



DEBATE PACK

Number CDP-2019-0039, 14 February 2019

Funding of Merseyside Police

By Grahame Allen

Summary

This debate pack has been compiled ahead of the Westminster Hall Debate on the Funding of Merseyside Police on Tuesday 19th February. The debate will be led by Stephen Twigg MP.

More detailed information and advice can be provided by our Police funding specialist:

Grahame Allen, x2457

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The House of Commons Library prepares a briefing in hard copy and/or online for most non-legislative debates in the Chamber and Westminster Hall other than half-hour debates. Debate Packs are produced quickly after the announcement of parliamentary business. They are intended to provide a summary or overview of the issue being debated and identify relevant briefings and useful documents, including press and parliamentary material. More detailed briefing can be prepared for Members on request to the Library.

1. Introduction

1.1 Funding in England and Wales

In England and Wales the main source of income for the 43 geographic police forces is central government grant made available through the annual Home Office Police Grant Report. Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) can also raise additional revenue funding through council tax precepts.

For the Metropolitan Police the role of the Police and Crime Commissioner is performed by the [Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime](#). Further detail on the budget setting process in London can be found on MOPAC's [Our Finances](#) pages.

For the Greater Manchester Police, the Mayor of Greater Manchester has responsibility for the governance and budgets with the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime. Further detail on policing in Manchester can be found on the Greater Manchester Police and Fire [webpages](#).

The Motion to approve the [Police Grant Report \(England and Wales\) 2019/20](#)¹ on [Tuesday 5 February 2019](#) is how Parliament approves the central police funding allocation for each force in England and Wales.

Background on police funding in England and Wales can be found in the Library Briefing Paper: [Police Funding](#).

1.2 Police Grant Report 2019/20

A [provisional settlement for the 2019/20 financial year](#) was published on 13 December 2018² and was accompanied by a [letter to Yvette Cooper](#), Chair of the Home Affairs Committee, which contained additional information on the proposed including additional tables.³

The final [Police Grant Report for the 2019/20 financial year](#) was published on 24 January 2019⁴ and was accompanied by a [Written Statement](#) on the same day.⁵ The full Statement is reproduced later in this brief.

Table 1 of the tables that accompanied the [Written Statement: Police Grant allocation tables 2019/20](#), sets out direct resource funding for each police force in England and Wales. The table shows that, assuming all Police and Crime Commissioners in England and Wales maximise their precept income (increasing their precept Band D level by £24 in 2019/20) **total direct resource funding, including pensions grant, for England and Wales will increase to just over £12.1 billion in**

¹ Home Office, [Police Grant Report \(England and Wales\) 2019/20](#), HC 1896, 24 January 2019

² Home Office, [Provisional Police Grant Report \(England and Wales\) 2019/20](#), 13 December 2018

³ [HC DEP2018-1262 13 December 2018](#)

⁴ Home Office, [Police Grant Report \(England and Wales\) 2019/20](#), HC 1896, 24 January 2019

⁵ [HC Deb 24 Jan 2019 HCWS1274](#)

2019/20 from just over £11.03 billion in 2018/19 - a cash rise of 7.2%:

Table 1: Provisional change in total resource funding for England and Wales 2019/20, compared to 2018/19

PCC	Total resource funding including pensions grant in 2019/20*		
	2018/19	2019/20	Cash increase
	£m		
Avon & Somerset	281.7	302.9	21.2
Bedfordshire	104.6	112.7	8.0
Cambridgeshire	134.0	144.5	10.5
Cheshire	177.9	192.0	14.2
City of London	57.0	61.0	4.0
Cleveland	125.4	132.7	7.2
Cumbria	102.9	110.0	7.1
Derbyshire	167.2	179.6	12.4
Devon & Cornwall	291.3	314.1	22.8
Dorset	124.7	135.0	10.4
Durham	115.6	123.1	7.5
Dyfed-Powys	99.1	107.2	8.1
Essex	275.9	298.8	23.0
Gloucestershire	110.3	118.8	8.5
Greater London Authority	2,560.1	2,732.1	172.0
Greater Manchester	556.1	590.8	34.7
Gwent	123.5	132.0	8.5
Hampshire	314.2	339.2	25.0
Hertfordshire	188.9	204.9	16.0
Humberside	175.3	186.8	11.5
Kent	288.8	312.4	23.6
Lancashire	266.8	285.2	18.4
Leicestershire	175.5	188.2	12.7
Lincolnshire	113.9	122.4	8.6
Merseyside	312.6	330.9	18.2
Norfolk	153.6	164.8	11.2
North Wales	146.5	157.2	10.7
North Yorkshire	144.8	155.9	11.1
Northamptonshire	126.0	135.3	9.2
Northumbria	265.3	283.3	18.0
Nottinghamshire	195.1	208.2	13.1
South Wales	271.0	290.1	19.1
South Yorkshire	245.8	261.4	15.6
Staffordshire	182.7	195.9	13.3
Suffolk	116.2	125.3	9.2
Surrey	217.0	234.6	17.6
Sussex	264.9	287.2	22.3
Thames Valley	389.7	422.4	32.7
Warwickshire	94.1	101.5	7.4
West Mercia	205.8	221.9	16.2
West Midlands	534.3	568.6	34.2
West Yorkshire	418.1	446.6	28.5
Wiltshire	109.2	118.3	9.1
Total England & Wales	11,323.4	12,136.0	812.5

