



College of
Policing

Brief

Police recruitment drive →

Criminal justice statistics →

Offensive Weapons Act 2019 →

college.police.uk ISSUE 08 | AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2019

Updates in police law, operational policing practice and criminal justice, produced by the **Legal Services Department** at the College of Policing



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The College of Policing Brief is a scanning publication intended to capture and consolidate key criminal justice issues, both current and future, impacting on all areas of policing.

During the production of the Brief, information is included from governmental bodies, criminal justice organisations and research bodies. As such, the Brief should prove an invaluable guide to those responsible for strategic decision making, operational planning and police training.

The College of Policing is also responsible for Authorised Professional Practice (APP). APP is the official and most up-to-date source of policing practice and covers a range of policing activities such as: police use of firearms, treatment of people in custody, investigation of child abuse and management of intelligence. APP is available online at app.college.police.uk

Any enquiries regarding this publication or to request copies in accessible formats please contact us at brief@college.pnn.police.uk

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Editorial

Dear readers,

Welcome to the Brief, your monthly update of what's new in the criminal justice field, produced by the Legal Services team at the College of Policing.

The tragic death of PC Andrew Harper has touched many hearts in the policing community and throughout the general public. A 20 year old man has now been arrested for the murder, and leading on from the devastating news, thousands of individuals have taken part in a 'virtual race' whereby each person ran 7.605km, in recognition of PC Harper's collar number, 7605. In addition, a 1 minute silence was held on Friday 23 August for the fallen officer.

In other news, the Prime Minister's decision to suspend parliament, has resulted in outrage from many members of the public, who believe the suspension will result in a no deal Brexit being pushed through. This has been widely covered in recent media, as has the Prime Minister's G7 summit with Donald Trump.

Within this month's edition:

- The launch, and subsequent criticism, of the #knifefree chicken boxes.
- Offensive Weapons Act 2019 – draft guidance.
- Sentencing for the 18 year old that caused police websites to crash.

To find out more about the College and what we do, including information on the PEQF training, please visit the **College of Policing website**.

We hope that our publication supports our police officers and staff in their work. We are always looking for ways to get better at what we do, so if you have any feedback or ideas for future content, **get in touch**.

Thank you for reading,

The Legal Services Team

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For subscription requests, further information or to send us ideas about what you would like to see in upcoming editions, please email us at:

brief@college.pnn.police.uk

Share with our community

There's lots of great work and innovation taking place across the police service, with some remarkable people working diligently to support and safeguard the communities they serve. The sharing of news can jump start collaboration and growth, so we want to hear from you.

We'd like to invite police officers and staff to contribute by including a monthly 'guest article' under one of the following categories:

Pride: Tell us something about your team or a project you're working on which has produced results that you're particularly proud of.

Innovation: New initiatives and projects, what worked and what didn't, and how you learnt from it.

Collaboration: Tell us about the relationships with other forces and external agencies which help your team.

Your team, our community: Diversity, equality, inclusion and key support mechanisms – that special team member whose hard work deserves recognition in the Brief.

Articles should be a maximum of 500 words. If you'd like to contribute, please email brief@college.pnn.police.uk and we'll provide you with the information you need.

We'd like to pick one article a month, and will ensure there is a wide variety of authors and forces. We will inform you in advance if your article has been chosen. We look forward to hearing from you.

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College news

Mike Cunningham responds to the 20,000 officer recruitment drive

According to Chief Constable Mike Cunningham, the prime minister's announcement to introduce 20,000 officers in three years can improve diversity in policing.

The CEO of the College said:

'I'm pleased the new prime minister has made such a strong public commitment to improve police officer numbers.

Recruiting 20,000 officers over the next three years is a huge opportunity for policing, to bring in more officers, to equip them and to extend diversity across the service. It is a significant challenge but it is one we are already working to make a reality.

The demands on the police are growing while the nature of policing is becoming more complex and at the same time criminals are becoming more sophisticated.

We have updated the training to match the complexity of the job today and by next year there will be more than 30 police forces delivering the new course.'

Read the full statement [here](#).

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Have your say on proposed changes to stop and search guidance for police

A public consultation has been launched to give people a chance to have their say on proposed updates to College of Policing stop and search guidance.

The draft changes to the guidance cover how police forces in England and Wales can best engage with communities over the way stop and search is used to protect them from crime. In March 2019 the then Home Secretary Sajid Javid announced the government was changing the way Section 60 'non-suspicion' searches were carried out in seven pilot forces.

