



Emergency Services News Roundup

29 November 2018 – 12 December 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

[PCC: Let's go head-to-head for control of West Midlands policing](#)

Police Oracle; 11 December 2018

The **West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner** is calling for a debate on the proposed transfer of policing powers to the West Midlands Combined Authority, which is due to take place in 2020.

[Ambulance staff join fire crews as new Lancaster community hub is completed](#)

Lancaster Guardian; 11 December 2018

North West Ambulance Service staff have moved into Lancaster's new joint fire and ambulance station, which it will share with Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service, after the final phase of work on the building was completed. The new Community Fire and Ambulance Station will provide a base for both fire and ambulance crews in the city.

AMBULANCE

[South Central Ambulance Service one of two trusts to hit NHS targets](#)

The Herald; 12 December 2018

According to new NHS figures, **South Central Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust** met all categories of emergency 999 calls received between April and October 2018.

[Ambulance service adds more vehicles to help respond to non-emergency calls](#)

Crawley News 24; 6 December 2018

South East Coast Ambulance Service has invested in 30 additional vehicles for lower priority calls.

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[New staff for ambulance service to tackle 10 hour wait for some patients](#)

Nottingham Post; 5 December 2018

More than 100 new staff have joined **East Midlands Ambulance Service** to help improve waiting times for patients needing urgent care in hospital.

[Ambulance firm suspended by region's ambulance service after 'inadequate' rating](#)

Southern Daily Echo; 30 November 2018

South Central Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust has suspended its usage of **SSG UK Specialist Ambulance Service**, a private firm, after the company was rated 'inadequate' by the Care Quality Commission.

[Health and Social Care Secretary commits £12 million to get South East Coast ambulances back on the road more quickly](#)

Department of Health and Social Care; 29 November 2018

Health and Social Care Secretary Matt Hancock has announced funding of £12m to support paramedics. The **South East Coast Ambulance Service** will benefit from £6.52m for Medway, £5.52m for Brighton and £0.24m for Worthing. These 'make ready' hubs will allow ambulance trusts to improve turnaround times for their ambulance fleets by using specialist staff and facilities to quickly restock, refuel and clean ambulances.

FIRE

[Surrey Fire & Rescue Service to recruit 44 new firefighters by March](#)

Get Surrey; 12 December 2018

Surrey Fire & Rescue Service is expected to recruit more than 40 new firefighters by March 2019 - a 10 per cent increase on the current workforce across the county.

[Grenfell survivors say fire brigade chief is not fit for office](#)

Guardian; 10 December 2018

Survivors of the Grenfell Tower disaster have said the Commissioner of the **London Fire Brigade**, Dany Cotton, is not fit for office, claiming that her response to "dreadful failings" that have emerged since the fire "defies belief".

[Fire service cuts: Consultation extended on cost-cutting plans which could see stations downgraded](#)

Sunderland Echo; 10 December 2018

Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority (TWFA) has agreed to extend a public consultation on more than £3m of proposed cuts. From next year, TWFA expects it will have lost almost a fifth of its budget - £11.3 million - since 2010.

[Lib Dems 'call in' draft Integrated Risk Management Plan for Herts Fire Service](#)

Watford Observer; 5 December 2018

Liberal Democrat councillors have asked that the draft Integrated Risk Management Plan be "called in" before a 12-week public consultation on the future of **Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service** starts on 28 December. The draft proposals - which include replacing traditional fire engines with "rapid" or "intermediate" response vehicles, reducing crew sizes and looking at the relocation of fire stations - have already been backed by the county council's Cabinet.

[Proposals to cut West Sussex Fire Service Operations budget 'unsustainable and unsafe'](#)

Crawley Observer; 4 December 2018

Proposals to cut £600,000 from the **West Sussex Fire Service** Operations budget have been described as 'unsustainable and unsafe' by the Fire Brigades Union. Staff will be consulted on the plans between 13 December 2018 and 10 January 2019.

[Vote of no confidence in East Sussex fire service leadership](#)

Rye and Battle Observer; 3 December 2018

East Sussex Fire Brigades Union has unanimously passed a vote of no confidence in the senior leadership team of **East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service**. The Union said that its members have continually raised concerns over senior leadership's plans to implement changes that "seek to reduce both public and firefighter safety".

['Uncomfortable reading' as report reveals culture of bullying at fire service](#)

Bristol Post; 30 November 2018

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An independent review has found that bullying is ingrained at the **Avon Fire and Rescue Service** and staff fear for their mental health. The organisation's plan for cultural change is expected to be published early in the New Year.

[New Chief Fire Officer appointed for Gloucestershire](#)

Emergency Services Times; 29 November 2018

Wayne Bowcock has been appointed as **Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service's** new Chief Fire Officer.