* Total resource funding consists of core grant funding, National and International Capital City (NICC) grants, Legacy Council Tax grants, Precept grant, Pensions grant and police precept. Allocations of individual grant streams are set out in tables 3 and 4. 2019/20 precept figures are calculated by assuming that PCCs in England and Wales increase their precept Band D level by £24, and Office for Budget Responsibility forecast tax base increases.

The overall annual increase in total police funding is up to £970m, which includes a £59m increase in counter-terrorism police funding (including firearms uplift), an £89m increase in funding for national priorities excluding firearms uplift (including £90m SOC funding), and £10m of pensions grant funding for counter-terrorism policing and the National Crime Agency.

Figures may not sum due to rounding.

1.3 Reform of the police funding formula

The Home Office paused police funding formula reform in 2015 following errors made in the information shared with Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) and forces on the indicative impacts of the Government's proposed funding model.

The Home Affairs Select Committee's 2015 Report [Reform of the Police Funding Formula](#) (HC 476) criticised the original process and made recommendations on future reform.

The [Government's response](#) to the 2015 Report was not received until 8 March 2017. The response stated:

We are currently undertaking a period of detailed engagement with the policing sector and relevant experts on reform of the police funding formula. This Review will provide recommendations which will be considered carefully before reaching decisions on how to proceed. Reforming the formula remains a key priority for this Government. The response emphasises this commitment, to ensure that the future distribution of core grant funding to force areas in England and Wales is based on a fairer, more up-to-date and transparent formula. **Rt. Hon Brandon Lewis MP.**

On 14 September 2016, then Minister of State for Policing and the Fire Service, Brandon Lewis wrote to all PCCs setting out the Government's plans for continuing the process of police funding formula reform by launching the Review of the Police Core Grant Distribution Formula.⁶

Brandon Lewis wrote to the Chair of the Home Affairs Committee, Yvette Cooper, stating that "No new formula will be introduced without a public consultation" ([Letter from Rt Hon Brandon Lewis MP, Minister of State for Policing and the Fire Service, regarding the reform of the police funding formula](#), 6 April 2017). It was suggested in the media at the time (see [Government to U-turn on police funding reform to protect Met budget](#)) that the reforms to the funding formula would not go ahead.

In the [Written Statement](#) announcing the publication of the provisional settlement for 2018/19 Nick Hurd stated that: "It is intended that the funding formula will be revisited at the next Spending Review"⁷ due to take place during 2019.

⁶ Home affairs committee, Eight report, [Reform of the Police Funding Formula: Government Response to the Committee's Fourth Report of Session 2015–16](#), appendix 2

⁷ [HC Deb 19 Dec 2017 HCWS372](#)

2. Merseyside Police

2.1 Police funding

The amount of Police funding for Merseyside between 2015/16 and 2018/19 can be found in Annex 1 (page 11) of the Home Office publication: [Police funding for England and Wales 2015 to 2019](#) (published July 2018). Data for 2019/20 is from Table 1 (reproduced above) of the tables that accompanied the [Written Statement: Police Grant allocation tables 2019/20](#) (excluding Pension Grant allocation):

Police Funding by PCC (£millions)				
	Cash terms		Real terms (2017/18 prices)	
	Merseyside Police	England and Wales (43 Forces)	Merseyside Police	England and Wales (43 Forces)
2015/16	307	10,927	320	11,398
2016/17	309	10,998	315	11,217
2017/18	308	11,041	308	11,041
2018/19	313	11,323	307	11,121
2019/20	327	11,988	316	11,567
<i>% change between 2015/16 and 2019/20</i>	7%	10%	-1%	1%

Source GDP deflators: HMT, *GDP deflators at market prices, and money GDP December 2018 (Quarterly National Accounts)*, 8 January 2019

For Merseyside, police funding in 2019/20 (excluding Pension Grant allocation) amounted to £327 million in cash terms, a rise of 7% since 2015/16. This compares to a rise for all 43 forces in England and Wales of 10%. In real terms (taking inflation into account) there has been a fall in police funding for Merseyside over the period of 1% compared to a rise of 1% for all 43 forces.

