



DEBATE PACK

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Effect of reductions in funding to police, fire and rescue services

By Jennifer Brown
Grahame Allen
Maria Lalic

Summary

A Westminster Hall debate on the effect of reductions in funding to police, fire and rescue services will be held on Wednesday 20 February from 9.30am. The Member opening the debate is Grahame Morris MP.

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.

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1. Police

1.1 Government policy

It is up to individual forces how they spend their money. Police forces are unable to run budget deficits, so they must allocate their spending within their means (considering their annual funding and cash reserves).¹

Between 2010 and 2015 police forces made combined savings worth £1.5 billion as part of the Coalition Government's programme of deficit reduction.² In the [2015 Spending Review](#) the Government committed to protect overall police spending in real terms (i.e. in line with inflation) up to 2019.³

The Government says it recognises that the police are "under pressure due to the changing nature of crime".⁴ In 2019/20 total direct resource funding, including pensions grant, for England and Wales will increase to just over £12.1 billion in 2019/20 from just over £11.03 billion in 2018/19 - a cash rise of 7.2% (see below for details).⁵

The 2019/20 police funding settlement will be the last under the current Spending Review period. Home Secretary Sajid Javid has said that the Home Office will be

...working with the police to present an ambitious plan to drive improved efficiency, productivity and effectiveness through the next Spending Review period.⁶

How police funding is allocated

Police forces receive their funding annually, primarily from two sources: through a **central government grant** and through policing precepts in **council tax** receipts. These funds are distributed to each force via their Police and Crime Commissioners.⁷

Central government funding

The Home Office uses a 'police funding formula' to calculate how much money each force will receive from the overall central funds. Many stakeholders have been critical of the formula. See section 1.3 below.

Council tax

Police and Crime Commissioners can raise funding for their force from local council tax precepts. The amount by which they can do so is fixed by central government. Each year the government decides whether to raise the fixed precept or not.

¹ NAO, [Financial sustainability of police forces in England and Wales 2018](#), p8

² HM Treasury, [Spending review and autumn statement 2015](#), paragraph 4.3

³ Ibid

⁴ [PQ194016: Police Finance](#), answered on 11 February 2019

⁵ HCWS1274 Police Grant Report England and Wales 2019/20, made on 24 January 2019

⁶ [Letter from Home Secretary Sajid Javid to Rt Hon Yvette Cooper regarding police funding](#), dated 13 December 2018

⁷ Or, in London the Mayor's Office of Policing and Crime, and in Manchester the Mayor of Greater Manchester.

1.2 Police Grant Report 2019/20

A [provisional settlement for the 2019/20 financial year](#) was published on 13 December 2018⁸ 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.⁹

The final [Police Grant Report for the 2019/20 financial year](#) was published on 24 January 2019¹⁰ and was accompanied by a [Written Statement](#) on the same day.¹¹

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

⁸ Home Office, [Provisional Police Grant Report \(England and Wales\) 2019/20](#), 13 December 2018

⁹ [HC DEP2018-1262 13 December 2018](#)

¹⁰ Home Office, [Police Grant Report \(England and Wales\) 2019/20](#), HC 1896, 24 January 2019

¹¹ [HC Deb 24 Jan 2019 HCWS1274](#)

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.¹²

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.¹³

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"¹⁴ due to take place during 2019.

1.4 Cost saving measures

It is up to individual PCCs how they allocate funding to their force. Police forces have taken a variety of measures to meet their funding

¹² Home affairs committee, [Reform of the Police Funding Formula: Government Response to the Committee's Fourth Report of Session 2015–16](#), HC 1093, appendix one

¹³ 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

¹⁴ [HC Deb 19 Dec 2017 HCWS372](#)

challenges. The National Audit Office (NAO) has identified some key ways in which police forces are saving money:

- Reducing staff numbers.
- Selling capital assets (including property and land).
- Spending less on large scale projects. For example, IT transformation.
- Making efficiency savings.¹⁵

1.5 Impact on services

Annual assessment of policing in England and Wales

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) publishes an annual assessment of the state of policing in England and Wales. This report is based on their inspections of each police force in that year. The latest annual report, for 2017, noted that:

On the whole, the inspections we have carried out during the past year show that the effectiveness and efficiency of the police service are improving. This is to the credit of all those who work in policing.

