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16:09 Thursday 06 June 2013 Written by DAVID COSGROE

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PCC David Lloyd hits back at MPs report

HERTFORDSHIRE'S police and crime commissioner has branded a report calling for stronger scrutiny of the elected figures "unhelpful".

The report by MPs said stricter controls were needed to prevent "maverick decision making".

The Home Affairs Select Committee has called for a national register of PCCs' expenses.



Hertfordshire police and crime commissioner David Lloyd

"A national register is vital for local accountability," Keith Vaz MP, committee chairman, said.

"We need to guard against maverick decision-making."

The county's commissioner David Lloyd was one of 31 PCCs who were highlighted as having failed to publish full data required of them.

Mr Lloyd said this had now been remedied and he wanted to focus on nuts and bolts issues that would help the community.

He said all his expenditure is posted on his website.

"The report is unhelpful in that it was a snapshot in a period of about five or six weeks," he said.

"I would suggest people go on my website and look for themselves."

Mr Lloyd welcomed greater scrutiny of those in post as commissioners.

He said: "As someone who has got nothing whatsoever to hide I've no issue at all with scrutiny.

"That's one of the reasons I talk so frequently to the press.

"We're spending public money so it's right and proper people ask questions of how it's being spent."

He added: "My only disappointment is the committee...would know better than just to look at numbers.

"The exciting thing about PCCs is how we engage with the public and how the public has a voice.

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"Clearly it's important to get everything right so we can be properly held to account.

"The real issue is about ensuring crime remains low and ensuring we're one of the safest places to live in the country and victims are at the heart of what we're doing."

PCCs, which replaced existing police authorities in 41 force areas across England and Wales, were handed the power to set force budgets and hire and fire chief constables.

In November 2012 just 15.1% of registered voters took part in the PCC election – the lowest turnout at a peacetime non-local election in Britain.

The report accused Home Secretary Theresa May of being been "keen to distance herself from any responsibility to assess the performance of the PCCs" after she told the committee they were ultimately "accountable to the electorate".

Mr Vaz said: "The Government is going to publish a register of chief constables' interests, but has so far refused to do so for PCCs, who share the power over policing."

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hertsred

The man who wants to cut back on PCSOs while spending £75k on a press officer can't even publish required data properly. Mr 6% of the electorate (the amount of votes he got) needs to get his farcical house in order. The low regard in which he and his office are held is an embarrassment to Hertfordshire, and if a considered bi-partisan report of a House of Commons Committee finds him derelict in his duty, well, he should should just damned well listen and do his job properly.

08/06/2013
10:29

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