

Emergency Services Roundup

Fortnightly current awareness update

6 September 2018 – 19 September 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

[Investment drive could help Met Police and London Fire Brigade go green](#)

Department for International Trade; 12 September 2018

The Department for International Trade has announced that the London Electric Vehicle Company has started a trial of electric vans intended for use with the **Metropolitan Police** and **London Fire Brigade**, which will help the bodies achieve their target for all new vans to be zero emission-capable by 2025.

[Collaborations and takeovers](#)


[Herts PCC 'suspends' fire service takeover bid](#)

BBC News; 6 September 2018

Hertfordshire's Police and Crime Commissioner has "suspended" his bid to take over **Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service** after making an agreement with Hertfordshire County Council. David Lloyd said that the "collaboration arrangements" agreed with the Council, which currently oversees the Service, could "improve efficiency, effectiveness and public safety". **UPDATE:** David Lloyd has told councillors that he agreed to suspend his bid to take over the fire service because the Home Office was taking too long to make up its mind. (Watford Observer; 11 September 2018). Click [here](#).

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AMBULANCE

[Ambulance trust to send occupied vehicles to new emergency calls](#)

Guardian; 16 September 2018

The **East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust** is hoping to improve response times by sending ambulances already occupied by patients to new emergencies. Further details are [here](#) (BBC News).

FIRE

[West Yorkshire Fire Service to decide on £2.4m budget cuts](#)

Huddersfield Daily Examiner; 18 September 2018

Efforts to cut £2.4m from **West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service's** budget are to be discussed by the **West Yorkshire Fire Authority**. According to a new report into the proposed changes, a plan to "flatten management structures" would help reduce costs while still "protecting the current levels of fire cover".

[Fire service looks to create new response times](#)

Watford Observer; 12 September 2018

Plans for the future of **Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service** will be based around existing response times.

[Isle of Wight fire service is being run 'on luck' says the FBU chairman following Sunday's fire](#)

On the Wight; 11 September 2018

The **Isle of Wight's Fire Brigades Union** chair, Pete Mawhood, has warned that the Island's fire services were being run on luck, as the service is under-resourced, has no proper relief and has issues over its equipment.

[New chief in charge at the fire service](#)

Bury Times; 10 September 2018

Jim Wallace has been appointed as the new Chief Fire Officer at the **Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service**.

POLICE

[Legal news](#)

[Leon Briggs death: No charges for Bedfordshire Police officers](#)

BBC News; 13 September 2018

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has confirmed that none of the **Bedfordshire Police** officers involved in the restraint of a Leon Briggs, who died shortly after he was detained, will face criminal charges.

[Supreme Court will not consider Mark Duggan case](#)

Police Oracle; 12 September 2018

The Supreme Court has said that it will not analyse a legal challenge relating to the **Metropolitan Police** shooting of Mark Duggan, which sparked riots in several cities in 2011. The mother of Mr Duggan wants to quash an inquest jury's lawful killing verdict.

Collaborations

[Collaborations 'don't work for the individual'](#)

Police Oracle; 12 September 2018

A Police Superintendents' Association survey has found that more than 80 per cent of superintendents would favour police force mergers over collaborations. Almost 100 per cent of respondents who work in alliances said that they spent more time negotiating with senior colleagues, and 72 per cent said it had an adverse impact on their leadership as they spent large amounts of time trying to keep everyone happy.

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Employment issues

Force to roll-out 'banter training'

Police Oracle; 19 September 2018

Leicestershire Police is to deliver “banter training” to its officers to teach them the fine line between bullying and fun. According to the training summary, officers will be looking at “banter-related case law” and will learn about “what the Tribunal expects of employers” in order to minimise the risk of employment claims.

Kent police seek new recruits to quell post-Brexit unrest

Times; 16 September 2018

Kent Police has begun the “biggest recruitment drive in a generation” as it steps up its preparations for Brexit. **Kent's Police and Crime Commissioner**, Matthew Scott, said that by March 2019 the Force will have 270 more officers than when he was elected in May 2016.

Senior Salaries Review Body Report 2018

Home Office; 13 September 2018

Recommendations from the Senior Salaries Review Body on the pay of senior civil servants, senior officers in the armed forces and **police and crime commissioners**.

