

# Emergency Services Roundup

## 26 July 2018 – 8 August 2018

Welcome to the Emergency Services bi-weekly 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

#### [Additional telecommunications coverage for the emergency services network](#)

Home Office; 31 July 2018

A Home Office publication summarises the responses to its consultation on proposals from the Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme, which will replace the Airwave system with the Emergency Services Network (ESN). The respondents did not identify any competition concerns with the measure and, as a result, the Home Office will now consider whether the infrastructure described in the responses may be of assistance in their development of ESN coverage and what impact that may have on developing proposals to provide coverage in those areas.

#### [Collaborations and takeovers](#)

#### [More than 150 people attend Hatfield meeting over concerns for fire service](#)

Welwyn and Hatfield Times; 3 August 2018

Local people have voiced their concerns over proposals by the **Hertfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner** to move the fire service headquarters to the county police station, with two fire stations potentially closing.

#### [Police and Crime Commissioner's plan under fire](#)

Lancashire Post; 31 July 2018

**Lancashire's Police and Crime Commissioner** is facing a backlash from local politicians over the possibility of extending his role to take charge of the local fire service.

### AMBULANCE

#### [Delays in answering 999 calls may have led to two deaths](#)

Health Service Journal; 3 August 2018

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**South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust** investigated 10 serious incidents related to call answering delays in 2017-18. In eight of these cases, the patients died, either at the scene or later. However, two of these deaths have been categorised as directly related to a shortage of ambulance control room staff to answer 999 calls.

#### [Struggling ambulance trust considers using volunteer and military drivers](#)

Guardian; 2 August 2018

**East of England Ambulance Services NHS Trust** is considering the unprecedented move of asking volunteers to drive ambulances and drafting in the military to cover staff shortages.

#### [Ambulance trust praised for supporting armed forces](#)

Thetford and Brandon Times; 2 August 2018

The Ministry of Defence has announced that the **East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust** has gained the Employer Recognition Scheme Gold Award for showing outstanding support for its Armed Forces staff. It is the third ambulance trust to receive this award.

#### [Britain's fire service in crisis as regions struggle after eight years of savage Tory cuts](#)

Daily Mirror; 31 July 2018

Research by the *Daily Mirror* newspaper has found that approximately 40 fire stations have been forced to close due to low staffing levels and fire engines are being left locked up because there are not enough crew-members to man them. Since 2010, nearly 12,000 front-line fire-fighter jobs have been lost. Fire Brigades Union figures show that Wales has lost 267, Tyne and Wear 285, Cleveland 176, Humberside 208, West Yorkshire 572, Greater Manchester 700, Merseyside 386, West Midlands 455 and London 1,334.

#### [More than £10m on the way for new ambulance fleet](#)

National Health Executive; 31 July 2018

The Welsh Health Secretary has committed more than £10m to replace an entire fleet of 100 ambulances in Wales.

#### [North West Ambulance Service plan more strikes in pay dispute](#)

BBC News; 26 July 2018

**North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust** staff have vowed to take strike action "every week" in an on-going pay dispute. They plan to strike "until at least October" unless a resolution is found.

## FIRE

#### [Ex-fire chief Land Rover sale investigated by police](#)

BBC News; 2 August 2018

The former Chief Fire Officer at **Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service** is being investigated by police over the sale of a fire service Land Rover which led to his resignation. Stewart Edgar stepped down from his role after he auctioned a "surplus" vehicle worth up to £8,000 for £500, then bought it himself.

#### [FBU to consult on ending all non-contractual work over 2% pay settlement](#)

Fire Brigade's Union; 27 July 2019

Firefighters and emergency control operators have been offered a 2 per cent increase in pay from its national employers. However, the Fire Brigades Union has said that the offer fails to address the need for a significant increase in pay in the fire service and will now consider ending all non-contractual work.

## POLICE

### Legal news

#### [Court allows police to reveal acquittals during record checks](#)

Guardian; 30 July 2018

The Supreme Court has held that police forces can reveal whether individuals have been acquitted of criminal charges when issuing information for enhanced record checks. The decision establishes new guidelines in balancing an individual's right to privacy when applying for employment against the need to protect public safety. A copy of the judgment is [here](#). Further details are in the 'New Cases' section below.

