

JANUARY NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the latest edition of the Police and Crime Commissioners' Treasurers Society newsletter, produced by the Technical Support Team.

The newsletter provides details of major announcements and consultations relevant to police finance, as well as a summary of recent news stories affecting police and local government.

Further news articles of relevance to members, Finance Update Reports presented at PACCTS meetings and member briefings detailing funding developments and announcements can be found on the [PACCTS website](#).

For further information please follow the links provided, or contact the Technical Support Team via the details at the bottom of each page.

Please click on the appropriate heading to be taken straight to the relevant part of the newsletter.

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MAJOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Settlement

The 2020-21 Police Finance Settlement was announced on 22 January in a [written statement](#) by the Policing Minister, Kit Malthouse.

Full details of the Settlement can be found on the Home Office [GOV.UK](#) pages. The Welsh Government also published information for the Welsh forces on their [website](#).

Publication of the Police Finance Settlement was delayed due to the December 2019 general election, with Home Office ministers opting to go straight to a final settlement in the new year. This decision meant that there was no provisional settlement or consultation over the Christmas period. Unlike the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), who are responsible for the local government finance settlement, the Home Office are not legally obliged to consult on their funding allocations.

Prior to the 2020-21 settlement publication the sector was expecting an additional £750m for recruitment of 6,000 officers (towards the 20,000 total), minus a reallocation for central costs. Force allocations of officer numbers had already been [published](#) and had been calculated pro-rata to core grant. In return for this additional money the Treasury had asked the Home Office to find £120m of savings from within their budget.

Headlines

- £50m of the £750m retained centrally to support recruitment of officers
- Of the remaining £700m - £532m via un-ringfenced core grant, £168m ringfenced for successfully meeting recruitment targets.
- No other inflationary increases in core grant
- Resulting in a 7.5% increase in core funding
- £10 precept flexibility for all PCCs, or equivalent
- £92m (9%) increase in reallocations to over £1.1bn in 2020-21
- Flat cash pension grant allocations compared to 2019-20
- Reduction of 74% to capital grant funding to PCCs
- Ending of the Police Transformation Fund

The briefing can be found on the [PACCTS website](#). Should you have any questions about the contents of the briefing, please do not hesitate to contact the Technical Support Team.

Capital Grant Allocations

The capital grant allocations that were given with the settlement were to the nearest £100,000 and did not accurately reflect the true value. Since then, PCCs should have received an email from the Home Office outlining their settlement funding, including capital grant allocations.

We have updated the settlement tables which can be found on the [PACCTS website](#) with the new figures, as well as the giving them below.

Force	2020-21 Capital Grant Allocations	Force	2020-21 Capital Grant Allocations
Avon and Somerset	£ 269,243	Lincolnshire	£ 103,884
Bedfordshire	£ 112,530	Merseyside	£ 364,112
Cambridgeshire	£ 135,657	MOPAC	£ 3,258,982
City of London	£ 97,361	Norfolk	£ 143,312
Cheshire	£ 173,439	North Wales	£ 123,827
Cleveland	£ 137,888	North Yorkshire	£ 115,506
Cumbria	£ 97,482	Northamptonshire	£ 113,619
Derbyshire	£ 167,171	Northumbria	£ 338,437
Devon and Cornwall	£ 295,826	Nottinghamshire	£ 198,845
Dorset	£ 110,507	South Wales	£ 261,136
Durham	£ 133,047	South Yorkshire	£ 287,031
Dyfed-Powys	£ 85,138	Staffordshire	£ 182,925
Essex	£ 250,631	Suffolk	£ 117,714
Gloucestershire	£ 99,426	Surrey	£ 164,279
Greater Manchester	£ 621,863	Sussex	£ 242,717
Gwent	£ 120,378	Thames Valley	£ 396,001
Hampshire	£ 310,519	Warwickshire	£ 113,876
Hertfordshire	£ 157,350	West Mercia	£ 195,700
Humberside	£ 187,001	West Midlands	£ 659,553
Kent	£ 286,806	West Yorkshire	£ 483,784
Lancashire	£ 293,973	Wiltshire	£ 108,953
Leicestershire	£ 182,573	TOTAL	£ 12,300,002

Statistics

On 23 January, the day after the police settlement was announced, the government released a number of crime statistic documents covering a range of areas. Included in the releases was a piece written by the ONS entitled "[Crime Statistics for England and Wales: year ending September 2019](#)". Many of the news outlets have been using this publication to inform articles on crime, particularly focussing on the 7% increase in knife crime across England and Wales.

