

Police and crime commissioner Sir Clive Loader rejects call to scrap his role

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By Dan Martin



re-elected: Sir Clive Loader rejected Lord Stevens's proposals

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Sir Clive Loader has dismissed calls by a former top officer to abolish police and crime commissioners.

Former Metropolitan Police chief Lord Stevens published a review of policing – commissioned by the Labour Party – this week.

It called for police and crime commissioner posts to be scrapped in 2016, after their current term ends.

He said the job, introduced a year ago by the Government, had flaws and argued councillors should have a greater role in policing.

Sir Clive, Conservative commissioner for Leicestershire and Rutland, said: "I've looked at what he said. It's pathetically shallow.

"It's retrograde and it's politicised."

Former RAF Air Chief Marshal Sir Clive defended his role, saying he was an "interlocutor between 1.1 million people and the police".

He stressed the role of commissioners in holding chief constables to account at a time when trust in forces has been eroded by scandals such as Plebgate and the Hillsborough disaster cover up.

He said he was concerned about giving councillors control over the police because they would be appointed to positions rather than directly elected.

Sir Clive acknowledged the Government had not made a clear case for introducing police and crime commissioners and that there was still a lack of understanding about his role.

He said he was not concerned there had been a turn-out of just 16 per cent in the election.

"It's not in my mind only one in seven people voted for me," Sir Clive said.

"People will be critical and of course I would have liked a better turn-out. I have developed an elephantine hide in my first year."

"I still have a mandate and a job to do by law."

He said he wanted better public engagement in his second year in post. Sir Clive also criticised Lord Stevens's call for a minimum number of police beat officers, to restore public confidence.

He said Lord Stevens had not grasped one of the key principles of Sir Robert Peel, who founded the modern British police force.

Sir Clive said: "Peel said 'The test of police efficiency is the absence of crime and disorder, not the visible evidence of police action in dealing with it'."

Read more: <http://www.leicestermercury.co.uk/Police-crime-commissioner-rejects-scrap-role/story-20232945-detail/story.html#ixzz2mKzIF06C>