

# Tell me what you think: Police Funding in 2018/19



**Public consultation, 4 January –31 January 2018**



***“I need to ensure that your money pays for an efficient and effective police force in County Durham and Darlington.”***

***Ron Hogg***

***Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner***

The Government has reduced the funding for policing in Durham and Darlington every year since 2010.

Durham Constabulary now has around 360 fewer officers than in 2010 – a reduction of 1 in 4.

Durham Constabulary is still the most effective and efficient force in the country according to HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services. That's a consequence of the force's commitment to innovation, making the very best use of the money available. And we continue to challenge every facet of our business in order to find further efficiencies.

The Government provides about 75% of the money spent by the force and the rest of comes through a part of the Council tax known as the Policing precept paid by local council tax payers. With the continued real-term reductions in Government funding, there is a risk that Police Officer numbers will have to fall unless funding from the police element of Council Tax increases.

Due to the government's decision to relax the present cap over the next two years, next year I am able to ask local people to pay an extra 7.1% - which equates to an additional £8 a year for a household in a band A property.

Whilst I deeply regret needing to ask local people to pay even more, I feel we have little choice. I would welcome your views on this proposal.



*In February 2017, PCVC Ron Hogg and Chief Constable Mike Barton presented Home Office Ministers with the case for fair funding for policing in Durham and Darlington*



*Ron listening to residents at Chester-le-Street activity week in the summer of 2017*

# Our budget has decreased by a quarter since 2010

Home Secretary often says that she has protected funding for Policing at the national level for the past two years. What she doesn't say, however, is that the funding for forces such as Durham has reduced, year after year for the past seven years. That's because in addition to the well-known policy of austerity, 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.

The total provisional grant received by Durham in 2018-19 will be £84.67 million – the same as in 2017-18. However, our costs have gone up, including pay awards, pension contributions and general inflation, and therefore this is a cut in real terms of about 2%.

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

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>Change</u>
Police Officers	1,507	1,140	- 367
PCSOs	174	152	- 22
Special Constables	131	76	- 55
Police Staff	930	883	- 47
Apprentices	-	56	+ 56



*The newly recruited PCSOs with Chief Constable Mike Barton*

The force continues to be committed to neighbourhood policing, and I am pleased that when we have been able to afford to, we have undertaken successful recruitment campaigns for Police Constables, PCSOs and the Special Constabulary. The force recently recruited 20 new PCSOs, for example.

# We are spending your money wisely. Durham is the most efficient force in the country.

Durham Constabulary is always looking for new ways of reducing the harm to our society, and to save money. That's why the force is the most efficient in the country.

*Here are some of the ways in which we have done this:*

Introduction of Checkpoint: reducing crime and the number of victims by addressing the reasons why people reoffend. This has led to reduced reoffending and fewer arrests.

The force has purchased cheaper ICT and office supplies, in order to save money. The force is also obtaining grants to spend on staff and equipment to provide services to communities.

Using sophisticated techniques to understand the demand on policing, so that officers can be deployed where they are most able to make a difference.

Using restorative justice to help recover individuals and reduce reoffending.

Generating income from providing training and IT to other forces.

A problem solving approach to ensure more crimes and incidents are dealt with.

Reviews in the 999 call room which has reduced costs in terms of employing fewer staff.

Increased use of volunteers in initiatives such as Community Peer Mentors.



*Ron and the new rural vehicle*

# Need to increase the precept to protect local policing

I recognise that households are under pressure, and that the government has decided to pass the cost of policing onto local people. But in order to maintain the excellent police force we have, I feel that this increase is necessary. Rising costs, plus the looming threat of a new funding formula which would disadvantage us further, mean it is essential we maximise our resources.

If the precept does not increase this year, the baseline for the budget in future years will be lower, so we 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.

I am therefore seeking your views on the proposal to increase the precept by the levels below. Here's what that would mean for you:

	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
Precept 2017-18	£112.83	£131.63	£150.44	£169.24	£206.85	£244.46	£282.07	£338.48
9 % Increase								
Proposed Precept 2018-19	£120.83	£140.96	£161.11	£181.24	£221.52	£261.79	£302.07	£362.48
Increase per year	£8.00	£9.33	£10.67	£12.00	£14.67	£17.33	£20.00	£24.00
Increase per week	£0.15	£0.18	£0.21	£0.23	£0.28	£0.33	£0.38	£0.46

From 2018-19, this increase will mean that I expect the total amount of money raised through the precept to be £31.5m, including a one-off payment of £0.45m from a Council Tax surplus, and growth in the tax base. When I add this to the £84.67m I will receive from the Government, this makes the projected total budget £116.168m.



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

Increasing the precept by 7.09% 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.

We welcome views on the proposals. Please use this space below:

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You can also contact me by:

**Address:** 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)

You can contact us via social media:

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