



Emergency Services Roundup

Fortnightly current awareness update

9 August 2018 – 5 September 2018

Welcome to the Emergency Services bi-weekly news bulletin.

The aim is to provide all those involved in delivering emergency services sector with a snap-shot of some of the latest news affecting the sector. We hope you find it useful. If you require further information on any of the articles mentioned, do please contact us.

Your feedback and comments will always be welcome.

GENERAL NEWS

Collaborations and takeovers

[Isle of Wight NHS Trust to 'work more closely' with South Central ambulance](#)

BBC News; 30 August 2018

A new ambulance dispatch system is being introduced on the Isle of Wight as part of closer working between the **Isle of Wight NHS Trust** and the **South Central Ambulance Service** on the mainland.

[Hands off Norfolk's fire service, county councillors tell police and crime commissioner](#)

Eastern Daily Press; 29 August 2018

Local councillors have claimed that suggestions that £10m would be saved if **Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service** passed into the control of the county's Police and Crime Commissioner are "speculative and misleading".

[Joint 999 fire service call handling agreement could be terminated](#)

Chichester Observer; 24 August 2018

A review of future options to deliver 999 call handling and fire engine mobilisation in West Sussex could lead to the termination of the joint agreement between **West Sussex Fire and Rescue** and **East Sussex Fire and Rescue**.

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AMBULANCE

[Thousands who phone for an ambulance are waiting until the next day: Sick babies, stroke victims and those over 100 are all hit by delays](#)

Daily Mail; 3 September 2018

NHS figures have revealed more than 2,000 people waited overnight for an emergency ambulance last year, up from only 440 in 2013.

[Embattled trust chief to stand down](#)

Health Service Journal; 1 September 2018

Robert Morton, the Chief Executive of the **East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust**, has announced that he will step down, citing personal reasons. Further details are [here](#) (BBC).

[Woman lost child due to North West Ambulance 'failings'](#)

BBC News; 31 August 2018

A coroner has concluded that a pregnant woman lost her baby after **North West Ambulance Service** paramedics failed to adequately assess her, delaying her transport to hospital.

[New chair for troubled ambulance trust](#)

Health Service Journal; 28 August 2018

David Astley is to take over as chair of **South East Coast Ambulance Service Foundation Trust** at the end of September.

[Wigan-based ambulance service told to make improvements](#)

Wigan Today; 28 August 2018

PrimeCare Ambulance Service has been told to make a number of improvements following a Care Quality Commission inspection.

[Sick ambulance staff put system 'at breaking point'](#)

BBC News; 25 August 2018

The GMB Union has said that rising sickness levels among paramedics have shown how close the system in Wales is to breaking point.

[North West Ambulance Service paramedics suspend strikes](#)

BBC News; 23 August 2018

Paramedics in north-west England have suspended a schedule of weekly strikes to allow discussions between the GMB union and **North West Ambulance Service** management.

FIRE

[Campaign launched for more diverse fire and rescue services](#)

Home Office; 24 August 2018

The Home Office is launching a new campaign to help fire and rescue services become more diverse.

POLICE

[Legal news](#)

[Strood police officer suing London force over live bullets](#)

BBC News; 28 August 2018

A police sergeant is suing the **City of London Police** for £250,000 after he was forced to dodge live ammunition during a firearms training exercise. Robert Haughey suffered severe post-traumatic stress disorder after shots were fired towards him during a firearms training exercise at Connaught Barracks in Dover three years ago.

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Employment issues and appointments

Force appoints ACC with 'background in large events and serious crime'

Police Professional; 4 September 2018

Greater Manchester Police has appointed Mabs Hussain as its new Assistant Chief Constable.

Leavers' survey reveals 'significant impact' of police cuts

Police Professional; 16 August 2018

A survey by the **Police Federation of England and Wales** has found that almost 2,000 police officers voluntarily left the police service over the past 12 months due to low morale and salaries.

British police chiefs pledge to fight sexual harassment in forces

Guardian; 16 August 2018

Police chiefs have pledged to tackle sexual harassment among staff after a survey of almost 1,800 police staff in England, Wales and Scotland by UNISON revealed incidents of inappropriate touching, leering and pressuring colleagues to have sex.

Misconduct

Police officer cleared of misconduct over stun gun shooting in Bristol

Guardian; 5 September 2018

An **Avon and Somerset** police officer has been cleared of misconduct after he shot a race relations adviser with a stun gun after mistaking him for a wanted man. The panel accepted that the officer had genuinely mistaken the man for a potentially violent man who had been trying to flee, meaning the force she used was reasonable. Full details are [here](#) (IOPC).

