



PRESIDENTIAL WORKING GROUP ON THE NATIONAL POLICING BILL

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1. Background

The Presidential Working Group on the National Policing Bill ("the Working Group") has been convened to translate the constitutional amendment establishing a dual police structure, comprising the Federal Police Service and State Police Services, into a final, implementation-ready draft National Policing Bill for handover to the Federal Ministry of Justice.

The Working Group's Secretariat has developed a detailed Policy Outline of the National Policing Bill, spanning twenty substantive Parts and ten Schedules, covering the institutional design of the National Police Council as regulator, national minimum standards, State certification, inspection, personnel transition, funding, human-rights safeguards, and consequential legal amendments. This Call invites structured input from institutions, professional bodies, subject-matter experts and the public on the priority policy questions arising from that outline, ahead of the drafting sprints scheduled under the Working Group's seven-week workplan. This Call is issued and coordinated by the Policy Analysis and Research Team within the Secretariat.

2. Purpose of this Call

This Call for Memoranda and Position Papers is issued to:

- Solicit informed, evidence-based input on the policy choices underlying the draft National Policing Bill before the first drafting sprint;
- Surface institutional, operational, fiscal and constitutional considerations that may not be fully captured in the Policy Outline;
- Enable early engagement by State governments, security institutions, the legal profession, civil society and technical experts, in addition to the structured validation sessions scheduled for Week 5 of the workplan;
- Build a comments-and-disposition record that the Secretariat can reference when finalising drafting instructions and the explanatory memorandum.

3. Who May Submit

Memoranda and position papers are invited from:

- State Governments, State Houses of Assembly and State Ministries of Justice;
- The Nigeria Police Force, Police Service Commission and other federal security and justice institutions;
- The Nigeria Bar Association and other professional legal and judicial bodies;
- Civil society organisations, human-rights bodies and academic and research institutions working on policing, security sector governance or constitutional law;
- Private-sector bodies with an interest in data protection, firearms regulation, private security regulation, or public finance;
- Individual subject-matter experts and members of the public with relevant technical or professional expertise.

4. Priority Thematic Areas

Submissions are encouraged on any of the themes below, each keyed to the corresponding Part(s) of the Policy Outline. Respondents need not address every theme; focused, well-substantiated submissions on one or two themes are preferred to broad but general commentary.

Theme 1: Constitutional status, powers and institutional design of the National Police Council/Authority

Policy Outline, Parts I–III

- The appropriate scope of statutory operational powers that may be conferred on the Council/Authority consistent with its constitutional character;
- Safeguards to ensure that certification, inspection and standards enforcement do not amount to routine command over State Police Services;
- The structure, staffing model and accountability of the proposed Council Secretariat, including its zonal/regional inspectorate offices.

Theme 2: National minimum policing standards

Policy Outline, Part IV; Schedule 1

- Whether the proposed minimum standards (recruitment, training, use of force, custody, data, complaints, and related areas) are appropriately calibrated as a floor rather than a ceiling;
- Gaps or sequencing concerns in applying uniform standards across States with differing capacity.

Theme 3: State readiness, certification and forms of certification

Policy Outline, Part V; Schedules 2 and Appendix B

- The adequacy and sequencing of the certification stages, from pre-application consultation through renewal and monitoring;
- Views on conditional, phased, territorial and specialist certification as transitional tools;
- Due-process safeguards for suspension or withdrawal of certification.

Theme 4: Inspection, compliance monitoring and enforcement

Policy Outline, Part VI

- The appropriate balance between inspection powers and State operational autonomy;
- The sequencing of compliance tools, from informal guidance to grant clawback and certification withdrawal.

Theme 5: Federal and State policing architecture and cooperation

Policy Outline, Part VII

- The clarity and workability of the functional division between federal-dimension and State-dimension offences;
- Concurrent jurisdiction, first-responder, handover and mutual-assistance rules.

Theme 6: Federal Police Service transition and Police Act restructuring

Policy Outline, Part VIII

- Whether the Police Act 2020 should be repealed and re-enacted as a standalone Federal Police Service Act, or amended within the National Policing Bill;
- Savings required for pending investigations, prosecutions, disciplinary proceedings, contracts, property and pensions.

Theme 7: Police Service Commission architecture

Policy Outline, Part IX

- The institutional separation between the Federal Police Service Commission, State Police Service Commissions and the Council/Authority;
- Minimum independence standards for State Police Service Commissions.

Theme 8: State Police Service establishment and the Model State Law

Policy Outline, Part X; Schedule 7

- The minimum contents that should be mandatory in every State Police Service Law versus matters properly left to State discretion;
- Governor–Commissioner–police head–Commission relationships and civilian oversight design.

