



Falkland Islands Government

News Release

27 November 2009

New Director of Community Safety for the Falkland Islands

Chief Superintendent Gary Finchett, Northern Area Commander of Cheshire Police, will be taking up the post of Director of Community Safety in the Falkland Islands on 11 January 2010.

This post includes the role of Chief Police Officer and Chief Superintendent Finchett will be taking over command of the Police from Superintendent Paul Elliot. He will also take on overall responsibility for the Fire and Rescue Service, Customs and Immigration and the Falkland Islands Defence Force.

In addition to ensuring essential improvements are achieved in the Police, he will take the lead on the Islands' emergency response and major incident arrangements, manage the Falkland Islands Government's (FIG) responsibilities for the security of oil operations and work with operational commanders to ensure that the services he is responsible for are as integrated as practicable and are cost effective.

Member of the Legislative Assembly with portfolio responsibility for community safety service Gavin Short said: "Gary is arriving at an important time with some major challenges ahead for us all. I am looking forward to working closely with him and all staff within these services to meet those challenges and ensure Falkland Islanders receive the very best services. I would like to thank Superintendent Elliot for his hard work and contribution to Policing on the Islands."

Chief Executive Tim Thorogood said "I'm very pleased that we've been able to appoint someone with such excellent credentials as Gary, who was selected from an impressive field of strong candidates. Under his leadership we should see good progress made from the foundations laid by Superintendent Elliot and be well placed to meet challenges such as oil security and emergency management. I wish Superintendent Elliot the very warmest wishes for the future."

Gary Finchett said "It is an honour and a privilege to be offered this position. My role is to ensure the provision of first class emergency and support services to Falkland Islanders to ensure they are safe and feel safe. Joined-up working across a range of departments is key to driving out efficiencies and providing cost effective services to the community. I am looking forward to my new role and to working with Heads of Service, the Legislative Assembly and most importantly local people to further improve the quality of life of Falkland Islanders."

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Notes to Editors:

1. The Falkland Islands are a United Kingdom Overseas Territory situated in the Southern Hemisphere about 350 miles east of the South American mainland. The Islands are made up of two main Islands (East and West Falkland) and some 700 smaller Islands, covering an area half the size of Wales. The capital Stanley is located on East Falkland.
2. Over the past 27 years, the Falkland Islands have become one of the most modern and dynamic Overseas Territories of the United Kingdom. The Islands enjoy a sophisticated system of internal government and are economically self-sufficient in all areas except defence - which is estimated to be less than half of one percent of Britain's overall defence budget.
3. The Islands' population has risen from 1,800 in 1982 to around 2,500 in 2006 (the latest Census). Nearly 96% of the population is British and 79% of the population is aged 55 years and under. The majority of young Islanders chose to return to the Islands to live and work, contributing to its thriving private and public sector.
4. Falkland Islands information is available at www.falklands.gov.fk.