The Technical Support Team wrote a [briefing](#) covering these releases and highlighting some of the general trends.

General Headlines:

- Fraud has increased 9% (the TST has previously written on the subject of [cybercrime](#)).
- A 6% decrease in the overall number of homicides (after increasing over recent years).
- Crimes involving firearms remains flat.
- A 7% increase in the number of offences involving knives or sharp instruments.

Knife crime:

- Threats to kill have increased from 1,352 in March 2011 to 3,947 in September 2019, an increase of 258%.
- Assault with injury and assault with intent to cause serious harm has increase from 13,129 in March 2011 to 20,044 in September 2019, an increase of 69%.

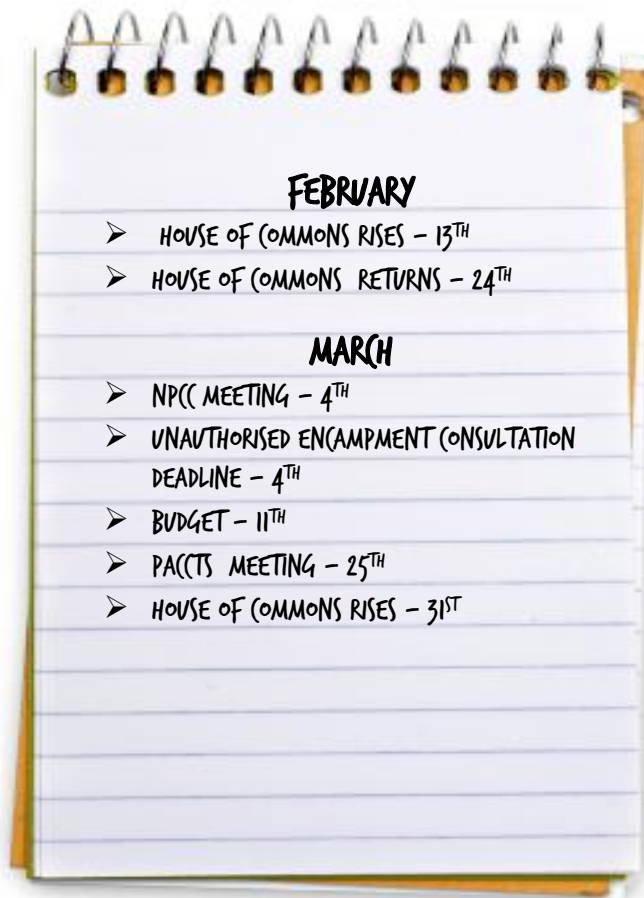
- Robbery using a knife or sharp instrument has increased from 15,377 in March 2011 to 19,431 in September 2019, an increase of 25%
- Other selected offences have increased from 726 in March 2011 to 1,349 in September 2019, an increase of 86%.

Outcome:

- There was a total of 5,000,036 total offences that were recorded in the year to September 2019, an increase of 5.6% on the previous year (this doesn't include the 151,843 cancelled offences).
- There was a total of 4,559,640 offences that were assigned an outcome, an increase of 4.7% on the previous year.
- There was a total of 44,396 offences that were not assigned an outcome, an increase of 15.9% on the previous year.
- 91.2% of crimes were assigned an outcome in the year ending September 2019, compared to 92% the previous year.

More information can be found on the government website. Should you want any further analysis on this release or similar releases, please contact the Technical Support Team at TechnicalSupportTeam@somerset.gov.uk

🔗 PACCTS Website: [Briefing](#)

LOOKING AHEAD

PUBLICATIONS

Safer Streets Fund application process

On 26 January the government released the [Safer Streets Fund 2020 to 2021: prospectus](#). The document initially outlines the details of the safer street fund before moving on to eligibility criteria and how to apply.