2.2 Police Officers

The table below shows the number of police officers employed in Merseyside (full time equivalents; including long-term absentees) at 31 March each year from 2015 and the latest figures for 30 September 2018:

POLICE OFFICER STRENGTH IN ENGLAND & WALES (FULL TIME EQUIVALENTS; INCLUDING LONG-TERM ABSENTEES) AT 31 MARCH						
					30-Sep	% change 31 March
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2018	2015 to 30 Sept 2018
Merseyside	3,794	3,554	3,538	3,450	3,409	-10.2%
E&W 43 Forces Total	126,818	124,066	123,142	122,404	122,395	-3.5%

Source: Home Office, [Police Workforce: England and Wales](#), (various editions).

The number of full time equivalent (FTE) police officers (including long term absentees) employed in Merseyside decreased by 10.2% between 31 March 2015 and 30 September 2018. The total number of FTE (including long term absentees) police officers in all 43 police forces in England decreased by 3.5% over the same period.

Further information about the police workforce in the United Kingdom to 31 March 2018 is available in the [House of Commons Library Briefing Paper: Police Service Strength](#).

3. Media

3.1 Articles

[Police officer numbers to increase for first time in nine years](#)

Merseyside PCC, 6 Feb 2019

[Public back plans to protect local policing & recruit 40 new officers](#)

Merseyside PCC, 4 Feb 2019

[Merseyside Police needs to find £18m - and YOU are being asked to pay for it](#)

Liam Thorp, Liverpool Echo, 17 Jan 2019

[Police funding increase is 'short-term buck passing'](#)

Dominic Brady, Public Finance, 14 Dec 18

[My priority is to give officers the support they need to protect us all](#)

Savid Javid, The Daily Telegraph, 14 December 2018

[The Government's boost to funding must be matched by improvements in policing](#)

Savid Javid, The Daily Telegraph, 14 December 2018

[England and Wales police funding rise of £970m 'not enough'](#)

Vikram Dodd, Guardian, 13 December 2018

[Police funding: Government pledges extra £300m](#)

Danny Shaw, BBC, 13 December 2018

[England's police receive funding boost to meet pensions deficit](#)

Helen Warrell, FT, 13 December 2018

[More cash to combat crime only works when it is well spent: Calls for extra police funding are deafening but evidence shows how complex the problem is](#)

Tom Gash, FT, 1 December 2018

[Ministers criticised after plans for council tax rise to fund police](#)

Kevin Rawlinson and Vikram Dodd, Guardian, 30 November 2018

[Diane Abbott: Austerity in police funding hasn't ended – but it needs to](#)

Diane Abbott, Left Foot Forward, 22 November 2018

[Public trust in policing 'breaking down' as forces struggle to respond to crime because of cuts, MPs say: Public Accounts Committee says funding for policing is down by almost a fifth since 2010-11](#)

Lizzie Dearden, Independent, 7 November 2018

3.2 Press releases and announcements

[Police to get largest funding increase since 2010](#)

Home Office, 13 December 2018

[Factsheet: Provisional Police Funding Settlement 2019-20](#)

Home Office, 13 December 2018

[Response to the provisional police funding settlement 2019/20](#)

College of Policing, 13 December 2018

[£970m police funding settlement 'won't put officers on the streets' says PFEW](#)

The Police Federation of England and Wales, 13 December 2018

[Supers President: policing still needs more investment](#)

Police Superintendent's Association, 13 December 2018

[Diane Abbott responds to Financial sustainability of police forces in England and Wales report](#)

Labour, 7 November 2018

4. Parliamentary Business

4.1 Ministerial Statements

Police Grant Report England and Wales 2019/20: Written statement - [HCWS1274](#)

Mr Nick Hurd (The Minister of State for Policing and the Fire Service)

My rt hon Friend, the Home Secretary, has today laid before the House, the Police Grant Report (England and Wales) 2019/20 (HC 1896) for the approval of the House. The Report sets out, my rt hon Friend, the Home Secretary's determination for 2019/20 of the aggregate amount of grant that he proposes to pay under section 46(2) of the Police Act 1996.

