

Emergency Services News Roundup

15 November 2018 – 28 November 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

[Consultation outcome: Enabling police and crime commissioners to sit and vote on combined fire and rescue authorities](#)

Home Office; 26 November 2018

A Home Office document responds to the independent inquiry into the objections of two combined fire and rescue authorities - **Cleveland Fire and Rescue Authority** and **Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority** - who disagreed with the Government's proposal to amend their combination schemes to enable a Police and Crime Commissioner to request to sit on the Fire and Rescue Authority with voting rights. The Government, having carefully considered the outcome of the inquiry, has decided to insert the relevant enabling provisions to both combination schemes, in addition to amendments to the combination schemes of Fire and Rescue Authorities who were supportive of the proposal. The covering letter is [here](#).

[Norfolk police commissioner Lorne Green drops fire service takeover](#)

BBC News; 23 November 2018

Norfolk Police and Crime Commissioner has dropped his proposal to take over the running of **Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service** for the time being. Norfolk County Council said that it already had a "collaborative relationship" with police.

[Surrey fire service to remain under county control](#)

Surrey Comet; 23 November 2018


Surrey's Police and Crime Commissioner has decided not to take control of **Surrey Fire and Rescue Service**.

[Have your say on police and crime commissioner role being transferred to West Midlands mayor](#)

Coventry Observer; 20 November 2018

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The **West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner** will consult the public on the proposal to hand the governance of **West Midlands Police** to an elected mayor. The consultation runs until 11 January 2019.

AMBULANCE

[CQC praises ambulance trust after 'continuous improvements' and 'outstanding' paramedics sees ratings recover](#)

National Health Executive; 27 November 2018

The **North West Ambulance Service** has received a 'good' rating after the CQC found "continuous improvement" and "outstanding" work by paramedics.

[West Midlands Ambulance Service alliance with two trusts planned](#)

Express and Star; 26 November 2018

West Midlands Ambulance Service, **South East Coast Ambulance Service** and **South Western Ambulance Service** plan to form an alliance which will see them working closely to "deliver efficiency savings" to invest in front line services.

[East Midlands Ambulance Service delay investigated after man dies](#)

BBC News; 24 November 2018

The family of a man who died after waiting more than an hour for an ambulance believe he might still be alive if it had arrived sooner. **East Midlands Ambulance Service** apologised for the delay and said that it had launched an investigation.

[New Shropshire ambulance system is delayed by two weeks](#)

Shropshire Star; 24 November 2018

A new ambulance-management system for Shropshire, designed to be more resilient at times of high demand, has been pushed back by two weeks for further testing and staff training.

[GPs demand end to 'outrageous' delayed ambulance responses to practices](#)

Pulse; 23 November 2018

GPs have called for an end to the "outrageous" practice by ambulance trusts of delaying emergency responses to practices. They said that patients' lives were being put at risk due to the delays, and warned ambulance services were wrong to believe patients were safe just because a GP was present.

[New partnership 'blue lights' the way for University and Ambulance Service](#)

West Midlands Ambulance Service; 14 November 2018

The University of Wolverhampton and **West Midlands Ambulance Service** have joined forces to create the UK's first university-ambulance trust. The two organisations will work together on collaborative projects, research, sharing clinical expertise, joint curriculum development and staff exchanges.

FIRE

[Tyne and Wear fire service cuts are a 'risk to the public' - MP to warn Commons](#)

Chronicle Live; 27 November 2018

A parliamentary debate will take place on controversial proposals for cuts at **Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service**.

[Devon and Somerset Fire Authority chair 'smelled of alcohol'](#)

BBC News; 27 November 2018

A disciplinary hearing has heard that Mark Healey, a boss at **Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority**, sent a threatening email, arrived at work smelling strongly of alcohol and disclosed confidential information to a third party. He has been told to "write a meaningful letter of apology" to the complainant and the Fire Authority for his conduct.

[Sacked Essex chief fire officer lodges pension complaint](#)

BBC News; 24 November 2018

Essex Fire and Rescue Service is facing fresh legal action from its former Chief Officer, David Johnson, in a dispute over his pension arrangements. Mr Johnson, who was dismissed in April 2017, has filed a formal complaint with the Pensions Ombudsman over alleged negligence regarding his ill-health pension.