Met police to draft in 'Dad's Army' of ex-officers

Times; 11 September 2018

The **Metropolitan Police Service** is to re-hire a “Dad's Army” of retired detectives to address a shortfall of experienced officers taking on cases, including murder, rape and other serious crime. Cressida Dick, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, said that she was concerned that “expertise was walking out of my service”.

Met chief calls latest police pay award a 'punch on the nose'

Guardian; 11 September 2018

The **Metropolitan Police** Commissioner, Cressida Dick, has branded the Government's two per cent pay award to police officers as a “punch on the nose” and warned that it will affect morale within the police service.

Policing is on brink of crisis, says head of senior officers' body

Guardian; 10 September 2018

Chief Superintendent Gavin Thomas, the President of the **Police Superintendents' Association**, has warned that policing is on the brink of crisis in many areas and that he has “genuine fears” for the service in England and Wales, saying that it is “utterly reliant” on fewer people working longer and harder. He said that the delivery of routine policing functions is currently dependent on officers “effectively giving their time for free by staying past their shift times or working on leave days”.

Police spend £100m for staff cuts of 45,000

Times; 10 September 2018

Police forces in England and Wales have spent more than £100m on redundancy pay-outs in the past three years. Over the past three financial years, **South Yorkshire Police** spent £6.7m on redundancy payments, with 74 officers and 158 civilian staff agreeing exit deals. Over the same period, **Merseyside Police** spent £4.7m on pay-offs.

New appointments

Cumbria Police appoints new deputy chief constable

Westmorland Gazette; 18 September 2018

Mark Webster has been appointed as the new Deputy Chief Constable of **Cumbria Constabulary**.

New National Secretary of the Police Federation announced

Police Federation; 17 September 2018

Alex Duncan, National Board member from **Avon & Somerset Police**, has been confirmed as the new National Secretary of the **Police Federation of England and Wales**.

New deputy chief constable appointed for Warwickshire

Stratford Herald; 12 September 2018

Warwickshire Police Service has appointed Richard Moore as its new Deputy Chief Constable.

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[Merseyside Police have appointed a new deputy chief constable](#)

Powys County Times; 12 September 2018

Current Assistant Chief Constable Serena Kennedy will become Deputy Chief Constable of **Merseyside Police** in November. She will replace Carl Foulkes who is leaving to become chief constable of **North Wales Police**.

[Charlotte Vitty resigns as Chief Executive](#)

British Transport Police Authority; 6 September 2018

The Chief Executive of the **British Transport Police Authority**, Charlotte Vitty, has left with immediate effect. A successor has not been appointed yet.

[Northumbria Police appoint Debbie Ford as new Assistant Chief Constable](#)

Northumbria Police; 5 September 2018

Northumbria Police has announced the appointment of a new Assistant Chief Constable. Debbie Ford, who started her career at Northumbria Police, re-joins the force after leaving for **Greater Manchester Police** in 2016.

Misconduct

[Police officer who led Edward Heath case reprimanded by watchdog](#)

Guardian; 17 September 2018

The Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) has found that Mike Veale, the former Chief Constable of **Wiltshire Police** who oversaw the investigation into the former Prime Minister Sir Edward Heath, "has a case to answer" for alleged misconduct for providing an inaccurate account of how his mobile phone was damaged. Mr Veale took over as Chief Constable of **Cleveland Police** in January. The IOPC report is [here](#).

[Police officer who punched man in the head committed gross misconduct](#)

IOPC; 17 September 2018

A **Metropolitan Police** officer who repeatedly punched a man during an arrest has been found to have committed gross misconduct.

[Federation representative to face gross misconduct hearing over abuse of position and discrimination](#)

IOPC; 14 September 2018

Following an Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) investigation, Detective Sergeant Stephen Redgewell, who is employed by the **Metropolitan Police Service** and is a Police Federation representative, will face a gross misconduct hearing after being accused of attempting to develop an inappropriate relationship with an officer he was representing and for using discriminatory language.