The first role of government is to protect the public. We will always ensure that the police have the powers and resources needed to keep our citizens and communities safe. We know that the police need the right capabilities and resources to respond to the changing nature of crime. This financial year, we provided forces with a £460m increase in overall funding, including increased funding to tackle counter-terrorism and £280m for local policing through the police precept. Most Police and Crime Commissioners set out plans to use this funding to either protect or enhance frontline policing.

Last year, we indicated we would provide a similar funding settlement in 2019/20, if the police made progress in delivering further commercial savings, used mobile digital working and increased financial reserves transparency. The police have delivered on these conditions and are on track to deliver £120m in commercial and back office savings by 2020/21 and move towards a new commercial operating model. All forces have published reserves strategies using the guidance we published in January 2018.

Before announcing the Government's proposals, we reviewed the demand on the police again. It is clear that demand pressures on the police have risen this year as a result of changing crime. There has been a major increase in the reporting of high harm, previously hidden crimes such as child sexual exploitation and modern slavery and a growing threat from serious and organised crime (SOC). SOC affects more UK citizens, more often, than any other national security threat and costs the economy at least £37 billion each year. It is increasing in both volume and complexity.

Through the Serious Violence Strategy, we are bearing down on the worst spike in serious violence and knife crime that we have seen in a decade by combining support for more robust and targeted policing with effective long-term investment in prevention and earlier intervention. And we need to recognise the work done by the police to combat the evolving threat from terrorism. The Government is determined to support the police to meet the demand across counter-terrorism, serious and organised crime and local policing.

I have carefully considered the responses to the consultation on the provisional Police Grant Report. I am pleased with the positive response we have received with most Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) consulting their communities on using the new £24 precept flexibility in full and many saying that they will use the additional funding to increase or protect the frontline.

I can confirm that the allocations that have been laid before the House today are the same as those proposed in my Statement of 13 December 2018. These proposals will help forces to both meet additional demand and manage financial pressures. In total, we will enable an increase in funding for the police system of up to £970m compared to 2018/19, the biggest increase since 2010. This includes increases in Government grant funding, full use of precept flexibility, funding to support pensions costs, and increased national funding to meet the threats from counter-terrorism and serious and organised crime.

As the Chancellor announced at the Budget, funding for counter-terrorism policing will increase by £160m compared to the 2015 Spending Review settlement. This is a year on year increase in counter-terrorism police funding of £59m (8%) compared to 2018/19. This increases the counter-terrorism budget to £816m, including £24m for an uplift in armed policing from the Police Transformation Fund. This is a significant additional investment in the vital work of counter-terrorism police officers across the country. PCCs will be notified of force allocations separately. These will not be made public for security reasons.

The Government has prioritised serious and organised crime (SOC) within our funding for national priorities in 2019/20. Criminal networks are increasingly resilient and adaptable, exploiting technology and ruthlessly targeting the most vulnerable, ruining lives and blighting communities. The new SOC Strategy, published on 1 November, sets out the Government's new approach to prevent serious and organised crime, build our defences against it, track down the perpetrators and bring them to justice. Police forces, alongside the NCA and Regional Organised Crime Units, are an essential part of this approach, tackling complex SOC threats, including fraud, cyber crime and child sexual exploitation and abuse. We will invest £90m in much-needed SOC capabilities at national, regional and local levels, with a significant proportion allocated directly to police forces.

We are increasing the general Government grants to PCCs by £161m (including £90m additional funding from the Exchequer) to a total of £7.8bn, including a £146m increase in core grant funding. Each PCC will see their Government grant funding protected in real terms. Specific grants to the Metropolitan Police Service and City of London Police will increase by £14m; an affordable increase that will better reflect the additional costs of policing London, at a time when the Metropolitan Police Service faces specific financial pressures, and the City of London Police does not benefit from additional Council Tax precept flexibility.

Following the announcement at the Budget that the Government would allocate funding from the Reserve to pay part of the costs of increases in public sector pensions contributions in 2019/20, we are allocating a further £153m of specific grant funding to support the policing system with increases in pensions contributions (including additional funding for the counter-terrorism police network and the National Crime Agency). This funding will be distributed according to a methodology developed with police leaders.

We are also proposing to double the precept flexibility for locally accountable PCCs. Last year, we provided an additional £12 precept flexibility. This year, we propose giving PCCs the freedom to ask for an additional £2 a month in 2019/20, to increase their Band D precept by £24 in 2019/20 without the need to call a local referendum.

It is for locally accountable PCCs to take decisions on local precept and explain to their electorate how this additional investment will help deliver a better police service. If all PCCs use their flexibility in full in 2019/20, based on the latest Office for Budget Responsibility tax base forecasts, it will mean around an additional £509m public investment in our police system.