#### [Accused PC Joshua Savage cleared of assault](#)

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BBC News; 27 July 2018

A **Metropolitan Police** officer who sawed and smashed his way through a suspect's windscreen with a knife has been cleared of assault. The officer mistakenly thought that the driver was a potentially violent drug dealer. The Metropolitan Police has been told to do the "decent thing" and compensate the driver for the car repairs.

## **Collaborations and mergers**

[Merged force would have more than 400 extra frontline officers, says ACC](#)

Police Oracle; 1 August 2018

According to senior leaders, a merger of **Devon and Cornwall** and **Dorset Police** could generate enough savings to employ 430 more frontline officers across all three counties. A consultation process on the plan is currently underway. The new force, which will be run by one Chief Constable and overseen by one Police and Crime Commissioner PCC, would come into existence in May 2020.

## **Employment issues and appointments**

[Nearly 10,000 police officers have taken second jobs – survey](#)

Guardian; 7 August 2018

Research by the **Police Federation of England and Wales** has found that almost 10,000 police officers have taken on second jobs in the past year. The survey showed that 7.8 per cent of officers had taken second jobs this year, equivalent to approximately 9,500 officers, compared with 6.3 per cent last year, or approximately 7,700. Full details are [here](#) (PFEW).

[All Merseyside staff to receive real Living Wage](#)

Police Professional; 6 August 2018

Almost 100 of the lowest paid **Merseyside Police** staff are in line for a pay rise after the Force became the latest to adopt the real Living Wage. Several forces have already adopted it, with **West Midlands Police**, **Lancashire Constabulary** and **Cheshire Constabulary** among those to receive official accreditation as 'Living Wage Employers' this year.

[PCC confirms replacement for long-serving chief](#)

Police Professional; 2 August 2018

The **Police and Crime Commissioner for North Wales** has chosen Carl Foulkes, who is currently Deputy Chief Constable at **Merseyside Police**, as his preferred candidate for Chief Constable.

[New National Chair of Police Federation announced](#)

Police Federation; 31 July 2018

John Apter, former chair of **Hampshire Police Federation** (HPF), has been officially confirmed as the new chair of the **Police Federation of England and Wales**.

## **Misconduct**

See the 'Policy and regulation' section below for details of the amended Home Office guidance on police officer misconduct procedures.

[Officer who punched incapacitated suspect six times is dismissed](#)

Guardian; 6 August 2018

A **Durham Police** officer has been dismissed after punching a suspect in the head when he had already been incapacitated by a stun gun. Full details are [here](#) (IOPC).

[Retirement policy reviewed over misconduct case](#)

Police Professional; 2 August 2018

**West Yorkshire Police** has reviewed how it handles retirement applications from officers being investigated for misconduct.

[Police officer sacked over sexual messages to 14-year-old girl](#)

Guardian; 31 July 2018

A **West Yorkshire Police** officer has been sacked for sending sexual Snapchat messages to a 14-year-old girl he met in a children's home.

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### [One third of IOPC investigations take more than a year](#)

Police Oracle; 27 July 2018

The **Independent Office for Police Conduct's** (IOPC) *2017/18 Business Plan* has revealed that officers and complainants wait an average of 233 working days to learn the outcome of misconduct investigations handled by the IOPC. The IOPC also failed to reach its target of finishing 80 per cent of investigations within 12 months. A copy is [here](#).

### [Hertfordshire PC dismissed for 'racist' Facebook posts](#)

BBC News; 26 July 2018

A **Hertfordshire Police** officer who aired racist, sexist and homophobic views on Facebook has been dismissed. He had already resigned from the Force earlier this year.

## **Inquests and investigations**

### [Surrey police to hold review after trial of Jonathan King collapses](#)

Guardian; 6 August 2018

An independent review will take place after “fundamental failures” at **Surrey Police** led to the collapse of music industry figure Jonathan King’s trial. Surrey Police has apologised for serious failings in their investigation and an urgent independent review has been commissioned following the decision to dismiss the case due to failures in the disclosure process.

### [Met and IOPC disagree on responsibility for misconduct hearing where no evidence existed](#)

Police Oracle; 3 August 2018

The **Metropolitan Police** and the **Independent Office for Police Conduct** have provided contradictory information over who was responsible for holding a public misconduct hearing on the case of a detective accused by an arrested suspect of stealing £2,000 in cash while searching his flat. The Detective Sergeant was cleared of the allegations.

