



*For immediate release
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To: Crime and Retail Journalists

LOCAL CRIME PARTNERSHIPS TO GET NATIONAL VOICE

Action Against Business Crime (AABC), a joint venture between the Home Office and the British Retail Consortium, is launching the UK's first National Organisation to represent Business Reduction Crime Partnerships (BRCPs).

Currently BRCPs operate independently in towns and cities around the UK, bringing businesses, police and local authorities together to exchange information about offenders, set-up radio links and share crime prevention advice.

A National Organisation will now give the partnerships a combined and more powerful voice and ability to work together, share information and build stronger relationships with Police and other third parties.

AABC Chief Executive, Mike Schuck, said: "The benefits of local partnerships have always been clear to businesses, their staff, local communities and police. But now, a National Organisation actually gives them a voice - to ensure that business crime is taken seriously and given a higher priority on the Government's agenda.

"We want to ensure that AABC is the voice of BRCPs and that we can build on the important work we have already done to create an effective campaign organisation."

"In 2003 the total cost of retail crime was £1.96 billion and the number of assaults and threats made against shop workers rose substantially. We want to significantly reduce these figures and make our communities a safer place to be."

AABC is also developing the Safer Business Award as part of the initiative, which is an independently recognised accreditation scheme demonstrating individual partnerships operate legally to the highest standards.

Ends

Notes to editors:

- Membership costs £380
- More information on AABC can be found by visiting: www.businesscrime.org.uk

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