Taken together, this substantial increase in police funding will enable forces to continue recruiting, fill crucial capability gaps such as in detectives, meet their genuine financial pressures, drive through efficiency programmes, and improve their effectiveness by preventing crime and delivering better outcomes for victims of crime.

In addition to these increases in direct funding, we will also support PCCs and forces through continued investment of £175m in the Police Transformation Fund (PTF) and £495m to improve police technology, as we did last year. Our priorities in the PTF are to support sector led initiatives that will build important national capabilities delivered to forces through the major national police led programmes, which include a Single Online Home (Policing website) to engage more effectively with the public, and new ways of working through productivity and cyber-security tools supporting collaboration. The Home Office technology programmes will, for example, replace and upgrade end of life critical infrastructure such as the Airwave communication system with the 4G Emergency Services Network. The Law Enforcement Data Service will replace the existing Police National Computer and Police National Database with an integrated service to provide intelligence to law enforcement and its partners. I set out in an annex to this letter further information regarding police funding in 2019/20, namely tables illustrating how we propose to allocate the police funding settlement between the different funding streams and between Police and Crime Commissioners for 2019/20.

As I set out in my statement of 13 December, this investment will support four key pillars of police effectiveness. Firstly, increasing capacity, including investing in Police Now to attract excellent new

talent, while introducing technology that saves time – so officers spend longer on the frontline. Secondly, crime prevention, including funding for innovative new techniques. Thirdly, enhancing the support we offer to hard-working frontline police officers and staff, with the new national welfare service. And finally, through ensuring system leaders provide national direction on performance, including through working more smartly, with the digitally enabled modern tools to police effectively.

As set out in December, this settlement sets out four priority areas to drive efficiency, productivity and effectiveness next year to drive improvements in services to the public.

1. On behalf of the taxpayer, the Government will expect to see continued efficiency savings in 2019/20 through collective procurement and shared services. We need to see national approaches to procuring forensics, vehicles and basic equipment such as helmets, developed over the coming year. And we will be setting an expectation that every force contributes substantially to procurement savings; we will work with the police to agree the right force level objectives for 2019/20 and 2020/21 in the coming months. All forces should also contribute to the development of a new commercial operating model over 2019/20.

2. We will expect major progress to resolve the challenges in investigative resource identified by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services, including recruiting more detectives to tackle the shortfall. We will work with the College of Policing and the National Police Chiefs' Council to support forces to make this change by accelerating their action plan on investigations, making full use of the innovation offered by Police Now.

3. Forces will have to continue improving productivity, including through smarter use of data, and digital capabilities including mobile working, with an ambition to deliver £50m of productivity gains in 2019/20.

4. Furthermore, we expect forces to maintain a SOC response that spans the identification and management of local threats as well as support for national and regional priorities. This response should be built around the disruption of local SOC threats alongside SOC prevention, safeguarding, partnerships and community engagement.

We will be engaging with police leaders in due course to discuss how these improvements will be delivered.

This settlement is the last before the next Spending Review, which will set long term police budgets and look at how resources are allocated fairly across police forces. The Home Office is grateful to the police for the good work they are doing to build the evidence base to support that work, and we will also want to see evidence that this year's investment is being well spent. In addition to working together to

understand demand, we will be working with the police to present an ambitious plan to drive improved efficiency, productivity and effectiveness through the next Spending Review period.

I have made clear that the Government's priorities are an increasing emphasis on crime prevention, while maintaining a focus on catching the perpetrators of crime; improved outcomes for victims of crime; better support for front line officers; and a step change in the effectiveness of how data and digital technology are used to build a smarter police system and support a more effective service to the public.

The Government pays tribute to our police forces and police staff around the country for their exceptional attitude, hard work and bravery.

I have set out in a separate document the tables illustrating how we propose to allocate the police funding settlement between the different funding streams and between Police & Crime Commissioners for 2019/20. These documents are intended to be read together.

