

# Emergency Services Roundup

12 July 2018 – 25 July 2018

Welcome to the Emergency Services bi-weekly news roundup.

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

#### [Hertfordshire's Fire Brigade Union won't rule out strike action of PCC's plans to take over service](#)

Hertfordshire Mercury; 24 July 2018

The Fire Brigade Union has said that it will “do what is necessary” after criticising plans by the **Hertfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner** to take over control of the fire service. UPDATE: Welwyn Hatfield's MP Grant Shapps has withdrawn his support for the plan. (Welwyn and Hatfield Times; 13 July 2018). Click [here](#).

#### [Plans to allow North Yorkshire Fire to be run by Police a "disaster"](#)

Stray FM; 19 July 2018

North Yorkshire County Council members have expressed dismay at Home Secretary Sajid Javid's decision to allow **North Yorkshire's Police and Crime Commissioner** to control North Yorkshire's fire service, labelling the move “a recipe for disaster”.

#### [PCC launches public consultation over fire governance](#)

Norfolk PCC; 11 July 2018

**Norfolk's Police and Crime Commissioner**, Lorne Green, has launched a consultation to seek public views on whether he should assume the governance of **Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service**. UPDATE: Norfolk County Council has insisted that the fire service is safe under its management and has published its own report detailing why it thinks the current arrangements should remain in place. (Lynn News; 18 July 2018). Click [here](#).


## AMBULANCE

#### [External review praises embattled trust's leadership after CQC criticism of bosses](#)

Health Service Journal; 23 July 2018

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An external review of the **East of England Ambulance Services NHS Trust's** leadership has concluded that its bosses showed "cohesive leadership" and had a "clear vision". The Deloitte review also said that the Trust's Chief Executive Robert Morton had been described by some staff as "visionary, supportive and compassionate". The review contrasts with a CQC report, which raised concerns about the leadership of the trust.

#### [Ambulance staff to hold 12-hour strike in ongoing pay dispute](#)

Stoke on Trent Live; 20 July 2018

**North West Ambulance Service** staff are to stage a 12-hour strike as part of an on-going pay dispute.

#### [Multi-million pound bid to modernise outdated ambulance stations](#)

Eastern Daily Press; 13 July 2018

The **East of England Ambulance Services NHS Trust** has revealed plans to overhaul several of its ambulance stations.

## FIRE

#### [Fire service not included in public sector pay boost but proposals expected imminently](#)

Fire Brigades Union; 24 July 2018

Pay proposals for firefighters are expected imminently. Firefighters and emergency control staff were not included in the recent pay review for various public sector workers, as the Fire Brigades Union negotiates directly with fire service employers through the National Joint Council for Local Authority Fire and Rescue Services.

#### [Greater Manchester Fire Service to get 'new beginning'](#)

BBC News; 24 July 2018

A new chief fire officer has been appointed for **Greater Manchester Fire Service** amid a raft of changes to the area's fire service following the Kerslake Report, which criticised the fire service's response after the Manchester Arena attack in May 2017.

## POLICE

### Legal news

#### [Police facial recognition system faces legal challenge](#)

BBC News; 24 July 2018

A legal challenge against the use of automatic facial recognition technology by police has been launched by Big Brother Watch, a civil liberties group. Big Brother Watch has argued that automatic facial recognition breaches the rights of individuals under the *Human Rights Act*, but the **Metropolitan Police** has said that the technology will help to protect Londoners. The system is being piloted in London, and by three other police forces: **Humberside**, **South Wales**, and **Leicestershire**.

#### [Attack victim Paul Kohler loses police stations battle](#)

BBC News; 20 July 2018

Paul Kohler, a victim of a violent assault, has failed to persuade the High Court to prevent half of London's police station front counters from being closed. However, the Court ruled that **Wimbledon** police station should not be closed. London Mayor Sadiq Khan's Office for Policing and Crime said that it would reconsider the closure of Wimbledon station in line with the judges' ruling. A copy of the ruling is [here](#).

### Employment issues and appointments

#### [Bedfordshire to launch first force-wide wellbeing assessment](#)

Police Professional; 20 July 2018

**Bedfordshire's Police and Crime Commissioner** plans to use information gathered from a new health screening service to compile a summary of the entire force's wellbeing. Confidential information gathered from these appointments will help to improve the Force's understanding of its officers' wellbeing, enabling targeted support for those in the most challenging roles.

#### [Officer numbers drop again as staff levels rise](#)

Police Professional; 19 July 2018

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Police officer numbers for the year to 31 March 2018 fell by 738 in England and Wales, bringing levels down to just 122,404 – click [here](#) for details (Home Office). The full statistics are [here](#) (Home Office).

#### [Mark Burns-Williamson elected as the new APCC Chair](#)

Police Professional; 18 July 2018

The **Association of Police and Crime Commissioners** has elected Mark Burns-Williamson to lead the organisation for the next 12 months.

