

## **Press release: 20 years of the National Minimum Wage have boosted pay by £5,000**

On the 20th anniversary of the National Minimum Wage, a new report by the Low Pay Commission examines how the policy has transformed the UK labour market.

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## **Press release: Biggest ever increase to National Living Wage comes into effect**

1.8 million workers earning the National Living Wage will receive an additional £690 over the year from today.

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## **News story: Serious youth violence summit to launch public health duty to tackle serious violence**

The new, multi-agency, 'public health duty' is intended to help spot the warning signs that a young person could be in danger, such as presenting in A&E with a suspicious injury, to worrying behaviour at school or issues at home.

Similar approaches have been used in Scotland and Wales, and are designed to ensure every part of the system works together to support young people and makes targeted interventions before they commit violence or are groomed by gangs.

The joined-up approach could also include organisations jointly funding early intervention services to improve their coordination and would be backed up by legislation to make sure professionals in health, education, police, social services, housing and the voluntary sector work together and are held accountable for preventing and tackling serious violence.

The announcement comes as the Prime Minister, Theresa May, is set to host a summit to tackle knife crime, which will also introduce this multi-agency response to violent crime. The summit will bring together attendees from a diverse range of backgrounds including law enforcement, health, the voluntary sector and education. Young people with experience of living in communities impacted by serious violence will also be attending the conference to share their insights.

The Prime Minister, Theresa May, said:

To bring about lasting change and protect young people from the tragic violence we have seen on our streets, we need to work across society to intervene early and stop them from being drawn into crime.

Strong law enforcement plays an important role, and the police will continue to have our support on the front line, but we all need to look at what we can do in our communities, and in every part of the system, to safeguard young people.

That is why our plans to introduce a whole community – or ‘public health’ – approach are designed to identify more young people at risk.

And this week’s summit in Downing Street is focussed on ensuring everyone coming into contact with young people – from the police, health, education, Local Authorities and voluntary sector – work better together to make targeted interventions and steer them away from violence.

Home Secretary Sajid Javid said:

Violent crime is like a disease rotting our society and it’s essential that all public bodies work together to treat the root causes.

The public health, multi-agency approach has a proven track record and I’m confident that making it a legal duty will help stop this senseless violence and create long-term change.

I’m committed to ending this scourge and will use all the tools at my disposal to do so.

Government ministers from across Whitehall will continue to chair a series of meetings throughout the week, harnessing expert knowledge to boost joint work in specific areas such as the justice system, business, and community support.

Over 100 experts, including the Children’s Commissioner, Anne Longfield, the

Met Commissioner, Cressida Dick, charity leaders and Chair of the Youth Justice Board Charlie Taylor, will explore the scope and impact of new ideas whilst kick-starting a further programme of action.

The Prime Minister will also meet privately with the families of a number of victims of knife crime to listen to their first-hand experiences of this issue.

The consultation on a new legal duty to support the multi- agency 'public health' approach will open today to the public and professionals across the UK. The approach will be focused on delivering long-term as well as short-term solutions to preventing and tackling serious violence across England and Wales.

The statutory duty would underpin the multi-agency approach already being driven by the [Serious Violence Strategy](#). This stresses the importance of early intervention to tackle the root causes of violent crime and recently the government launched a £200 million 10-year [Youth Endowment Fund](#) to create a generational shift in violent crime.

The launch of the consultation at the serious youth violence summit complements the government's support for robust law enforcement, which [saw £100 million](#) for police forces announced in the Spring Statement to support forces facing the highest levels of violence and the creation of violence reduction units. Police budgets has also been increased by [over £970 million](#) this year including council tax taking total investment to over £1 billion.

Following the 8 week consultation period, the government will then make a decision on tabling the necessary legislation.

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## [News story: £201 million road repair fund to resurface extra 1,000 miles](#)

- government announces allocation of £201 million for road surfaces
- on top of funding for pothole repairs, the DfT is investing in tech to prevent potholes from forming
- investment will help future-proof roads across the country from bad weather

Councils in England will be given a share of more than £200 million for road maintenance and pothole repairs – enough to resurface a road between London and Budapest.

Transport Secretary Chris Grayling has announced the allocation of an extra £50 million for councils for potholes and flood resilience as well as £151 million to reward examples of councils' best practice – funding that could

resurface more than 1,000 miles of road.

These funds come from the £6.6 billion the government is providing in the 6 years to 2021 to improve local roads.

As part of the government's work to prevent potholes in the future, the Department for Transport will fund early stage research into new surface materials or pothole repair techniques, such as 3D printing. A digital hub will also be set up for experts to share and develop innovations.

Transport Secretary Chris Grayling said:

Every motorist knows that potholes have been a problem in the last few years. That is why the government is continuing to step up its funding to local authorities to address this.

It is now up to highways authorities to innovate and use new technologies to solve the problem.

Today's investment is on top of the £725 million local authorities will receive in 2019/20, based on the infrastructure they maintain, including length of roads, number of bridges and street lights.