[Police Grant allocation tables 2019/20](#) (PDF Document, 216.5 KB)

This statement has also been made in the House of Lords: [HLWS1242](#)

4.2 Debates

[Police Grant Report 2019/20](#)

HC Deb 5 February 2019, cc 189-241

[Police Funding Settlement](#)

HC Deb 13 December 2018, cc 431-450

[Police Funding Settlement](#)

HL Deb 13 December 2018, cc1497-1506

[Response to Opposition Day Debate: Rural Crime and Public Services](#)¹⁵

November 2018, Victoria Atkins (The Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Crime, Safeguarding and Vulnerability), HCWS1087

[Opposition Day Debate: rural crime and public services](#)

6 June 2018, HC Deb 6 June 2018 c364

[Financial Statement](#)

29 October 2018, The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr Philip Hammond), cc 657-658

[Police Funding](#)

19 April 2018, Mr Nick Hurd (The Minister of State for Policing and the Fire Service), HCWS626

[Opposition day debate: Police Funding](#)

28 March 2018, HC Deb 28 March c848

4.3 Parliamentary Questions

Asked by **Maria Eagle**, 14 November 2017

Merseyside Police: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she will take to ensure Merseyside Police have adequate funding to tackle recent increases in gun crime, following the meeting with the Minister of State for Security on 18 July 2017.

Answered by **Ben Wallace**, 21 November 2017

The 2015 Spending Review protected police funding in real terms, assuming Police and Crime Commissioners maximise precept. Since then, police forces have received broadly flat cash direct resource funding and we are increasing investment in transformation and improved communications and technology capabilities. As a result, Merseyside police force received £500,000 more in 2017/18 compared with 2015/16. However, the Government recognises that the police have faced significant challenges this year. We have, therefore, set in hand a programme of engagement to understand better the demands they face, and how these can best be managed. As part of this, the Minister for Policing and Fire Minister has spoken to or visited every police force in England and Wales, including Merseyside.

We are in regular discussion with police forces and the National Ballistics Intelligence Service to monitor gun crime levels. The ONS statistics for the year ending June 2017, show that firearms offences are 31% lower than they were a decade ago, though there has been an increase nationally in recent years. The opposite has been the case in Merseyside in recent years, with firearms offences falling.

We continue to work closely with law enforcement partners to ensure that we have the right intelligence, detection and enforcement capabilities internationally, at the UK border and within the UK. For example, firearms controls have been strengthened through the Policing and Crime Act 2017 and a multi-agency firearms unit has been established. On 5th September this unit was awarded £2.4m of Police Transformation Funding. We are also consulting on antique firearms, seeking views on which types of old firearm remain safe to be held without controls, and which should become subject to licensing to stop them falling into criminal hands.

Complementary to this work at the national level, the Home Office supports the local and regional response to crime where appropriate, and discussions are ongoing about the support available for Merseyside. The Home Secretary's letter to you (Maria Eagle MP) of 5th September, provides further detail on this. I am in regular contact with the Chief Constable of Merseyside on the issue and will continue to explore further support to deal with the levels of Gun Crime in the City.

Asked by **Maria Eagle**, 28 June 2017

Police: Merseyside: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the potential effect of the level of 2017 policing budget on police numbers in Merseyside for (a) 2018-19, (b) 2019-20 and (c) 2020-21.

Answered by: Mr Nick Hurd, 4 August 2017

Every Police & Crime Commissioner who maximised their local precept income in 2016-17 and 2017-18 is receiving at least the same direct resource funding in cash than they received in 2015-16. In Merseyside, the PCC is receiving £0.5m more direct resource funding in 2017-18 than in 2015-16.

Decisions about local policing roles and officer numbers are for Chief Constables and PCCs. This discretion and flexibility has allowed for a range of targeted, more resilient approaches tailored to local needs, that is constantly held to account by the people officers serve.

Asked by **Grahame Morris** (Easington) 28 January 2019 [213324](#)

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the policing precepts in increasing police funding in areas with a low base of council tax.

Answered by: The Minister for Policing and the Fire Service (Mr **Nick Hurd**), 31 January 2019

For 2019/20 we are proposing the biggest increase in funding since 2010 - total funding of up to £14 billion for 2019-20, an increase of up to £970m compared to 2018/19, including council tax, pensions funding and national investment. With more money for local police forces, counter terrorism and tackling serious and organised crime. We are increasing Government grants to PCCs by £161m, with every PCC's grant protected in real terms. Additionally, PCCs will be empowered to raise council tax contributions for local policing up to £2-a-month per household. If all PCCs increase their precept by £24 a year, this could raise up to around £509m for police forces to spend locally.

It is right for PCCs to decide if council tax should increase by £2 a month for a Band D households. Elected PCCs will have to make a case for raising local tax to their electorate and be accountable for delivery of a return on that public investment.

We have reviewed the changing and increasingly complex demands on the police and this settlement will enable them to meet the financial pressures they face next year, while continuing to recruit.