Generally, forces have made progress on the recommendations we have made, and most can show efficiency improvements. This is important because, while policing budgets have been protected more than in some other public-sector organisations, forces still face difficult financial pressures.¹⁶

HMICFRS found that some forces were not meeting enough of their current demand.

Almost a quarter of forces are not meeting enough of their demand or are managing it inappropriately. In some cases, forces are putting vulnerable people at serious risk of harm.

In some forces, we found that staff were holding thousands of emergency calls in queues, largely because officers were not available to respond to them. In some cases, officers were not actively reassessing the urgency of the calls during the delay.¹⁷

The inspectorate said that forces need "a better understanding of the demand they face" and that there needs to be an "open, public debate about demand".¹⁸ The inspectorate said:

Given that police forces do not have unlimited resources, we cannot expect them to meet all the demand that we might want them to. This means chief officers must make choices about how to respond to each type of demand. It is important that the public understand those choices – and the reasons behind them – so they can have fair expectations and confidence in the police.¹⁹

The Library briefing [Police Service Strength](#) discusses the number of police staff in detail. At 31 March 2018 there were a total of 150,000 police officers operating within the United Kingdom. This was a reduction of 3.7% compared to 2003 and a decrease of 12.8% from 2010.

¹⁵ National Audit Office, [Financial sustainability of police forces in England and Wales 2018](#), p

¹⁶ HMICFRS, [State of Policing The Annual Assessment of Policing in England and Wales Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary](#), June 2018, p10

¹⁷ Ibid, p18

¹⁸ Ibid, p16-17

¹⁹ Ibid, p17

NAO report on financial sustainability of police forces

The NAO has conducted a review of the [financial sustainability of police forces in England and Wales](#) in 2018. The NAO found that there are “signs emerging that forces are finding it harder to deliver an effective service”.²⁰

The NAO concluded that the Home Office does not provide value for money in the way it oversees the police system:

The Home Office’s light touch approach to overseeing police forces means it does not know if the police system is financially sustainable. It lacks a long-term plan for policing and significant gaps remain in its understanding of demand for police services and their costs. The way the Department chooses to distribute funding has been ineffective and detached from the changing nature of policing for too long, and it cannot be sure overall funding is being directed to the right places. With plans to reform the funding formula on hold, and no systematic approach to ensuring forces are financially sustainable, we cannot conclude that the Home Office’s oversight of the police system is value for money.²¹

Home Affairs Committee

The Home Affairs Committee have also been critical of police funding. Their 2018 report [Policing for the Future](#) the committee argued that police forces were in need of an uplift in funding (note that this report predates the latest funding settlement):

Given the complex challenges outlined in this report, we have no doubt that a failure to provide a funding uplift for policing would have dire consequences. Efficiency savings can only go so far, in the context of the challenges that forces now face: substantial increases in serious violence and volume crime; a rise in complex cases, including child sexual offences and domestic abuse; an ever-growing workload from safeguarding vulnerable people, and an explosion of internet crime, with the evidential challenges that creates. Without extra funding, something will have to give, and the police will not be able to fulfil their duties in delivering public safety, criminal justice, community cohesion and public confidence.²²

Other stakeholders

Stakeholders within the policing profession have also expressed concerns about the impact of funding cuts on forces:

The Police Federation (a body which represents rank and file officers) published results of a survey of police officers in February 2019. Around 89% of survey respondents said there were not enough officers to manage the demands faced by their team or unit.²³

²⁰ NAO, [Financial sustainability of police forces in England and Wales 2018](#), p8

²¹ Ibid, p11

²² House of Commons Home Affairs Committee, [Policing for the future: tenth report of session 2017-19](#), HC 515, 22 October 2018, paragraph 165

