

[News story: Police forces save £273 million in three years on equipment cost](#)

With Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) spending almost a quarter of their overall budgets on goods and services with third party suppliers, the exercise highlights the most recent prices paid for goods such as police helmets, shirts, and vehicles; as well as services like gas and face-to-face language interpretation, enabling more money to be spent on local priorities.

Most of the savings from this year's figures result from the Collaborative Law Enforcement Programme (CLEP), led by police forces, identifying opportunities for collaboration.

For example, forces across Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire bought uniforms together to halve the cost of their fleeces from £32.95 to £15.95.

Four forces in Yorkshire – South Yorkshire Police, North Yorkshire Police, West Yorkshire Police and Humberside Police – also worked together to reduce prices of vehicles by up to £10,000 per vehicle since 2016 to 2017.

Other highlights from this [year's statistics](#) include:

- Metropolitan police reducing the cost of jackets by over 63 percent
- Leicestershire police cutting the cost of fleeces by over 61 percent
- 60 percent reductions in the cost of utility belts (Norfolk and Suffolk) and shirts (Lincolnshire)
- Nottinghamshire police reducing the cost of their telephone interpretation service by almost a half while delivering the same quality

Nick Hurd, Minister for Police and Fire, said:

This year, taxpayers will be investing an additional £460 million in our police system. They do not expect the police to waste their money through inefficient procurement. I congratulate the police on impressive progress in recent years to squeeze out inefficiency. However these numbers show that the work is not complete. We will continue to work with the police to make sure that the taxpayer is getting value for money.

National Police Chiefs' Council Lead for Finance, Chief Constable Dave Thompson said:

We have already delivered substantial procurement savings and have

identified another £100 million of savings over the next three years. While there are considerable challenges to overcome in more complex areas of procurement, we continue to work hard to find further efficiencies and provide the best possible service to the public.

APCC Lead for Business Enablers and Chair of the National Commercial Board, Jason Ablewhite PCC, added:

I very much welcome the work of Police and Crime Commissioners, forces and others to deliver significant savings from more effective procurement. The Collaborative Law Enforcement Procurement (CLEP) Programme has been very active in supporting forces, including through standardisation and aggregation in areas such as uniform and vehicles. We will continue to identify further opportunities to make substantial savings for policing – including through more complex areas, such as construction and, where appropriate, trying to support national sourcing approaches.

The public rightly expect policing to be as efficient as possible and through the National Commercial Board, which oversees the work of the CLEP programme, we will be looking at the options for a future commercial operating model to ensure greater coordination of commercial activity at a regional and national level.

Featuring previously unrecorded items, this year's 'basket of goods' identifies new areas of discrepancies in the spending on goods and services, including:

- police push bikes, with costs ranging from £279, to as high as £539 per bike
- police motor cycle helmets, with some forces paying £291 and others paying £656

The data collected on the new items will be used to highlight areas where police forces could work together to procure equipment in a more collaborative, cost-effective way, and the government will work with the sector to ensure that this is the case going forward.

These figures also reveal areas which have worsened year-on-year. These include:

- credit reports, with a 262 percent rise in median spend across forces
- median spend has also raised for goods such as belts (21 percent), baton (11 percent), handcuffs (6 percent)

Although the cost of an item is not the only consideration and maintaining quality is also an important factor, forces themselves have recognised there is more to do and have committed to delivering a further £100 million of procurement savings over the next three years.