

12:27 Thursday 28 November 2013 Written by MICHAEL HAVIS

Herts police commissioner slams report calling for his role to be abolished



David Lloyd

Hertfordshire's police and crime commissioner has slammed the author of a report which recommends his office be abolished, calling him "out of touch."

In a report released on Monday, Lord John Stevens – the former head of the Metropolitan Police – said the PCC system was "riddled" with failings" and should be discontinued.

Lord Stevens, who was selected by Shadow Home Secretary Yvette Cooper to chair the Independent Police Commission in 2011, was accused by commissioner David Lloyd of writing a "Labour report."

Mr Lloyd said: "My understanding is that a former Metropolitan Police commissioner, who hasn't been involved directly with policing for a number of years, has come up with some recommendations.

"Some are very important to all of us already, like neighbourhood policing – which I'm very big on – and holding police to account.

"The only surprise about it is just how out of touch this particular person seems to be, because here he is finding solutions which have already been found.

"He wants ways of holding policing to account and his conclusion seems to be less democratic accountability."

Referring to the report's criticism of the PCC system, he said: "This is a Labour report and they will have to decide if they endorse it, which is a matter for the next election.

"I think PCCs have been a successful introduction and people understand what they are about. It's far better than the Police Authority we had before. Far more people know about us."

In his report, Lord Stevens argues "there must be no retreat from the idea of giving people a voice" in policing, but said the issues with the current PCC system were not just "teething troubles."

He states that PCCs started with a "legitimacy deficit" last year because of poor electoral turnout, saying "there is little evidence to indicate that this new political office has captured the public imagination."

Further criticism was made of accusations that "friends, former colleagues and contacts" were being made deputies by PCCs – a charge levelled at David Lloyd when he appointed fellow Flamstead villager David Gibson.

Too many commissioners are also middle-aged white males, Lord Stevens argues, and should not be – as David Lloyd is – former members of any now-abolished Police Authority.

Read more: <http://www.theadvertisergroup.co.uk/Daily-News/Hitchin/Herts-police-commissioner-slams-report-calling-for-his-role-to-be-abolished-20131128122641.htm#ixzz2mKzUoF6n>