

Crime news: extension of 2017 crime contract to 31 March 2021

We are extending the 2017 standard crime contract by 12 months to 31 March 2021. Contract extension notices are being issued to individual providers to notify them of the extension.

Why is this happening?

This is being done so that we can consider the outcome of Ministry of Justice reviews into criminal legal aid and the means tests before we put a new crime contract in place. These reviews are due to report towards the end of summer 2020.

Next Steps

Providers do not need to take any action for this extension to take effect. We will issue the new schedules before the end of March 2020.

Further information

[Standard crime contract 2017](#) – to download ‘headline intentions on extending the 2017 standard crime contract’ document

[Criminal legal aid review](#)

[Means test review into thresholds for legal aid entitlement thresholds](#)

Funding for Violence Reduction Units announced

Eighteen PCCs have been awarded £35 million to set up specialist teams to tackle violent crime in their area, the government has announced today (Monday 12 August).

The Violence Reduction Units will bring together different organisations, including the police, local government, health, community leaders and other key partners to tackle violent crime by understanding its root causes. The new units will be responsible for identifying what is driving violent crime in the area and coming up with a co-ordinated response.

The announcement follows a roundtable at Downing Street, hosted by Prime Minister Boris Johnson, bringing together the police, probation and prisons

and leaders to discuss how to cut crime and improve the criminal justice system.

The Prime Minister has vowed to give police the powers and resources they need to urgently tackle serious violence, cut crime and target county lines gangs.

Recruitment of 20,000 new police officers – a commitment made by the Prime Minister when he took office – will begin next month. Yesterday, the Home Secretary confirmed that all 43 police forces in England and Wales can use enhanced stop and search powers.

Policing Minister Kit Malthouse said:

To beat knife crime we must do two things: first we need assertive, high profile police enforcement and second, we need a coordinated approach to the long term solutions to violence in society, especially amongst the young. These new units should help us get results on both

APCC Serious Violence Deputy Lead, Marc Jones PCC said:

This funding to tackle serious violent crime is welcome.

We know that that best way to reduce violence in our communities is to invest in preventative measures, adopting a whole system public health approach, and that PCCs are best placed to deliver this work locally.

We will continue to work with the Home Office and our partners to ensure long term investment for all police force areas to tackle the scourge of serious violence.

The cash is being awarded after PCCs in the 18 areas worst affected by serious violence secured their provisional allocation through successful bids.

Each unit will be tasked with delivering both short- and long-term strategies to tackle violent crime, involving police, healthcare workers, community leaders and others.

The £35 million for violence reduction units comes from a £100 million serious violence fund announced in March.

Force Area	Original surge allocation (April 2019)	Additional surge allocation (May 2019)	Final funding for Violence Reduction Unit (August 2019)
Metropolitan Police	£17,000,000	£3,840,000	£7,000,000
West Midlands	£6,000,000	£1,620,000	£3,370,000

Force Area	Original surge allocation (April 2019)	Additional surge allocation (May 2019)	Final funding for Violence Reduction Unit (August 2019)
Greater Manchester	£4,000,000	£800,000	£3,370,000
Merseyside	£3,500,000	£700,000	£3,370,000
West Yorkshire	£3,000,000	£1,020,000	£3,370,000
South Yorkshire	£2,000,000	£580,000	£1,600,000
Northumbria	£2,000,000	£320,000	£1,600,000
Thames Valley	£1,500,000	£440,000	£1,160,000
Lancashire	£1,500,000	£320,000	£1,160,000
Essex	£1,500,000	£260,000	£1,160,000
Avon and Somerset	£1,500,000	£220,000	£1,160,000
Kent	£1,500,000	£160,000	£1,160,000
Nottinghamshire	£1,000,000	£540,000	£880,000
Leicestershire	£1,000,000	£400,000	£880,000
Bedfordshire	£1,000,000	£380,000	£880,000
Sussex	£1,000,000	£340,000	£880,000
Hampshire	£1,000,000	£260,000	£880,000
South Wales	£1,000,000	£200,000	£880,000
Total England & Wales	£51,000,000	£12,400,000	£34,760,000

[Corporate information: Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs – Statistics at Defra](#)

We publish national and official statistics relating to the environment, rural communities, food, farming and biosecurity.

[PM call with Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern of New Zealand: 12 August 2019](#)

The Prime Minister received a call of congratulation from the Prime Minister of New Zealand, Jacinda Ardern.

The leaders discussed their shared commitment to an ambitious free trade agreement between the UK and New Zealand at the earliest opportunity.

Prime Minister Johnson and Prime Minister Ardern also discussed other issues of shared importance, including climate change and maintaining momentum in tackling terrorist use of the internet.

Prime Minister Johnson also updated Prime Minister Ardern on developments in the UK's exit from the European Union. He confirmed that we want to leave the EU with a deal but we are committed to leaving on 31 October whatever the circumstances.

Closed consultation: Draft National Policy Statement for Water Resources Infrastructure

Seeking views on the draft National Policy Statement for Water Resources Infrastructure.