The government has recently announced the changes to the Section 60 powers pilot will now be extended to all police forces in England and Wales. Alongside

these changes the College of Policing has been asked to develop guidance for forces on how they can best update the communities they protect to ensure they are using stop and search powers fairly and effectively.

The consultation gives people an opportunity to express their views on the proposed amendments to the College's Authorised Professional Practice (APP) on stop and search.

The proposed changes include:

- **Community engagement:** Additional content covering how forces should speak with communities about their use of Section 60 and share results to explain the impact it had
- **Public scrutiny:** Setting out principles to support forces in working with the groups whose role is to provide independent scrutiny of their stop and search practice as required by law
- **Body-worn video:** The new guidance has a specific section on the benefits of using body-worn video footage of the use of stop and search as part of the public scrutiny process. It also emphasises the need for forces to have a legitimate basis for sharing the footage and ensuring sufficient safeguards are in place.

The consultation is open until **29 September 2019** on the **College APP website**.

Anyone who would like to submit any comments and views can do so using the **feedback template**, which can be sent by email to **stopandsearch.consultation@college.pnn.police.uk**.

Read the full article **here**.

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Over 100,000 individuals in policing have completed the College's disclosure training

More than 100,000 police officers and staff have completed new training on disclosure, according to the latest College of Policing figures.

The 'disclosure and relevancy – conducting fair investigations' training, which can either be completed online or as a face-to-face training, was made available to all forces in England and Wales in April 2018. The College has recommended the training is completed by all police officers and staff involved in any aspect of investigation.

The numbers show thousands of people working in forces across England and Wales have completed the six modules programme modules, with many more having completed one or more of the modules.

A short disclosure briefing video produced by the College in May 2017 has also been viewed by more than 100,000 officers and staff. The numbers, which cover mid-April 2018 to May 31 2019, show more than half of all police officers and staff in England and Wales have now completed the updated training.

The new training was introduced as part of the National Disclosure Improvement Plan (NDIP), developed as a partnership between National Police Chiefs' Council, Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and the College, to significantly change the way disclosure is managed across the criminal justice system.

The College is continuing to work with colleagues from the National Police Chiefs' Council and Crown Prosecution Service to improve the management of disclosure in the criminal justice system for the benefit of victims and suspects.

You can view the latest disclosure training figures [here](#).

You can find out more about the National Disclosure Improvement Plan (NDIP) by visiting the [College website](#).

Read the full article [here](#).

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Legal updates

Statutory Instruments

SI 2019/1169 – The Firearms (Fees) Regulations 2019

The purpose of this Statutory Instrument is to enable new fees to be charged by the secretary of state for:

- the grant, renewal or variation of an authority under section 5 of the Firearms Act 1968 (the 1968 Act) (authority to possess, manufacture, sell etc. prohibited weapons or prohibited ammunition)
- an approval under section 15 of the Firearms (Amendment) Act 1988 (the 1988 Act) (approved rifle clubs and muzzle-loading pistol clubs)
- a licence under the schedule to the 1988 Act (licence for firearms and ammunition in museums).

Read the full Statutory Instrument [here](#).

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Acts

Offensive Weapons Act 2019: draft statutory guidance

The government has opened a consultation to the public, specifically aimed at: individuals, businesses and organisations in England, Wales and Scotland with an interest in the sections of the Offensive Weapons Act 2019 that deal with:

- the sale and delivery of corrosive products
- bladed articles and bladed products
- possession of corrosive substances and certain offensive weapons
- act of threatening with an offensive weapon.

The consultation opened on 15 August 2019 and will close on 9 October 2019.

Find further information [here](#).

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Before the court

The Commissioner of Police for the Metropolis v MR [2019] EWHC 888 (QB)

KEY MESSAGES

- Appeal on the grounds of whether Judge Baucher was mistaken to find that an arresting officer's belief in the need to arrest was objectively unreasonable.
- MR was invited for a voluntary interview and then arrested on arrival at the police station.
- Consideration of the two-stage test for necessity of arrest in *Hayes v Chief Constable*.

This case concerns an appeal against Judge Baucher's decision to uphold MR's claim for false imprisonment and assault following what was decided to be an unlawful arrest carried out by the police.

The Commissioner of Police for the Metropolis appeals against the above decision on the grounds that the judge was mistaken to find that the arresting officer's belief in the need to arrest MR was not objectively reasonable.

