

Emergency Services Update

18 October 2018 – 31 October 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

[Shared fire-police budgets are not off the cards](#)

Police Oracle; 29 October 2018

The Policing Minister Nick Hurd has not ruled out suggestions that the Home Office may allow police, fire and crime commissioners to merge the finances of both emergency services in the future. The full parliamentary debate on the issue is [here](#).

AMBULANCE

[Spike in safety incidents reported by ambulance trusts](#)

Health Service Journal; 29 October 2018

NHS Improvement's latest analysis has found that the number of incidents reported by ambulance staff last winter rose by 33 per cent when compared to the year before. Ambulance staff reported 7,282 incidents between October 2017 and March 2018, 1,788 more than the same period in 2016-17.

[Commissioners give struggling ambulance service £10m extra](#)

Health Service Journal; 24 October 2018

Commissioners are to inject an extra £10m into ambulance services in the south east this financial year so that national standards for responding to emergency calls can be met from the middle of 2019. **South East Coast Ambulance Service Foundation Trust** will use the money to buy more ambulances and recruit more staff. The clinical commissioning groups across Kent, Surrey, Sussex and North East Hampshire will also make similar levels of investment over the next two years.

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[Ten NHS trusts 'wasted £235m to hire private ambulances'](#)

Guardian; 21 October 2018

According to figures obtained under the *Freedom of Information Act*, England's NHS trusts have spent almost a quarter of a billion pounds on private ambulance services in the last three years. **South Central Ambulance Service** spent almost £69m on private providers; **South East Coast Ambulance Service** spent more than £35m; and **North West Ambulance Service** spent almost £30m. In total, the 10 trusts spent £235m on private ambulances over the period.

[Ambulance choke man's death 'accidental', inquest rules](#)

BBC News; 19 October 2018

The death of a mental health patient who choked on a McDonald's meal in an ambulance has been ruled accidental. An inquest jury said that information about his current choking risk had not been made available to the staff of private ambulance company **PSS**.

[Volunteer ambulance crew reinstated after wrongly using blue lights](#)

BBC News; 16 October 2018

Two volunteer ambulance crew who were suspended by **North West Ambulance Service** for using blue lights and sirens when they were not trained to do so, have been reinstated.

FIRE

[£100k bill as fire chief makes u-turn on new team](#)

Daily Gazette; 24 October 2018

Essex Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner Roger Hirst has defended the decision to spend an additional £98,657 on changing the leadership team in order to mitigate the lack of operational experience of Jo Turton, a former council chief executive, who was appointed to the role of Chief Fire Officer of the **Essex County Fire and Rescue Service**.

[Front line of Northumberland's fire service to be protected from cuts](#)

Northumberland Gazette; 24 October 2018

There will be no cuts to the front line of **Northumberland Fire & Rescue Service** as part of the £24bn of budget savings that need to be made.

[Merseyside Fire Service says it has 'had enough' as it vows to fight 'savage' government cuts](#)

St Helen's Star; 22 October 2018

Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority has said that it has "had enough" of funding cuts and as set out its strategy for lobbying the Government to obtain a better settlement for next year.

[Fire service's pledge to keep public safe in wake of £3.5million funding shortfall](#)

Sunderland Echo; 18 October 2018

According to the latest audit letter for the **Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority**, the fire service is facing a budget gap of £3.6m up to 2021/22. Cuts and other savings meant that **Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service** finished the last 2017/18 financial year approximately £1.3m under budget.

POLICE

[Legal news](#)

[Police to sue government unless it backs down over cuts](#)

Guardian; 30 October 2018

The **National Police Chiefs Council** will take legal action in the High Court against the Government unless it backs down on plans to deduct hundreds of millions of pounds from their budgets. It has sent a formal letter to HM Treasury saying that it will seek a judicial review of the Government's proposals.

[Police officer cleared of punching 14-year-old-boy](#)

Guardian; 24 October 2018

A **South Wales Police** officer has been cleared by a Magistrates Court of punching a 14-year-old boy, although he could still face disciplinary proceedings. The officer was accused of repeatedly hitting the boy when the boy's mother called the police about his behaviour.

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[Police Federation launches legal action against government for 'cheating officers out of pay rise they deserve'](#)

Independent; 23 October 2018

The **Police Federation of England and Wales** has lodged formal legal proceedings over the Home Secretary's decision not to implement the recommendations of the independent pay review body. Full details are [here](#) (Police Federation).

Collaborations

[Wiltshire, Gloucestershire and Avon and Somerset police alliance to end](#)

BBC; 18 October 2018

An alliance between three neighbouring police forces - **Gloucestershire Police, Avon and Somerset Police** and **Wiltshire Police** - is to end next year. Police and Crime Commissioner for Gloucestershire Martin Surl decided to end the triple alliance, which was set up in 2012 to deliver roads, dogs and firearms policing "more efficiently". A new arrangement will look to share firearms resources between the forces.

Employment issues

[Chief Constable to retire](#)

Police Professional; 30 October 2018

Gareth Wilson, Chief Constable of **Suffolk Constabulary**, has announced that he will retire in April 2019.

[PCC Julia Mulligan bullying complaint upheld after inquiry](#)

BBC News; 25 October 2018

A Police and Crime Panel has found that Julia Mulligan, the **Police and Crime Commissioner for North Yorkshire**, displayed "'bullying behaviour" towards members of staff.

[Force plans to recruit 800 officers by 2022](#)

Police Oracle; 20 October 2018

Sussex Police has enrolled 70 new police officers - its largest number of recruits in more than 10 years.