²³ Police Federation, [Government must face facts - extreme stress in policing is real](#), 13 February 2019

Cressida Dick, the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS), told the Home Affairs Committee that her force cannot

go on dealing with rising demand and greater complexity forever without having to make some hard choices. You make choices either about reducing the scope of the mission or taking more risk about what you do. Of course, if I speak for the MPS, we have made £700million worth of efficiencies in the last few years and we are in the middle of the largest change programme the MPS has ever been through, definitely. We have another couple of hundred million to find. I am sure everybody would say there is probably a little bit more efficiency they could squeeze here and there, but what we see is this huge rising expectation and demand that is putting a massive strain on our people, and it cannot go on without hard choices: either, as I say, more money, smaller mission, greater risk appetite.²⁴

The Labour Party have been critical of levels of police funding. Speaking in the debate on the 2019/10 Police Grant Report, Shadow Minister for Policing Louise Haigh said:

This Government have an abominable record on law and order, and no political will to redress it. By passing the burden of their political failure on to local taxpayers, they are storing up problems for the future, which will see the forces with the largest increases in crime, especially violent crime, hit time and again. The public know this Government have failed and will continue to fail in their first and most solemn duty, to keep their citizens safe, and today's settlement confirms that failure once again.²⁵

In response the **Policing Minister Nick Hurd** said:

This settlement demonstrates our recognition that our police system needs additional support. We have one of the best police systems in the world and we are determined to keep it that way. The settlement provides the opportunity to increase public investment by almost £1 billion. It allows PCCs to manage the cost pressures on them, which are real, and to recruit local police officers to bear down on local crime. It also provides additional money for national priorities, such as counter-terrorism and serious organised crime, which costs this country £37 billion a year and on which the Labour party is absolutely silent.

The settlement is another stepping stone—I have been candid on this—on the journey towards the comprehensive spending review and the opportunity to structure long-term funding for the police and to address the issue of fair funding, which exercises minds across the House. The Home Secretary has made it clear that police funding is his priority. We all want to register our thanks to the police, but they need more than that—they need our support. That is exactly what the settlement provides.²⁶

²⁴ Home Affairs Committee, [Oral evidence: Policing for the future](#), HC515, Q462

²⁵ HCDeb: [Police Grant Report](#), cc234, 05 February 2019

²⁶ Ibid, cc237

The Association of Police and Crime Commissioners has welcomed additional funding received in the 2019/20 settlement. They said that the:

...extra resources will help us to deal with the immediate cost pressures for issues such as inflation and pensions, as well as investment in critical areas such as technology.²⁷

²⁷ Association of Police and Crime Commissioners, [Provisional police funding settlement: APCC response](#), 13 December 2018

2. Fire and rescue services

The Government has had a more specific policy of efficiency savings for fire and rescue services. In 2012 (then) Fire Minister Brandon Lewis commissioned Sir Ken Knight to review how fire and rescue authorities could make efficiency savings without impacting on front line services.²⁸

Sir Ken's report [Facing the future](#) found concluded that:

Fire and rescue authorities do now need to transform themselves to reflect the entirely different era of risk and demand they now operate in.²⁹

The report noted that whilst firefighters' attendance at incidents was down 40% over the preceding ten years whilst expenditure and firefighter numbers remain broadly the same. Sir Ken made some key conclusions:

- That the existing funding formula was fair.
- That savings could be made by increasing the total of 'on-call' firefighters (those firefighters retained at 10% of a full-time firefighter's salary).
- That fire and rescue authorities should adoption the leanest staff to manager ratios.
- That there was scope for fire and rescue services to make efficiency savings.

In its [response to Facing the future](#) the Fire Brigade Union (FBU) largely disagreed with Sir Ken's conclusions and recommendations. The FBU said that:

The Review is eclectic, largely un-evidenced and with little support in the sector. The FBU contends that the Review should, at best, be viewed as a starting point for discussion and not be considered as conclusive nor a blueprint for the future fire and rescue service.³⁰

The FBU are running a campaign [Save our Fire and Rescue Service](#) in opposition to reductions in fire and rescue service budgets.