The Safer Streets Fund will enable PCCs to bid for investment for initiatives in crime preventative measures such as street lighting and home security.

The fund aims to:

- *Reduce acquisitive crime in areas that receive funding, making residents safer and reducing demand on the police*
- *Build evidence to strengthen the case for future investment in targeted crime prevention*
- *Grow local capability to undertake data driven problem solving approaches to crime prevention*

Additionally, the prospectus covers the practical aspects of applying for the fund such as:

- *Area eligibility*
- *What can be funded*
- *Implementation support and evaluation*
- *Fund timeline*

The application deadline is 20 March 2020. Details of how to respond can be found in the prospectus on the [GOV Website](#).

 GOV Website: [Publication](#)

Police recorded crime and outcomes open data tables

On 30 January, the government released their crime and outcomes data tables. The tables comes with comprehensive guidance that explains the limitations of police recorded crime, something that the ONS explains in their [user guide](#).

The Technical Support Team produced a [briefing](#) using some of these figures to show general trends in crime, with a focus on knife crime.

 GOV Website: [Publication](#)

 GOV Website: [All Crime Statistic Releases](#)

Police workforce, England and Wales: 30 September 2019

On 30 January, the government released statistics on police workforce numbers in the 43 polices in England and Wales as well as the British Transport Police.

As of 30 September 2019, there were a total of 124,784 officers in the 43 territorial police forces in England and Wales. This is an increase of 1.3% since March 2019 and 2% since September 2018.

	Sep-19	Mar-19	Sep-18	Mar-18	Sep-17	Mar-17	Sep-16
Total Officers	124,784	123,171	122,395	122,405	121,896	123,142	122,859
Change	1,613	775	-9	509	-1,246	283	-

% Change	1.3%	0.6%	0.0%	0.4%	-1.0%	0.2%	-
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Should you require any further information regarding policing numbers, please contact the Technical Support Team.

[GOV Website: Publication](#)

Police grants in England and Wales: 2020 to 2021

The Settlement was released on 22 January 2020. The Technical Support Team briefing is summarised in the major announcements. This publication covers the police grants in England and Wales, showing how much money each force is receiving through the various distribution mechanisms.

[GOV Website: Publication](#)

National DNA Database statistics

The Government has released its Quarterly National DNA Statistics database for Q3 of 2019.

Headline figures:

England and Wales	
Estimated total number of individuals retained on NDNAD	5,092,995
Total number of subject sample profiles retained on NDNAD	5,941,883
Total number of subject sample profiles retained on NDNAD from volunteers	2,057
Total number of crime scene sample profiles retained on NDNAD	616,052

[GOV Website: Publication](#)

DOF/PACCTS Seminar

The next National DoFs/PACCTS Seminar will be held on Tuesday 2nd June at the Scarman Building, The University of Warwick, Gibbet Hill Road, Coventry, CV4 7SH.

The cost of the event will be £51 per person, and will include parking, unlimited refreshments and a 3-course lunch. The room also has natural light and will be arranged in a cabaret style to enable more networking opportunities. This does however, limit the number of attendees to a maximum of 60.

There is also the option to attend a dinner the night before the seminar (an option in the booking form) should you wish to attend. The cost of the dinner will be £32.00 for 3 courses.

Should you have any queries or wish to submit the booking form, please contact [Dawn Taylor](#).

[PACCTS Website: Booking Form](#)

CONSULTATIONS

Strengthening police powers to tackle unauthorised encampments

Published: 5 November 2019

Closes: 4 March 2020

On 5 November, the government released a consultation on strengthening police powers to tackle unauthorised encampments.

The government would like to consult on measures to Criminalise the act of trespassing when setting up an unauthorised encampment in England and Wales. Additionally, the consultation would like to cover the following:

1. *Amending section 62A of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 to permit the police to direct trespassers to suitable authorised sites located in neighbouring local authority areas.*
2. *Amending sections 61 and 62A of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 to increase the period of time in which trespassers directed from land would be unable to return from 3 months to 12 months.*
3. *Amending section 61 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 to lower the number of vehicles needing to be involved in an unauthorised encampment before police powers can be exercised from six to two or more vehicles.*
4. *Amending section 61 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 to enable the police to remove trespassers from land that forms part of the highway.*

You can respond to the consultation via an [online form](#) or sending your response in an email to the [Home Office](#). The consultation closes 4 March 2020.

