



National Policing Board

Minutes 22 July 2025

Title of meeting	National Policing Board
Date	22 July 2025
Time	13:00 – 14:30
Venue	2 Marsham Street
Chair	The Rt Hon Yvette Cooper MP: Home Secretary

Attendees

- The Rt Hon Yvette Cooper MP: Home Secretary (Chair)
- Jess Phillips MP: Minister for Safeguarding and Violence Against Women and Girls
- Dame Antonia Romeo DCB: Permanent Secretary
- Chloe Squires: Director General, Homeland Security Group
- Charlotte Bryant: Policing Policy Director, Public Safety Group
- CC Gavin Stephens QPM: Chair, National Police Chief's Council (NPCC)
- Matt Jukes QPM: Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service
- Emily Spurrell: Chair, Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC)
- Matthew Scott: Police and Crime Commissioner, Kent
- Sir Andy Marsh QPM: Chief Executive Officer, College of Policing
- Sir Andy Cooke QPM DL: HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary & HM Chief Inspector of Fire & Rescue Services
- Rob Jones: Director General (Operations), National Crime Agency (NCA)
- T/ACSO Vicki Evans: UK Counter Terrorism Policing
- Kathie Cashell: Deputy Director Strategy, Engagement & Communications, Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC)

Special invitees

- Martin Hewitt: Director General, Border Security Command
- Sarah Swinford: Crime Director, Public Safety Group
- Bethan Page-Jones: Director, Strategy, Capability and Resources
- Rachel Lloyd: Director, Safer Streets
- CC Rachel Bacon: NPCC Chair of the Local Policing Coordination Committee

- CC Sacha Hatchett: NPCC Criminal Justice Lead
- DCC Wendy Gunney: OIC Domestic Taskforce Lead
- Louisa Rolfe: NPCC Representative, Joint Police Reform Team

Welcome and introduction

1. **THE RT HON YVETTE COOPER MP, HOME SECRETARY** thanked policing for keeping our streets safe and recognised the bravery of officers and staff. She acknowledged that after one year in government, we are seeing transformation and change. On neighbourhood policing, Knife-Enabled Robbery (KER) and across the Safer Streets Mission the Government has made progress by working in close partnership with the police.

Update on Actions

2. **THE HOME SECRETARY** thanked **SIR ANDY MARSH, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, COLLEGE OF POLICING** for working with the Home Office to develop a paper on improving data collection, which has since fed into the draft Police Reform White Paper.

Public Order and Summer Preparedness

3. **THE HOME SECRETARY** introduced the item and explained that members must ensure our systems are strengthened, with lessons learned from last summer's disorder, particularly following His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, Fire and Rescue Services' (HMICFRS) report.
4. **GAVIN STEPHENS QPM, CHAIR, NATIONAL POLICE CHIEF'S COUNCIL** noted the recent immigration protests and thanked those involved in the response. He outlined the structures which had been stood up to respond to disorder should it be widespread and welcomed the support of the Home Secretary and Minister for Policing and Crime Prevention. He commented on the support the National Police Coordination Centre (NPoCC) and the College of Policing were providing, including knowledge sharing events and testing new, tiered mobilisation plans.
5. **SIR ANDY COOKE, HM CHIEF INSPECTOR OF CONSTABULARY & HM CHIEF INSPECTOR OF FIRE & RESCUE SERVICES** noted the good progress in implementing recommendations following the public disorder since last year and reiterated the importance of training officers.
6. **SIR ANDY MARSH** referred to why people might choose not to commit crime. He stated that the speed at which they are apprehended is a key factor.
7. **MATT JUKES, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, METROPOLITAN POLICE SERVICE** commented on the increase in protests, which impacts other policing

priorities. He observed that historically, officers supporting aid requests have tended to come from neighbourhood policing teams.

8. **ACTION – NPCC to write to all forces updating on progress since last summer.**

Safer Streets Summer Initiative

9. **THE HOME SECRETARY** opened the item by thanking **EMILY SPURRELL, CHAIR, ASSOCIATION OF POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONERS** and **CHIEF CONSTABLE RACHEL BACON, NPCC CHAIR OF THE LOCAL POLICING COORDINATION COMMITTEE** for their work progressing the Summer Initiative and the Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee. She welcomed the work over the summer to deliver a shared mission and mobilise local support. She highlighted the successful results seen thanks to the Knife Enabled Robbery (KER) Taskforce in hotspots areas, and how learning from this could inform other focussed drives to reduce crime, for example in town centres.
10. **RACHEL BACON** confirmed all forces have arrangements in place to support with the summer's intensification. These plans involve stakeholders across public services, local authorities, and schools and have been built using analysis of crime hotspots. She noted that the Summer Initiative will have a positive impact on the Safer Streets Mission, providing useful local insight and better community engagement. She noted that the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC) was developing tools to support effective scrutiny of the Summer Initiative and to hold Chief Constables to account.
11. **EMILY SPURRELL** noted the positive impact of the partnership approach and the convening power of Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs). She highlighted the action being delivered locally that is having a positive impact but does not necessarily lend itself to being measured, such as community projects and diversion.
12. **SARAH SWINFORD, CRIME DIRECTOR, PUBLIC SAFETY GROUP** confirmed there were lessons that can be taken from the KER taskforce. In particular, she considered the taskforce to be effective because of clear metrics, systematic collection of what works, forces sharing learning, and collaborative working.
13. **MATT JUKES** said that specific focus should be directed towards tackling the revolving door of prolific offenders and that policing could better communicate progress to the public.