[Herts Fire and Rescue Service proposes cutting number of firefighters on engines](#)

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Watford Observer; 22 November 2018

A new document drawn up by the **Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service** suggests that the crews on traditional fire engines could be cut from five, to four. The move is part of a package of proposals in the draft Integrated Risk Management Plan, presented to the Hertfordshire County Council's community safety and waste management cabinet panel. The proposals also include plans to trial the replacement of some fire engines with 4x4 type 'rapid response' vehicles and others with 'intermediate' response vehicles.

[North Yorkshire Fire Service used cash reserves to function](#)

BBC News; 20 November 2018

A report has found that **North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue** faces "very serious challenges" and "tough decisions" had to be made after relying on cash reserves to plug a financial gap.

[Reform of Fire and Rescue Authorities in Wales: Consultation on reform of the Fire and Rescue Authorities in Wales' governance and funding arrangements](#)

Welsh Government; 13 November 2018

A Welsh Government consultation seeks views on proposals to reform how fire and rescue authorities are governed and funded. Comments must be made by 5 February 2019.

POLICE

Legal news

[Police appealing against Barrymore wrongful arrest pay-out ruling](#)

ITV News; 20 November 2018

Essex Police has gone to the Court of Appeal to challenge a High Court finding that entertainer Michael Barrymore is entitled to "more than nominal" damages over the wrongful arrest he says destroyed his career. The Force had argued that he should only receive a nominal pay-out.

[Man charged under new emergency worker assault law](#)

Police Oracle; 19 November 2018

A man has become the first person to be charged under the new *Assaults on Emergency Workers (Offences) Act 2018*, which helps protect emergency workers from being attacked. He is to appear at Basildon Magistrates' Court on 19 November 2018 after he allegedly assaulted four police officers and a nurse in Essex.

[Police officers launch legal challenge against chief constable over misconduct proceedings raised following recovery of private "WhatsApp" messages](#)

Scottish Legal News; 14 November 2018

A group of 10 police officers against whom misconduct proceedings were raised after a detective investigating allegations of sexual offences against another constable came across a series of "WhatsApp" group chat messages have launched a legal challenge against the Chief Constable of **Police Scotland**. They are seeking court orders to the effect that the use of texts sent via the electronic private messaging system for the purpose of bringing misconduct proceedings over allegations of non-criminal behaviour is incompatible with their rights to respect for their private and family life under the European Convention on Human Rights.

Collaborations

[Tri-force alliance collapses after discussions 'ended without agreement'](#)

Police Professional; 22 November 2018

Talks to secure the future of the Tri Force Specialist Operations alliance between the **Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Avon and Somerset** police forces have ended without agreement. The collaboration, which has been in place since 2012, was seen as a way of providing roads policing, armed response and police dogs "more efficiently by sharing resources". The full joint statement is [here](#).

Employment issues

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[Force wanted 300 volunteer PCSOs but just five sign up](#)

Police Oracle; 23 November 2018

Kent Police - the first police force in the country to give volunteers police community support officer (PCSO) powers - has recruited only five volunteers against its aspirational total of 300.

[Met police launch drive to balance the gender ranks](#)

Guardian; 22 November 2018

The **Metropolitan Police Commissioner** Cressida Dick has said that she wants half of London's officers to be women. Currently only one in four officers, 27 per cent, are female.

[College of Policing: Fourth entry route would create two-tier system](#)

Police Professional; 22 November 2018

The **College of Policing** has rejected suggestions for a fourth entry route to be added to the Police Education Qualifications Framework (PEQF), but more police and crime commissioners have added their voices calling for amendments to the reforms.

[Chief proposes carrying on with a degree-free route into policing](#)

Police Oracle; 21 November 2018

Senior officers at **Lincolnshire Police** who believe the Force will be adversely affected by moves to introduce degree-based entry routes into policing have contacted police chiefs and PCCs to see if qualification plans can be delayed.

[New direct entry inspector joins Met, despite review of scheme](#)

Police Oracle; 17 November 2018

A new direct entry inspector is starting at the **Metropolitan Police** this month, despite an ongoing review of whether recruitment through the method has been successful. The officer was actually recruited last year, but delayed their start date.

[North Yorkshire police commissioner Julia Mulligan grilled by panel](#)

York Press; 15 November 2018

North Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner Julia Mulligan, who has been found to have displayed "bullying behaviour" towards her staff, is facing two further complaints from former members of staff about alleged bullying.

New appointments

[Wiltshire Police permanent chief constable candidate announced](#)

BBC News; 26 November 2018

Kier Pritchard is to be put forward to be the permanent chief constable of **Wiltshire Police**.

