, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of Her other Realms and Territories, Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith’.

The Queen has several important formal and ceremonial governmental roles including:

- opening each new session of parliament
- dissolving parliament before a general election
- appointment of the Prime Minister
- final approval of laws via ‘royal assent’
- appointment of peers
- advice and guidance to the Prime Minister.

Devolution and the decentralisation of power

Devolution is a process whereby power is transferred from a centralised governmental organisation to a regional organisation. Devolution consists of three elements:

- the transfer of power to another elected body which is lower down the chain of authority
- the geographical move of power from the capital to another city or town
- the transfer of roles and responsibilities of government from central to regional assemblies.

The powers of regional assemblies are defined by central government. They rarely include major financial powers or large scale law-making powers. In effect, regional assemblies are very much a junior power in the process of government.
### Advantages of devolution

- Regional assemblies can reflect and take into account cultural and linguistic differences between the region and central government.
- Regional assemblies are more in touch with the needs of their people; laws will be fairer and more readily accepted by the people.
- Reduces the burden on central government.
- Because regional assemblies only deal with the work of the region they can focus more effectively on this than central government.
- Central government can concentrate on issues of national importance rather than being concerned about the regions.
- The combative politics seen in centralised government may be reduced in regional assemblies where parties share common goals.

### Disadvantages of devolution

- Establishing regional assemblies is very expensive. Why create an organisation to do what central government already does?
- Regional assemblies lack the decision making experience of central government.
- There may be conflict between regional and central government.
- Devolution may lead to the break up of the UK.
- Low voter turn out in devolution referendums indicates a lack of popular support for regional assemblies.

### Table 1.04: The advantages and disadvantages of devolution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Advantages of devolution</th>
<th>Disadvantages of devolution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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</tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>The combative politics seen in centralised government may be reduced in regional assemblies where parties share common goals.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Key Terms

**Devolution** When central government decides to pass governmental powers to a lower level elected body.

**Regional government** When decisions about what happens in a particular region are made at a local level.

In the UK there are three main regional assemblies which have devolved power. These are:

- the Scottish Parliament
- the Welsh Assembly
- the Northern Ireland Assembly.

### The Scottish Parliament

In 1707 the Acts of Union created a new state, the Kingdom of Great Britain, by merging the Kingdom of Scotland and the Kingdom of England. The Acts also saw the merging of the Scottish and English parliaments to form a new Parliament of Great Britain, based at Westminster in London.

The Acts of Union occurred a century after Scotland and England had first shared a monarch. After Elizabeth I died in 1603 leaving no English heir, the throne of England had passed to her cousin, James VI of Scotland, who then became James I of England.

The Scots had a long and distinguished history which was quite different from England. The Acts of Union ensured that much of this individual character would survive including a separate legal system, education system and Church organisation. However, the institutions of Westminster took control of Scottish political life and in essence Scotland was ruled by the English Parliament. This state of affairs continued for almost 300 years until the Scotland Act 1998 established the Scottish Parliament.

Today, the Scottish Parliament is empowered to deal with devolved matters such as education, health, civil and criminal law, environment, housing and local government. The Scottish government is self-contained which means it can pass laws without needing authorisation from the English Parliament. The English Parliament has reserved powers, which means it still has jurisdiction on matters that affect the UK as a whole or have an international impact.

The Scottish Parliament is currently made up of around 130 elected members of the Scottish Parliament (MSP). As with the English Parliament, the party which has the most representatives forms the government, which is also called the Scottish Executive. The majority party selects a representative from their ranks who is appointed as First Minister by the Queen.
The Welsh Assembly

The Act of Union between England and Wales was signed in 1536, almost 170 years before the union between Scotland and England. This means that England and Wales have traditionally been much closer in terms of culture and institutions than Scotland. The Welsh Assembly was established by the Government of Wales Act 1998 after a Welsh referendum showed public support for the idea. The Welsh Assembly has about 60 members, 40 of whom are elected constituency members. Twenty additional members are elected on a regional basis to ensure that the overall number of seats awarded to a party in an election represents the overall number of votes received by that party. Like the Scottish Parliament, the Welsh Assembly has considerable scope to deal with regional issues such as transport, health, education and the environment. Wales also has a First Minister who is elected by the whole executive and is usually the leader of the largest political party. One substantial difference between the Scottish Parliament and the Welsh Assembly is that Wales does not have jurisdiction over its own criminal and civil law; it is subject to English law in this area.

The Northern Ireland Assembly

The Northern Ireland Assembly was created by the Northern Ireland Act 1998. This Act was based on a referendum of the Belfast Agreement (more often referred to as The Good Friday Agreement). There are currently about 108 members, made up of 6 representatives from each of the 18 constituencies in Northern Ireland.

Remember!

- Scotland became subject to the laws of Great Britain in 1707.
- The Scottish Parliament was created by the Scotland Act 1998.
- It consists of around 130 members (MSPs).
- The leader of the Scottish Parliament is called the First Minister.
- The Scottish Parliament deals with devolved matters such as housing, health and education.

Consider this

Why do you think Wales and England have had a much closer administrative and political relationship than England and Scotland?

Caption tbc

Caption tbc
As with Scotland and Wales, the Northern Ireland Assembly has responsibility for education, health, agriculture, housing and so on. The Assembly is based at Stormont and there are around 10 political parties represented within it. Like the other regional assemblies it has a First Minister who is elected by all members and is usually from the dominant party. The conflict between the different parties in Northern Ireland in the past has led to an unstable assembly.

**Regional assemblies in England**

There are eight regional assemblies in England which were created by the Regional Development Agencies Act 1998; they are as follows.

- East of England Regional Assembly
- North East Assembly
- South East England Regional Assembly
- West Midlands Regional Assembly
- East Midlands Regional Assembly
- South West Regional Assembly
- North West Regional Assembly
- Yorkshire and Humber Assembly

London has its own regional system which works differently from those listed above.

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**Case study: The London region**

Arrangements for regional governance are different in London than for the other eight regional assemblies in England. London has the Greater London Authority (GLA) which is a city-wide form of government with an elected mayor and a separately elected assembly. The Mayor of London plays a key role in the development of the city’s policies on a variety of issues such as transport, emergency planning and budgets for key public services such as the Metropolitan Police Authority and the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority.

The assembly acts as a form of scrutiny on the actions of the mayor to ensure that what he or she is doing is correct and in the best interests of London. To this end the assembly must:

- approve all of the mayor’s budgets
- have the opportunity to question the mayor at a monthly question time
- investigate and publish reports on issues which affect Londoners.

1. **Why do you think that the London region needs a different form of regional assembly from the other eight regions?**

2. **Is it important to have a Mayor of London who acts a spokesperson for the capital?**

3. **Why would the activities of the Mayor require scrutiny?**

4. **Are there issues which affect Londoners which don’t affect the rest of the country?**
The membership of regional assemblies varies from region to region. About 70 per cent of the members are elected local authority councillors and 30 per cent are drawn from businesses, voluntary groups, religious groups and environmental organisations. Regional assemblies are funded through central government although some also receive money from local authorities.

The role of regional assemblies

Regional assemblies perform four main roles, as shown in Figure 1.0X:

- **Regional Planning**: They are responsible for developing, monitoring and reviewing regional planning and transport strategies.
- **Regional Housing**: They make recommendations to the government on housing priorities in their area.
- **Advocacy & Policy Development**: They provide a voice for the regions in parliament and at European level. They also promote regional partnerships.
- **Accountability**: They check and monitor the work of regional development agencies.