2.1 NAO reports

The NAO published two reports on fire and rescue services on 5 November 2015.

In addition to the report on the [Impact of funding reductions on fire and rescue services](#), its 'value-for-money' report, [Financial sustainability of fire and rescue services](#), examined whether the Department for

²⁸ Ministry of Housing, [Communities & Local Government, Government fire chief to lead efficiency review of fire and rescue](#), December 2012

²⁹ Sir Ken Knight CBE QFSM, [Facing the future: Findings from the review of efficiencies and operations in fire and rescue authorities in England](#), May 2013

³⁰ Fire Brigades Union memorandum to the Communities and Local Government Select Committee, [FBU response to the DCLG- commissioned report: Facing the future: findings from the review of efficiencies and operations in fire and rescue authorities in England](#), June 2013

Communities and Local Government understands the impact of cuts on the financial and service sustainability of fire and rescue services. A [summary](#) of the key findings is available on the NAO website.

The reports' relevant key findings are as follows:

Funding for fire and rescue authorities has fallen significantly between 2010-11 and 2015-16 (by between 26% and 39%).³¹ More up to date funding statistics are contained in section 2.2 of this brief.

Cost saving measures

The NAO highlighted some key ways in which fire and rescue authorities had made savings:

- Savings have come predominantly from reducing staff costs.
- Fire and rescue authorities have not switched to use retained duty (ie part-time) firefighters to deliver savings.
- There has been relatively little change in the number of fire stations.
- Fire and rescue authorities have sought to collaborate with other local service providers to deliver savings, but often this adds value to other sectors rather than addressing the sector's own financial challenges.³²

Impact on services

The NAO found fire and rescue authorities have managed funding reductions well. In making savings fire and rescue authorities have protected appliances and fire stations (key to maintaining response standards and valued by the public) but reduced numbers of firefighters. Emergency response standards have not changed as a result of budget cuts, but there have sometimes been differences in the type of appliance that attends and the weight of crewing.³³

Spending power has fallen most in areas assessed by the department as having the highest levels of fire need, including high risk social groups or industrial facilities.³⁴

There has been a 30% reduction in prevention and protection activities between 2010-11 and 2014-15 and it is unknown what impact this may have on future incidents.³⁵

³¹ National Audit Office Local Government Report, [Impact of funding reductions on fire and rescue services](#), November 2015, para 1

³² Ibid

³³ National Audit Office Local Government Report, [Financial sustainability of fire and rescue services](#), November 2015, paras 10-11

³⁴ Ibid, para 1.10

³⁵ National Audit Office Local Government Report, [Impact of funding reductions on fire and rescue services](#), November 2015, para 20

2.2 Fire and rescue services statistics

Funding

The table below shows the Settlement Funding Assessment (SFA) for fire service providers in England funded through the local government finance settlement³⁶ for the years 2016/17 and 2019/20:

Settlement Funding Assessment								
£ million, England								
	Cash				Real (2017/18 prices)			
	2016/17	2019/20	Change 2016/17 to 2019/20		2016/17	2019/20	Change 2016/17 to 2019/20	
			£million	%			£million	%
TOTAL England	1,013.2	857.3	- 155.9	-15%	1,033.4	827.2	- 206.2	-20%
Avon Fire Authority	18.6	15.8	- 2.9	-15%	19.0	15.2	- 3.8	-20%
Bedfordshire Fire Authority	10.2	8.3	- 1.9	-19%	10.4	8.0	- 2.4	-23%
Berkshire Fire Authority	12.4	10.0	- 2.4	-19%	12.7	9.7	- 3.0	-24%
Buckinghamshire Fire Authority	9.1	7.3	- 1.8	-20%	9.3	7.1	- 2.2	-24%
Cambridgeshire Fire Authority	10.7	8.8	- 1.9	-18%	10.9	8.5	- 2.4	-22%
Cheshire Fire Authority	16.0	13.2	- 2.8	-17%	16.4	12.8	- 3.6	-22%
Cleveland Fire Authority	16.3	14.4	- 1.8	-11%	16.6	13.9	- 2.7	-16%
Cornwall	13.4	11.3	- 2.1	-16%	13.7	10.9	- 2.8	-20%
Cumbria	9.9	8.2	- 1.6	-17%	10.1	7.9	- 2.1	-21%
Derbyshire Fire Authority	15.5	13.0	- 2.5	-16%	15.8	12.5	- 3.3	-21%
Devon & Somerset Fire	26.9	21.9	- 4.9	-18%	27.4	21.2	- 6.2	-23%
Dorset & Wiltshire Fire	17.6	14.1	- 3.6	-20%	18.0	13.6	- 4.4	-25%
Durham Fire Authority	12.3	10.4	- 1.9	-15%	12.6	10.1	- 2.5	-20%
East Sussex Fire Authority	13.3	10.8	- 2.5	-19%	13.6	10.4	- 3.2	-23%
Essex Fire Authority	29.4	24.6	- 4.8	-16%	29.9	23.7	- 6.2	-21%
Gloucestershire	7.1	5.7	- 1.4	-20%	7.3	5.5	- 1.8	-24%
Greater London Authority	233.4	207.4	- 26.0	-11%	238.0	200.1	- 37.9	-16%
Greater Manchester Fire	56.5	49.8	- 6.7	-12%	57.6	48.0	- 9.6	-17%
Hampshire Fire Authority	25.9	21.5	- 4.3	-17%	26.4	20.8	- 5.6	-21%
Hereford and Worcester Fire Authority	9.7	7.6	- 2.0	-21%	9.9	7.4	- 2.5	-25%
Hertfordshire	16.6	12.2	- 4.4	-27%	16.9	11.8	- 5.2	-31%
Humberside Fire Authority	22.7	19.8	- 2.9	-13%	23.2	19.1	- 4.1	-18%
Isle of Wight Council	3.2	2.7	- 0.5	-16%	3.3	2.6	- 0.7	-20%
Kent Fire Authority	25.6	21.0	- 4.6	-18%	26.1	20.2	- 5.9	-22%
Lancashire Fire Authority	27.6	23.8	- 3.8	-14%	28.1	23.0	- 5.1	-18%
Leicestershire Fire Authority	15.4	13.1	- 2.3	-15%	15.7	12.6	- 3.1	-20%
Lincolnshire	11.4	9.6	- 1.8	-16%	11.6	9.3	- 2.3	-20%
Merseyside Fire	35.0	30.8	- 4.2	-12%	35.6	29.7	- 5.9	-17%
Norfolk	14.0	11.8	- 2.3	-16%	14.3	11.4	- 3.0	-21%
North Yorkshire Fire Authority	10.5	8.6	- 2.0	-19%	10.7	8.3	- 2.5	-23%
Northamptonshire	9.3	7.5	- 1.7	-19%	9.4	7.3	- 2.2	-23%
Northumberland	6.4	5.4	- 1.0	-16%	6.5	5.2	- 1.3	-20%
Nottinghamshire Fire Authority	18.8	16.0	- 2.8	-15%	19.2	15.4	- 3.7	-19%
Oxfordshire	8.4	5.1	- 3.3	-39%	8.6	4.9	- 3.7	-43%
Shropshire Fire Authority	6.5	5.1	- 1.4	-21%	6.7	5.0	- 1.7	-25%
South Yorkshire Fire	27.1	23.7	- 3.4	-13%	27.7	22.9	- 4.8	-17%
Staffordshire Fire Authority	16.8	14.1	- 2.7	-16%	17.2	13.6	- 3.5	-21%
Suffolk	9.7	8.0	- 1.7	-18%	9.9	7.7	- 2.2	-22%
Surrey	17.8	11.5	- 6.3	-35%	18.1	11.1	- 7.0	-39%
Tyne and Wear Fire	27.4	24.1	- 3.3	-12%	28.0	23.2	- 4.7	-17%
Warwickshire	7.1	4.2	- 3.0	-42%	7.3	4.0	- 3.3	-45%
West Midlands Fire	58.7	52.0	- 6.6	-11%	59.8	50.2	- 9.6	-16%
West Sussex	9.9	5.4	- 4.4	-45%	10.1	5.3	- 4.8	-48%
West Yorkshire Fire	43.1	37.7	- 5.5	-13%	44.0	36.3	- 7.7	-17%