[New deputy chief constable Jo Shiner](#)

Sussex Police; 19 November 2018

Jo Shiner has joined **Sussex Police** as Deputy Chief Constable. She moves from **Kent Police**, where she has worked as Assistant Chief Constable.

Misconduct

[Homeless man died waiting for his dog after being kicked out of police station](#)

Metro; 16 November 2018

A **Metropolitan Police** officer has been dismissed for gross misconduct after a homeless man died of hypothermia when the officer forcibly ejected him from a police station, forcing him to wait on the streets for his dog to be released from a police kennel.

[Sacked: Policeman who assaulted Westfield Stratford City seller in drunken attack](#)

Newham Recorder; 15 November 2018

A **Metropolitan Police** officer who assaulted a seller after trying to steal a pair of headphones while drunk has been sacked for gross misconduct

Inquests and investigations

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[Police use of tights to cover cars' blue lights prompts safety fears](#)

Guardian; 22 November 2018

Police officers have been using nylon tights to cover up discreet blue lights fitted on unmarked cars to make it harder for members of the public to spot them when they are switched off. However, the **Independent Office for Police Conduct** has called for national guidelines on how to hide the blue lights when not in use after a crash involving a **North Wales Police** in an unmarked car in which tights had been used. Full details are [here](#) (IOPC). **UPDATE:** National guidance on covering emergency blue lights on unmarked police cars has been agreed to avoid forces using “ad hoc solutions” that could be unsafe. Click [here](#) (IOPC).

[Officer's use of force on a professional photographer during a Labour Party rally was not proportionate a misconduct panel finds](#)

Independent Office for Police Conduct; 20 November 2018

The **Independent Office for Police Conduct** has found that a close protection **Metropolitan Police** officer used “disproportionate” force on a photojournalist at a Labour Party rally.

[ICO finds Metropolitan Police Service's Gangs Matrix breached data protection laws](#)

ICO; 16 November 2018

An investigation by the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) has found that the **Metropolitan Police's** list of gang suspects breached data protection laws.

[Cheshire Police changes “vetting process” after rapist Naude recruited despite previous allegations](#)

Nantwich News; 15 November 2018

It has emerged that PC Ian Naude, who has been convicted of raping a 13-year-old girl, was already being investigated for sex offences when he became a student officer at **Cheshire Constabulary** in April 2017. However, the **Independent Office for Police Conduct** cleared individuals working for Cheshire Constabulary over recruiting Naude. The Force has now changed its vetting process for new recruits.

Finance and funding

[PCC wins almost £4.6 million extra for force to fight serious violence](#)

Police Professional; 23 November 2018

The **Police and Crime Commissioner for Bedfordshire** has won her bid for extra funding to “continue that battle” against organised crime. The special grant application was assessed by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) and it found the proposed costs to be “reasonable and proportionate”. The Home Office press release is [here](#).

[Five police leaders urge chancellor to urgently raise funding](#)

Guardian; 22 November 2018

Elected leaders overseeing five of Britain's biggest police forces - the **Metropolitan Police, West Midlands, Greater Manchester, West Yorkshire** and **Merseyside** - have increased pressure on the Government to increase funding, arguing that cuts have contributed to a rise in violent crime. In a letter to Chancellor Philip Hammond, the politicians said the link between spending cuts and an increase in crime has been acknowledged by two Commons select committees and the Home Office's own research.

[Performance pay and short-term cyber experts 'should be part of modernising the police'](#)

Daily Telegraph; 19 November 2018

Mike Cunningham, head of the **College of Policing**, has proposed plans to modernise the police by linking pay to performance, where pay had been based on length of service, and recruiting outside experts on short-term contracts. He also stated that police authorities were also discussing opening up senior ranks to outsiders, better representing ethnic minority and female officers and offering graduates and school-leavers alternative routes into the service including new apprenticeships.

Contracts


[NEP announces delivery partners for national cyber security and cloud services](#)

Police Professional; 27 November 2018

Deloitte and BT have been awarded contracts to help police and crime commissioners “buy, manage and exploit ICT more effectively”. The deal to supply the National Enabling Programmes (NEP) will mean that forces in England and Wales will be able to access secure, cloud-based IT services and national standards that enable new digital ways of working and collaborating.