Asked by **Louise Haigh** (Sheffield, Heeley), 23 January 2019

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how much public funding (a) has been allocated to the (i) National Crime Agency and (ii) regional organised crime units in each year since 2015-16 and (b) he plans to allocate to those organisations in total under the 2019-20 provisional police funding settlement.

Answered by: The Minister for Policing and the Fire Service (Mr **Nick Hurd**), 28 January 2019

Regarding the public funding for the National Crime Agency, the figures are as follows:

- 15/16: Resource DEL (excluding depreciation): 371; Capital DEL, 40
- 16/17: Resource DEL (excluding depreciation): 384; Capital DEL, 50
- 17/18: Resource DEL (excluding depreciation): 387; Capital DEL, 50
- 18/19: Resource DEL (excluding depreciation): 377; Capital DEL, 50.

Regarding the public funding for the regional organised crime units (ROCUs), funding is provided through a combination of PCC funding, Home Office Grant funding (including around £20m ROCU grant per annum) and the Police Transformation Fund. The total figures are as follows:

- 15/16: Just over £101m.
- 16/17: Just under £119m (they were also granted just over £2.6m in capital).
- 2017/18: Just over £129m (they were granted capital of just over £2.4m).

In 2018/19, the ROCU network has a combined operating budget of around £166.4m with a total capital expenditure of around £4.6m. It should be noted that the 2018/19 figure excludes London, but we can confirm that London was allocated just over £2.1m through the Home Office ROCU Grant.

Asked by **Zac Goldsmith** (Richmond Park) (Con), 21 January 2019

Hon. Members will know from today's papers that there has been yet another stabbing in London—this time in Kew in my constituency. I am pleased to say that the victim is now expected to make a full recovery and I thank the local police for their full and rapid response. Will my right hon. Friend acknowledge, please, that increased crime in the capital is a source of huge anxiety? Will he reassure my constituents not only that getting to grips with it is a top Government priority, but that he is doing everything he can to work with both the Met and the Mayor of London on a coordinated and full response?

Answered by The Minister for Policing and the Fire Service (Mr **Nick Hurd**), 21 January 2019

I can certainly give my hon. Friend that assurance, because it is one of the biggest public safety challenges that we face as a city and as a country. I am meeting the Mayor later this evening to discuss this in person. My hon. Friend wants more resources: an additional £100

million of investment is going into the Met police this year and the proposed funding settlement will see an additional £172 million of public money going in to support the Met. That is alongside all the other work that we are doing on the Offensive Weapons Bill, stop-and-search and everything else that he wants to see. I cannot think of a higher priority for the Department at this moment.

Asked by **Preet Kaur Gill** (Birmingham, Edgbaston) 8 January 2019

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment he has made of the financial effect on police forces in 2019-20 of (a) employers' contribution to police pensions schemes, (b) inflation and (c) national pay awards.

Answered by The Minister for Policing and the Fire Service (Mr **Nick Hurd**) 18 January 2019

The Government has worked closely with policing stakeholders to understand the impact that changes to police officer pensions will have on their budgets in 2019/20 and beyond.

The Police Remuneration Review Body will submit their recommendations for the police award for 2019/20 to the Government in May. The Government will very carefully consider their recommendations and the impact on force budgets.

The Government's proposed funding settlement for the police for 2019/20 was announced last month and provides additional funding of up to £970 million, including additional Government grant funding, council tax precept and investment in national priorities. This substantial increase will enable forces to meet their genuine financial pressures as well as to invest in key capabilities.

Asked by **Louise Haigh** (Sheffield, Heeley) 18 December 2018

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how much funding has been allocated to the (a) National Police Chiefs' Council and (b) police forces for contingency planning in the event that the UK leaves the EU without a deal.

Answered by The Minister for Policing and the Fire Service (Mr **Nick Hurd**), 7 January 2019

We have provided £2.4 million to the National Chiefs' Police Council to assist in their preparations for leaving the United Kingdom without a deal. We have also paid £845k to Kent Police for their European Union Exit planning.

We are engaging closely with the police sector in relation to planning and funding pressures in relation to the United Kingdom leaving the European Union.

Asked by **Louise Haigh** (Sheffield, Heeley), 30 October 2018

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how much funding his Department has allocated to policing in preparation for the UK leaving the EU (a) with and (b) without a deal.

Answered by The Minister for Policing and the Fire Service (Mr **Nick Hurd**), 21 December 2018

For the financial year 2018-19, the department will receive an allocation of £395m to continue preparing for the UK to leave the EU. This funding will cover both deal and any no deal scenario.

As part of its planning for a no deal scenario the Home Office will be providing support in 2018-19 to the National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) and ACRO Criminal Records Office.