PC who admitted assaulting officers while drunk is sacked

Police Professional; 3 September 2018

A **Metropolitan Police** officer who assaulted two of her colleagues when they conducted a welfare check at her home has been dismissed. Further details are [here](#) (Daily Mail).

Met police sergeant cleared over strip search of academic

Guardian; 30 August 2018

A **Metropolitan Police** officer who ordered the strip search of an academic, in part because she would not disclose her name while in detention, has been cleared by a disciplinary panel.

BTP officer dismissed for 'grossly inappropriate' behaviour to rail staff

Police Professional; 23 August 2018

A **British Transport Police** constable has been dismissed after breaching standards of professional behaviour when he showed images to a female member of rail staff while on duty.

Police officer who arrested Rashan Charles cleared of misconduct

Guardian; 15 August 2018

The **Metropolitan Police** officer who arrested and detained Rashan Charles before his death has been cleared of misconduct by the Independent Office for Police Conduct.

Ex-detective chief inspector accessed sensitive information 'without a policing reason'

Police Professional; 14 August 2018

A former **Bedfordshire Police** officer has been found guilty of gross misconduct after sending confidential information to third parties regarding a family member's ex-partner. The former Detective Chief Inspector would have received an instant dismissal had he not resigned from Bedfordshire Police in February.

Officer sacked over pub assault that left victim distrustful of police

Police Professional; 14 August 2018

A **Dyfed-Powys Police** officer who bit a man's nose at a pub while off duty has been dismissed without notice following a special case hearing.

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Inquests and investigations

New turmoil at undercover police inquiry

Times; 31 August 2018

The inquiry into undercover policing has been plunged into turmoil after victims launched legal action after the Chair, Sir John Mitting, suppressed the cover names of officers accused of wrongdoing.

Investigation underway into conduct of Cambridgeshire Constabulary officer during an inquest

Independent Office for Police Conduct; 29 August 2018

An investigation is underway into the actions taken by **Cambridgeshire Constabulary** after a sectioned patient was reported missing from Fulbourn hospital on 16 November 2015.

Sussex police breach Fol act after Crystal Palace fans take action

Guardian; 22 August 2018

Sussex Police breached the *Freedom of Information Act* and have been issued with a decision notice by the Information Commissioner's Office after failing to explain why they had alleged Crystal Palace Football Club supporters were armed with "knives and knuckle-dusters" at the game against Brighton last November. The Force can appeal.

Finance and funding

More than 600 police stations closed as forces reach funding 'breaking point'

Metro; 3 September 2018

In the largest closure programme in policing history, more than 600 police stations have shut since 2010. London alone has lost 100 police stations in the past eight years. In order to try and combat the closures, the Home Office has provided a settlement that is increasing total investment in the police system by more than £460m in 2018-19.

Office sale secures £1 million for force

Police Professional; 30 August 2018

Merseyside's Police and Crime Commissioner will generate more than £1m for **Merseyside Police** by selling the building where her office is based.

Force suspends new fitness test in search of cost-effective alternative

Police Professional; 21 August 2018

A new fitness test piloted by **West Midlands Police** has been put on hold due to concerns over its sustainability.

Policing in parts of the UK is broken, says Police Federation chief

Guardian; 13 August 2018

John Apter, the new head of the **Police Federation**, has warned that police forces across the country are in crisis and the public are suffering as a result of falling headcounts and increasing crime.

Performance

Merseyside police failing to monitor sex offenders, says watchdog

Guardian; 30 August 2018

The **HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services** has found that high-risk sex offenders in Merseyside are not being visited enough by a "seriously overstretched" Merseyside Police. Full details are [here](#) (HMCFRS).

Police custody in Derbyshire – failing to meet standards in important areas but keen to improve

HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services; 22 August 2018

Derbyshire Constabulary custody was not delivered to the standards required or expected in many important areas, with little improvement over the last five years and some poor outcomes for detainees.

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Crime

[Cressida Dick calls for fast legal access to social media accounts](#)

Guardian; 4 September 2018

The **Metropolitan Police** commissioner, Cressida Dick, has called for police to be able to quickly access material from social media companies after a murder suspect was jailed for withholding his Facebook password.

[Spit guards will not be issued further in the MPS](#)

Police Professional; 23 August 2018

Frontline **Metropolitan Police** officers will not be given access to spit guards despite widespread calls for their use.

For more information please contact [Hugh Giles](#), [Andrew Rowland](#) or [Alessandra Gettins](#).



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