

Emergency Services Update

13 December 2018 – 9 January 2019

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

[Police boss shelves fire service plan](#)

Lancashire Telegraph; 22 December 2018

Plans for the **Lancashire Police and Crime Commissioner** to assume responsibility for the governance of **Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service** have been shelved.

[Fire service chiefs would consider sharing headquarters](#)

Lancashire Telegraph; 22 December 2018

Fire service chiefs at **Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service** will look to collaborate with other emergency services as they consider the future of the service's headquarters.

[Slow progress on Shropshire fire service takeover appeal](#)

Shropshire Star; 14 December 2018


Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority has been told that the judicial review into **Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service's** takeover by the **West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner** will not be heard until March 2019 at the earliest.

AMBULANCE

[Patients wait twice as long for ambulances when they become seriously ill at the GP, investigation finds](#)

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Independent; 4 January 2019

An investigation has found that patients whose GP spots symptoms of serious health problems, such as like heart attacks and sepsis, are waiting twice as long for an ambulance as those who call 999 alone.

[Ambulance handover delays down by almost a third last month](#)

Health Service Journal; 3 January 2019

Data from acute providers has suggested that ambulance handover delays were down by nearly 30 per cent in December 2018.

[Ambulances sustained £460k worth of damage in accidents last year, south east figures reveal](#)

Surrey News; 31 December 2018

A freedom of information request to the **South East Coast Ambulance Service** has revealed that its ambulances were involved in 665 accidents between April 2017 to March 2018, which caused more than £460,000 worth of damage to the vehicles. Since 2009/10 there have been 5,980 accidents involving ambulance vehicles, causing £4.5m worth of damage.

[Ambulance urgent response time targets missed every month since shake-up, figures show](#)

Independent; 27 December 2018

The Labour Party has said that an analysis of NHS figures has found that ambulance response targets have been missed every month since they were revised in July 2017.

[Ambulance service lifts suspension on private firm after 'inadequate' inspection](#)

Basingstoke Gazette; 15 December 2018

South Central Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust has lifted its suspension of **SSG UK Specialist Ambulance Service**. This follows the decision in November by the Care Quality Commission to place its ambulance station into special measures until faults were resolved.

[Unnecessary call outs cost North West Ambulance Service over £12m per year](#)

ITV News; 13 December 2018

The **North West Ambulance Service** has launched an appeal asking the public to only call for their help if they really need it. It said that more than one million pounds of public money is wasted every month, totalling £12,855,120 a year.

FIRE

[County Durham and Darlington's fire service hopes to protect frontline services by striking property deal](#)

Northern Echo; 27 December 2018

County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service plans to mitigate the impact of funding cuts by selling land to property developers.

[North Wales fire service 'can't support its running costs'](#)

Daily Post; 24 December 2018

North Wales' councils will have to find an extra £1.7m to fund **North Wales Fire and Rescue Service**.

[Judges and firefighters win pensions court case](#)

FT Adviser; 21 December 2018

A group of judges and firefighters have won a court case against the Government, as changes made to their pension schemes have been considered discriminatory. The Court of Appeal said that the Government had discriminated against the two groups on the grounds of age, race and equal pay in relation to changes to their pension. Comment from the Fire Brigades Union is [here](#). A copy of the ruling is in the 'New Cases' section of this Alert.

[Fire service cuts of £2.4 million to go ahead](#)

Telegraph and Argus; 19 December 2018


Plans to cut £2.4m from **West Yorkshire Fire Service's** budget have been approved.

[Essex fire plan labelled 'absolute madness' by FBU](#)

BBC News; 17 December 2018

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An overhaul of the **Essex Fire and Rescue Service** has been labelled “absolute madness” by the Fire Brigades' Union. It warned that many aspects, such as clearing road accidents and offering general safety advice, were being “offloaded” on to the fire service.

[Future of Hertfordshire's fire service is revealed](#)

Hertfordshire Mercury; 17 December 2018

A vision for the future of **Hertfordshire's Fire and Rescue Service** has been unveiled to the general public for consultation. The draft of the Integrated Risk Management Plan includes proposals that could replace traditional fire engines with 'rapid' or 'intermediate' response vehicles, reduce crew sizes and “actively seek opportunities” to relocate fire stations.

[Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services inspections](#)

[‘Swift and sustained action’ needed by fire and rescue services](#)

HMICFRS; 20 December 2018

According to a report by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS), most fire and rescue services are “good” at keeping the public safe from fire and other emergencies. However, there are concerns about how services carry out protection duties and the environment in which their staff operate. In this first tranche, HMICFRS inspected 14 fire and rescue services: **Bedfordshire; Cambridgeshire; Cheshire; Cornwall; Hampshire; Hereford and Worcester; Hertfordshire; Isles of Scilly; Isle of Wight; Lancashire; Lincolnshire; Surrey; and Warwickshire**. The full press release and summaries of the findings for each fire service is [here](#).

[Fire service is effective and efficient but ...](#)

Sleaford Standard; 6 January 2019

Lincolnshire and Fire and Rescue Service has been praised by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services for how effective and efficient it is - but was found lacking in terms of how well it looks after its employees.

[Cheshire Fire Service rated “good”, according to review](#)

Nantwich News; 30 December 2018

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) has rated **Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service** as “good” in most areas. Further details are in the HMICFRS report above.

[Fire service good at keeping people safe but requires some improvement](#)

Hereford Times; 22 December 2018

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) has rated **Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service** as is “good” at keeping residents safe, but needs to improve its efficiencies and how it looks after its employees. Further details are in the HMICFRS report above.

[Fire service praised by inspectors](#)

Lancashire Telegraph; 21 December 2018

Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service was the only fire and rescue service to be given an ‘outstanding’ rating in any category following an inspection Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS). Further details are in the HMICFRS report above.

[Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service 'requires improvement'](#)

BBC News; 20 December 2018

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) has said that **Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service** needs to improve in three main areas. Further details are in the HMICFRS report above.

[New report reveals 'culture of bullying' within Hampshire fire service](#)

Southern Daily Echo; 20 December 2018


Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) has criticised **Hampshire's Fire and Rescue Service** for a “culture of bullying” from management towards staff. Further details are in the HMICFRS report above.

[Isle of Wight fire service judged to be “effective and efficient”](#)

Island Echo; 20 December 2018

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Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) has said that the **Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service** is 'good' at keeping people safe, but management styles have the potential to be 'bullying' and staff face lengthy delays in getting support following traumatic incidents. Further details are in the HMICFRS report above.

POLICE

Legal news

[Undercover officer won't face prosecution over relationship](#)

BBC News; 14 December 2018

An environmental campaigner who says she was tricked into a sexual relationship with a former undercover police officer has said she is appalled that a legal attempt to force his prosecution has failed. The woman was in a relationship for six months with former DC Jim Boyling and claimed that she would not have consented to sex had she known his true identity. In a judgement, the Lord Chief Justice Lord Burnett said that while the High Court recognised the strength of the woman's feelings that she had been tricked, the Court could not intervene in the Crown Prosecution Service's decision not to charge Mr Boyling with a crime. A copy of the ruling is in the 'New Cases' section of this Alert.

Employment issues

[Hundreds of sexual harassment claims against male police officers](#)

Guardian; 13 December 2018

Freedom of information data obtained by the Guardian has revealed that more than half of British police forces received almost 450 complaints from staff and members of the public about sexual harassment. However, only a fraction of the cases led to dismissal, with a number of cases simply resulting in an officer resigning or retiring. The true number of complaints is likely to be higher, as only 28 out of 43 police forces provided data.

New appointments

[Chief Constable appointment](#)

Civil Nuclear Police Authority

Deputy Chief Constable Simon Chesterman will take over the role of Chief Constable of the **Civil Nuclear Police Authority** from Mike Griffiths in April 2019.

[New deputy chief for Suffolk police](#)

East Anglian Daily Times; 14 December 2018

Assistant Chief Constable Rachel Kearton is to be promoted to the post of Deputy Chief Constable at **Suffolk Constabulary**.

[Two new Assistant Commissioners appointed](#)

Metropolitan Police; 13 December 2018

The **Metropolitan Police** has appointed two new Assistant Commissioners, Nick Ephgrave and Mark Simmons. Nick Ephgrave is the Chief Constable of **Surrey Police**, and Mark Simmons is currently Deputy Assistant Commissioner and Head of Local Policing.