[IOPC director general: Low threshold in misconduct case to answer 'not helpful'](#)

Police Oracle; 13 September 2018

Michael Lockwood, Director General of the Independent Office for Police Conduct, has said that the organisation is re-considering its case to answer test and its definition of 'misconduct'.

[Alice Ruggles murder: Police 'failed to investigate concerns properly'](#)

BBC News; 12 September 2018

The Independent Office for Police Conduct has said that **Northumbria Police** officers failed to properly investigate complaints a young woman made against her former boyfriend in the days before he murdered her. It found that two officers had cases of misconduct to answer, while another had performed unsatisfactorily. Full details are [here](#) (IOPC).

[Officer dismissed for squeezing woman's breast on drunken night out](#)

Northern Echo; 12 September 2018

A **Cleveland Police** officer has been dismissed for gross misconduct for squeezing a woman's breast after drinking 16 pints of beer on a day trip with his colleagues.

Inquests and investigations

[Ten officers under investigation following the death of Andre Moura](#)

IOPC; 14 September 2018

Ten **Greater Manchester Police** officers have been informed that they are under investigation following the death of Andre Moura. The ten officers attended the scene of Mr Moura's arrest prior to his death. Three of the officers have been informed that they are subject to a criminal investigation and the other seven have been told that there is an early indication that their behaviour could amount to gross misconduct.

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Finance and funding

[Home Office ignorant of strain on police after cuts, says watchdog](#)

Guardian; 11 September 2018

A National Audit Office (NAO) report, which follows up on a report on the financial sustainability of police forces in June 2015, has accused the Home Office of having gaps “in its understanding of demand for police services and their costs”. The report found that there had been a 19 per cent drop in funding for police since the Conservatives took power in 2010, and officers were struggling to maintain an effective service. It said that the number of police employees had fallen from 244,497 in 2010 to 199,752, and the proportion of reported crimes resulting in a charge or summons had fallen from 15 per cent in 2015 to 9 per cent. The NAO press release is [here](#). A summary of the findings is [here](#) and a copy of the full report is [here](#).

Performance

[Police handling of complaints is inconsistent, says IOPC](#)

IOPC; 13 September 2018

The **Independent Office for Police Conduct** has said that an overall fall in the number of complaints made against the police masks wide discrepancies in the way police forces handle them. The national police complaints statistics for England and Wales 2017/18 show that some forces choose to formally investigate most allegations made against them, while others use the less formal ‘local resolution’ process. A total of 31,671 complaints were recorded by forces - a decrease of 7 per cent on 2016/17’s figure.

[Met police dropped 30,000 criminal investigations in first 24 hours last year](#)

Guardian; 9 September 2018

Figures obtained under the Freedom of Information Act have revealed that the **Metropolitan Police** “screened out” 34,164 crimes without further investigation on the day they were reported in 2017, compared to 13,019 the year before. In the first five months of 2018, 18,093 crimes were closed within 24 hours, putting the number for the year on track to exceed last year’s total. Critics have said that the disclosures demonstrated the effect that austerity was having on the Force’s ability to carry out its duties.

Policy and regulation

[Elected police and crime commissioners can be 'absolutely bleeding hopeless', report told](#)

Independent; 15 September 2018

A report commissioned by the National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) to highlight concerns about the “vulnerabilities” of the elected police and crime commissioners system has found that police officers may be increasingly reluctant to lead forces across England and Wales because of a perceived “hostile environment” created by PCCs, government cuts and rising crime.

[Home Secretary Police Superintendents' Conference speech 2018](#)

Home Office; 11 September 2018

The full text of Home Secretary Sajid Javid’s speech to the Police Superintendents’ Association Annual Conference. In it, Mr Javid announced that he has approved the payment of bonuses of up to £4,000 by chief constables to help attract applicants to unpopular roles, with the payments backdated to September 2017.

[Labour would consider national police force and scrapping PCCs](#)

Police Oracle; 11 September 2018

Louise Haigh, the Shadow Police and Crime Minister, has told the Police Superintendents’ Association annual conference that she has concerns about how police and crime commissioners could be compromising operational independence. She also refused to rule out creating a national police force and revealed that Labour’s pledge to recruit 10,000 additional neighbourhood policing officers would be fully funded by a capital gains tax.