Sources: HCLG, Key information for local authorities: final local government finance settlement 2018 to 2019, 6 February 2019 and the GDP deflators: HMT, GDP deflators at market prices, and money GDP December 2018 (Quarterly National Accounts), 8 January 2019.

For England over the period funding through the SFA has fallen by 15% in cash terms and by 20% in real terms (taking inflation into account).

³⁶ HCLG: [Key information for local authorities: final local government finance settlement 2018 to 2019](#), 6 February 2019

Workforce, incidents attended and response times

STAFFING, INCIDENTS ATTENDED AND AVERAGE RESPONSE TIMES, FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES							
England							
Staff in post employed by fire and rescue authorities: Total Firefighters ³			Incidents attended by fire and rescue services by population: Total Incidents ⁴			Average response times ⁶ : All Primary fires ⁷	
Year	Headcount ¹	Full Time Equivalent ²	Year	Per one million people ⁵	Year	HH:MM:SS	
2002	44,594	42,374					
2003	44,679	42,414	2002/03	958,142	19,287		
2004	44,871	42,679	2003/04	1,016,028	20,351		
2005	44,582	42,153	2004/05	861,384	17,161		
2006	44,671	41,908	2005/06	843,734	16,673		
2007	44,978	42,385	2006/07	854,371	16,764		
2008	44,978	42,222	2007/08	791,746	15,409		
2009	44,498	41,953	2008/09	717,805	13,853		
2010	44,307	41,632	2009/10	680,634	13,040	2009/10 00:08:14	
2011	43,360	41,166	2010/11	647,350	12,297	2010/11 00:08:16	
2012	42,062	39,678	2011/12	606,937	11,429	2011/12 00:08:11	
2013	40,786	38,454	2012/13	521,277	9,745	2012/13 00:08:11	
2014	39,472	37,170	2013/14	526,803	9,780	2013/14 00:08:23	
2015	38,061	35,925	2014/15	496,125	9,134	2014/15 00:08:45	
2016	36,610	34,356	2015/16	529,435	9,664	2015/16 00:08:48	
2017	35,501	32,761	2016/17	560,411	10,140	2016/17 00:08:45	
2018	34,962	32,340	2017/18	565,787	10,172	2017/18 00:08:45	

Notes:

1 The total number of employees

2 Accounts for those working part time. Retained Duty Firefighters are in 24 hour units of cover.

3 Position at 31 March of each year

4 Incidents attended includes fires, false alarms and non-fire incidents (special service incidents).

5 Using the Office for National Statistics's mid year population estimates that fall in the relevant financial year.

6 Some fires are excluded when calculating average response times.

7 Primary fires are those where one or more of the following apply: i) all fires in buildings, outdoor structures and vehicles that are not derelict, ii) any fires involving casualties or rescues, iii) any fire attended by five or more appliances

Note on 2009/10:

Before 1 April 2009 fire incident statistics were based on the FDR1 paper form. This approach means the statistics for before this date can be less robust, especially for non-fire incidents which were based on a sample of returns. Since this date the statistics are based on an online collection tool, the Incident Recording System (IRS).

General note:

Incident data are collected by the IRS which collects information on all incidents attended by fire services. For a variety of reasons some records take longer than others for fire services to upload to the IRS and therefore incident totals are constantly being increased (by relatively small numbers). This is why the differing dates that data are received by is noted above.