The facts of the case were that Ms A and MR had been in a relationship for 15 months prior to January 2010. Ms A contacted the police to make a harassment complaint about MR, who could not be traced save for a mobile telephone number. A police officer called MR on 11 January 2010, who then attended a police station for voluntary interview on 12 January 2010. At 8.30am at the police station and before being interviewed, MR was arrested on suspicion of harassment. He was interviewed, photographed, and had his fingerprints and DNA samples taken. After 6 hours and 50 minutes' detention, the police released him on conditional bail.

Judge Baucher held that the arresting officer personally believed the arrest was necessary, but stated that the belief in the need to carry out the arrest was not objectively justified. The two-stage test for assessing the necessity of an arrest under s 24(4) PACE in the case of *Hayes v Chief Constable* [2012] 1 WLR 517 was cited:

- The arresting officer must honestly believe that arrest is necessary for one or more of the identified section 24(5) PACE reasons and

- The officer's decision must be one which, objectively reviewed afterwards, according to the information known at the time is held to be made on reasonable grounds.

Section 24 Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) provides the police with the necessary statutory authority to arrest a suspect who they reasonably suspect of committing an offence providing the arrest is necessary for, in this case, the prompt and effective investigation of the offence.

During the appeal at the High Court, the judge acknowledged the professionalism of the officer, but held that they could not see a rational basis for the arrest. Consequently, the appeal was dismissed and the decision of Judge Baucher to brand MR's arrest as unlawful was upheld.

Read the full judgment [here](#).

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Offensive email sent to shadow minister for women and equalities

Stewart Hanson, 57, has been jailed for sending an offensive email to Labour's Shadow Minister of State for Women and Equalities, Naseem Shah.

Within the email, Hanson accused the MP of being anti-Semitic and alleged that she had tried to silence victims of the recent Rotherham child abuse scandal. In addition, he made racial taunts and threatened violence on Ms Shah and her family. Hanson pleaded guilty to one count of sending an offensive message by public communication and was sentenced to 12 weeks' imprisonment on 13 August 2019.

Read the full article [here](#).

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Eighteen-year-old sentenced for causing police websites to crash

Liam Reece Watts, 18, pleaded guilty to two offences under the Computer Misuse Act on 25 April 2019 at Chester Crown Court. He was sentenced to 16 months in a young offender institution for causing Greater Manchester Police, Cheshire Police, and Cheshire's police and crime commissioner's website to crash.

In addition to the detention, Watts also received a restraining order that restricts his ownership and use of computer equipment, storage and access to the internet for the next five years. Watts had used software tools to overload the website, resulting in a 24-hour malfunction, which prevented the public from accessing the sites to report minor crimes or contact officers. Watts posted on Twitter under the identity 'Synic', claiming responsibility for the attacks. He was subsequently traced and arrested.

Read the full article [here](#).

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Policing

News

Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 – Government response to Codes C and H consultation

The Home Office consultation on proposed revisions to Codes of Practice C (Detention) and H (Detention – terrorism) ran from 21 August 2018 to 1 October 2018. This government response sets out the decisions behind the revisions, provides a summary overview of responses, and outlines the next steps that will be taken by the government.

The main revisions to PACE Code of Practice C and H concern safeguards for menstruating detainees. Furthermore, other revisions have been made concerning detainee dignity, health, hygiene, and welfare. The new and amended provisions include:

- Each female detainee will be asked if they require, or are likely to require any free menstrual products whilst in custody
- The notice given to detainees when they arrive at the police station, listing their entitlements, will be extended to include their entitlement to speak in private to a member of custody staff about their personal needs in relation to: health, hygiene, and welfare
- Access to toilet and washing facilities must take account of the detainee's dignity. Eg, in cells subject to CCTV monitoring, privacy in the toilet area should be ensured by an appropriate means and detainees should be made aware of this when placed in the cell
- Strip searches and intimate searches of detainees must be conducted with proper regard to their dignity.

There were 21 responses to the statutory consultation and 13 of those responses approved the above changes without requesting further revisions to PACE Codes C and H.

The main suggestions raised from the following 8 consultation responses were: ensuring that the needs of transgender detainees are explicit in the new revisions; considering the impact that not always telling detainees that their privacy will be ensured whilst they use the toilet could have, particularly on autistic detainees; that the Codes should mandate more pro-active provision for female detainees – for example, that a female detainee is always visited in

their cell by a female member of staff as soon as is practicable; and changes to include more detail about the revisions at earlier points in the Codes.