[Home Office proposes extending stop and search powers](#)

Home Office; 9 September 2018

A Home Office consultation seeks views on how effective and proportionate it would be to extend the power of reasonable grounds “stop and search” to cover: the proposed offence of carrying a corrosive substance in a public under the *Offensive Weapons Bill 2018*; the misuse of laser pointers to commit certain offences under the *Laser Misuse (Vehicles) Act 2018*; and the misuse of drones to commit certain offences under the *Air Navigation Order 2016* and the Prisons Act 1952. Comments must be made by 22 October 2018. A copy of the consultation paper is [here](#).

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Technology

[MPS begins 'cloud first' transition](#)

Police Professional; 12 October 2018

The **Metropolitan Police Service** (MPS) has chosen Microsoft Azure as its cloud provider, as the Force begins its transition to a 'Cloud First Strategy' to ensure officers and staff "have the right technology to do their jobs with excellence". The MPS has said that its Digital Policing plans will deliver "unprecedented transformation" of its technology.

Crime

[Stop and search makes crime more likely, report finds](#)

Guardian; 18 September 2018

A report for the charity StopWatch, a coalition of legal experts, civil liberties campaigners and others, has concluded that the police tactic of stop and search is increasing the likelihood of crime rather than preventing it. The report was based on in-depth interviews with individuals named on the **Metropolitan Police's** gangs matrix.

[Police chiefs to establish a safety net if access to EU security tools is lost](#)

National Police Chiefs Council; 18 September 2018

A new national unit will assist police forces if the UK loses access to current EU data sharing and cooperation tools, such as the European Arrest Warrant or Europol systems. The contingency plans, agreed by all chief constables on 17 September, will see UK law enforcement use international police tools through Interpol, bilateral channels and Council of Europe conventions to enable extradition of suspects, trace missing people and share intelligence about crime and terrorism.

[Police wait 18 months for evidence from social media firms](#)

Times; 14 September 2018

It has emerged that **Metropolitan Police** detectives are waiting up to 18 months to receive evidence from social media companies, resulting in fears that criminals may escape justice because the time lag between receiving evidence can be far in excess of the six-month time limit to get cases to trial after a suspect is charged. A spokesman said that senior police were meeting technology companies to try to address the issues, but "the justice system was simply not designed for a digital age". Further details are [here](#) (Daily Mail).

[London Mayor called on to support trial of spit hoods by frontline officers](#)

Police Professional; 6 September 2018

The London Assembly has agreed a motion to urge the **Metropolitan Police Service** Commissioner Cressida Dick to reverse her decision to limit the issue of spit guards in London. The motion calls on the Mayor of London Sadiq Khan to make clear to the Commissioner that she would have his full support in piloting and consulting communities on the full use of spit guards by frontline officers.

[Misogyny could become hate crime as legal review is announced](#)

BBC News; 6 September 2018

A review is to take place into whether misogynistic conduct should be treated as a hate crime. The Law Commission will review how sex and gender characteristics are treated within existing hate crime laws and whether new offences are needed.

NEW LEGISLATION

[Jail time to double for assaulting an emergency worker](#)

Ministry of Justice; 13 September 2018

The *Assaults on Emergency Workers (Offences) Bill* has received Royal Assent. It creates a new offence that will double the maximum sentence from 6 to 12 months in prison for assaulting an emergency worker. This covers police, prison officers, custody officers, fire service personnel, search and rescue services and paramedics. The new law will also mean that judges must consider tougher sentences for a range of other offences - including GBH and sexual assault - if the victim is an emergency worker. A copy of the Act is [here](#).

[Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for North Yorkshire \(Fire and Rescue Authority\) Order 2018](#)

In Force: 15 November 2018

This Order enables the person who is for the time being the **Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for North Yorkshire** to be responsible also for the governance of fire and rescue services within their area. The PCC will then be

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known as the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner. This order abolishes the **North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority** and in its place creates the **North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Fire and Rescue Authority**.

[Police and Firefighters' Pensions \(Amendment\) Regulations 2018](#)

In Force: 8 October 2018

These Regulations make amendments to various instruments relating to pensions payable in respect of police officers in England and Wales and firefighters in England.

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