#### [Maternity support win for Federation](#)

Police Federation; 17 July 2018

The Police Federation has successfully challenged provisions of the *Police Pension Schemes and Additional Voluntary Contributions Amendment (England and Wales) Regulations 2018*, which it claimed unfairly disadvantaged some police officers.

#### [Suffolk Police plan to cut PCSO numbers in half](#)

ITV News; 17 July 2018

**Suffolk Police** is planning to cut the number of police community support officers by nearly half, as part of a restructuring proposal.

### **Misconduct**

#### [Sussex Police officers receive written warning following IOPC directed hearing](#)

Independent Office for Police Conduct; 24 July 2018

Two police constables with **Sussex Police** have received written warnings after being found to have committed misconduct after arresting a man on suspicion of being drunk and disorderly.

#### [Officer axed for unwanted Facebook messages to 'at risk' woman](#)

Police Oracle; 17 July 2018

A **Kent Police** officer was sacked for misconduct after making advances via Facebook to a suicidal woman, who was driven to self-harm by his unwanted attention.

#### [Watchdog doesn't keep track of directed misconduct hearing results](#)

Police Oracle; 16 July 2018

*Police Oracle* has revealed that the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) does not keep track of whether the hearings it compels police forces to hold ever find against officers. This follows a request made by *Police Oracle* for data on how many gross misconduct proceedings the IOPC has directed police forces to hold in the last five years and what the results were. In response, an IOPC spokesman said that it was not “judge and jury on matters of misconduct” and that its role is to “establish whether an officer has ‘a case to answer’”.

### **Inquests and investigations**

#### [Metropolitan police's anti-corruption unit faces investigation](#)

Guardian; 22 July 2018

The **Metropolitan Police's** anti-corruption unit is facing an investigation over claims of “serious corruption and malpractice” within its ranks. The Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) said that the claims related to the Force's Directorate of Professional Standards and concern allegations of the Force interfering in investigations, racism and ‘turning a blind eye’ to wrongdoing. One officer is also under criminal investigation, and the IOPC is considering whether it should investigate the conduct of approximately 10 other officers.

#### [Man's death after police used 'unreasonable force' prompts custody changes](#)

Plymouth Herald; 16 July 2018

**Devon and Cornwall Police** has made changes to its custody procedures following the death of a man in 2014, who had been detained at a Plymouth police station. The changes come after recommendations were made by the Independent Office for Police Conduct. Full details are [here](#).


### **Finance and funding**

#### [Police Remuneration Review Body report: 2018 England and Wales](#)

Police Remuneration Review Body and Home Office; 24 July 2018

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This report sets out the recommendations from the Police Remuneration Review Body on police officers' pay in England and Wales.

#### [Police to receive 2% pay increase in 2018-19](#)

Home Office; 24 July 2018

Police officers will be awarded a pay rise of 2 per cent in 2018-19. This will mean that the average pay for a police constable will now be more than £38,600 per year.

#### [Financial management code of practice](#)

Home Office; 24 July 2018

The Financial Management code of practice has been updated. It provides clarity surrounding the financial governance arrangements within policing. It also applies to Police and Crime Commissioners in England who are also Fire and Rescue Authorities under section 4A of the *Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004*.

#### [Longer batons for Met officers in safety boost](#)

Police Oracle; 18 July 2018

All frontline **Metropolitan Police** officers are to get new longer batons as part of a £2m upgrade, which will help increase officers' personal safety.

### **Performance**

#### [Police must tackle hate crime problems, says watchdog](#)

BBC News; 19 July 2018

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary Police and Fire and Rescue Service has said that the police must tackle "significant problems" in handling hate crime ahead of a possible rise in such offences after Brexit. It found inadequate responses in 89 of 180 cases it reviewed. Full details and a copy of the report are [here](#).

#### [Metropolitan Police Service leadership's 'concerted effort' to improve crime recording is working](#)

HMICFRS; 17 July 2017

A report from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Service (HMICFRS) has found that the **Metropolitan Police** has made "significant improvements to how it records crime" since a 2014 inspection. A copy of the report is [here](#).

#### ['Unacceptable failings' in Lincolnshire Police's crime recording practices](#)

HMICFRS; 17 July 2017

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) has published an assessment on the accuracy of crime recording in **Lincolnshire Police**, which found that the Force properly records approximately 80 per cent of crimes reported to it. A copy of the report is [here](#).

#### [Humberside Police makes 'good progress' on crime recording, but more improvements required](#)

HMICFRS; 17 July 2017

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) has published an assessment on the accuracy of crime recording in **Humberside Police**, which found that the Force properly records approximately 85 per cent of crimes reported to it. A copy of the report is [here](#).

#### [Fourth National Crime Agency inspection published today](#)

HMICFRS; 17 July 2017

In a written ministerial statement laid before Parliament, the Home Secretary has published HMICFRS's fourth inspection of the **National Crime Agency**. A copy of the report is [here](#).

#### [Police failing to disclose files in nearly half of cases](#)

Times; 14 July 2018

A report from HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate has found that police and prosecutors disclosed evidence in less than 60 per cent of a sample of hundreds of criminal cases. It said that police fully complied with their obligations to disclose unused material in 734 out of a sample of 1,290 cases, or 57 per cent, with partial compliance in a further 37 per cent.