Local government

There are many forms of local government such as county councils, metropolitan councils, parish and district councils. Many of the roles and responsibilities they perform overlap, as shown in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of council</th>
<th>Roles and responsibilities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>County</td>
<td>• Education</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Emergency planning</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Highways and traffic</td>
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<td>• Libraries</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Planning and development</td>
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<td>• Public transport</td>
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<td>• Refuse disposal</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Social Services</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Trading standards</td>
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<tr>
<td>District</td>
<td>• Registration of births, deaths and marriages</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Cemeteries and crematoria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Education</td>
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<td>• Environmental health</td>
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<td>• Planning and development</td>
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<td>• Housing</td>
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<td>• Recreation and amenities</td>
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<td>• Refuse collection</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Registration of electors</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Tax and Council Tax collection</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parish</td>
<td>• Street lighting</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Local transport and traffic services</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Allotments</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Cemeteries</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Recreation grounds</td>
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<td>• War memorials</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Seating and shelters</td>
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<td>• Rights of way</td>
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<td>• Tourist information centres</td>
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<tr>
<td>Metropolitan</td>
<td>• Registration of births, deaths and marriages</td>
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<td>• Cemeteries and crematoria</td>
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<td>• Education</td>
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<td>• Trading standards</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Trading standards</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Table 1.05: Roles and responsibilities of local government

Consider this

What are the implications of allowing devolution to continue to other regions which have distinctive culture and language such as Cornwall?

Theory into practice

Regional assemblies may also fulfil a variety of other roles and responsibilities which are unique to their region. If you go to the English Regions website at ern.smartregion.org.uk you can find out more about your own regional assembly and the work that it does.
Branches of government

The UK is a liberal democracy. This means that competition and plurality are encouraged and the interference of the state is kept to a minimum. There are three forms of power involved in the running of a liberal democracy.

1. Legislative
   This is the power to make new laws. In the UK the body with legislative power is Parliament. Parliament makes laws through a multi-stage process, which is outlined later in this chapter. In addition to the legislative power to make new laws, Parliament also has the legislative power to reform old laws.

2. Executive
   This is the power to suggest new laws and ensure existing laws are implemented. This power is invested in government departments and the Civil Service, who deal with the day-to-day running of the country. Laws are suggested via green papers, which open discussion about potential new laws, and white papers, which set out blueprints for potential laws.

Assessment activity 1.1

An advert for a public services liaison officer at your local council grabs your attention, and it seems like your dream job. When the application form arrives it is clear that you will be required to give a 10-minute formal presentation on your understanding of the levels of government. You will need to cover the following:

- central government
- devolved parliaments
- county councils
- regional governments
- local authorities
- metropolitan councils
- other institutions in the government process such as the House of Lords, House of Commons and the monarchy
- the main roles at government levels, such as the Prime Minister and council members.

1. Make notes to describe the different levels of government. Be sure to cover the ones listed above.
2. Create a PowerPoint or similar slide to show how they relate to each other.
3. Produce a handout which explains the responsibilities of different levels of government and local councils in the UK.

Grading tips

This task asks you to outline your knowledge of the different levels of government. An outline is a brief overview or description of the information; in this case, the responsibilities of each level of government. Make sure that you cover all the levels in the list above, from elected bodies in local councils to national government. Your slide should contain a diagram to show the relationship between the levels of government – a hierarchy chart or similar could be used.

To achieve a merit you need to show that you understand the different levels by explaining in your own words how each of the responsibilities are managed.
3. Judicial

This is the power to interpret the laws that have been made and make unbiased judgements on whether laws have been broken. This power is given to the court system and is implemented by judges in all courts in the UK.

These three powers work together to ensure the smooth running and stability of the nation.

The main roles in government

The government in its current form could not work effectively without people who fulfil the main roles needed to ensure the country works effectively and decisions are made and implemented. The key roles you are required to examine are:

- Prime Minister
- government ministers
- MPs
- mayors
- council members.

Key Terms

**Prime Minister** The leader of the political party with the most seats in the House of Commons.

**Minister** Usually MPs appointed by the Prime Minister to take charge of a government office such as Defence, or the Home Office.

**Cabinet** Committee of the twenty or so most senior government ministers who meet once a week to support the Prime Minister in running the country.

- appointment of chairs of national industries
- the giving out of honours
- setting agendas for government business
- control of information released to the Cabinet, Parliament and the public.

As leader of the government, the Prime Minister has a large impact on the public services. This includes everything from day-to-day operations and uniforms to pay and pensions. The Prime Minister does not run the government alone, but it is his or her vision that informs government policies which affect the way that public services operate.

**The power of the PM**

The Prime Minister is a very powerful figure. Although power is supposed to be distributed throughout the cabinet, in effect the PM is extremely influential and dominant. The PM also plays a significant role on the European and World stage, meeting with other heads of state to discuss foreign and financial policies which can have implications far beyond UK borders.

However, it is important to note that the PM does not have entirely free reign – as a public servant he or she is answerable to the Queen, his or her political party and the public. Furthermore, the PM cannot appoint anyone he or she likes to ministerial posts but must take account of advice given by senior advisors and ensure that the individuals appointed are competent and do not create substantial political imbalance.

**The influence of the media**

The increased concentration of the media on high profile politicians such as government ministers and the Prime Minister means that their activities are closely scrutinised and the majority of their choices are in the public domain. Thus the PM must balance personal conscience with public demands. The general public often favour or disfavour issues based on biased media information rather than a real analysis of the facts. Leaders must be aware of this and sometimes be prepared to take a political stance which is in opposition to the wishes of the public.
Government ministers

There are many government ministers but the 20 or so most important ministers are called ‘the Cabinet’. This is the central committee of the UK government. Cabinet members are selected by the Prime Minister; the majority are elected MPs from the House of Commons who have been selected by virtue of their expertise and experience to head up particular departments, or ministries, such as the Ministry of Defence or the Home Office. The Cabinet also consists of a few members of the House of Lords and so it is representative of both chambers of Parliament.

Some ministers have considerable influence on the work of the public services, other ministers less so. Ministers with the greatest influence on the services are those who head up the sections of government which are directly responsible for the emergency and armed services, such as the Home Secretary and the Minister of Defence. It is the role of these ministers to lead the implementation of new policy and initiative for the services, and to monitor spending and budget allocations.

The structure of the Cabinet

The role of the Cabinet is sometimes difficult to distinguish from the role of Prime Minister. While the Cabinet is a group of individuals with equal collective responsibility for policy, the final judgment of the PM can be the decisive factor.

In addition, it has been argued that the Cabinet is informally divided into two groups. The first comprises between 6 and 10 very senior ministers who carry tremendous authority. This group would usually include ministers such as the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Home Secretary. The remainder consists of 10 to 12 ministers with much less influence and authority.

The role of the Cabinet

The role of the Cabinet is:

- to make important government and policy decisions
- to review decisions which have already been made to assess their impact on policy areas
- to ensure that key social problems are reviewed such as rising crime rates, inflation and the state of the NHS
- to help ensure that all government ministries are able to communicate freely with each other, thereby ensuring that decisions taken by one department do not have unintended consequences on another department.

Ministers must show public unity and coherence in decisions if they are to retain public confidence, and the Cabinet also helps to reinforce this.

It can be difficult for a cabinet to address social problems in depth because of the many time pressures that Cabinet ministers are under. For example, some Cabinet meetings only happen once a week for a few hours and it may be difficult to carry out an in-depth review with all Cabinet members. Some problems may be referred to a separate Cabinet committee which will feedback to the main cabinet on its findings.

There are some issues which overlap many government departments, for example terrorism. On issues such as these, ministries try to work in close coordination to ensure that the overall government response to a situation is sensible and provides a good service to citizens.

Key government positions

Key government departments include HM Treasury, Transport, Education, Health and Media.

Departments which have a large impact on the public services are:

- the Treasury – controls public spending, customs and excise
- the Home Office – responsible for police, prisons, immigration, criminal justice system
- the Ministry of Defence – responsible for the Armed Forces, peacekeeping
- the Ministry of Transport – responsible for HM Coastguard
- the Ministry of Health – responsible for the Ambulance Service.
All government departments are headed up by a Secretary of State (senior minister) who may or may not be part of the Cabinet. The Secretary of State is supported by several junior ministers who are responsible for specific areas of the minister’s responsibilities, for example the Home Office (see Figure 1.XX).

Members of Parliament

The duties of a MP are split between working in the constituency where he or she was elected and working in the House of Commons itself. The current split is described below.

Theory into practice

It should be apparent that the 646 elected members of Parliament cannot run an effective government by themselves. The actual machinery of government, which sees decisions implemented, lies with the 500,000 or so civil servants who execute government decisions.