 GOV.UK Website: [Consultation](#)

NEWS ARTICLES

RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

Gwent Police fast-tracks civilians to become investigators

Crimes will be investigated by civilians who are being fast-tracked by Gwent Police to help ease workloads. They will have powers similar to detectives who have worked their way through the ranks but will not be able to make arrests.

The force denied it was policing "on the cheap" and said the first 15 trainees would play supporting roles.

 Please access the news article [here](#)


POLICE/PUBLIC FINANCES

Launch of Safer Streets Fund

A new £25 million scheme to tackle burglary and theft in crime hotspots has been launched by the Policing Minister.

The Safer Streets Fund will open this week for bids from police and crime commissioners (PCCs) across England and Wales to fund initiatives aimed at stopping these offences happening in the first place.

The fund is specifically designed for areas that need to tackle theft, robbery and burglary – known as acquisitive crimes.

 Please access the news article [here](#)

POLICE DEMAND

Police attend more than 2,000 domestic violence cases across the UK every day

Most incidents (111,670) were in the North West, followed by the South East (107,692) and Yorkshire and Humber (94,499).

Domestic violence incidents now account for 14 per cent of crimes dealt with by police.

Murders, violent attacks, rapes, sexual assaults, harassment and stalking are included as domestic abuse crimes in the Office for National Statistics data.

It also showed referrals of suspects from domestic abuse-flagged cases to the CPS for a charging decision fell 11 per cent from 110,653 to 98,470 from the previous year.

 Please access the news article [here](#).

Knife crime reaches ten year high in Wales and England

The number of knife crimes being dealt with by the police and courts is the highest in a decade, official figures show.

There were 22,286 knife and offensive weapon offences formally dealt with by the criminal justice system in England and Wales in the year ending September 2019, according to Ministry of Justice (MoJ) statistics.

This is a three per cent rise on the previous year (21,553) and the highest since September 2009 (26,364).

 Please access the news article [here](#)

Youth services suffer 70% funding cut in less than a decade

Spending on youth services in England and Wales has been cut by 70% in real terms in less than a decade, with the loss of £1bn of investment resulting in zero funding in some areas, according to research.

Analysis by the YMCA youth charity found that local authority expenditure on youth services dropped from £1.4bn in 2010-11 to just under £429m in 2018-19, resulting in the loss of 750 youth centres and more than 4,500 youth workers.

 Please access the news article [here](#).

Chief constable denies shutting child sex inquiry

A chief constable has been named as the senior police officer who allegedly claimed that an investigation into child sexual exploitation had to close because there were not enough staff.

Dave Thompson, the head of West Midlands police since 2016, confirmed yesterday that he was identified in a damning report into how the authorities in Manchester failed dozens of children who were systematically groomed and abused by gangs of men.

 Please access the news article [here](#).

POLICE GENERAL

Date set for UK-wide summit in Glasgow on tackling drug misuse

The UK government has set the date for its Glasgow summit on tackling drug misuse as 27 February 2020.

The summit will bring together drug recovery experts, health professionals, government ministers and senior police officers from across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. They will discuss how to work together to best prevent deaths related to drug misuse, which reached 4,265 across the UK in 2018, with more than a quarter of those deaths happening in Scotland.

The event will also boost collaboration between the UK government and the Scottish, Welsh and Northern Ireland administrations on this UK-wide issue with Professor Dame Carol Black, the independent reviewer of drugs, presenting her findings to the devolved administrations at the summit.

 Please access the news article [here](#).

New powers for the police to enforce drone laws

The government has acted to give police forces across the country new powers to tackle the misuse of unmanned aircraft, including drones, as the Air Traffic Management and Unmanned Aircraft Bill has its second reading in Parliament (27 January 2020).