Read the full consultation [here](#).

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Police recruitment drive announced

Boris Johnson has announced that the recruitment of 20,000 new officers will begin in September, and will be completed within three years. This unprecedented recruitment drive will be led by the Home Office and aided by the new National Policing Board. Both the prime minister and home secretary have made it abundantly clear that the decision to mass recruit supports protecting the public, making the streets safer and preventing crime.

There has been scepticism from various policing bodies, which argue logistical challenges have not been sufficiently considered for the three-year timescale. Furthermore, there have also been arguments made that an increase in officers, although crucial for policing, will not prevent crime, as the prime minister keeps claiming it will. It has been suggested that plans also need to be put in place to address the underlying reasons of why individuals turn to crime, instead of simply increasing police presence and stop and searches.

Read the full article [here](#).

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New National Policing Board has first meeting

On 31 July, the prime minister opened the first meeting of the National Policing Board, which will assist in enacting the government's promise of recruiting 20,000 new police officers over the next three years. The new board comprises senior policing leaders and governmental members.

During the meeting, the home secretary clarified and outlined the government's plan to begin recruitment in September, in order to hire up to 6,000 officers in the first year. Attendees at the meeting included: senior policing figures, including Chair of the National Police Chiefs' Council, Martin Hewitt, Chair of the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners,

Katy Bourne, National Crime Agency Director General, Lynne Owens, and Metropolitan Police Deputy Commissioner, Sir Stephen House.

The board also covered the ever-evolving nature of crime and consequentially how the demand on policing is increasing. The importance of officer wellbeing was also covered. The board has decided to meet four times a year.

Read the full article [here](#).

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Home Secretary visits policing hubs to discuss coordination ahead of Brexit

On Thursday 8 August the Home Secretary, Priti Patel, visited two major policing hubs that play a significant role in preparing law enforcement for the UK's exit from the EU. The two hubs that received a visit were:

- the International Crime and Coordination Centre (ICCC) – which went live in early 2019 and acts as a support unit to police officers who are transitioning to non-EU law enforcement mechanisms in the event of a no deal
- the National Police Coordination Centre (NPoCC) – which was set up in 2013 to coordinate and manage the deployment of officers and staff during major events and serious operations.

During the visits, police leaders briefed the home secretary on the role of the ICCC and its involvement in the cooperation of the UK and EU's law enforcement, as well as how policing is preparing for Brexit. During the visit to the NPoCC, the home secretary was shown a demonstration of how the centre would respond to Brexit if, as planned, the UK leaves on 31 October.

Read the full article [here](#).

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Our workforce

Northamptonshire Police – ‘limited progress’ in improving child protection capabilities

HMICFRS’ report has shown that Northamptonshire Police has not made the necessary and required improvements to its child protection practice and procedures over the past 12 months, when HMICFRS previously inspected the force’s child protection capabilities and made recommendations.

HMICFRS’ national child protection post-inspection review of Northamptonshire Police found that many of the recommendations have not been adequately addressed and numerous problems had not been resolved. Specific problems identified in the report include:

- inconsistent supervision of investigations
- insufficient and ineffective partner organisations, eg, local authorities responsible for providing alternative accommodation
- significant delays and backlogs
- insufficient decisions regarding the management of registered sex offenders.

Within the inspection, HMICFRS analysed 21 child protection cases, none of which were assessed as being ‘good’, but 11 of which were assessed as being ‘inadequate’.

However, the report detailed some improvement, primarily because there had been a ‘significant decrease’ in the number of outstanding visits to registered sex offenders and that the force as a whole had improved its understanding of the reasons as to why children go missing.

Read the full report [here](#).

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Thames Valley Police – improvements in its crime recording

HMICFRS’ crime data integrity re-inspection 2019 report assessed Thames Valley Police as being ‘inadequate’. Although the assessment level remains the same as a previous inspection from two years ago, the current report has identified a variety of improvements made by the force, which have resulted in a greater level of accuracy.

The force is now recording an additional 13,800 crimes when compared with the 2017 inspection. Consequently, the recording accuracy rate is now 87.9 per cent, compared with 80.4 per cent in 2017.