The role of the civil servant is complex and wide ranging:

1. What responsibilities do civil servants have to allow ministers to do their jobs?
2. What would happen without the civil service?

Although the role of MP is largely decided by the individual themselves, there are several key functions which they may choose to perform. Many MPs spend a great deal of time in their constituency listening to and acting upon the concerns of their constituents. This is particularly true of MPs who do not have an official role in government.

One of the benefits of the UK’s current voting system is that MPs are strongly tied to a particular geographical area and a particular local population. This means they need to make sure they address the concerns of their constituents. However, MPs are often powerless to address local concerns which constituents are likely to raise, such as rubbish collection or poor repair of council houses, since these issues are the province of local councillors.

Consider this

Who is your local MP? What role does he or she play in your local area?
MPs also spend a great deal of time on public business. This includes the creation of legislation and membership of committees which evaluate potential law. These roles can have a large impact on the public services. The creation of new law can sometimes mean substantial changes to the way the public services operate and what they are allowed to do.

■ Mayors

A mayor can have a variety of roles. They are normally appointed or elected for a period of one year and their role is often largely ceremonial. The main duties of a mayor are:
- representing the council in civic and ceremonial occasions
- chairing meetings of the full council
- promoting the area and being the council’s spokesperson
- teaching civic pride to young people
- supporting charities and community groups.

The impact that mayors have on public services is minimal, but they can and do have an impact on the local community by encouraging people to respect and improve their locality. This may have an indirect effect on some services by reducing crime and nuisance behaviour. The role of the Mayor of London is different, as you will have noted from the previous detail on the London assembly and its mayor.

■ Council members

Councillors are elected by the local community to conduct the business of the council. They try to improve the quality of life in their area where they are elected by making decisions about local issues such as transport, education and public services. They are often community leaders and promote community groups and charities in their area. They may also act as advocates by speaking on behalf of individuals or groups who are in need.

One of their most important roles is to decide on the policies which will be implemented by the council. This can have far reaching effects both on ordinary citizens and the work of the public services. For example, local councils are responsible for setting council tax for their region. Some of this tax will be used to finance services such as the police and fire service. It is the responsibility of local councils to ensure that council tax is sufficient to meet the funding needs of public services.

Remember!

- Government is made up of many departments which have responsibilities for key policy areas. These departments are called ministries.
- Each department is headed by a Secretary of State who is supported by several junior ministers of state.
- Key departments include HM Treasury, Transport, Education, Health and Media.
- Departments which have a large impact on the public services are the Treasury, Home Office, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Transport and Ministry of Health.
- The decisions of the Cabinet and individual ministries are performed by the Civil Service.

Democratic election processes

In order to be a democratic society the representatives who serve on our behalf in government must be elected by the people of the nation. In order to understand the election procedures of the UK it is important to examine the following factors.
There are several types of election in the UK but the most common are general elections and local elections.

- A general election is where all the seats in the House of Commons are open for re-election. The maximum term that a Parliament can sit is 5 years and 3 weeks without a general election, so this type of election tends to happen every 3½–5 years depending on when the party in power think they might have the best chance of winning. It is the Prime Minister who decides when the next election will be within the proper time period.
- Local elections follow a four-year cycle but not all councils elect at the same time.

Who can stand for election?

Who can stand for election depends on the type of election.

- For a general election where all UK constituencies are open for re-election, the candidate must be over 21 years of age and a British, Commonwealth or Republic of Ireland citizen. They must be nominated by at least 10 of the registered electors in the constituency and if they want to stand for a particular party they must receive authorisation from that party. If you don’t have authorisation from a party you are classed as independent. In addition, a candidate must pay a £500 deposit when they register as a candidate; they will only get this money back if they receive over 5 per cent of the votes cast. You may not stand for election if you are a prisoner serving a sentence of over 12 months.
- For a local election the candidate must satisfy similar criteria but an individual who is a citizen of a European Union nation may also stand. A person is not eligible to stand for local election if employed by the local authority, subject to bankruptcy restrictions or previously sentenced to a prison term of three months or more.

Candidate selection procedures

If you are standing as an independent representative there are no candidate selection procedures; as long as you are eligible you may stand for office. Existing MPs who want to stand for re-election are normally automatically approved.

The political parties often have more potential candidates than they need to fill the seats they are hoping to win. This is when some form of selection procedure becomes necessary to ensure that the best candidate, or the candidate most likely to win the seat, is selected. There are many methods of doing this. One method is that the party selects a list of centrally approved candidates from which the local branch can then choose. Candidates are decided in a rigorous way which in many ways mirrors the public services selection procedure. They are subject to a paper sift of their CV and application form; there may be a weekend of aptitude tests; they may also undergo a background check.

Another method involves the local branch of the party interviewing the potential candidates to find the one they want to serve their area. Sometimes a party will draw up a shortlist containing only women in order to improve the numbers of women serving in Parliament, but this can be controversial.

Period of election

Periods of election in the UK can range from 1 to 5 years depending on the post the candidate is elected to. Mayors typically serve for 1 year, councillors for up to 4 years and MPs for up to 5 years before they must stand down or be re-elected.

Types of voting

Most people are familiar with the tradition of going to a polling office (usually a church, school or community centre which has changed purposes for the day). Here, voters mark a ballot slip by placing a cross next to the name of the candidate they wish to vote for. Votes are cast in a voting booth, to guarantee privacy.
As technology evolves there are more ways to cast a vote than ever before. Today, alternative voting options include postal voting and electronic voting in some cases. There is also the facility to have someone cast your vote for you; this is called voting by proxy.

**The influence of political parties**

Political parties have a tremendous amount of influence on the election process. Most important, the political party in power at the time is the one who chooses to have a general election in the first place. This means they can call a general election at any time within a five-year period that best suits them and makes it more likely for them to win. They also have a tremendous amount of funds for backing their candidates in terms of publicity and resources. This puts smaller parties and independent candidates at a distinct disadvantage.

**Responsibilities of elected bodies**

The responsibilities of elected bodies are described earlier in this chapter (see pages XX–XX).

**Publicity and electioneering activities**

It is important that a candidate becomes well known in the area he or she is hoping to represent. To this end candidates will often undertake a great deal of publicity work, such as leafleting houses, displaying posters and canvassing door-to-door for votes. This is obviously helped if there is money available to pay for a team of people to support the candidate – hence larger, more wealthy parties have an advantage. In addition, during a general election you will often see party political broadcasts for the main parties outlining their policies (although broadcasts may concentrate on why you shouldn’t vote for the other party – called negative campaigning).

**Remember!**

Political parties have the most important influence on the election process and candidate selection.

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**Assessment activity 1.2**

It is election time and your college has asked you to write an article for the student magazine. The article should enable learners who do not study politics to become familiar with the electoral process. Remember to include the following information:

- Who can stand for election
- How candidates are selected
- The influence of parties on elections
- Period of election
- Publicity activities
- Voting systems
- Responsibilities of elected bodies
- Election day activities

Your article should be divided into three sections:

1. Write an introduction which describes the electoral process for one level of government in the UK.
2. Write a middle section which compares the electoral processes for at least two different levels of government in the UK.
3. Write a conclusion which analyses the responsibilities and electoral processes of two different levels of government in the UK.

**Grading tips**

- **P2** You only need to describe one election process, but you must clearly state which one you have chosen, and describe it accurately and in detail from the initial application to stand, to the election and the declaration of the vote.
- **M1** Don’t forget to compare the electoral processes. This means examining the differences and similarities between them. It is not enough to produce a list of the similarities and differences; you should discuss your comparison in detail.
- **D1** To achieve D1, you must analyse the responsibilities and processes of two different levels of government in the UK. To do this, you must examine the issues covered in P1, P2, M1 and M2 in detail, showing evidence of your own views.
1.2 Know the responsibilities government departments and other levels of government have for specific public services

Government departments with responsibilities for the public services

Each government department has responsibility for one or more public services. The table below highlights the main government departments and their responsibilities to the uniformed public services.