[Positive discrimination should be legal, says Black Police Association](#)

Police Oracle; 19 October 2018

The **National Black Police Association** has called for the use of positive discrimination in the police service. Delegates voted in favour of calling for the measure - which requires a change in UK law - at its annual conference.

New appointments

[BTPA appoints new interim CEO](#)

Police Professional; 29 October 2018

Ian Pigden-Bennett has been appointed as the interim CEO of the **British Transport Police Authority**.

[New HM Inspector announced](#)

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services; 18 October 2018

The Home Secretary has announced the appointment of Phil Gormley as one of **Her Majesty's Inspectors of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services**.

Misconduct


[Vast majority of watchdog-directed hearings result in no finding against officer](#)

Police Oracle; 31 October 2018

An investigation by Police Oracle has revealed that only one eighth of misconduct hearings directed by the Independent Office for Police Conduct against officers result in the highest possible finding. Data acquired from 37 police forces has revealed that 71 per cent of directed misconduct hearings in the five years to August 2018 resulted in no finding of either misconduct or gross misconduct against their subject.

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[Officer who made up charge claims to detain youngster is dismissed](#)

Police Oracle; 30 October 2018

A **British Transport Police** officer who used excessive force to detain a boy he later tried to dishonestly accuse of a crime has been dismissed from the service.

[West Midlands policeman sacked over video 'mocking' woman](#)

BBC News; 26 October 2018

A **West Midlands Police** officer has been sacked after a disciplinary hearing found that he filmed himself mocking a vulnerable woman and shared the videos on Snapchat. The IOPC report is [here](#).

[Officer who Tasered Jordan Begley guilty of 'potential misconduct'](#)

Guardian; 25 October 2018

The **Independent Office for Police Conduct** has found that **Greater Manchester** PC Terrence Donnelly, who Tasered a man shortly before his death, was guilty of potential misconduct because he extended the use of a Taser longer than the automatic five seconds. Mr Donnelly no longer serves with Greater Manchester Police, but were he still a serving officer he would have faced misconduct proceedings. The IOPC report is [here](#).

[Police officers sacked for lying about arrest where man's neck was broken](#)

Guardian; 22 October 2018

Three **Bedfordshire Police** officers have been sacked for gross misconduct after lying about an incident in which a black university student suffered a broken neck and spinal cord injury, leaving him almost totally paralysed and severely brain damaged.

Inquests and investigations

[Edir Da Costa death: Force used was proportionate](#)

Police Professional; 30 October 2018

An Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) investigation has found that the use of force by five **Metropolitan Police Service** officers to restrain Edir Frederico Da Costa who had swallowed drugs and later died was "proportionate". The IOPC report is [here](#).

[Thomas Orchard: Devon and Cornwall Police admits restraining offence](#)

BBC; 19 October 2018

Devon and Cornwall Police has pleaded guilty to breaking health and safety rules over the use of an emergency response belt in the restraint of Thomas Orchard, who died. The Force admitted the breach on the basis that there were failings on how officers were trained to use the emergency restraint belt. It has not accepted that the belt led directly to Mr Orchard's death. There will be a hearing in April 2019 when a judge will rule on whether the conduct led to his death.

[Dalian Atkinson: Two PCs may be charged over footballer Taser death](#)

BBC; 19 October 2018

Two **West Mercia Police** officers could face criminal charges over the death of former footballer Dalian Atkinson, who was shot with a Taser. The **Independent Office for Police Conduct** has referred a file of evidence to the Crown Prosecution Service.

Finance and funding

[Metropolitan police to raise funds through range of merchandise](#)

Guardian; 31 October 2018

The **Metropolitan Police** is to lend its name to ranges of clothing, toys and tourist souvenirs in order to raise funds.

[Value for Money profiles 2018](#)

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services; 26 October 2018

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services has published the latest Value for Money profiles, which provide comparative data on a wide range of policing activities for each police force in England and Wales. Value for Money profiles help forces make better decisions by identifying areas where improvements can be made in cost and performance.

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[Cuts have left policing at risk of becoming irrelevant, MPs warn](#)

Guardian; 25 October 2018

A parliamentary report published by the Home Affairs Committee has warned that policing is at risk of becoming "irrelevant", as the number of officers on the beat is slashed and vast numbers of crimes go unsolved. The Home Affairs Committee has urged the Government to prioritise policing in the Autumn Budget and the next Comprehensive Spending Review, warning that without additional funding for policing, there will be dire consequences for public safety and criminal justice. A summary of the finding is [here](#) and a copy of the report is [here](#).

[Police chiefs warn of fewer officers after Treasury shrinks budgets further](#)

Guardian; 23 October 2018

The Chief Constables of the **West Midlands**, **Greater Manchester** and **Merseyside** police forces have warned of a fresh crisis in policing after the Government squeezed budgets even further, which they say will leave no alternative but to cut the number of officers. The **Metropolitan Police** believes the funding squeeze will leave it with 900 fewer officers. Simon Bailey, the Chief Constable of **Norfolk Police**, said that he was facing the prospect of having the smallest force since its creation in 1968.

Crime

[Crimes rise as stop and search falls](#)

Times; 26 October 2018

Stop and searches have fallen to their lowest level. The number of stop and searches fell by 7 per cent in the year to March 2018, reaching the lowest level since records began 16 years ago.

[UK police not a match for evolving terrorism threat, says top officer](#)

Guardian; 25 October 2018

Assistant Commissioner Neil Basu, the UK's most senior counter-terrorism officer, has said that police forces are not a match for the threat of Islamist and extreme far-right terrorism.

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