Road users are already seeing the benefits of extra funding for road maintenance, with £420 million spent in the past 6 months on resurfacing, pothole repairs and bridge renewals. Several local authorities have also bought pothole repair machines such as Dragon Patchers and JetPatchers – to help repair potholes and other defects quickly.

The Department for Transport, along with Cumbria County Council and highway survey firm Gaist, is also trialling low-cost sensors to monitor river levels across the region to reduce the risk of future flood damage.

In north-east Lincolnshire the council and partner ENGIE have introduced a new heat and recycle system which mixes new and existing surfaces to create a thermo-bond and reduce the potential for weak points which let in water, creating potholes. As the technique recycles the existing surface, no waste is taken to landfill.

Already this year the government announced it will be providing £23 million for trials of new technologies to develop pothole-free roads, such as using kinetic energy to heat surfaces, recycling plastic waste into a harder-wearing surface or installing sensors to predicts where issues might occur.

[A guide on best practice on pothole repair, developed with the Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning and Transport](#), has also been published today (31 March 2019).

The Department for Transport is currently consulting on ensuring road repairs last longer by requiring utility companies to guarantee their roadworks for up to five years, instead of two presently.

We will also shortly be announcing a review of road condition surveying data and technology. This call for evidence will seek views on the current methodology used to monitor road condition as well as how councils and the wider sector can harness new forms of technology and data to improve our local roads and infrastructure.

Additionally, the Department for Transport is establishing a “Review and Audit Group” in liaison with the highways sector to ensure adoption of best practice. Further details will be announced shortly.

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## **News story: Greater powers for police to use stop and search to tackle violent crime**

Home Secretary Sajid Javid is also making it simpler for police to use section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act. This empowers officers to stop and search anyone in a designated area without needing reasonable grounds for suspicion if serious violence is anticipated.

The changes apply to seven police forces who collectively account for over 60% of total national knife crime and will result in at least 3,000 more officers being able to authorise section 60. The changes will run for up to a year, including a review after 6 months.

The Home Secretary has lifted 2 conditions in the voluntary Best Use of Stop and Search Scheme by:

- reducing the level of authorisation required for a Section 60 from senior officer to inspector
- lowering the degree of certainty required by the authorising officer so they must reasonably believe an incident involving serious violence ‘may’, rather than ‘will’, occur

Prime Minister Theresa May said:

These changes will support police officers tackling serious violence in the worst affected areas.

Stop and search powers are an important tool in the fight against knife crime, and we will continue to drive tough law enforcement to protect the public.

As a whole society we also need to take a hard look at the root causes of these crimes so we can intervene earlier and stop young

people from being drawn into violence in the first place.

Home Secretary Sajid Javid said:

The police are on the front line in the battle against serious violence and it's vital we give them the right tools to do their jobs.

Stop and search is a hugely effective power when it comes to disrupting crime, taking weapons off our streets and keeping us safe.

That's why we are making it simpler for police in areas particularly affected by serious violence to use Section 60 and increasing the number of officers who can authorise the power.

The change follows a Home Secretary roundtable with police leaders on knife crime earlier this month, where the need for this power was discussed.

It also comes ahead of the Prime Minister's summit on serious youth violence in Downing Street tomorrow. This will bring together Ministers, community leaders, agencies and other experts to explore what more we can do as a whole society to tackle the root causes of serious violence and intervene earlier, alongside tough law enforcement.

Earlier this month, the government announced £100 million additional funding to support areas most affected by serious violence, boosting policing capacity and enabling the creation of multi-agency violence reduction units.

The changes to section 60 will initially apply in areas particularly affected by violent crime – London, West Midlands, Merseyside, South Yorkshire, West Yorkshire, South Wales and Greater Manchester – for up to a year. Forces are also expected to engage with communities on its use, and nobody should be stopped on the basis of their race or ethnicity.

Section 60 is often used after an incident of serious violence when police anticipate reprisal attacks. The power was used to protect festival-goers at last year's Notting Hill Carnival, where four knives and a corrosive substance were seized. It was also deployed by the Metropolitan Police and British Transport Police during a recent operation outside Stratford Station, east London, where officers seized six weapons and made 27 arrests.

Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police Cressida Dick said:

I welcome the Home Secretary's continuing support for our officers using stop and search to tackle violent crime. Stop and search is an extremely important power for the police. It is undoubtedly a part of our increasing results suppressing levels of violence and knife crime.

Our well-trained officers, acting on intelligence, use their powers professionally every day to remove weapons and other illegal items from the streets and to arrest violent offenders and those who habitually carry weapons.

In the last 18 months we have also increased the use of our powers under section 60 to prevent further violence from taking place. We are combining this with communication and engagement, so the public feel informed and supportive of our enforcement activities to tackle violent crime.

Alongside support for the police, the government continues to focus on early intervention and last week appointed charitable foundation Impetus to manage its £200 million youth endowment fund, designed to tackle youth violence.