The legislation will give the police new powers to land, inspect and seize drones if an offence has been committed and a warrant is secured.


Drone users could also face an on the spot fine for certain offences such as failing to provide evidence that they have the correct permissions and exemptions if found to be flying their device too high or too close to buildings, or failing to provide evidence of competency or registration.

 Please access the news article [here](#).

Police chiefs admit failures on diversity 21 years after pledge

Police chiefs have admitted they have been too slow to boost diversity in the ranks and still have a long way to go, almost 21 years since a landmark report into race and policing triggered promises of radical change.

The admission came as a study found that black police officer numbers barely increased since the middle of the last decade, rising by 86 officers across England and Wales between 2007 and 2018.

 Please access the news article [here](#)

Terrorism laws to get tougher within weeks, government vows

Terror offenders will face more time in jail and be monitored more closely as part of new laws being introduced within weeks, the government has said.

Automatic early release from prison will be scrapped for terror offenders while a minimum jail term of 14 years for serious crimes will be introduced. The Home Office said a bill would be brought before Parliament by mid-March.

 Please access the news article [here](#).

Multi-agency taskforce to tackle 'waste crime' launched

A taskforce has been set up to tackle "waste crime" such as dumping hazardous materials on private land and false labelling so waste can be exported.

The Joint Unit for Waste Crime (JUWC) will bring together law enforcement agencies, environmental regulators, HMRC and the National Crime Agency.

Environment secretary Theresa Villiers said the taskforce will "crack down" on the criminals responsible for waste crime, which she called "a scourge on our environment".

 Please access the news article [here](#).

TECHNOLOGY

'Name and shame' forces who do not sign up to national ICT systems

Forces who sign up to national ICT systems and then pull out at the last minute should be named and shamed, according to an academic who leads on the government's digital transformation strategy.

Professor Mark Thompson who has advised the government on how to digitize large public services such as the NHS, told delegates at last week's Police ICT summit in Manchester that the lack of a central body driving through much needed police ICT changes was a problem

Once an agreement had been reached nationally between forces to build, for example, a criminal records management (CRM) system, it should be commissioned, built and given away free to all police forces in England and Wales, he said.

 Please access the news article [here](#).

Facial recognition could be 'spectacular own goal', police warned amid accuracy concerns

Facial recognition could be a "spectacular own goal" for police if it fails to be accurate and effective, the government has been warned. MPs raised concerns about the technology after the Metropolitan Police announced the start of live deployments in London.

Only eight arrests were made as a result of facial matches in almost three years of trials in the capital, which saw a high rate of "false positive" alerts wrongly flagging innocent people as wanted criminals.

 Please access the news article [here](#).

PRISONS

Number of prisoners developing drug habit doubles in five years, says report

The drug problem in jails is becoming more serious with the number of inmates developing an addiction behind bars more than doubling in five years, new research suggests.

The proportion of prisoners who said they had experienced a problem with illegal substances rose from around 6.4% to about 14.8%. Almost 15% of inmates said they were drawn to drugs after being sent to jail, said the report by the Reform think-tank.

 Please access the news article [here](#).

FIRE

Dozens of social housing blocks still covered in Grenfell-style cladding

There are still 91 social housing buildings covered in Grenfell-style ACM cladding over two years after the tragedy, official figures have shown.

According to government data just one private tower block has received full funding for removal of the cladding despite a £200m pot created last summer to fund such work.

The government had initially provided £400m for local authorities and housing associations to remove the dangerous cladding after the Grenfell Tower fire in which 72 people died.

 Please access the news article [here](#).

Fire services: 999 callers waiting longer than five years ago

The fire service's average response times to serious fires is more than half a minute longer than it was five years ago, according to the latest Home Office figures.

The average total response time to "primary fires" in England (more serious fires that tend to harm people or cause damage to property) was eight minutes and 49 seconds between 2018-19. This response time is 11 seconds longer than last year's and 33 seconds longer than in 2013-14.

Although total response times to fires have increased gradually over the past 20 years, the figures plateaued from 2014 up until last year, when they started to rise once again.

 Please access the news article [here](#).