Source: Home Office, [Fire Statistics](#), Tables 1101, 0101 and 1001, accessed 14 February 2019

The table shows:

- Between 31 March 2002 and 31 March 2018 the number of Firefighters (FTE) has fallen from 42,374 to 32,340 or by 26%.
- Between 2002/03 and 2017/18 the number of incidents attended has fallen from 958,000 to 566,000 or by 41%.
- Between 2009/10 and 2017/18 average response times have risen from 8 minutes 14 seconds to 8 minutes 45 seconds.

Further statistics, including data for individual fire authorities, can be found in the Home Office data collection: [Fire statistics data tables](#)

3. Media

3.1 Articles and blogs

[Record numbers rescued as firefighters face further cuts](#)

Fire Brigades Union, 11 February 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

['If the Kings Cross fire happened today, there'd be even more casualties'](#)

Cara McGoogan, Telegraph, 22 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

[Police funding in England and Wales](#)

Full Fact, 28 September 2018

[England's fire services suffer 25% cut to safety officers numbers](#)

Niamh McIntyre, Guardian, 29.08.2019

[More fires and more fire deaths – yet Westminster continues to cut firefighter jobs](#)

Fire Brigades Union, 9 August 2018

3.1 Press releases and announcements

[Save our Fire and Rescue Service](#)

Fire Brigades Union, undated

[Government must face facts - extreme stress in policing is real](#)

Police Federation of England and Wales, 13 February 2019

['It is essential fire and rescue services are well- resourced'](#)

National Fire Chiefs Council, 7 February 2019

[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

[The Government are right to recognise that more money is needed in policing](#)

National Police Chiefs' Council, 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

[Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service](#)

HC Deb, 28 November 2018, cc126-145WH

[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](#)

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](#)

HC Deb 28 March c848

4.3 Parliamentary Questions

[Fire and Rescue Services: Finance:Written question - 205266](#)

Asked by Chi Onwurah(Newcastle upon Tyne Central)[N] Asked on: 04 January 2019

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will set a timescale for reinstating capital funding for fire and rescue services.

Answered by: The Minister for Policing and the Fire Service (Mr Nick Hurd), 09 January 2019

All future funding requirements for fire and rescue services will be considered as part of the 2019 Spending Review.

In 2019/2020, fire and rescue services will receive approximately £2.3bn in funding. It is the responsibility of each fire and rescue service to determine how best to allocate its resources effectively, including meeting any capital requirements.

[Fire and Rescue Services: Finance: Written question - 205265](#)

Asked by Chi Onwurah (Newcastle upon Tyne Central)[N] Asked on: 04 January 2019

To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, if he will ensure that future funding settlements for fire and rescue services take account of geographical differences in council tax revenue.

Answered by: Parliamentary Under-Secretary (Housing, Communities and Local Government) Rishi Sunak, 09 January 2019

We are reviewing local authorities' relative needs and resources to take a fresh look at how to fund services, including fire and rescue services, at future funding settlements.

As part of this, the Government believes that it remains important to continue to take account of local authorities' relative ability to raise resources, including council tax, when allocating funding.

Our December 2018 consultation sets out proposals for measuring local authority need, options for a resources adjustment and principles for potential transition arrangements.

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.

[Fire and Rescue Services: Finance](#)

Asked by: Ruane, Chris

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what estimate he has made of the year on year changes to central government grants to the UK Fire and Rescue service in each of the last seven years.

Answering member: Chief Secretary to the Treasury (Elizabeth Truss) |

Overall Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs) will receive around £2.3 billion in 2018/19. Single purpose FRAs will see an increase in core spending power of 1.2% in cash terms in 2018/19 and an overall increase of 0.3% from 2015/16 to 2019/20.

Financial reserves held by single purpose FRAs increased by 80% to £545 million between 31 March 2011 and 31 March 2018. This is equivalent to 42% of their core spending power.

As fire services are devolved, these figures apply to England only.