**Table 1.06: Responsibilities of government departments to the uniformed public services**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Government department</th>
<th>Responsibilities for the public services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Ministry of Defence (MOD) (www.mod.uk) | Has responsibility for the British Army, the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force. It is headed by the Secretary of State for Defence and three junior ministers:  
  • the Minister of State for the Armed Forces  
  • the Under Secretary of State and Minister for Defence Procurement  
  • the Under Secretary of State for Defence and Minister for Veterans.  
  The MOD decides on budgets, policy and procurement (the acquisition of resources) for all three armed services. It therefore has tremendous influence on the armed services, deciding everything from pay and working conditions to equipment and locations of service. |
| The Home Office (www.homeoffice.gov.uk) | Has primary responsibility for the majority of UK civilian public services such as the police, prison service, immigration service and criminal justice system. It contains the Immigration and Nationality Directorate and Passport Office, and has responsibility for homeland counter-terrorism. The ministerial responsibility chart for the Home Office appears earlier in this unit (pages XX–XX). |
| Department of Communities and Local Government (www.communities.gov.uk) | This is where primary responsibility for the UK’s Fire and Rescue services lies. It is headed by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and several junior ministers. It has responsibility for:  
  • allocating local governments with resources to fund their fire and rescue services  
  • developing fire and rescue national policies and priorities  
  • local government; while non-uniformed it is nevertheless an essential public service. |
| Department for Health (www.doh.gov.uk) | Has overall responsibility for the National Health Service (NHS). From a uniformed public service point of view this gives them responsibility for the Ambulance Service. |
| HM Revenue and Customs (www.hmrc.gov.uk) | This government department has responsibility for the collection of taxes. From a public service point of view it has responsibility for customs and excise. |

**Remember!**

The uniformed public services fall into several different ministries. This is one of the reasons why they are subject to different terms and conditions of employment.

**Assessment activity 1.3**

In a group, in pairs or on your own, find out more about the responsibilities of different government departments. You should choose at least three departments from the following:

- Ministry of Defence
- the Home Office
- Department of Communities and Local Government
- HM Revenue and Customs
- the Immigration and Nationality Directorate
- the Department of Health.

Once you have researched your chosen departments, you should complete the following task:

1. Produce a poster describing three government departments and their responsibilities for uniformed public services.
In addition to the responsibilities of government departments there are many individuals who have a responsibility towards the public services. These people include:
- the Prime Minister
- the Deputy Prime Minister
- government ministers
- civil servants
- councillors
- mayors.

Here we will examine the influence on the public services of the Civil Service and the Deputy Prime Minister.

The Civil Service

The Civil Service is a vital mechanism of government. It is split into departments which are attached to particular ministries. The civil servants in these departments are directly responsible to the minister in charge of that department and work for him or her in carrying out government policy. The structure of the Civil Service is very hierarchical and many civil servants make a career from progressing through the ranks.

Civil servants perform a variety of roles such as:
- consulting with pressure groups on specific issues
- providing advice to ministers
- preparing speeches for ministers
- dealing with a minister’s correspondence
- research on specific issues of ministerial importance
- helping a minister prepare for questions they may face from the media
- costing of government proposals
- technical aspects of implementing policy.

The Civil Service is a very powerful organisation; government would be unable to deliver policy initiatives without it. Civil servants are meant to be politically impartial and as a consequence they are not allowed to stand for political office. They are privy to highly sensitive information, particularly in the Home, Foreign and Defence ministries, and because of this must abide by the Official Secrets Act. This means they are forbidden from discussing their work with the general public and media, since this could cause serious embarrassment to the government and possibly compromise national security.

The effect of the Civil Service on the public services is enormous. It is a public service in its own right and provides the underpinning support for all of the ministries responsible for the public services to do their job. This includes:
- budgets and finance
- procurement of equipment
- pay and conditions
- the national strategy of the services
- national policy initiatives
- the implementation of new laws.
The Deputy Prime Minister

One of the most important roles of the Deputy Prime Minister is to oversee and chair a range of government committees on behalf of the Prime Minister. Many of these committees have a direct relationship with the work of the public services, such as:
- anti-social behaviour
- asylum and migration
- energy and the environment
- NHS reform
- public service reform
- schools policy
- serious organised crime and drugs.

The Deputy Prime Minister also oversees the welfare of the country when the Prime Minister is on holiday or for any reason cannot fulfil his or her duties. There have been several examples when the Deputy Prime Minister has overseen an incident relating to the public services while the Prime Minister has been elsewhere, for example:
- the follow-up to the 7/7 London bombings in 2005
- the Asian tsunami in 2004
- the Boscastle floods in 2004.

The accountability of the uniformed public services

Since the uniformed public services are funded with public money and are designed to serve the needs of the public, it is important that there are checks and balances on their behaviour. Some of the public services have tremendous power over the lives of individuals so it is essential that they are seen to act in a fair and consistent manner. Equally, it is important to note that the public services cost billions of pounds of taxpayers’ money each year and the taxpayer has a right to know if that money is being used effectively.

The government recognises this and has set up a variety of inspectorates and monitoring commissions which are designed to establish whether the public services offer value for money and if they are effective in the job they are supposed to do. These inspectorates may also offer the public the opportunity to make a complaint about poor or unfair treatment, which can then be investigated impartially by a complaints agency.

There are three main aspects to investigating how the public services are monitored:
- inspectorates
- local organisations
- documents of accountability.

Inspectorates are set up by the government on a national basis to ensure the smooth running of specified public services.

The Defence Vetting Agency (DVA)

The DVA exists to carry out national security checks. This kind of check might be applied to:
- anyone who wishes to join the armed services
- civilians who work for the Ministry of Defence
- civilian contractors who will potentially build on MOD land or supply MOD services
- individuals in government departments.

The DVA conducts around 140,000 checks on individuals each year which makes it the largest government vetting agency.
Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC)

The IPCC was created in 2004 to replace the Police Complaints Authority, although it gains its regulatory powers from the Police Reform Act 2002. It is funded by the Home Office but remains entirely independent of it. This ensures that any decisions it makes are free of government influence.

The IPCC can investigate in several different ways. It can choose to supervise a case being investigated by a police service internally or it can independently investigate if the complaint is about a serious matter. Serious complaints might include:
- incidents involving death or injury
- police corruption
- police racism
- perverting the course of justice.

The IPCC allocates teams of investigators to certain regions so they can deal with complaints quickly and efficiently as they arise. In 2005/6 a total of 26,286 complaints were received; this represented a 15 per cent increase on the previous year. The most common causes of complaints were:
- neglect or failure in duty (22 per cent)
- incivility, impoliteness and intolerance (20 per cent)
- assault (16 per cent)
- oppressive conduct or harassment (7 per cent)
- unlawful/unnecessary arrest or detention (5 per cent)
- breach of codes of practice on detention, treatment, questioning (4 per cent).

(Source: Police Complaints Statistics for England and Wales 2005/6)

Healthcare Commission

The Healthcare Commission promotes improvements in the healthcare sector in England and Wales. They are effectively the inspectorate of healthcare services including the ambulance service. They also have a role in dealing with complaints made against the National Health Service (NHS). They inspect all NHS organisations including GP surgeries, pharmacists, hospitals, school health services, private healthcare providers and ambulance services.

Her Majesties Inspectorate of Probation for England and Wales

HM Inspectorate of Probation was originally established in 1936. It receives funding from the Home Office and reports directly to the Home Secretary, although it is independent of the government. The inspectorate exists to assess the performance of the National Probation Service and Youth Offending Teams in reducing re-offending and protecting the public. It also works very closely with the Inspectorate of Prisons to assess the effectiveness of offender management.

Case study: The death of Ali Korkurt Kanidagli

A complaint was made to the IPCC about the death of Mr Ali Korkurt Kanidagli in London on the 12th November 2005 when he was hit by a Metropolitan Police vehicle which was responding to an emergency call. The speed at which the police vehicle was travelling and the tightness of the corner it was turning resulted in the officer losing control of the vehicle and mounting the pavement where it struck Mr Kanidagli causing fatal injuries. Another pedestrian also received injuries and the second officer in the police vehicle suffered minor injuries. The officer responsible was fined £500 and given 6 penalty points on his licence after pleading guilty to Driving Without Due Care and Attention.