Theme 9: Rank equivalence, personnel transition and scheme of service

Policy Outline, Parts XI–XII; Schedule 3; Appendix C

- The illustrative rank-equivalence schedule, including reserved federal ranks and rank-title portability;

- Personnel transition models — automatic continuation, voluntary transfer, secondment, direct recruitment and lateral entry;
- Pension portability, welfare, insurance and disciplinary-record transfer arrangements.

Theme 10: Operational powers, criminal justice interface, and data/forensic systems

Policy Outline, Parts XIII–XIV

- Consequential amendments required to the Administration of Criminal Justice Act, State ACJLs, and the Evidence Act;
- Design of the national criminal information architecture, including access controls, retention and cross-service evidentiary validity.

Theme 11: Use of force, firearms, equipment and public identification

Policy Outline, Part XV

- Firearms procurement, armoury registry and equipment-authorisation safeguards to prevent State-level militarisation;
- Uniform, badge and vehicle-marking standards to prevent impersonation and confusion between services.

Theme 12: Complaints, accountability and human-rights safeguards

Policy Outline, Part XVI

- Triggers for mandatory independent investigation (custody deaths, torture, sexual violence, firearms discharge);
- Whistleblower protection and complaints-data publication requirements.

Theme 13: Federal intervention procedures

Policy Outline, Part XVII

- Thresholds, authorisation, notice, duration and judicial-review safeguards for federal intervention in State policing;
- Mechanisms to prevent intervention from becoming a disguised federal takeover.

Theme 14: Funding, grants and fiscal sustainability

Policy Outline, Part XVIII

- Design of the National Policing Standards and Certification Fund and the State Police Readiness and Equalisation Grant Facility;
- Safeguards to prevent grant conditionality from creating informal federal command over State Police Services.

Theme 15: Existing security outfits, vigilante groups and private security

Policy Outline, Part XIX

- Audit, classification, demobilisation and individual-recruitment pathways for existing State, community and vigilante security outfits;
- Weapons-surrender and private-security regulation to prevent parallel armed capacity.

Theme 16: Consequential amendments, transition and commencement

Policy Outline, Part XX; Schedule 4; Appendix A

- Comments on the harmonisation matrix and the classification of affected federal and State laws;
- Priority sequencing for repeal, re-enactment, amendment or temporary saving of specific instruments.

Theme 17: Federal and State prison infrastructure

Policy Outline, Part XIII (custody and prosecution interface); Appendix A (Nigerian Correctional Service legislation)

- Custody-to-corrections handover protocols between Federal and State Police Services and the Nigerian Correctional Service, including remand, transfer and prisoner-movement arrangements;
- Adequacy of existing federal and State custodial and correctional infrastructure to absorb a dual policing structure, including capacity, decongestion and standards alignment;
- Funding, construction and upgrade responsibilities for State-level custodial and remand facilities linked to State Police Service certification readiness;
- Consequential amendments required to Nigerian Correctional Service legislation and related instruments to reflect the dual police structure.

5. Format and Content Requirements

Memoranda and position papers should:

- Not exceed ten (10) pages, excluding annexes, and be submitted in English;
- Be submitted as a single PDF document, with any supporting annexes clearly labelled, paginated and merged into the same file;
- Use OSCOLA (Oxford University Standard for Citation of Legal Authorities) referencing throughout, including for citations to legislation, case law, official reports and secondary sources;
- Clearly identify the theme(s) addressed by reference to the numbering in Section 4 above;
- State the submitting institution or individual, designation, and contact details;
- Where possible, frame recommendations as specific drafting suggestions rather than general commentary;
- Disclose any institutional or professional interest relevant to the subject matter of the submission.

6. Submission Guidelines and Deadline

All submissions must be made through the official portal at nationalpolicingbill.gov.ng, in PDF format and OSCOLA referencing style as set out in Section 5 above, on or before **13 August 2026 at 5:00 p.m. (WAT)**. Submissions received after the deadline may not be considered within the Week 5 validation timetable but may still inform later revision stages at the Secretariat's discretion.

Submissions made by any channel other than the official portal will not be accepted. Institutions wishing to request a meeting in lieu of, or in addition to, a written submission should indicate this through the portal, and the Secretariat will endeavour to accommodate such requests within the validation schedule, subject to capacity.

7. Evaluation and Use of Submissions

All submissions received will be logged in a comments-and-disposition matrix maintained by the Policy Analysis and Research Team. Each submission will be reviewed against the relevant theme(s), and a disposition (accepted, accepted with modification, deferred, or not accepted, with reasons) will be recorded to inform the drafting instructions and the Working Group's policy decision log. Submissions may be summarised or referenced in the Working Group's technical validation report; confidential or commercially sensitive material should be clearly marked as such.

8. Enquiries

Further information on this Call, including guidance on the submission portal and referencing requirements, is available at nationalpolicingbill.com

Signed:

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National Policing Bill