POLICE

Legal news

[Michael Barrymore: Police win damages appeal](#)

BBC News; 12 December 2018

Following a Court of Appeal ruling, entertainer Michael Barrymore will receive only nominal damages from **Essex Police** following his unlawful arrest which he claimed had "destroyed his career". Mr Barrymore had claimed more than £2.4m from the Force in relation to his wrongful arrest in 2007 on suspicion of the rape and murder of Stuart Lubbock.

[Metropolitan Police sued over gangs list leak](#)

BBC News; 6 December 2018

A man is suing the **Metropolitan Police** after his name and address appeared on a leaked gangs list. The **Information Commissioner's Office** is carrying out an investigation into Newham Council over the alleged breach, which was first reported in November.

[Met police officer could be charged for ramming moped](#)

BBC News; 4 December 2018

A **Metropolitan Police** officer who knocked a teenager off a moped while employing the new ramming tactic could face criminal charges. The officer could also face a misconduct panel.

[Violent thug becomes first to be jailed for attacking 999 worker under new law](#)

Metro; 29 November 2018

A gardener in Greater Manchester has become the first person to be handed a prison sentence under the *Assaults on Emergency Workers (Offences) Act 2018*, which aims to counter violence against the emergency services, after he bit a police officer on the leg whilst being arrested for attacking his mother after taking drugs. He was sentenced to 12 weeks by Manchester magistrates' court.

[Former postman wrongfully convicted of attempted rape to sue police force over forensic failings](#)

Daily Telegraph; 28 November 2018

'A former postman who was wrongly convicted of attempted rape is suing **West Mercia Police** after it emerged that the force had failed to detect another man's DNA on the victim's clothing.'

[Anthony Grainger shooting: No charges for retired police chief](#)

BBC News; 28 November 2018

The Crown Prosecution Service has decided not to charge the former Assistant Chief Constable of **Greater Manchester Police**, Steven Heywood, with any offences in connection with evidence he gave to a public inquiry into the death of Anthony Grainger. He will face a gross misconduct hearing held by Greater Manchester Police.

Employment issues

[NCA recruiting senior leaders for "cutting edge policing"](#)

Police Professional; 5 December 2018

Numerous positions have been advertised by the **National Crime Agency** (NCA), including four deputy directors posts. Steve Rodhouse, Director General (Operations) at the NCA, has said that the NCA is developing at a fast pace and expects to recruit approximately 800 people in the next year.

[Former Home Office official now a superintendent](#)

Police Oracle; 30th November 2018

A former Home Office civil servant is now a superintendent at **Hertfordshire Constabulary**. He is one of four recruits who started through the Home Office-backed direct entry scheme across forces in England this month.

New appointments

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[BTPA announces new Interim Chief Executive](#)

BTPA 29th October 2018

The **British Transport Police** (BTPA) has appointed Ian Pigden-Bennett as its new Interim Chief Executive Officer.

Misconduct

[Cheshire police chief cleared of misconduct in 'bullying' inquiry](#)

BBC News; 12 December 2018

The Chief Constable of **Cheshire Constabulary**, Simon Byrne, has been cleared of misconduct. He had faced various claims, including bullying.

[Canterbury police sergeant Paul Coughlan acted 'legitimately' in striking violent detainee Reece Cannon](#)

Kent Online; 5 December 2018

A **Kent Police** officer has been cleared of misconduct after he was found to have used “a proportionate and necessary level of force” when he struck a man in a police cell.

[West Yorkshire PC sacked for dodging train fares](#)

BBC News; 4 December 2018

A **West Yorkshire Police** officer has been dismissed for gross misconduct after lying about being undercover in order to avoid paying a train fare.

[Armed royal PC Andrew Daly asked if girl was a virgin](#)

BBC News; 4 December 2018

A conduct panel has said that a Royalty and Specialist Protection police officer, employed by the **Metropolitan Police**, who sent a 16-year-old a series of “sexualised and abusive” texts while he was on duty outside Buckingham Palace should be dismissed.

[Married Newham policeman dismissed without notice over sexually explicit behaviour](#)

Newham Recorder; 28 November 2018

A **Metropolitan Police** officer who made a string of sexually explicit approaches towards colleagues has been dismissed without notice for gross misconduct.

[Staffordshire PC sacked after sharing crash scene footage](#)

BBC News; 27 November 2018

A **Staffordshire Police** officer who shared footage of a fatal crash scene with colleagues has been dismissed for misconduct.

Inquests and investigations

[Deaths in police custody: progress update](#)

Department of Health and Social Care, Home Office, and Ministry of Justice; 12 December 2018

A progress update on implementation of the government response to Dame Elish Angiolini's independent review of deaths and serious incidents in police custody. On 30 October 2017, Dame Elish Angiolini's report of the independent review of deaths and serious incidents in police custody was published, alongside the government's substantive response. As part of its response, the Government commissioned the ministerial council on deaths in custody to play a leading role in considering the most complex of Dame Elish's recommendations. This update sets out progress made in delivering the ministerial board on deaths in custody's work programme.