1 Why is it important that the IPCC is fully independent of the police in situations such as this?
2 Do you think a complaint should have been raised against the officer – or was he simply doing his job?
3 Do you think the punishment was fair and appropriate?
Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Prisons for England and Wales

HMI Prisons is also funded by and reports directly to the Home Office while maintaining its independence. Although inspecting prison establishments is its main priority it also has a responsibility to inspect immigration holding centres and has been invited to inspect the military prison at Colchester.

In terms of its main responsibilities HMI Prisons must inspect every prison in England and Wales at least once every five years. However, there are a variety of different types of inspection, only some of which the prison will know about in advance. A prison cannot refuse entry to the inspectorate.

Types of prison inspection include:

- **Full inspection** – information is collected from a variety of sources including statistical data, prisoner accounts, and visitor and prison staff testimony.

- **Follow-up inspection** – if there has been a problem with an institution it might receive a follow-up evaluation to see if the situation has improved.

- **Short follow-up inspection** – brief visits to see whether small problems identified at full inspection have been corrected.

The purpose of the inspections is to ensure that the prison is fulfilling its aims. A prison should be safe for the inmates and provide an environment where they are treated with respect and dignity. The prison should provide activity and education which may lead to the rehabilitation of the offender and prepare him or her for release into the community.

Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary for England, Wales and Northern Ireland (HMIC)

The HMIC is one of the oldest inspectorates in England. It dates back to the County and Borough Police Act of 1856. Like the other inspectorates it is funded by and reports to the Home Office while maintaining its independence.

The role of the HMIC is to formally inspect and assess the 43 police services in England and Wales and support the Chief Inspector of Criminal Justice in Northern Ireland. However, it also fulfils an inspection role for other bodies including:

- Central Police Training and Development Agency
- Civil Nuclear Constabulary
- British Transport Police
- Ministry of Defence Police
- Serious Organised Crime Agency.

HMIC is able to conduct several different types of inspections.

- **Thematic inspection** – a particular aspect of performance is measured across several different police constabularies, for example child protection or training of police officers.

- **Best value inspection** – focuses on whether a police authority is allocating and spending money in a manner which could be considered best value.

- **Command unit inspection** – focuses on leadership and management.

- **Baseline assessment** – monitors the improvement or deterioration in performance against a pre-established baseline.

Consider this

Prisons are not open to the public. If the inspectorate did not exist, nobody would know how prisoners were being treated.

Local organisations

The police authority

There are 43 police authorities in England and Wales, one for every police constabulary. They make sure that the police service in that area runs efficiently.
A police authority can vary in the number of representatives it has, but most have around 17 members who are made up of local councillors, local magistrates and lay people from the community. The police authority has a real impact on the work of the police service as it sets the strategic direction of the force and holds the Chief Constable accountable for the performance of his or her organisation. Another important function of the police authority is deciding how much council tax is needed to pay for the police service. This is crucial – without funding the police service could not operate.

**Strategic Health Authorities (SHA)**

There are currently 10 SHA in England and Wales, which almost matches the Regional Assembly areas discussed earlier in this unit (see pages XX–XX); the only difference is the addition of a South Central region between the South West and the South East.

The SHA were created in 2006 after smaller health authorities were merged to form much larger ones. The role of the SHA includes:

- strategic oversight and leadership of the healthcare system in a particular region
- ensuring better value for money for taxpayers

- leading service improvements
- accountability to the Department of Health for providing high quality healthcare
- reducing health inequalities.

**Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRA)**

FRA are similar to police authorities in that they are made up of local representatives from the council. Most FRA have between 12 and 30 members depending on the size of the area they manage.

Their primary responsibility is to be accountable to the public in providing an efficient and effective fire and rescue service. The authority must ensure that the fire service has all the firefighters, equipment, premises and vehicles it needs to fulfil its duty to the public.

It also has a responsibility for ensuring equality and diversity, and plays a key role in brigade recruitment and training policies.

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### How public services are accountable

The public services are held accountable via the documentation they produce.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Document</th>
<th>Explanation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual report</td>
<td>Document produced by an organisation on either a voluntary or compulsory basis. It is made available to the community and tells interested parties how well the organisation performed in a given year. It usually details financial and performance targets and states how well an organisation has fulfilled its aims.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mission statement</td>
<td>This is intended to summarise the core values of an organisation and tell people who read it why that organisation exists. The organisation should then endeavour to do what the mission statement says.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internal complaints procedure</td>
<td>Procedure an organisation has for dealing with complaints that are made to it. Not all complaints will be referred to government complaints bodies as this would be too time consuming; often it is better to resolve a problem locally where possible to ensure speed and efficiency of response.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management procedures</td>
<td>Management procedures exist to formalise how individuals should behave in a given situation and the procedures they should follow to deal with a set of events. They improve accountability by ensuring all staff know the guidelines they are expected to work within.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1.07: Accountability documentation
Government policy can be generated by a number of factors, such as:
- a need identified by the public or organisations
- a reaction to an issue in the media
- a new issue such as terrorism which forces change in the way the government must run the country.

The creation of law and policy can be a complex procedure and there are many parts to it. This section aims to discuss policy making procedure in the UK so you understand how laws and policies are generated.

**Development processes**

Initially policies begin life as ideas on how to change or manage a situation. These ideas can come from a variety of sources including:
- the public
- the media
- the public services
- politicians
- experts.

**Meetings**

If the policy is needed and the idea has merit it becomes subject to a great deal of discussion in governmental meetings such as cabinet meetings and parliamentary committees and subcommittees. If the idea is still considered to be worthwhile after these discussions then the procedure becomes more formal – the idea is put into a green paper.

**Green papers**

A green paper is a document about a proposed change in the law which is distributed to interested parties to gather their views on the change and open up a period of consultation and debate. This debate might take the form of public meetings, specialist consultation meetings or open enquiries. Sometimes the discussions around a green paper make it clear that the policy or law would not be welcome or is not needed and the policy stops there. However, sometimes the discussions show that there is a need for the law and it moves ahead to the next stage – a white paper.

**White papers**

These contain a set of formal proposals on the new law or policy. White papers are the drafts of what will become known as bills in later stages of development.

**Representation from outside government**

Ways in which the new public policy can be influenced from outside government include:
- letters to MPs
- seeing an MP in their surgery
- taking into account the views of the opposition.

**Bills**

All potential statutes begin life as a bill. A bill is a proposal for a piece of legislation. There are three kinds:
- public bill
- private bill
- private members bill.

**Public bill**

A public bill is usually a proposal for a large piece of legislation which will affect the whole country. They are created by the government currently in power. They are sometimes preceded by a green paper which allows interested parties to consult and comment upon the ideas put forward. Examples of public bills are the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 and the Theft Act 1968.
Private bill
A private bill is typically proposed by a local authority or large corporation and will usually affect only the people who proposed it in the first place. For instance, a private bill might deal with the compulsory purchase of land by a local authority in order to build a new motorway. An example of a private bill involving a large corporation is the Henry Johnson, Sons and Co Limited Act 1996 which allowed the said company to transfer to France.

Private members bill
A private members bill is usually prepared by ordinary members of Parliament who have to enter a ballot in order to be guaranteed the time in Parliament that it takes to introduce a bill. This allocated time is very important – the reason private members bills often fail is lack of time for them to be debated. Sometimes private members bills are introduced as a way of drawing attention to a particular public concern, for instance the Wild Mammals (Hunting with Dogs) Bill drew massive public attention even though it did not succeed in becoming law in that parliamentary session. Examples of private members bills are the Abortion Act 1967 and the Activity Centres (Young Persons Safety) Act 1995.

The legal process used to create legislation

The drafting of the statute
There are seven stages through which a bill must proceed before it can become law, as shown in the diagram below.

First reading
This is the notification to the House that a proposal is made. The title of the bill is read out and copies of it are made available. There is little or no debate at this stage.

Second reading
At this stage the proposals contained within the bill are debated. The House must then decide whether to send the bill forward for the next stage, so it is a critical moment. However, in practice a government with a clear majority will almost always get its bill through this stage.