### [Met chief 'confident' in professional standards department amid watchdog probe](#)

Police Oracle; 2 August 2018

The **Metropolitan Police** commissioner Cressida Dick insists she has confidence in the Force's professional standards department amid a corruption investigation by the **Independent Office for Police Conduct** (IOPC) involving two officers. Last month the IOPC announced that it will be probing claims regarding “potentially conflicted” senior officers in the Metropolitan Police's Directorate of Professional Standards (DPS).

### [Durham PC dismissed following Darlington pub arrest](#)

Independent Office for Police Conduct; 2 August 2018

A **Durham Constabulary** police constable has been dismissed without notice following an investigation. He was found to have used excessive force when arresting a man in Darlington. However, the panel found that the behaviour did not amount to misconduct.

## **Finance and funding**

### [Home Office awards over £100 million to police transformation projects](#)

Home Office; 1 August 2018

The Government is investing more than £100m of the Police Transformation Fund in projects designed to prepare police forces to adapt to the challenges of the future.

## **Performance**

### [Police forces 'failing' to record thousands of crimes](#)

BBC News; 7 August 2018

HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services has said that three police forces failed to record thousands of crimes a year. **South Yorkshire Police** ‘Requires Improvement’, although it acknowledged improvements had been made; **Cleveland Police** was rated ‘Inadequate’ and **Bedfordshire Police** ‘Requires Improvement’. The full reports are [here](#) (South Yorkshire), [here](#) (Cleveland) and [here](#) (Bedfordshire).

### [‘Serious concerns’ over Cleveland Police crime recording](#)

Police Professional; 7 August 2018

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**Cleveland Police** has been branded 'Inadequate' at crime recording by HM's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services, as more than 10,800 offences are being missed each year. The full report is [here](#).

#### [Wiltshire best force for local priorities](#)

Police Professional; 2 August 2018

**Wiltshire Police** has been praised for its progress after it was found to be the best police force in the country for dealing with community priorities. Despite ranking 29th last year, the Office for National Statistics found that Wiltshire Police is now England and Wales' most effective force for handling priorities highlighted by its local population. The Force was also placed second for public confidence in the police, up from 20th in the same category in 2017, and third for the perception it is doing a 'good or excellent job'.

#### [West Midlands police chief says public do not get service they expect](#)

Guardian; 28 July 2018

The Chief Constable of **West Midlands Police** has said that funding cuts and the demands of modern-day policing mean that the general public sometimes do not get the service they expect.

#### [Police force criticised for downgrading crimes to ease pressure](#)

Guardian; 26 July 2018

A report by HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services has said that **Northamptonshire Police** has been downgrading crimes involving children in order to ease demand on response teams. A copy of the report is [here](#).

#### [Police custody deaths in England and Wales highest for decade](#)

Guardian; 25 July 2018

The Independent Office for Police Conduct has published its [Deaths during or following police contact report](#), which states that 23 people died during or after police custody in 2017 - the highest number for a decade. Full details are [here](#).

### **Policy and regulation**

#### [Circular 017/2018: Updated Home Office guidance on police misconduct](#)

Home Office; 7 August 2018

This circular covers the amended Home Office guidance on police officer misconduct procedures.

#### [Technical guidance for Body Worn Video \(BWV\) devices: CAST, 2018](#)

Home Office; 2 August 2018

The Home Office has published new technical guidance for police forces when procuring and deploying Body Worn Video (BWV) devices.

#### [Appropriate adult PCC-local authority partnership agreement: England](#)

Home Office; 31 July 2018

This is a voluntary framework which will enable police and crime commissioners and local authorities in England to work together more effectively to ensure the provision of appropriate adults for vulnerable adults suspected of committing an offence.

#### [Drone legislation: use, restrictions and enforcement](#)

Home Office; 26 July 2018

A new consultation paper contains policy proposals for safer use of drones, including the powers required by enforcement bodies in order to properly police drone use and penalise incorrect use.

#### [CODE E: Revised Code of Practice on audio recording interviews with suspects and CODE F: Revised Code of Practice on visual recording with sound of interviews with suspects](#)

Home Office; 26 July 2018

A Home Office publication sets out the text of the revised Codes of Practice E and F in connection with the practice of audio recording interviews with suspects, and when an interviewing officer makes a visual recording with sound of an interview with a suspect.

