



By email
Chief Constables

Wednesday 14th March 2021

Dear Chiefs,

The past months have been a time of extraordinary challenges for our country. But throughout the pandemic, policing in England and Wales has exemplified a spirit of dedication to public service, keeping people safe from crime and anti-social behaviour – and from the coronavirus.

It is vital that we also keep in sight the longer-term challenges facing policing and that we seek continually to improve. At recent meetings of the National Policing Board (NPB), the Home Secretary has set out her four strategic policing pillars: a relentless focus on cutting crime; a resilient workforce; stronger and more diverse leadership; and ensuring we are trusted by the public to work together as one, providing national grip over the law enforcement system. These priorities provide an overarching framework for activity underway across the sector and will be used to structure future NPB discussions, enabling us to more effectively track progress across the breadth of policing activity and respond to new challenges.

In support of these priorities, this Government wholeheartedly backs policing. Earlier this month, we published a total police funding settlement of up to £15.8 billion in 2021/22 – an increase of up to £636 million compared to 2020/21. Throughout the pandemic we have pressed on with the recruitment of 20,000 additional officers – recruiting 6,620 as of December 2020, ahead of year-one target. We are legislating to provide you with new powers, to enshrine the police covenant in law, and to double the maximum sentence for assaults on emergency service workers from 12 months to two years. And, we are introducing a wide range of measures to reduce violence crime through our continued funding for Violence Reduction Units, police surge funding, the Domestic Abuse Bill and our work to develop new domestic abuse and violence against women and girls strategies. Through new governance structures at the national level, we have formed a new partnership between the police and the government, bringing the leadership of the sector together to focus on key strategic issues facing policing.

A critical element of Home Secretary's strategic priority for there to be *a relentless focus on cutting crime* are the new **National Crime and Policing Measures**, which set out the Government's key national priorities on crime. These measures fall under the following headings:

- Reduce murder and other homicides
- Reduce serious violence
- Disrupt drugs supply and county lines

- Reduce neighbourhood crime
- Tackle cyber crime
- Improve satisfaction among victims – with a particular focus on victims of domestic abuse

These National Crime and Policing Measures are the result of engagement and development by Home Office officials with sector bodies, including the APCC, NPCC, College of Policing and HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services. While in development, the Measures were referred to as the National Policing Outcomes, but we believe National Crime and Policing Measures better captures the scope and intent of the work. The final measures reflect input from chief constables, PCCs and others, including through discussion at the NPB and Crime and Policing Performance Board (CPPB). The metrics we have chosen are based upon existing data sources, minimising any reporting burden on forces. Details of the metrics to be used are set out in the table enclosed with this letter.

Collectively, through the CPPB, we will monitor this data on a quarterly basis, seeking to understand the trends and drive real improvements in outcomes over the next three to four years, against a baseline of June 2019. Success against the measures will be judged at a national level; their introduction does not represent a return to force-level numerical targets. But the CPPB will continue to refer as needed to local proxy measures in a diagnostic capacity, seeking to identify good practice and provide support and challenge to forces.

These measures are not an exhaustive list of areas the Home Secretary and I regard as policing priorities. It is, of course, vital that crimes such as rape and child sexual abuse and exploitation remain of the highest priority for policing. Clearly policing is absolutely central in the fight against these high-harm, under-reported crime types. But we recognise that it is challenging to measure policing's impact in these areas without creating harmful perverse incentives. For this reason, these crime types are not included here. Instead, we are looking to adopt a separate, cross-government approach to measuring impact on rape and CSEA that will seek to improve outcomes across the whole criminal justice system.

The democratic accountability of police and crime commissioners in setting local priorities for their areas, and the operational independence of chief constables, are both core principles of policing in England and Wales. These National Crime and Policing measures do not change that. They will, however, provide national accountability and collective responsibility, bringing the sector together to ensure that all our communities feel the palpable benefit of the additional 20,000 police officers we are recruiting. From a local accountability standpoint, it will also be important for PCCs to explain to the public how their force is performing against these measures.

However critical the police's role is in this important agenda, we recognise that you cannot do it alone. Every government department has a role to play, alongside local authorities and private industry, whether that is through action on upstream drivers of crime, or by taking steps to reduce non-crime demand on police – freeing up officers' time to focus on their core mission of cutting crime. The Home Secretary and I will

amplify the voice of policing at the heart of government to ensure you have support you need.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kit Malthouse", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kit Malthouse MP
Minister of State for Crime and Policing