

## Report to the Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel

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**Title:** General Issues  
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Panel



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### Background

#### **Police Funding Formula**

The Government is minded to delay the funding formula changes for 2016-17 as previously intended. The new police funding scheme has been shelved after officials made a serious mistake in the calculations which emerged last week showing out-of-date information was used by officials devising the new funding formula. The Minister said Whitehall's funding for police in England and Wales will continue under the old rules - which had been due to be abandoned. An announcement will be made next month on funding levels while officials compile a new formula in time for the following year.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/law-and-order/11984505/Ministers-delay-police-funding-changes-after-shambles.html>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-34707197>

#### **Bedfordshire PCC looking at ways to help budget cuts**

The Bedfordshire PCC told the Home Affairs Select Committee that he was actively looking at ways to generate money in order to not lose police officers. One of his ideas was to turn on M1 speed cameras permanently and have sponsored uniforms and police cars. He was concerned that the Force's grant funding was not realigned to the reality of his County's policing challenges. A number of PCC's have described the proposed new funding formula for police forces in England and Wales as "unfair, unjustified and deeply flawed".

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-beds-bucks-herts-34719997>

#### **HMIC**

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) Police Efficiency Report 2015 was published recently. The report examined how efficient Thames Valley Police is at keeping people safe and reducing crime.

HMIC concluded that Thames Valley Police:

- is good at using its resources to meet its demand;
- has a workforce model that is sustainable and affordable; and
- has shown outstanding planning for the short and long term.

HMIC found that through robust financial management and a good understanding of demand they have successfully made savings. Thames Valley Police, have a good track record of delivering savings, £58m over the last four years and a further £13m this year, whilst protecting front-line policing. HMIC also recognised that this robust financial planning means TVP are well prepared for the future financial challenges.

<http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/newsevents-pressreleases-item.htm?id=322733>

## **Complaints article**

The number of complaints against Thames Valley Police has gone up by a quarter in the last year. The Independent Police Complaints Commission stats show a rise, from 1,043 in 2013/14, to 1,305 over 2014/15. According to the IPCC, as the number of complaints made increases, there remain marked differences in the way police forces across England and Wales handle complaints - and there are more people dissatisfied with the way their complaint has been handled. The Chair of the IPCC says that Commissioners should look closely at the figures for their own forces to satisfy themselves that complainants are being treated fairly and well.

Detective Chief Superintendent Tim De Meyer, TVP's Head of Professional Standards Department, said:

"In common with two thirds of police forces, Thames Valley Police saw an increase in the number of complaint cases in 2014/2105 compared with 2013/2014. This is attributable largely to a change in recording practices. Previously, if people expressed dissatisfaction with general matters of policy or practice, rather than with the conduct of an individual, this dissatisfaction was unlikely to be recorded or dealt with as a complaint. They were instead dealt with through a separate system. However, following advice from the IPCC, such matters are increasingly recorded as complaints and this is reflected in the figures. This increase therefore reflects a different approach to recording dissatisfaction rather than a substantial increase in complaints. At the same time, TVP has stepped up its training of supervisors in the recording and investigation of complaints and stresses the importance of ensuring that the public are afforded the right to complain if they are not content with the service received. Performance is closely and regularly monitored by the PCC Complaints, Ethics and Integrity Panel."

<http://www.mix96.co.uk/news/local/1754698/rise-in-police-complaints-shows-different-approach-to-issues/>

## **Good practice for Police and Crime Panels**

This document provides guidance on how local areas can best develop accountability approaches and procedures on behalf of their local communities such as:-

- delivering effective scrutiny
- positively influencing the performance of police and crime commissioners and subsequently, their local police forces
- building good working relationships between PCCs and the office of the police and crime commissioner (OPCCs)
- complaint-handling and responding to high-profile complaints or issues.

In particular the document has highlighted:-

- resources for Police and Crime Panels
- good practice for confirmation hearings
- forward plan for Police and Crime Commissioners
- best practice approach to reviewing the Police and Crime Plan
- undertaking strategic assurance questions
- scrutiny of commissioned services – the Panel should be looking at all of the areas where the commissioner may be planning to develop policy and also new areas of delivery e.g victims services
- scrutiny of joint or collaborated projects

- reviewing the complaints system and ensuring there is clear guidance

Members may wish to consider whether there is anything within the guidance where they would like further work to be undertaken.

<http://www.local.gov.uk/documents/10180/6869714/Good+practice+for+police+and+crime+panels+guidance.pdf/f0ef1a3f-1f47-4b4f-9464-25c969687601>

## **Terrorism**

The Home Secretary has commented that there are more police on the streets and at certain events in Britain as a result of the attacks in Paris. However, following the Paris attack some PCC's have expressed even more concern about reduced budgets. Scotland Yard was also reviewing tactics for responding to a gun assault by terrorists.

<http://metro.co.uk/2015/11/17/met-police-chief-now-is-the-time-to-increase-police-numbers-not-cut-5000-officers-5507139/>  
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/terrorism-in-the-uk/11995716/Paris-attacks-Britain-on-security-alert-in-wake-of-terror-attacks.html>  
<http://news.sky.com/story/1588100/more-police-on-uks-streets-after-paris-may>