#### [CODE C: Revised Code of Practice for the detention, treatment and questioning of persons by Police Officers](#)

Home Office; 26 July 2018

A Home Office publication sets out the text of the revised Code of Practice C in connection with the requirements for the detention, treatment and questioning of suspects not related to terrorism in police custody.

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[CODE H: Revised Code of Practice in connection with: The detention, treatment and questioning by Police Officers of persons in police detention under Section 41 of, and Schedule 8 to, the Terrorism Act 2000 and the treatment and questioning by Police Officers of detained persons in respect of whom an authorisation to question after charge has been given under Section 22 of the Counter-Terrorism Act 2008](#)

Home Office; 26 July 2018

A Home Office publication sets out the text of the revised Code of Practice H in connection with detention, treatment and questioning by police officers under the *Counter-Terrorism Act 2008*.

## **Crime**

[Met failing to solve 97 per cent of moped crime](#)

Times; 8 August 2018

According to new data, more than 97 per cent of London's moped criminals escaped justice despite soaring rates of robberies in 2017-18. **The Metropolitan Police** solved 2.6 per cent of moped crimes, or 643 out of 24,294 reports, in the 12 months to April 2018.

[Police accused of giving tacit approval to 'cannabis clubs' across the UK](#)

Daily Telegraph; 7 August 2018

Police have been accused of giving tacit support to 'cannabis clubs', where paying members can meet and take the drug without fear of prosecution. At least two Police and Crime Commissioners have reportedly visited or endorsed the clubs, of which there are 160 across the UK.

[Victims 'increasingly failed by authorities' as confidence in criminal justice system falls, research shows](#)

Independent; 4 August 2018

Research by independent charity Victim Support has claimed that the majority of victims of crime have no confidence in the justice system, as police "routinely" fall short of standard codes of practice.

[Armed police operations rise 19% in England and Wales](#)

Guardian; 26 July 2018

Home Office statistics have revealed that police firearms operations in England and Wales have risen by 19 per cent in the past year and are now at their highest level in seven years. Police in England and Wales carried out 18,746 armed operations in 2017-18.

## **NEW CASES**

[Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis v Brown \[2018\] EWHC 2046](#)

High Court; 31 July 2018

The Commissioner of **Police of the Metropolis** and the Chief Constable of **Greater Manchester Police**, who had been defendants in an action brought by a claimant police officer, successfully appealed against a decision that qualified one-way costs shifting applied to protect the claimant from enforcement of an adverse costs order made against her.

[Fire Brigades Union v Fordham \[2018\] EWHC 1978](#)

High Court; 27 July 2018

An appeal against a determination of the Pensions Ombudsman that the Fire Brigades Union was obliged to pay Michael Fordham a lump sum equivalent to the difference between the lump sum Mr Fordham was paid when he retired and the lump sum he would have received had the appropriate commutation factors been available and applied. The appeal was dismissed.

[R. \(on the application of R\) v Chief Constable of Greater Manchester \[2018\] UKSC 47](#)

Supreme Court; 25 July 2018

The appellant unsuccessfully appealed against a decision that it was lawful for a chief constable to have included information about a rape charge of which he had been acquitted in an enhanced criminal record certificate (ECRC) issued by the secretary of state under section 113B of the *Police Act 1997*. The press summary is [here](#).


[James-Bowen v Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis \[2018\] UKSC 40](#)

Supreme Court; 25 July 2018

The Supreme Court has held that it would not be fair, just or reasonable to impose on the Police Commissioner a duty of care to protect police officers from economic or reputational harm when conducting litigation founded on alleged

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vicarious liability for their actions. The imposition of such a duty was inconsistent with the Commissioner's freedom to act in accordance with her public duty. The press summary is [here](#).

[Sherratt v Chief Constable of Greater Manchester \[2018\] EWHC 1746](#)

High Court; 16 July 2018

The High Court held that the police owed a duty of care to a woman who had committed suicide after the woman's mother had made a 999 call expressing concerns about her daughter's welfare. The police had assumed responsibility for the woman's welfare because of the 999 call handler's assurances to the mother that officers would attend the daughter's property and arrange for her transfer to hospital, and because the mother had relied on that assurance to her detriment.

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