Misconduct

[Avon and Somerset Detective Sergeant dismissed for giving false evidence in court](#)

Independent Office for Police Conduct; 13 December 2018

An **Avon and Somerset Police** Detective Sergeant has been dismissed for gross misconduct after an investigation into an allegation that he provided false evidence in court.

[Four Met Police officers cleared of misconduct after 7-Year investigation](#)

Emergency Services News; 13 December 2018

Four **Metropolitan Police** officers have been cleared of allegations of misconduct during the detention of a man.

Inquests and investigations

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IOPC investigations

[Kingsley Burrell family call for inquiry after sacking of police officer](#)

Guardian; 18 December 2018

The family of Kingsley Burrell, who died in hospital in 2011 after being forcibly detained by **West Midlands Police** officers, have renewed their calls for a public inquiry after one of the officers involved was sacked for lying about the events leading to the death, as well as failing in his duty of care. Full details are [here](#) (IOPC).

[British Transport Police personnel under investigation over allegations of possible irregularities](#)

Independent Office for Police Conduct; 17 December 2018

The **British Transport Police** has referred the conduct of a senior civilian staff member to the IOPC regarding allegations of fraud and data protection act offences linked to a recruitment process.

Other investigations/Inquests

[UK crime agency examining leaks in insider trading investigation](#)

Reuters; 27 December 2018

The **National Crime Agency** is examining accusations that an employee leaked information to a suspect for money, undermining a probe into a network of insider trading suspects in Europe.

[Met gangs matrix may be discriminatory, review finds](#)

Guardian; 21 December 2018

The gangs matrix database operated by the **Metropolitan Police** has been found to be potentially discriminatory against black people. A review for the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, found that too many black people were included compared with their likelihood of offending or their chances of being a victim. The Force has been ordered to reform the matrix, which contains the names and details of thousands of people whom it says pose a risk of committing gang violence or being victims and has been given a year to do so.

[Police data sharing for immigration purposes: a super-complaint](#)

College of Policing, HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services, and the Independent Office for Police Conduct; 20 December 2018

A super-complaint submitted jointly by Liberty and Southall Black Sisters calls for an investigation into the policies and practices of all police forces in England and Wales, with respect to the treatment of victims of crime who have insecure immigration status, with particular focus on the passing on of their data to the Home Office, for the purpose of immigration enforcement and an entrenched culture of prioritising immigration control over public safety and fair treatment of victims. Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary and senior representatives from the IOPC and the College of Policing will now assess the super-complaint to determine its eligibility for consideration.

[Police trawls of rape victims' private data to be investigated](#)

Guardian; 20 December 2018

The Information Commissioner's Office has announced an inquiry into whether privacy or data protection regulations are being routinely breached in the criminal justice system. The investigation follows concerns raised by the campaign group Big Brother Watch and other groups about the way private material is collected, analysed and disclosed to police detectives, prosecutors and defence lawyers.

[Alexander Perepilichnyy: The questions raised by Russian whistleblower inquest](#)

BBC News; 19 December 2018

Surrey Police has accepted "some organisational failings were made in the early stages" of its investigation into the controversial death of a Russian multi-millionaire.

[The Macpherson Report: Twenty Years On inquiry](#)

House of Commons Home Affairs Committee; 12 December 2018

The Home Affairs Committee has launched an inquiry to examine progress in the 20 years since the Macpherson report was published. Sir William Macpherson's report of the Stephen Lawrence inquiry examined the **Metropolitan Police's** response to, and investigation of, his murder in 1993 and made 70 recommendations. Terms of reference have been published. Comments are required by 16 January 2019.

Finance and funding

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[England and Wales police funding rise of £970m 'not enough'](#)

Guardian; 13 December 2018

The Government has announced an additional £970m in police funding for 2019 - but has faced criticism that the amount is too low and risks further falls in officer numbers. The government press release is [here](#).

Performance

[Most police forces fail to meet fingerprint evidence standards](#)

Guardian; 7 January 2019

The Government's forensic science regulator has warned that less than 10 per cent of police forces have met basic quality standards for fingerprint evidence. All UK forces were ordered three years ago to ensure their laboratories met international standards for analysing prints found at crime scenes.