29 Oct 2018 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 183278

[Fire and Rescue Services: Greater Manchester: Written question - 184939](#)

Asked by Andrew Gwynne (Denton and Reddish), 29 October 2018

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what representations his Department has received from the office of the Mayor of Greater Manchester on fire service provision.

Answered by: The Minister for Policing and the Fire Service (Mr Nick Hurd), 06 November 2018

Central Government regularly engages with both fire and rescue services and authorities in relation to the delivery of fire provision in England.

I recently commissioned a piece of work to look at the demand and risks facing fire and rescue services in England. As part of this, I wrote to all services inviting them to provide evidence of changing demands and risk in their service. I also had a discussion with Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service in June 2018, to better understand the pressures they faced.

Central Government has not undertaken a formal assessment of workforce numbers. It is the responsibility of the Mayor of Greater Manchester to ensure that his local fire and rescue service have the appropriate resource in place to deliver their core functions and that their staff are appropriately supported to undertake their vital role.

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) are currently undertaking an inspection programme which is looking at how effective and efficient each fire and rescue service in England is at keeping their communities safe from fire and other risks across their core functions of prevention, protection and response. This includes a focus on how services allocate and support their workforce to fulfil its core functions. HMICFRS will start discovery phase in Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service in November and the results of the inspection are due to be made available by Summer 2019. We will give full consideration to these findings when made available.

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>

[Fire and Rescue Services: Lancashire:Written question - 166446](#)

Asked by Sir Mark Hendrick(Preston)[N], 20 July 2018

Home OfficeFire and Rescue Services: Lancashire166446

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment he has made of the adequacy of funding for the Fire and Rescue Services since the Winter Hill moorland fire in Lancashire.

Answered by: The Minister for Policing and the Fire Service (Mr Nick Hurd) 04 September 2018

The Government has provided the fire and rescue services with the support they need to tackle the Moorland fires. This includes providing specialist capabilities, including high volume pumps.

Fire and rescue services have the resources they need to do their important work. Overall fire and rescue authorities will receive around £2.3 billion in 2018/19. In 2018/19, Lancashire Fire and Rescue Authority will receive £53.9 million in core spending power. This is an increase of 0.9% compared with 2017/18. In addition, at March 2017, Lancashire Fire and Rescue Authority held £36.5 million in reserves, equivalent to 68.5% of core spending power.

Fire and Rescue Services: Finance: Written question - 153925

Asked by Karen Lee (Lincoln), 4 June 2018

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how much and what proportion of each fire authority's financial reserves is (a) earmarked expenditure and (b) unearmarked expenditure.

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

The Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) publishes reserves data for fire and rescue authorities. This data includes both 'unallocated financial reserves' and 'earmarked financial reserves'. These can be found by following the link below.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/local-authority-revenue-expenditure-and-financing>

5. Organisations and further reading

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

Police Foundation, [Policing at an impasse: between a reform rock and a governance hard place](#), 4 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

Home Affairs Select Committee, [Policing for the future](#), 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.

Police Foundation, [Police Effectiveness in a Changing World: Slough site report](#), 17 December 2017

Police Foundation, [Police Effectiveness in a Changing World: Luton site report](#), 17 December 2017

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

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

National Audit Office, [Impact of funding reductions on fire and rescue services](#), 5 November 2015

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

5.1 Commons Library briefings

[Police Grant Report \(England and Wales\) 2019/20](#), 4 February 2019

This debate pack has been compiled ahead of the Motion to approve the Police Grant Report (England and Wales) 2019/20 on Tuesday 5 February. This is how Parliament approves the central police funding allocation for each force every financial year. The pack contains recent press and trade articles and parliamentary material on the subject.

[Police service strength](#), 10 October 2018

This briefing paper explore police service strength data from the Home Office, Scottish Government, and Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI). Each country receives individual analysis utilising the available data from each police force area and international comparisons where available.

[Crime in England and Wales: Social Indicators page](#), 17 April 2018

[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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