Specific improvements include:

- a substantial increase in how often the force records crime at the first point of contact
- the development and implementation of a CDI plan
- providing comprehensive crime-recording training to all call handlers.

However, specific problems were also identified, some of which have not shown signs of improvement since the inspection in 2017:

- frontline officers had a poor understanding of the force's crime-recording system
- staff did not have a sufficient understanding of national crime-recording standards
- not all staff have received crime-recording training
- domestic abuse and rape offences were frequently incorrectly identified and recorded.

Read the full report [here](#).

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City of London Police – sustained improvement

HMICFRS' crime data integrity inspection 2019 report has shown that the City of London Police has improved the crime recording standards over the past five years. Consequently, its crime-recording arrangements have been graded as 'good'.

The report states that for the City of London police:

- 93.8 per cent of report crimes were recorded
- 91.8 per cent of reported violent crimes were recorded
- just over 91.2 per cent of reported sex offences were recorded
- 7 out of 12 audited rape reports were accurately recorded
- 15 out of 17 audited vulnerable victim crimes were recorded.

The report highlighted that there had been a ‘systematic cultural change’ since 2014 throughout all levels of the organisation. However, some specific improvements were also made. These include:

- providing enhanced training for officers and staff involved in crime-recording decisions
- implementing all recommendations from HMICFRS’ original 2014 inspection
- implementing the vast majority of recommendations from the 2014 National Action Plan on crime recording.

Read the full report [here](#).

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Gloucestershire Constabulary – failing vulnerable victims of crime

HMICFRS’ crime data integrity inspection 2019 report has assessed Gloucestershire Constabulary as being ‘inadequate’, stating that it under-recorded too many reports of crime.

The report stated that for Gloucestershire Constabulary:

- 81.6 per cent of reported crimes were recorded, which means the force is not recording around 7,900 reports of crime each year
- 69.2 per cent of reported violent crimes were recorded, which means the force is not recording around 4,200 reports of violent crime each year
- the force did not always record crimes that occurred during domestic abuse incidents
- some staff have received no crime-recording training.

Read the full report [here](#).

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Criminal justice news

#knifefree chicken boxes launched

A total of 210 outlets in England and Wales have received over 321,000 chicken boxes promoting the #knifefree campaign. The insides of the boxes contain printed real-life stories of young people who have stopped carrying a knife and have taken positive action, such as participating in sports or making music. The #knifefree boxes will replace the standard packaging in independent and branch-owned chicken shops, including Morley's, Chicken Cottage and Dixy Chicken.

However, the campaign has received criticism, in that it relies on racial stereotypes of black and minority ethnic youths using chicken outlets. The Shadow Home Secretary, Diane Abbott, posted on social media that the government has 'opted for yet another crude, offensive and probably expensive campaign'. There has been a general consensus among critics that the government should invest in supporting, instead of targeting, specific communities.

Read the full article [here](#).

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£100 million investment to 'crack down' on crime

It was announced on 13 August that £100 million would be provided to improve prison security as part of a scheme to tackle crime behind bars.

The investment is aimed at targeting all types of criminal activity in prison and will be introduced in the form of airport-style security, such as X-ray scanners and metal detectors. Advanced technology to detect and block mobile phones will be brought in to identify and prevent drug supplies, or those who harass victims from prison wings.

The £100 million follows other investment, such as the £70 million previously announced to fund new security measures, such as a digital categorisation tool. Furthermore, there has been a mass increase in the number of prison officers, with more than 4,700 officers recruited since October 2016.

Read the full article [here](#).

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CPS' statement on PC Harper's death

Jaswant Narwal, Chief Crown Prosecutor, has stated that the CPS have authorised Thames Valley Police to charge Jed Foster, 20, with the murder of PC Harper and the theft of a quad bike. The CPS will offer to meet with PC Harper's family in the foreseeable future to explain the basis upon which they came to this decision. The CPS have also stated the importance of Jed Foster being entitled to a fair trial. Consequently, the CPS have urged that there be no reporting, commentating on, or sharing information online, which could prejudice these proceedings.

Jed Foster appeared at Reading Magistrates' Court on Tuesday 20 August 2019. The remaining nine people who were originally arrested, have been released on bail under Friday 13 September.

Read the full article [here](#).

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Draft guidance on Knife Crime Prevention Orders

Draft guidance setting out how Knife Crime Prevention Orders (KCPOs) will assist the police, was published on the 15 August. KCPOs are civil orders that can be imposed on an individual aged 12 or over, by a court, if the police believe they are carrying a knife, or have previously been convicted of a knife related offence.

