

## ***Reykjavík Metropolitan Police – New Structure***

Major changes in the structure of policing in Iceland took effect at the beginning of 2007, including a reduction in the number of regional forces in the country from 26 to 15. Thus resulted in a major restructuring in the capital, Reykjavík, and its adjacent municipalities. Until the end of last year (2006) there were three large police forces in this area: those of Reykjavík, Kópavogur and Hafnarfjörður. As administrative units, these were abolished at the end of last year and replaced by a new authority, the Metropolitan Police.

The Metropolitan Police is the largest force in Iceland; two thirds of the population live in the metropolitan area and half of the country's police officers are members of the new force. It attends to all traditional police functions and exercises the power of prosecution in specific fields. Further information in English about the command and structure of the Icelandic police is to be found on the website [www.police.is](http://www.police.is).

### **Structure of the new force**

As can be seen in further detail on the organisational chart, there are three main divisions in the Metropolitan Police: *Law Enforcement, Prosecution and Legal* and *Administration and Services*.

The *Law Enforcement Division* includes three departments. The first of these, the General Department, handles general policing, preventive work, community policing and neighbourhood watch activities. The second, the Traffic Department, is responsible for traffic control and the investigation of traffic accidents and traffic offences. The third department, Investigations, handles the investigation of all forms of crime.

The *Prosecution and Legal Division* exercises prosecutory functions and is involved in the investigation of criminal offences and other legal tasks relating to the prosecution of crime.

The *Administration and Service Division* is responsible for human resource management, finances and administration and the issue of licences and permits.

### **Senior management**

The Metropolitan Police Commissioner is Stefán Eiríksson. He was formerly Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Justice and Ecclesiastical Affairs, where his responsibilities included directing all work on the restructuring of policing in Iceland.

Jón H. B. Snorrason is Deputy Commissioner and Prosecutor and deputises for the Commissioner. He is head of the Prosecution and Legal Division. He was formerly a Prosecutor and Director of the Economic Crime Department of the National Commissioner's Office.

Hörður Jóhannesson is Deputy Commissioner and head of the Law Enforcement Division. He was formerly a Chief Superintendent with the Reykjavík Police, and before that a Chief Superintendent at the National Commissioner's Office.

The three departments in the Law Enforcement Division are headed by Chief Superintendents: Geir Jón Þórisson in the General Department, Egill Bjarnason in the Traffic Department and Friðrik Smári Björgvinsson in the Investigations Department.

In the Administration and Services Division, Halldór Halldórsson is Manager of the Finance and Services Department and Sigríður Hrefna Jónsdóttir is Human Resource Manager, in charge of the Human Resource Department.