Asked by **Bambos Charalambous** (Enfield, Southgate) (Lab), 29 October 2018

What recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of police funding.

Answered by The Minister for Policing and the Fire Service (Mr **Nick Hurd**), 29 October 2018

As taxpayers, we are investing over £1 billion more in our police system than we were three years ago. That shows the Government's recognition of not only the increasing demand on police and the increasing complexity of that demand, but the progress that we are making in reducing the deficit in our public finances—progress jeopardised by the current Labour Front-Bench team.

Bambos Charalambous: The Minister will no doubt be aware of the lamentable findings of the recently published Home Affairs Committee report, "Policing for the future". Does he agree with its conclusion that without "additional funding for policing...there will be dire consequences for public safety, criminal justice, community cohesion and public confidence"?

Will he join me in calling on the Chancellor to provide substantially more funding for policing not only in my constituency, Enfield, Southgate, but throughout the country?

Mr Hurd: I agree with much of the Select Committee's report, including on the need for more resources for policing, which is exactly what we are providing through an additional £140 million taxpayer investment in our police system this year. That is a police funding settlement that the hon. Gentleman and other Labour MPs voted against.

Asked by **Ms Diane Abbott** (Hackney North and Stoke Newington) (Lab) 29 October 2018

I associate myself with the Home Secretary's remarks on the tragedy in Leicester and on the horrific events in Pittsburgh. Our thoughts and prayers should be with the family and friends of the slaughtered and with the people of Pittsburgh.

The Home Secretary will be aware that the National Audit Office has clearly set out how the Government have failed to protect police funding. Does he accept that this is a mark of shame and is putting the public at risk? Since 2010, over 21,000 police officers have been cut under the Tory Government's austerity policy. All our constituents can see the consequences in delays in responding to 999 calls and in rising violent crime. Will we see the Chancellor today offer any additional funding for policing? The fear must be that the Government will not even properly fund the police pension settlement.

Answered by The Secretary of State for the Home Department (**Sajid Javid**)

The right hon. Lady is right to talk about policing and the incredible work that the officers and staff do, but it is worth reminding the House that Labour planned to cut police spending by 5% to 10% had it won the 2015 election. Labour did promise an increase in 2017, but it was not enough, because we increased police funding by more than Labour promised—by £460 million. Labour went on to vote against that increase. Not a single Labour MP voted for an increase in police funding when they had the opportunity, so we will not take any lectures from Labour on policing.

Asked by **Lucy Powell** (Manchester Central), 17 October 2018

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the (a) amount of direct Government funding and (b) contribution from council tax through the police precept to each police force in England in each year from 2009 to 2016.

Answered by The Minister for Policing and the Fire Service (Mr **Nick Hurd**), 22 October 2018

Earlier this year the Home Office published a statistical bulletin setting out the breakdown of general Government grant funding and precept funding for each force for the years 2015-16 to 2018-19, available at the link below.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/police-funding-for-england-and-wales-2015-to-2019>

Police Grant Reports and accompanying Written Ministerial Statements setting out the grant funding provided by the Home Office are available for the years since 2010-11 at the address below.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/police-finance>

The 2009-10 Police Grant Report can be found at the link below.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/98274/police-grant-report.pdf

Council tax information for Police and Crime Commissioners in England since 2011-12 is published by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and is available at the link below.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/council-tax-statistics>

The 2009-10 and 2010-11 council tax information can be found at the links below.

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20120919221338/http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/counciltax200910>
<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20120919171510/http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment>

5. Further reading

Home Office, [Provisional police grant report: 2019 to 2020](#), 13 December 2018

Public Accounts Select Committee, [Financial pressures undermining confidence in the police](#), 7 November 2018

Home Affairs Select Committee, [Committee warns of “dire consequences” without extra police funding](#), 25 October 2018

National Audit Office, [Financial sustainability of police forces in England and Wales 2018](#), HC 1501, 11 September 2018

Home Office, [Police Grant Report \(England and Wales\) 2018/19](#), HC 745, 31 January 2018.

Home Office, [Police financial reserves](#), 31 January 2018.

IFS, [Police Workforce and Funding in England and Wales](#)

R. Dinsey, P. Simpson and J. Payne, 2017

Home Office, [Guide to the police allocation formula](#), 26 March 2013.

5.1 Commons Library briefings

[Police Funding CBP 07279, 8 February 2016](#)

This briefing explains the existing funding arrangements for police forces. It focuses on revenue funding for the territorial police forces of the United Kingdom. Police receive separate grants for capital purposes.

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