[Police launch urgent review of child cadet programmes 'being abused by officers for sexual purposes'](#)

Independent; 4 December 2018

The **Independent Office for Police Conduct** (IOPC) is launching an urgent review of volunteer cadet programmes in London and Manchester, amid fears that they are being used by paedophiles to gain access to children. Full details are [here](#) (IOPC)

[Britain's data commissioner launches investigation into UK use of facial recognition](#)

Daily Telegraph; 3 December 2018

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The Information Commissioner has launched a formal investigation into police use of facial recognition technology due to “significant concern” over the legality and effectiveness of the technology, which was used at last year’s Notting Hill Carnival and Remembrance Sunday.

[Adrian McDonald: Police custody death 'due to drugs'](#)

BBC News; 28 November 2018

An inquest has found that a man who died in police custody after being tasered by a **Staffordshire Police** officer was killed by cocaine toxicity and the stress of the incident. The full IOPC report is [here](#).

Finance and funding

[Met police numbers 'will fall dramatically without new funds'](#)

Guardian; 2 December 2018

London Mayor Sadiq Khan has warned that officer numbers in the **Metropolitan Police** will fall to their lowest level since 2002 unless hundreds of millions of pounds in new funding can be secured. A new forecast by the Mayor’s Office for Policing and Crime (Mopac), which is responsible for law enforcement in London, says that the Metropolitan Police still has to find £325m in savings because of government cuts.

[Council tax to rise to boost police](#)

Times; 1 December 2018

Council tax is set to rise by as much as £24 a year for each household in England and Wales as part of an increase of £700m in police funding. This follows warnings from forces on an increase in violent crime and reductions in officer numbers across the UK. **UPDATE:** Labour has warned that the council tax rise would hit the poorest hardest without providing enough extra funding for the police. (Guardian). Click [here](#).

[Funding will be used for police to analyse cyclists' headcam footage](#)

Police Professional; 29 November 2018

The Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Commissioner has welcomed £100,000 funding that will allow forces across the country to better protect cyclists and pedestrians.

[Cleveland's MPs call for fairer funding for policing](#)

Cleveland PCC; 28 November 2018

MPs from Cleveland have written a letter to Home Secretary Sajid Javid, asking for a fairer funding deal for **Cleveland Police**. A copy of the letter is [here](#).

Performance

[Dyfed-Powys in a 'strong position' to improve its crime-recording accuracy, say inspectors](#)

HMICFRS; 5 December 2018

According to a new report published by **HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Service**, inspectors are confident that **Dyfed-Powys Police** can improve its crime-recording practices.

[Effective oversight has positive impact on Gwent Police's crime-recording decisions, inspectors find](#)

HMICFRS; 5 December 2018

According to a new report published by **HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Service**, **Gwent Police's** strong leadership has driven the Force's good progress in its approach to crime recording, although there is still scope for improvement.

Policy and regulation

[Police to stop passing on immigration status of crime victims](#)

Guardian; 7 December 2018

According to a new policy, police will cease to automatically pass information about people suspected of being in the country illegally to deportation authorities if they come forward as victims of crime. The new measures, agreed by the **National Police Chiefs Council**, include a ban on officers checking the police national computer solely to see if someone has leave to remain in the UK

Technology

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[101 'chatbots' set to assist call handlers in Northamptonshire](#)

Police Professional; 4 December 2018

Northamptonshire Police is to introduce a system of fully-automated 'chatbots' to take non-emergency reports from crime victims, record details of offences and provide advice to help cut costs and reduce the heavy workload on call handlers.

Crime

[We are turning tide against violent crime in London, says Met chief](#)

Guardian; 4 December 2018

The **Metropolitan Police** Commissioner, Cressida Dick, has said that the Force has turned the tide against rising violent crime in London.

[Improving the police response to victims of fraud](#)

Police Foundation; 4 December 2018

The UK policing think-tank, the **Police Foundation**, has published new research on improving the police response to victims of fraud. Further comment on the findings is [here](#) (Public Finance)

[Sadiq Khan under pressure to stop Met police's gun patrols plan](#)

Guardian; 30 November 2018

Mayor of London Sadiq Khan has come under pressure from the London Assembly to order **Metropolitan Police** Commissioner, Cressida Dick, to stop plans for officers to patrol residential areas of the city with their guns on show.

[Met police chief rejects calls to boost stop-and-search powers](#)

Guardian; 29 November 2018

The **Metropolitan Police** Commissioner, Cressida Dick, has rejected calls to lower the level of suspicion needed for officers to carry out a stop and search and claimed an increase in the use of the tactic had already cut violent crime.

NEW CASES

Bennett v Chief Constable of Merseyside

Divisional Court

29 November 2018

A district judge had been entitled to make no order for costs against the police after they withdrew a section 298 *Proceeds of Crime Act 2002* cash forfeiture application. The police had acted reasonably and properly in seizing the cash from the appellant, given that it had been found in suspicious circumstances that were sufficient to require an explanation from him even without an active police investigation.

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



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