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Performance

'Mixed concerns' in Merseyside Police custody report

BBC News; 15 November 2018

The treatment of detainees by **Merseyside Police** raised “a mix of positive aspects and some key concerns” during an inspection by HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS). Inspectors said that the Force had failed to comply with legal “codes of practice” in several areas and these needed to be “addressed urgently”. However, the report also praised the Force's reluctance to use force. The full report is [here](#) (HMICFRS).

Policy and regulation

IOPC launches first three year plan to improve public confidence in policing

Independent Office for Police Conduct; 27 November 2018

The **Independent Office for Police Conduct** has made a commitment to improve public confidence in policing by ensuring the police are accountable for their actions and lessons are learned. It has published a three-year Strategic Plan, which details the priorities for the organisation.

Met police driving cars into thieves on mopeds in crime crackdown

Guardian; 23 November 2018

The **Metropolitan Police** has introduced a policy of deliberately running down moped-riding muggers during high-speed chases and have knocked suspects off mopeds or scooters 63 times in 2018, stating that none of the suspects had been seriously hurt and no complaints had been made. Legal experts have warned that the police were opening themselves to civil and even criminal claims over disproportionate use of force.

Northamptonshire Police to 'phase out' baseball caps

BBC News; 16 November 2018

Nick Adderley, the Chief Constable **Northamptonshire Police**, has said that the Force's baseball caps will be phased out as they do not “portray the right image” of police officers.

Creating a 'zero tolerance' culture for disclosure failings across the criminal justice system

Attorney General's Office and Home Office; 15 November 2018

The Attorney General, Geoffrey Cox QC MP, has published the Government's Review of the efficiency and effectiveness of disclosure in the criminal justice system. The Review concluded that to enable lasting change, there must be a ‘zero tolerance’ culture for disclosure failings across the police and the Crown Prosecution Service. A copy of the Review is [here](#).

Consultation on new statutory guidance

IOPC; 15 November 2018

The **Independent Office for Police Conduct** has opened a consultation on new statutory guidance on the police complaints system. The new guidance is being produced to support the reforms made to the police complaints system, which are expected to launch next year, as a result of the *Policing and Crime Act 2017*.

Mental health

Policing and Mental Health - Picking up the pieces

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Service; 27 November 2018

A report by **Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Service** has argued that police officers are increasingly being used as the service of default in responding to people with mental health problems, placing an “intolerable burden” on staff at a time of escalating knife crime and rising domestic violence. Figures from 22 of the 44 forces in England and Wales showed that there were 318,000 incidents reported between 2016 and 2018, and the **Metropolitan Police** received a call about mental health every four minutes and sent an officer to respond to such a call every 12 minutes. Full details are [here](#).

Crime

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[Kent Police quietly end computer algorithm predictive policing contract with US company PredPol](#)

Kent Messenger; 27 November 2018

Kent Police, the first force in the UK to use computer algorithms to predict crime, has ended the programme after five years. The system used historical data and an algorithm to assist law enforcement in identifying public spaces that would benefit from patrols. The Force is now evaluating its options for predictive policing.

[Third of London crimes investigated on the phone or internet, Met admits](#)

Evening Standard; 20 November 2018

The **Metropolitan Police** has said that more than a third of all crimes reported to police in London are now only being investigated online or over the phone.

[Front-line City of London police to put spit guards on violent suspects - at odds with the Met](#)

Evening Standard; 15 November 2018

The **City of London Police** has authorised front-line officers to use spit guards during the detention of violent suspects.

NEW LEGISLATION

[Police \(Amendment\) Regulations 2018](#)

In Force: 22 February 2019

These Regulations make various amendments to the *Police Regulations 2003*. Regulation 4 removes the requirement that former officers must re-join a police force within five years if they wish to retain their previous rank; instead, former officers may now re-join a force even if their previous service ended more than five years previously, and they may be appointed to a rank decided by the chief officer making the appointment. Regulations 5 to 8 make consequential amendments.

NEW CASES

[R \(on the application of Segalov\) v Chief Constable of Sussex Police and another \[2018\] EWHC 3187 \(Admin\)](#)

Queen's Bench Division (Divisional Court)

23 November 2018

The process by which the claimant journalist had been refused press accreditation to attend the Labour Party conference in September 2017 by **Sussex Police** had been unlawful and that decision had to be quashed. However, the Divisional Court dismissed the Claimant's application for judicial review against the second defendant, Chief Constable of **Greater Manchester Police**.

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



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