

# Police Funding 2019/20



**RON HOGG**  
DURHAM POLICE, CRIME  
AND VICTIMS' COMMISSIONER



**FAIR FUNDING**  
FOR COUNTY DURHAM  
AND DARLINGTON



Consultation document December 2018 – January 2019

Durham Constabulary is an outstanding police force. I know that because HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services have rated the force as the most effective and efficient force in the country for three years in a row – and because of the great feedback I get from local people. I am committed to ensuring that the Constabulary invests in people, innovation and IT to find further efficiencies so that people who live, work and visit the area are protected, and the Force remains ‘outstanding’.

Since 2010 Government funding for policing in Durham and Darlington has been cut in real terms by 32%. About 75% of the money spent by the force comes from a Government grant, and the rest of it is paid by Council tax payers through the policing precept. I am determined to protect neighbourhood policing, so that there is an effective police presence in your area. However, the long-term reduction in Government funding, in real terms, means that front-line policing will be at risk unless I increase the policing precept.

You may have seen in the press that Government has increased its direct grant allocation to Police forces, for one year only. However, most of that increase will have to pay for an increase in the pension deficit for policing – an issue which affects every force in the country, following a Government re-calculation of size of the deficit. I am left in a position where I need to increase the precept by 13%, the maximum permitted, in order to sustain front-line policing, invest in IT and tackling cybercrime, and other measures to make the force as efficient as possible in the future.

I really do not want to ask people for such a large increase, but the Government has left me with little choice. This consultation document sets out the proposed precept increase, in more detail. I would welcome your views.



***“It’s my job to make sure that the very best use is made of your money, so that policing in County Durham and Darlington remains efficient and effective”***

***Ron Hogg***  
***Police, Crime and Victims’ Commissioner***



*PCVC Ron Hogg and Chief Constable Mike Barton*



*Ron speaking with students from Hermitage Academy at the launch of his Hate Crime Action Plan*

## Government funding for policing in Durham and Darlington has fallen every year since 2010

The Government often states that funding for Policing has been protected for the past few years. That may be true if you look at the country as a whole, but funding for Durham, and most other forces, has reduced over many years in real terms. That's because the Government has chosen to allocate more to policing budgets held at national level, such as counter-terrorism, increased firearms capability, and funds which forces have to bid to obtain. And of course, we are all still affected by the Government policy of austerity.

The total provisional grant received by Durham in 2019-20 will be £87.6 million. However, our costs have gone up, including pay awards, pension contributions and general inflation. We also face more demands in terms of crime, mental health and helping vulnerable people.

Durham Constabulary staffing numbers have fallen over the past few years:

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>Change</u>
Police Officers	1,507	1140	367
PCSOs	174	152	22
Special Constables	131	100	31
Police Staff	930	862	68
Apprentices	-	56	56



*The force continues to invest in new technology to help make the best use of your money. I have funded £10,000 towards drones, which will give our Officers a comprehensive view of large areas, helping to locate missing persons, stolen quadbikes and the like, at lower cost*

## I am committed to using your money as efficiently as possible

Durham Constabulary remains the most efficient and effective police force in the country, according to HM Inspectorate of Constabulary, Fire and Rescue Services. That's because we are always looking for new ways to reduce harm and save money. Over the last few years we have done this by:

- Introducing Checkpoint, which reduces crime and the number of victims by addressing the reasons why people re-offend. This has led to reduced reoffending and fewer arrests.
- Purchasing cheaper ICT and office supplies, in order to save money.
- Successfully bidding for grants to spend on staff and equipment to provide services to communities.
- Using sophisticated analysis to understand the demand on policing, so that it is possible to deploy officers where they are most able to make a difference.
- Using restorative justice to help victims to cope and recover from the impact of a crime.
- Generating income from providing training and IT to other forces.
- Using a problem-solving approach to ensure more crimes and incidents are dealt with.
- Reviewing practices in the police control room, so that a good service can be provided with fewer staff.
- Being supported by volunteers in a wide range of initiatives such as Community Peer Mentors.
- Working with partners such as the local Councils and health service bodies to manage demand together.

*I would like to 'place on the record the admiration of the Government for the performance of Durham police' - Nick Hurd, Policing Minister*



*Ron discussing Police funding with  
Home Secretary Sajid Javid and  
Deputy Chief Constable Jo Farrell at  
Durham Police HQ*

## I need to increase the precept to protect local policing

Government has decided to pass more of the cost of policing onto local people, despite increased pressures on household budgets. That means that, to maintain the excellent police force we have, I feel that this increase is necessary. Our costs continue to rise, and we need to invest in measures to make the force as efficient as possible.

If the precept does not increase this year, the baseline for the budget in future years will be lower, so I would be permanently reducing the income which the precept can generate for policing. I don't want to do this because it would inevitably mean there would be fewer Police Officers in your communities, preventing and solving crime.

Here's what that would mean for you:



*Your Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner Ron Hogg*

	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
<b>Precept 2018-19</b>	120.83	140.96	161.10	181.24	221.52	261.79	302.07	362.48
<b>13.24 % increase</b>								
<b>Proposed Precept 2019-20</b>	136.83	159.63	182.44	205.24	250.85	296.46	342.07	410.48
<b>Increase per year</b>	16.00	18.67	21.33	24.00	29.33	34.67	40.00	48.00
<b>Increase per week</b>	0.31	0.36	0.41	0.46	0.56	0.67	0.77	0.92

In 2019-20, this increase will mean that I expect the total amount of money raised through the precept to be £35.6m. When I add this to the £87.6m I will receive from the Government, this makes the expected total budget £123.2m.

## Summary

Increasing the precept by 13.24% will help to protect services at the current level.

We will also continue to make efficiencies and challenge every element of our business, to make your money go further.

I will continue to lobby Government to provide a fairer level of Government grant.

You can also contact me by:

**Letter:** OPCVC, Police Headquarters, Aykley Heads, Durham, DH1 5TT

**Phone:** 0191 3752001

**Email:** [General.Enquiries@durham.pcc.pnn.gov.uk](mailto:General.Enquiries@durham.pcc.pnn.gov.uk)

Or you can contact us via social media:



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