### **Policy and regulation**

#### [Statement on the expiration of the initial police learning development programme \(IPLDP\)](#)

College of Policing; 23 July 2018

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The **College of Policing** has said that it will “offer support” to police forces that want to keep the current system for training police officers when its degree entry programme comes into place. The organisation plans for the initial police learning development programme (IPLDP) to end on 31 December 2019.

#### [North Yorkshire PCC proposes new complaints system](#)

Police Professional; 19 July 2018

North Yorkshire's Police and Crime Commissioner has put forward proposals for her to take a more active role in the police complaints process at **North Yorkshire Police**.

#### [UK intelligence and police using child spies in covert operations](#)

Guardian; 19 July 2018

A committee of the House of Lords has revealed in a report that the police and intelligence agencies are using children as spies in covert operations against terrorists, gangs and drug dealers. The Committee revealed that the Government plans to give law enforcement bodies more freedom over their use of children, and raised concerns about proposals to extend from one month to four the period of time between each occasion that child spies go through a re-registration process. A copy of the report is [here](#).

#### [Front-line policing review](#)

Home Office; 17 July 2018

A Home Office review, which begins in September 2018, will invite police officers and staff in operational roles across England and Wales to share their ideas for change and improvement in policing. The review findings, which will detail next steps and recommendations, will be summarised in a report to be published in spring 2019.

#### [HMICFRS publishes police inspection programme and framework for 2018/19](#)

HMICFRS; 12 July 2018

HM's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) has published its policing inspection programme and framework for 2018/19. Key aspects of the proposed inspection programme in 2018/19 includes PEEL assessments (Integrated PEEL inspections will commence from autumn 2018); national thematic inspections (in-depth examinations of specific policy matters); vulnerability and child protection inspections; commissions from the Home Secretary and local policing bodies; and counter-terrorism and security-related inspections and joint inspections.

### **Crime**

#### [Spit guards introduced by 37th force](#)

Police Professional; 20 July 2018

**Northumbria Police** has joined 36 other English and Welsh police forces that offer spit and bite guards to their officers.

#### [Police must grasp 'one chance' to take action for victims of hate crime](#)

HMICFRS; 19 July 2018

In its first ever report into hate crime, HM's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services has urged police forces to get their response right first time and at the beginning of their contact with victims. A copy of the report is [here](#).

#### [No-one charged in 9 out of 10 crimes - Home Office](#)

BBC News; 19 July 2018

Home Office figures suggest that only 9 per cent of crimes end with suspects being charged or summonsed in England and Wales. The figures also show that police closed nearly half (48 per cent) of all cases because no suspect could be identified. The full statistics are [here](#)

### **NEW LEGISLATION**

#### [Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 \(Codes of Practice\) \(Revision of Codes C, E, F, and H\) Order 2018 \(SI 2018/829\)](#)

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In force: 31 July 2018

This Order brings into force four revised Codes of Practice issued under the *Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984* (PACE). Code C, which deals with detention and questioning under PACE; Code E, which deals with audio recording of interviews of suspects; Code F, which deals with visual recording of interviews of suspects; and Code H, which deals with detention and questioning under terrorism legislation. The changes will bring the Codes in line with changes in legislation, policy, operational policing practice and case law.

#### [Assaults on Emergency Workers \(Offences\) Bill 2017-19](#)

House of Lords

This Private Members' Bill had its Third reading in the House of Lords on 24 July 2018. The House of Commons will now consider any Lords amendments; if there have been no amendments in the Lords, the Bill is ready to receive Royal Assent. The Bill "makes provision about offences when perpetrated against emergency workers, and persons assisting such workers; to make certain offences aggravated when perpetrated against such workers in the exercise of their duty; to require persons suspected of certain assaults against such workers which may pose a health risk to provide intimate samples and to make it an offence, without reasonable excuse, to refuse to provide such samples; and for connected purposes"

## NEW CASES

#### [R. \(on the application of Kohler\) v Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime \[2018\] EWHC 1881 \(Admin\)](#)

High Court; 20 July 2018

The defendant, the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC), decided to close 37 police stations in London. The decision included closing a police station at Wimbledon in the Merton London Borough Council and transferring a front counter, open for 24 hours each day, where members of the public could report crimes or otherwise contact the police, to Mitcham. The claimant sought judicial review. The Court held that the Deputy Mayor had failed to ensure that there had been consideration of a material matter raised in the consultation responses relating to Merton. As the point had not been made in respect of the other police stations, it would not be right to quash the decisions as it related to them. However, where it had concerned Wimbledon police station, the decision was legally flawed. The deputy mayor had failed consider one of the material matters raised in response to the proposal to close that particular police station. Therefore, the appropriate remedy was an order to quash the decision to close Wimbledon police station and the matter be remitted to the deputy mayor for reconsideration. See the 'Legal News' section or further details.

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