[Police use of force statistics, England and Wales: April 2017 to March 2018](#)

Home Office; 13 December 2018

Statistics on incidents where police officers use force, including type of force, reason, outcome, injuries, and subject information (such as age, gender). The statistics within this release cover incidents in England and Wales between 1 April 2017 and 31 March 2018.

Policy and regulation

[Police to get new powers to tackle illegal drone use](#)

BBC News; 7 January 2019

The police are to be given new powers to land, seize and search drones to help combat their illegal use. New legislation will give police additional powers to land drones and require users to produce the appropriate documentation. The Government's response to the consultation on the issue is [here](#).

[Provisional Police Grant Report \(England and Wales\) 2019/20](#)

Home Office; 13 December 2018

A Home Office consultation seeks views on a provisional report setting out the aggregate amount of grants proposed for the police in England and Wales for 2019-20. It also includes the proposed amount of grant for each local policing body. Comments are required by 10 January 2019.

Crime

[Elected police chiefs accused of ignoring organised crime](#)

Times; 8 January 2018

The head of the **National Crime Agency**, Lynne Owens, has warned that police and crime commissioners are concentrating efforts and resources on offences such as speeding and theft rather than focusing on serious organised crime. Arguing that a refocus is needed due to a "real risk" that gangsters are escaping justice, Ms Owens is calling for new powers to require elected police chiefs to allocate a specific number of officers and resources to major crime threats. She said that a focus on lower-lever crime was understandable, given limited resources, but that the impacts of more serious crime, such as child abuse or fraud, are greater.

['Minority Report' plan to spot criminals condemned](#)

Times; 7 January 2018

Experts have warned that police plans to predict and prevent future crimes by deploying controversial Minority Report-style technology to harvest data on millions of people are "ethically unacceptable". The National Analytics Solution will use artificial intelligence to analyse police data and predict who will commit crimes such as stabbings. In future it could be widened to trawl social media posts, medical records and school and council records.

[Chief constable films thugs spitting at officers to secure backing for spit hoods](#)

Daily Telegraph; 6 January 2018


Andy Marsh, Chief Constable of **Avon and Somerset Police**, has won public support to use spit hoods on suspects. He said that releasing footage from Body Worn Videos, which shows criminals repeatedly spitting at officers, highlighted the need for the hoods.

[University of Northampton: Reported crime reaches six-year high](#)

BBC News; 27 December 2018

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The University of Northampton is spending £774,027 on a team of **Northamptonshire Police** officers over the next three academic years to patrol its campus following a huge rise in crime levels. UPDATE: *The Times* has said that data obtained under freedom of information laws has revealed that 27 universities are paying for police officers to protect students from criminals. (Times; 5 January 2018). Click [here](#).

[Force trials live facial recognition technology](#)

Police professional; 17 December 2018

The **Metropolitan Police Service** has carried out a two-day live trial of facial recognition technology in targeted areas of central London. The Force confirmed that “as with all previous deployments, the technology will be used overtly with a clear uniformed presence and information leaflets will be disseminated to the public”.

NEW CASES

[Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice v McCloud \[2018\] EWCA Civ 2844](#)

Court of Appeal

20 December 2018

Successful appeals and cross-appeals were brought against decisions of the Employment Appeal Tribunal concerning whether transitional provisions affecting the pensions of judges and **firefighters** discriminated against younger judges and firefighters on age grounds.

[Gerber v Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis \[2018\] EWHC 3549 \(QB\)](#)

High Court

19 December 2018

A man unsuccessfully claimed that he was assaulted and falsely imprisoned by police.

[R. \(on the application of Monica\) v DPP \[2018\] EWHC 3508 \(Admin\)](#)

High Court

14 December 2018

A member of a group under police surveillance who had entered into a sexual relationship with an undercover police officer was unable to establish that her lack of knowledge as to the officer's true identity vitiated her consent to sexual relations within the meaning of the *Sexual Offences Act 2003*. There was no justification for extending the common law position as contended for by the claimant, namely that the matter to which the deception related had to be sufficiently serious in objective terms as to be capable of being regarded as relevant to a woman's decision-making and that, subjectively, the deception went to a matter which the woman regarded as critical or fundamental to her decision-making.

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