Courts will also have the power to impose certain conditions to prohibit activity, such as associating with certain people. Furthermore, geographical restrictions and curfews may also be introduced.

The draft guidance clearly states that the nature of any requirements included in a KCPO will be for the court to determine. In addition, KCPOs will be piloted before they are rolled out across England and Wales.

Read the full article [here](#).

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Outcome and pledges from the Five Country Ministerial summit

Senior ministers from the UK, Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United States met for a two-day summit, known as the Five Country Ministerial, to reaffirm their commitment to preventing security threats. This summit, hosted by the home secretary, included the online sexual abuse and exploitation of children, and emerging threats which could undermine national and global security.

The main theme of this year's meeting was 'emerging threats'; however, the ministers also turned their attention to common risks posed by new technologies, including connected devices, terrorist use of the internet and terrorist fighters.

At the end of the summit, the following commitments were agreed:

- to continue to develop and share learning on cyber threats to improve the collective response
- the importance that supply chains in the 5G network should be trusted and reliable to protect it from unauthorised access or interference
- to create a stronger approach to the misuse of drones, with the UK hosting an event next year to enhance cooperation
- to explore enhancing cross-border information sharing
- to maintain efforts to combat foreign interference in elections, the economy and academia.

The Five Country Ministerial partnership continues and will be hosted in 2020 by New Zealand.

Read the full article [here](#).

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Ministry of Justice to conduct sentencing review

The prime minister has ordered for an urgent sentencing review to be carried out by the Ministry of Justice, to ensure that violent and sexual offenders are serving sentences that truly reflect the severity of, and harm caused by, their crimes.

In addition, the review will consider whether law changes are required to prevent individuals from being released partway through their sentence and will consider the best way to break the cycle of repeat offending.

Specifically, the review will look at:

- sentencing for the most serious violent and sexual offenders
- the rules governing when and how these offenders are released
- sentencing of the most prolific offenders.

Read the full article [here](#).

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UK ministers ensure ports are prepared for Brexit

Senior Cabinet ministers visited Dover on 7 August to meet with business leaders and border officials at Dover ferry port to find out what preparations have been put in place for the UK's departure from the EU. Attendees at the visit included the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, Michael Gove, the Home Secretary, Priti Patel, and the Secretary of State for Transport, Grant Shapps.

At the port, the ministers met with haulage, freight and port industry representatives to discuss what plans are in place for and after 31 October. This included measures to ensure that traffic continues to flow smoothly when entering and leaving the port after Brexit. Border Force officers were also consulted to discuss the steps they have taken to maintain security and the passage of goods and people at ports across the UK.

The Port of Dover is considered to be Europe's busiest ferry port. It is used by 120 ferries and 90,000 passengers each day. Therefore, as part of its preparation process for Brexit, the Border Force is currently recruiting up to 1,000 new officers to help maintain security and support the flow of goods and people at the border. This is on top of a further 900 officers who were recruited in 2018/2019 to aid the preparations for Brexit. The department is also consulting on new powers for traffic officers to reduce congestion in and around ports.

Read the full article [here](#).

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Reviews and reports

Police use of firearms statistics – April 2018 to March 2019

This statistical release provides statistics on firearm operations and armed officer numbers for the 2018/2019 financial year.

KEY FACTS

- 20,186 police firearms operations – a 7 per cent increase in the latest year.
- The Metropolitan Police and West Midlands Police accounted for 40 per cent of these operations.
- 88 per cent of the 20,186 operations involved an armed response vehicle.
- 13 incidents resulted in police firearms being discharged.
- 6,653 armed officers – a 3 per cent increase from last year.

Police firearms operations

In the year ending March 2019, there were 20,186 police firearms operations in England and Wales, which is a 7 per cent increase of 1,405 operations from the previous year. Of these incidents, 88 per cent (17,742) involved an armed response vehicle as the first or sole response.

