

## NEWS RELEASE



**3<sup>rd</sup> May 2005**

### **Northgate calls for holistic approach to use of Scottish police resources**

Northgate today called for an holistic approach to, and regular review of, the resources available to the police service in Scotland.

In a response to the Scottish Executive's consultation on a Scottish Police Bill, Northgate welcomed the proposed establishment of a single Service Authority as a vehicle to deliver both back-office efficiencies and improved citizen-service.

Northgate's response also recommended that:

- the new Authority develop a strategic approach to information sharing, based on accurate data;
- adequate change management strategies be put in place to communicate future developments to police staff, the public and all stakeholders;
- the Scottish Executive gives consideration to providing incentives for police forces to share back-office systems as a means of freeing-up staff for the front line.

### **Speaking today, David Meaden, Managing Director of Northgate Public Services, said:**

"Northgate warmly welcomes the Scottish Executive's proposals for a new single Service Authority for the police. This new body will bring substantial benefits to Scotland's police forces and its citizens, helping to free officers of unnecessary back-office tasks and allowing them to focus on reassuring communities.

"The new Service Authority will be able to maintain a strategic approach to resourcing across the entire police service, including the provision of information technology. There are a number of opportunities to harness as yet untapped information, both within and between police forces, and we would like to see further consideration of incentives to support innovative information-sharing projects at a local level."

-ENDS-

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## Notes to editors

1. Northgate Information Solutions is a leading provider of software and managed services to the public services and utilities markets. Northgate's task is to enhance public value through the intelligent use of people and technology, and to share in the economic and social benefits that this brings. With divisional headquarters in Hemel Hempstead and Belfast, Northgate has 25 major offices across the UK and six international offices. Founded in 1969, the company has over 3,300 employees.
2. In the UK, Northgate works with four out of five local authorities; every police force; and is the second largest provider of managed services in education, supporting over 55,000 desktops in Northern Ireland schools. Its systems are also used in the management of over 1.5 million local authority and housing association properties; in the administration of more than £17 billion of revenues and benefits; and in electoral administration systems covering over 18 million people.