Committee stage
As you can see in the diagram above, this can be a complex part of the procedure. This is when the bill is examined in detail and the committee considers the changes it would recommend to the House. Most bills are dealt with in standing committees of about 20 MPs; however, if a bill is introduced late in the parliamentary session it may be sent to a select committee which can hear evidence from outside individuals or agencies. Committee members are chosen for their qualifications and personal or professional interests.
If a bill is controversial or very important, this stage is examined in a committee of the whole House. For private bills the committee stage might be judicial. This enables anyone whose business or property may be affected to lodge a petition to amend the bill in order to protect their interests.

- **Report stage**
  The committee now reports back to the House with the suggested amendments to the bill. These are then debated and voted on by the House at large.

- **Third reading**
  The bill is now represented to the House of Commons and a final vote is taken on whether to accept the proposed legislation. If the bill is accepted it is said to have ‘passed the House’ and is then sent on to the next stage.

- **House of Lords**
  The bill now goes through a similar procedure in the House of Lords. It must pass all of these stages in one session of Parliament. The House of Lords cannot reject most legislation passed from the House of Commons although they do retain some powers such as the ability to reject a bill which attempts to extend the duration of a government for longer than 5 years and 3 weeks. The House of Lords has less power than the Commons because Lords are not elected by the public.

- **Royal assent**
  When a bill has successfully passed through both the House of Commons and the House of Lords it must pass to the monarch for approval and consent. It will then become law on a specified date. It is not usual for the monarch to give consent in person; this is normally given by a committee of three peers including the Lord Chancellor. Today, this stage is a formality; the last time a monarch refused a bill was Queen Anne in 1707.

**Remember!**
- Statute law is made by parliament
- Statute is another name of law or policy.
- Created via three kinds of bills, public, private and private members bills
- Approved by a seven stage procedure concluding with royal assent
- The Monarch has not refused to sign a statute law since 1707

**Setting dates of implementation and issuing guidance and directives to public services**

Making a new law or policy does not automatically mean that the public services will know how to implement it. It is important to have a period during which the public services can become familiar with the new law, undertake relevant training if necessary and be ready for when the bill becomes law. For this reason laws are rarely implemented immediately on being signed but instead have an implementation date. For example, the Human Rights Act 1998 didn’t actually come into force until 2000. Before new laws come into force the government issues guidance and directives to the public services that are affected by the law, identifying to them what the changes are and what they will be responsible or accountable for.

**Advertisements in the media to publicise the law**

It is also important that the general public have the opportunity to become familiar with the new law. If the public were not informed about the law, they would fail to abide by it. Consequently the whole process of making the law would become rather pointless. A key way in which changes to the law are promoted to the public is through the use of the media.
Case study: The use of mobile phones while driving

On February 27th 2007, new legislation came into force which increased the penalties which drivers receive if they use a hand-held mobile phone while driving. The new policy means offenders will receive a £60 fine and 3 penalty points on their driving licence. Penalties are much worse if the case goes to court and worse still if the offence was committed by a bus driver or the driver of a heavy goods vehicle.

A national multimedia campaign began on the 22nd January 2007 which involved the radio, television and Internet. The government also targeted key employers and industries with leaflets and posters. Road safety officers and the police were heavily involved in promoting the change in law to the public.

1. Why did the media campaign begin a month earlier than the actual change in law?
2. Why did the government decide on a multimedia campaign?
3. Which form of advertising do you think would be most effective and why?
4. Do you think the government were successful in promoting the change to the law?

The case study above highlights the use of road safety officers and the police to promote a change in road safety law. Other organisations which may be involved in promoting change or implementing a new law include the Probation Service and the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (NACRO).

Other influences affecting government policy decisions

Demonstrations and strikes

These allow certain sections of the general public to show their displeasure at the government by publicly protesting against its decisions. Sometimes a public protest will make the government rethink its decisions, but more often the government will not change its agenda. However, strikes in particular can reveal loopholes in legislation which the government then act to put right. An old example of this is the 1919 Police
Act which made it illegal for police officers to strike. This law was introduced after a series of strikes about pay and conditions had led to social breakdown in some areas. At the time police pay and conditions were extremely poor and although the government made positive changes to these, one of the things they recognised was that in future the police must be prevented from striking – hence the new law which is still in force today.

**Financial constraints**

Finance affects every aspect of government and public service operations. One key consideration for government is the expense of introducing a new law weighed up against the benefits it would bring. If the government doesn’t have the money to implement the law it might implement a partial version of it or not implement it at all.

**Immigration**

Immigration is a necessary part of the UK’s cultural life. Not only do immigrants enrich UK culture, they also carry out specialist jobs where there is a shortage of workers, for example in medicine. The policy on immigration must adapt to an increased global climate of movement. It must also take into account the people who choose to emigrate abroad and try to strike a balance between individuals coming into the UK and those leaving it.

The laws and policies on immigration in the UK are strict and are contained in the Immigration Act 1971, although there have been several updates and amendments since that time.

**Terrorism**

The terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001 against the USA had far reaching consequences in terms of changes to UK laws. The London bombings of 7 July 2005 also had a significant impact on policy changes.

- The Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005 supports the fact that terrorist incidents can trigger new laws which enable the public services to have more power.
- The Terrorism Act 2006 gives tremendous power to certain public services in their pursuit of terrorist suspects and terrorist intelligence.

Although it is widely recognised that there is a need to prevent terrorism, there has been a lot of debate about whether these laws give the public services too much power over the public.

**Multinational corporations**

Multinational corporations can be extremely big and powerful; some of them have annual profits larger than the economy of a Third World nation. Their wealth and power means they can exert influence over governments to change laws. The threat of multinational corporations pulling business out of a country and leaving thousands jobless, as well as the impact on the national economy, can be a very persuasive tool when getting a government to amend its policies.

**The European Union**

The EU has a big impact on UK policy making. The UK is subject to some laws and guidance which comes from Brussels, and events in Brussels can trigger new laws here. For example, the Human Rights Act 1998 was originally the European Convention on Human Rights which was issued as guidance to all EU members and translated into law by the UK government. Also, the UK government was forced to change its policy about not allowing homosexuals to serve in the armed forces after several gay and lesbian armed service personnel took their case to the European Court of Human Rights and won.

**The media**

The media is watched and read by millions of UK citizens so can have a significant impact on the development of new policy. If the media support and promote a new law or change in policy then it is likely to find favour among the public. An example of this was the push for Sarah’s Law after the tragic murder of 8-year-old Sarah Payne in July 2000. The campaign was heavily backed by the News of the World and supported the principle of controlled access to information on
paedophiles living in local communities; however, in spite of the campaign the government does not allow this information to be made public. An example of the media promoting a negative stance towards a change in policy can be found in its reporting of congestion charges, motorway toll charges and taxes on petrol.

**Assessment activity 1.4**

1. Produce a series of notes about the following steps in the process of producing a policy:
   - meetings that will occur
   - white and green papers
   - representations from outside government
   - the drafting of a statute
   - the process a bill goes through to become a statute
   - implementation
   - accountability
   - promoting the new law.

You will need to:
   a) explain how government policies are developed
   b) analyse this process.

Use your notes to help you make clear and effective contributions to a small group discussion focusing on the development process of government policies. Remember also to discuss how government policy can be influenced by factors outside the government itself. You may wish to choose from the following examples:
   - demonstrations
   - financial constraints
   - immigration
   - terrorism
   - multinational corporations
   - the European Union
   - the media.

After your group discussion, produce notes describing, with two examples, how government policy making can be influenced by factors outside the government.

**Grading tips**

**P4** To achieve P4, you will need to clearly explain each of the factors involved in the development of government policies. Make sure that you have a comprehensive set of notes explaining the full procedure a policy goes through before it becomes law.

**M4** To achieve M4, analyse the processes by which government policies are developed. How effective are they? How fair are they? What problems might arise?

**P5** You will need to make clear notes of your discussion, describing two examples of how government policy making can be influenced by factors outside government.
This part of the unit will examine how policies made by the government impact on the uniformed public services. There are three main issues to consider, as shown in the diagram below.