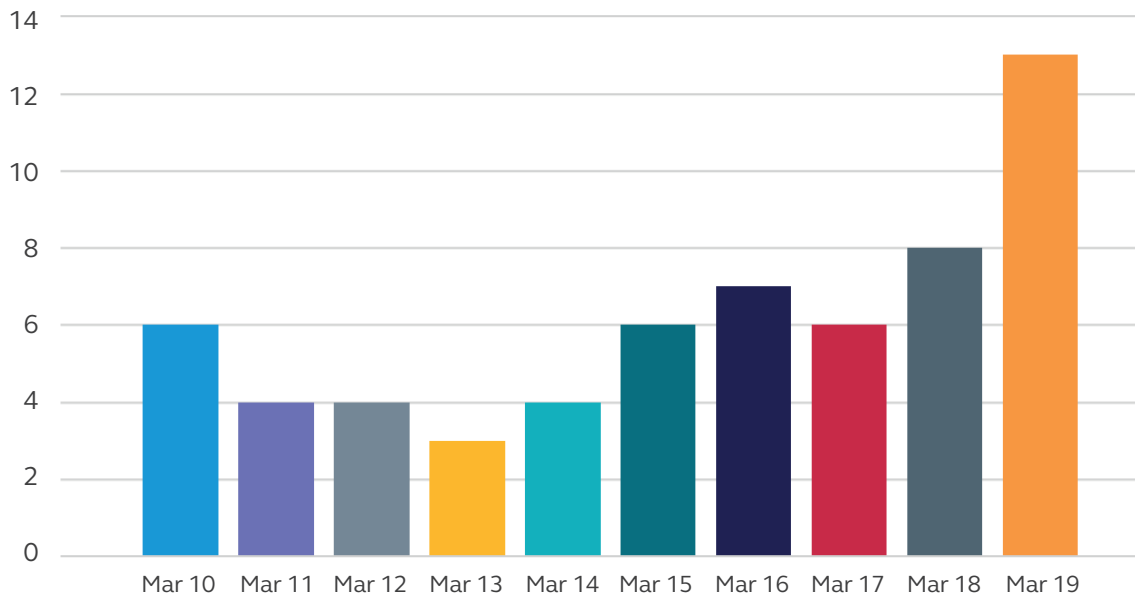
London had the largest proportion of all police firearms operations. It accounted for roughly one in four (23 per cent; 4,688) of the total operations. Following on from London, West Midlands had the second highest number of police firearms operations, accounting for roughly one in five (21 per cent; 4,233) of the total.

London had the largest numerical decrease of 404 operations (8 per cent decrease), while West Midlands showed the largest numerical increase of all regions (28 per cent increase), up 921 firearm operations.

Wales showed the largest percentage increase of 37 per cent (up 424), and the largest percentage decrease took place in the North East, which had 135 fewer operations (29 per cent decrease).

Discharge of police firearms

The below figures refer to incidents in which police firearms were intentionally discharged at an individual between March 2010 and March 2019. The number of incidents do not reflect the number of firearms that were fired, nor the number of shots fired.



Armed officers

In the year ending March 2019, there was a total of 6,653 armed police officers – a 3 per cent increase of 194, when compared to the previous year. 2019 is the third consecutive year in which the number of armed officers has increased. Roughly 1 in 19 police officers are armed officers – a similar proportion as the previous year.

Read the full statistical release [here](#).

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Criminal justice statistics – April 2018 to March 2019

The Ministry of Justice has published the most recent criminal justice statistics for England and Wales from April 2018 to March 2019. The main points include:

1.59 million individuals were dealt with by the criminal justice system

The total number of individuals dealt with by the criminal justice system is at the lowest since records began. In addition, it fell by 2 per cent in the latest year.

1.38 million defendants prosecuted

The number of defendants prosecuted at magistrates' courts has remained broadly stable when compared to the previous year.

Custody rate decreased to 6.5 per cent

The decrease in the custody rate is driven by a change in the types of offences, specifically the increase in convictions for summary offences that have a lower custody rate.

Read the full publication [here](#).

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Diversity

EU Settlement Scheme grants status for 1 million applicants

The EU Settlement Scheme, which was launched on 30 March, has granted settled or pre-settled status for 1 million applicants. The Home Office has announced the latest statistics on the scheme which shows that the highest numbers of applications have come from Polish, Romanian, Italian and Portuguese people.

Whether the UK leaves the EU with or without a deal, EU citizens and their family members will have at least until 31 December 2020 to apply to the scheme. The figure of 1 million people has been taken from internal management information and not from the published statistics.

Read the full article [here](#).

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About the College

We're the professional body for everyone who works for the police service in England and Wales. Our purpose is to provide those working in policing with the skills and knowledge necessary to prevent crime, protect the public and secure public trust.

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