The uniformed public services have a tremendous amount of power over people's lives. They can take away people's freedom, investigate their private lives, monitor their actions and use the information they find out to prosecute. These powers must be carefully regulated to avoid abuses by the state and its public services against ordinary members of the public.

In a democracy there must always be checks and balances on power to ensure that no one agency or service has too much power and that the public are able to challenge that power. Generally speaking, the UK's public services operate with the consent and cooperation of the public – they are respected and respectful. However, even with highly trained and knowledgeable officers there can still be breaches of human rights. This is why there is the need for laws and policies such as the Human Rights Act 1998.

**Human Rights Act 1998**
This Act ensures that all UK citizens have certain rights. The rights include the rights to:
- life
- prohibition of torture
- prohibition of slavery and forced labour
- liberty and security
- a fair trial
- no punishment without law
- respect for private and family life
- freedom of thought, conscience and religion
- freedom of expression
- freedom of assembly and association
- marry
- prohibition of discrimination
- protection of property
- education
- free elections
- abolition of the death penalty.

If these rights are broken by the public services, then the individuals concerned have the right to take the service to court and challenge its actions.
Financial reductions or increases

At the heart of the work of the public services is finance. The public services could not operate if they did not have the resources to:

- pay the personnel
- buy and maintain equipment
- support a complex infrastructure which allows the services the UK needs to be delivered as and when they are needed.

The financial policies of the government therefore have a tremendous impact on the public services. It goes without saying that if the public money used to fund the services is reduced then this will have a direct impact on the work the services can afford to do – less officers may be appointed, they may have less specialised training and equipment and be less able to respond effectively to social or military problems. If public spending is increased then the reverse will be true.

Equal opportunities

All of the public services today place great emphasis on the importance of equal opportunities. Equal opportunities legislation, such as the Equal Pay Act, the Sex Discrimination Act and the Race Relations Act, has fundamentally changed the way the services interact with their officers and the public. These changes are designed to ensure the public services reflect the communities which they serve. For example:

- Many public services are actively recruiting women and those from ethnic minority groups. This policy is designed to enrich the service and make it more representative of the general public, although there is still some way to go on this.
- Uniform requirements have changed to accommodate different religious groups. For example, female Muslim police officers may wear a dark-blue head-covering under their police hat while male Sikh police officers may wear a dark-blue police turban with the badge of the force clearly displayed upon it.
- In the armed services, equal opportunities legislation has impacted on ration packs, with kosher and halal meals available for Jews and Muslims respectively.

Case study: The right to protest

In March 2003, three days after the invasion of Iraq began, coaches containing 120 anti-war demonstrators travelled from London to RAF Fairford in Gloucestershire. The protesters intended to join a peaceful demonstration against the war but were detained by the police for more than 2½ hours and prevented from participating. The police argued that they were protecting the demonstrators’ right to life since the American forces at the base had reserved the right to use ‘deadly force’ if the base was breached. The protesters argued that the detainment violated their right to freedom of speech and assembly and freedom from arbitrary detention. The House of Lords agreed with the protesters and found the police in breach of the Human Rights Act 1998.

Helen Wickham, a coach passenger, said: “I think it is deeply worrying that Gloucestershire police, confronted with the possibility of US troops shooting unarmed protestors, chose to defend the US use of lethal force over our right to protest.”

(Source: indymedia.co.uk)

1. Do you think the police made a sound case for wanting to protect the lives of the protesters?
2. Why do you think the protesters felt the need to take the case to court?
3. What impact did this case have on the police?
4. Examine the quote from the Helen Wickham. With whom should the responsibilities of the UK public services lie – with the British public or American troops?
5. In your opinion did the House of Lords make the right decision?

Consider this

Why is it important that the public services are representative of the people that make up UK society? What benefits could this bring?
Civilianisation is a process whereby police officers (or other public service officers) are released from completing non-operational tasks which don’t require their specialist expertise or training. These officers are then able to be deployed to an operational role. This makes the use of such staff more efficient since they are doing the job they were trained to do rather than routine administrative work. Routine administration or non-specialist support is then provided by civilians employed by the service. In effect, it is cheaper to employ a civilian on non-operational duties officer than to use a public services officer. This approach has also put the officer back where he or she ought to be – policing the streets or similar.

Environmental considerations

The environment is currently an important issue about which the government must be seen to act. In line with this, the public services have become more aware of the need to recycle resources and move to manoeuvres and exercises which limit damage to the environment. In addition, some MOD land houses protect species which may not have a chance to thrive elsewhere.

Key Terms

**Civilianisation** The process of freeing up public service personnel by employing civilians to do non-operational work.

**Exercise** Another name for a simulation. It provides opportunity for the public services to practise their skills and knowledge in a simulated battle situation.

Policies which affect the military services

A declaration of war will have a large and immediate impact on the military services. They will begin to be deployed almost immediately to a particular battle zone along with their resources and equipment, in order to fight for an aim or set of aims specified by the government. The armed services exist as servants of the government; they can only go into military action when ordered to do so by the government. They do not get to pick and choose where or when they serve.

The implications of the decision to go to war on the services are far reaching.

- First, there is the constant risk to the lives of serving soldiers in combat or in an area of global instability. In essence, military personnel may be killed or seriously injured by the enemy, by civilians who resent the military presence or by allied troops (‘friendly fire’).
- Families of military personnel may experience extreme stress and anxiety about the welfare of their loved ones.
- War is a tremendously expensive prospect and can quickly use up a variety of resources, including ammunition and protective equipment.

Case study: Police civilianisation

In 2005, civilians working in Scotland’s eight police service areas voted for strike action. Almost 4000 staff voted for the strike after pay negotiations were unsuccessful. The civilians perform tasks such as dealing with emergency 999 calls, forensics and crime scene work. They provide an essential support network which allows frontline officers to be released for active duty.

1. Do you think civilian public service workers ought to be banned from striking (in the same way as some public services are)?
2. What might be the implications of a strike like this on frontline policing?
3. What does this case study highlight about the disadvantages of civilianisation?
Increased use of reserve forces

Until the late 1990s, military reserve forces were rarely used on active duty. However, as the commitments of the armed services have grown over the last decade with operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, reserve forces have had to be used as an essential component of the UK fighting force. In 2006 reserve forces numbered 36,000. The largest proportion of these was the Territorial Army and regular reserves (former full-time army personnel who can be called up to serve, of which there are around 52,000). The National Audit Office report on reserve forces in 2006 notes that over 12,000 reservists have been deployed in Iraq since 2003 and they contribute approximately 12 per cent of the fighting force. Reservist medical personnel have been even more important, staffing up to 50 per cent of the field hospitals in the conflict.

Links with international services

As a result of the coordinated policy of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), of which the UK is a founder member, the UK is required to maintain collective defence capabilities. This means that NATO forces must be able to integrate into operations seamlessly where possible. To this end UK troops often exercise with NATO troops from allied nations in combat simulations. This ensures they can be more combat-effective should a situation arise where they have to collaborate. The UK's three armed services also regularly train and exercise together since they are reliant on each other for a variety of roles.

Increased use of technology

The armed services have always been at the forefront of technological development. They have been the impetus for developing many technologies which otherwise might not have caught on. It is also true to say that war and conflict drive technological change as each side seeks advantage over the other. This has become particularly true in the war against terrorism where advanced technology and surveillance equipment has been used by both military and civilian counter-terrorist specialists to try and protect the public.

Key Terms

**Reserve forces** Volunteer troops who may be called up in time of conflict but otherwise lead a normal civilian life.

Policies affecting the emergency services

Police regionalisation

Police regionalisation was a very controversial policy put forward by the Labour government. It involved the radical restructure of the police service from the current 43 forces to 24 larger ones. This plan was supposed to make the police service more efficient; however, the forces themselves were very much against the move and argued that it would harm the quality of policing they could offer to the community. The government abandoned the plans in the face of the opposition but not before the police service had spent in excess of £6.1 million preparing for the event.

The policy has also been applied to the fire service where the changes have gone ahead despite opposition from the Fire Brigades Union. This has led to the closure of local 999 fire service response teams and the teams being moved to a central location within a government region. There is also the issue of fire station closures which are examined below.
There has been a recent spate of fire station closures, particularly in smaller more rural areas, as an efficiency measure. This is despite concerns from local residents that if local stations are closed it could take longer for a fire crew to reach the area in times of emergency.

**Case study: Fire station closures in South Yorkshire**

Fire authorities have to create a three-year corporate plan which demonstrates improvement to the services and shows that the services are offering value for money to the taxpayer. The 2006–09 corporate plan for South Yorkshire Fire Authority included the closure of Ringinglow Fire Station despite enormous local opposition. The area in question is rural and local people were extremely concerned that response times during an emergency would increase, potentially putting lives and property at risk. South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority’s rationale for closing Ringinglow was that it was a station with consistently low call-out rates and the firefighters and equipment could be better deployed elsewhere without compromising the safety of people in the area.

1. Should public services have to produce a corporate plan like a business?
2. What are the potential problems with closing fire stations in rural areas?
3. What is the likely impact on the community of such a closure?
4. In your opinion were the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority correct in closing the station and redeploying the resources elsewhere?

**Target setting standards**

All of the public services have an incredible amount of targets set for them by central government. They are also made to set numerous targets for themselves on a range of things, including 999 response times, ethnic minority recruitment, female recruitment, budget expenditure, reductions in crime or fires, patient survival rates and many more. This can lead to a tremendous amount of pressure on all levels of the public services to meet the targets or face the possible consequences.

If you examine the fire service case study above, the main reasons for deploying the crew from Ringinglow was that the brigade was not meeting 999 response times in certain other areas of South Yorkshire and so needed to move the under-utilised resources to a place where they would have a better impact on targets. Hence another aspect of the fire authority’s corporate plan was to open a new Dearne Valley station which would help it meet response times in the area. In this way you can see that government and local targets have a real influence on the operation of the services.

**Assessment activity 1.5**

Public policy can have a direct or indirect impact on public services, affecting how they operate.

1. Produce and deliver a 10-minute PowerPoint presentation which describes and explains how two government policies have impacted on different uniformed public services.

You can choose from the following policies:
- environmental
- civilianisation
- equal opportunities
- human rights
- financial increases or decreases.

There are also policies which directly affect the military or emergency services, which are explained earlier in the chapter (see pages XX–XX).

**Extension activity**

To achieve D2, you need to justify the introduction of two government policies in relation to their impact on the uniformed public services.

You could do this in either of the following ways:
- add it to your presentation and deliver the information verbally
- put it on a handout for your audience to read after you have delivered the presentation.
Social responses to government policies

Although many aspects of government policy are open to public consultation, many decisions are made which some of the public do not agree with. There will also be some decisions which the public feel so strongly about they are prepared to take action.

There are several responses a society or an individual can make in response to a policy, as described below.

Civil disobedience

This is the deliberate and planned breach of policy or law by an individual or group of people. It is usually done peacefully to highlight how inappropriate a law is and promote the need for a change in the law.

Civil disobedience was a common tool in the black civil rights movement in the USA in the 1960s. Black people would deliberately break the racial segregation laws to show how deeply unfair they were and how much the law needed to change. A good example of this is the case of Rosa Parks, who in December 1955 refused to give up her seat on a bus to a white man when asked to do so. She was arrested and her arrest sparked a chain of events which led to the US Supreme Court decision in 1956 that racial segregation on transportation was illegal.

Demonstrations and meetings

Meetings to discuss problems with government policy are very common. They are a way for like-minded individuals to air their concerns. Meeting can be held outside and include a march or demonstration to show the government or local authority the depth of public feeling against a decision. A good example of this would be the rallies and protests organised by the Countryside Alliance since the UK government placed a ban on foxhunting.

Terrorism

Terrorism is an extreme response to public policy. It involves an individual or group using violence or the threat of violence against civilian and military targets in order to force the government to change its policy. It is usually the last resort of a group which has already tried civil disobedience and demonstration to no effect.

Goverments do not respond well to terrorism; many have a policy of not negotiating with terrorists under any circumstances. A good example of this in the UK was the situation in Northern Ireland in the second half of the twentieth century. Loyalist and Republican terrorist groups were active in Northern Ireland and on the UK mainland, with great cost to civilian and military life and property. One of the worst atrocities committed was the Omagh bombing in 1998 which killed 29 people.

Picketing

Picketing is when striking workers gather together outside their place of work. This is a common way of employees showing their unhappiness with a policy decision made on national or local issues; the focus is usually pay, redundancies or working conditions. The Fire Service strikes in 2002 are one example.

Sit-ins

Sit-ins are a peaceful way of demonstrating against an issue by causing great inconvenience and delay to the people trying to implement the decision. They are a tool often used by environmental protesters who oppose the
building of new roads. By building camps underground and in trees, the protestors make it difficult for work to begin safely. For example, in 1995–6, environmental protestors effectively disrupted work on the Newbury bypass. The protest included 29 camps with tree houses and a tunnel network. Although the protestors failed to stop the eventual building of the bypass at Newbury, their actions led to a change in government thinking on the building of new roads. Consequently plans for the Salisbury bypass were stopped on the basis of the environmental impact.

Knowledge check

1 What are the responsibilities of central government?
2 What is the role of an MP?
3 Who can stand for election?
4 What public services do the Home Office have responsibility for?
5 What is the role of the Prime Minister?
6 What is the general role of an inspectorate?
7 Describe what green and white papers are.
8 What is royal assent?
9 What factors can affect government policy?
10 How does civilianisation benefit the public services?
11 What impact does target setting have on the public services?
12 How can people respond to a government policy if they don’t like it?
The police service is made up of 43 forces in England and Wales. Each force may have different policies and procedures on staff training and development. It is vitally important that police officers at all levels understand the importance of the role of the government and the impacts of its policies on the service as a whole.

You are a police training officer with the responsibility for ensuring that all police officers in your force area understand these important issues. You have decided to oversee the next issue of the force magazine, Policing Today, to ensure that everyone gets a consistent message. Ensure the next issue of Policing Today contains the following information:

1. Outline the different levels of government in the UK.
2. Explain the responsibilities of different levels of government and local councils in the UK.
3. Describe the electoral process for one level of government in the UK.
4. Compare the electoral processes at different levels of government in the UK.
5. Analyse the responsibilities and electoral processes of two different levels of government in the UK.
6. Describe three government departments and their responsibility for specific uniformed public services.
7. Explain and analyse the development process of government policies.
8. Describe how government policy making can be influenced by factors outside the government, giving two examples.
9. Describe and explain how two government policies have impacted upon different uniformed public services.
10. Justify the introduction of two government policies in relation to their impact on the uniformed public services.
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<tr>
<th>Grading criteria</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Pg no.</th>
<th>To achieve a pass grade the evidence must show that the learner is able to:</th>
<th>To achieve a merit grade the evidence must show that the learner is able to:</th>
<th>To achieve a distinction grade the evidence must show that the learner is able to:</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>P1</strong> Outline the various levels of government and elected bodies from local councils to national government</td>
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<td><strong>P2</strong> Describe one election process and identify which level of government it relates to</td>
<td>1.2 ((tbc))</td>
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<td><strong>P3</strong> Identify a minimum of three government departments and explain their responsibilities for specific uniformed public services</td>
<td>1.3 ((tbc))</td>
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<td><strong>P4</strong> Explain the development process of government policies</td>
<td>1.4 ((tbc))</td>
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<td><strong>P5</strong> Describe how government policy making can be influenced by factors outside the government</td>
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<td><strong>P6</strong> Describe how two government policies have affected different uniformed public services</td>
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**M1** Explain the responsibilities of each level of government in the UK

**D1** Analyse the responsibilities and electoral processes for different levels of government in the UK

**M2** Compare the election process for the elected representatives at a least two levels of government in the UK

**D2** Give an explanation of government policies and their effects on the uniformed public services

**D3** Justify the introduction of two government policies and consider their effects on the uniformed public services