- 14. ACTION:** The Home Office to work with NPB members to apply lessons learned from tackling Knife Enabled Robbery to future safer town centre initiatives.

Special Constables and Volunteers in Neighbourhood Policing and Wider Roles

- 15. THE HOME SECRETARY** outlined the important role special constables could play in bringing new skills into a range of policing roles, including neighbourhood policing. She reiterated the Peelian principle that the police are the public and the public are the police, and how policing should look to see how more members of the public could be supported in becoming special constables.
- 16. RACHEL BACON** agreed with the value of volunteers in policing and noted the wider context of force workforce dynamics. She highlighted broader challenges Chief Constables were managing on resources, and the importance of overall police funding in delivering the 13,000 increase in neighbourhood policing. She set out issues that needed to be addressed between policing and the Home Office to improve the attraction, recruitment and retention of special constables. She suggested that a national campaign was needed with central coordination. This should look at different models to make the role more attractive focussing on broader volunteering opportunities and the accompanying benefits. She said engagement with forces was vital through working groups and stressed the value of the Ministerial chaired Taskforce being established. **GAVIN STEVENS** agreed, adding that models, such as those under the Ministry of Defence, were being explored. He confirmed that a working group had been set up and would take forward suggestions.
- 17. JESS PHILIPS MP: MINISTER FOR SAFEGUARDING AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS** set out how special constables and wider volunteers in policing can add value in a range of areas relating to public safety, including supporting vulnerable members of society. She considers it important to view special constables through a different lens and recruit from a variety of sectors with a range of skills.
- 18. MATTHEW SCOTT, POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER, KENT** agreed that there needs to be a centrally coordinated look at a broader range of roles for special constables. He suggested work should be done to make the Special Constabulary more consistent across forces, for example, the rank system and training provided.

Organised Immigration Crime Domestic Taskforce

- 19. THE HOME SECRETARY** recognised the work to setup up the Border Security Command (BSC) led by **MARTIN HEWITT, DIRECTOR GENERAL, BORDER SECURITY COMMAND**. She thanked **SIR ANDY COOKE** for the HMICFRS report into Organised Immigration Crime (OIC) which clearly showed the scale of OIC networks across the UK. She reaffirmed tackling OIC is about confidence in the rule of law, secure borders, and is crucial to underpinning democracy. She thanked **DCC WENDY GUNNEY, ORGANISED IMMIGRATION CRIME TASKFORCE LEAD** for her work leading the OIC Domestic Taskforce, created following the HMICFRS report and stressed the importance of forces supporting this work as a collective priority.
- 20. MARTIN HEWITT** provided context to the BSC and noted the links that his work has to the other priorities, such as neighbourhood policing and public disorder. He updated members on BSC governance and informed the Board that the Border Security, Asylum and Immigration Bill is due to receive Royal Assent in November.
- 21. WENDY GUNNEY** emphasised the need to deliver against the HMICFRS recommendations to strengthen the UK law enforcement response to organised immigration crime. She confirmed that to support of the government's forthcoming 'one in, one out' policy, the taskforce will increase activity and draw on the full range of UK tactics as well as continued collaboration with the NCA on international and communications leads.
- 22. ROB JONES DIRECTOR GENERAL (OPERATIONS), NATIONAL CRIME AGENCY** welcomed the work to join upstream overseas work with local activity, providing one intelligence picture. Graeme Biggar, Director General NCA has issued a tasking letter on OIC under the Crime and Courts Act 2013 which policing are working to operationalise.
- 23. SIR ANDY COOKE** noted that access to intelligence and variations in the delivery of training across forces remain key issues. However, he felt that progress had been made and pointed to the impact OIC has on certain forces. He welcomed the NCA tasking following the inspection.
- 24. MATT JUKES** said that work to tackle OIC will go fastest and furthest where it aligns to other priorities such as drugs trafficking and VAWG. He considered that it would be beneficial to establish a strong link between town centre anti-social behaviour and immigration enforcement presence.

25. THE HOME SECRETARY asked whether the taskforce has the support they need and if there is anything more that can be done. **WENDY GUNNEY** confirmed the taskforce has the HMICFRS recommendations which they are leveraging and that they would seek further support in time, as required.

Criminal Justice – Sentencing Review/ Criminal Courts Review

26. THE HOME SECRETARY introduced the item, noting that the Independent Sentencing Review had been published on 22 May 2025 and the Independent Criminal Courts Review was published on 9 July 2025. She thanked the NPCC, NCA and MPS for their engagement with the reviews, including providing the Home Office with an indicative cost assessment. She also thanked **CC SACHA HATCHETT, NPCC CRIMINAL JUSTICE LEAD** for her ongoing work through the Criminal Justice Operational Implementation taskforce in assisting the Home Office and Ministry of Justice to prepare for implementation.

27. SACHA HATCHETT welcomed support from the Home Office in working with the Ministry of Justice, with whom she has received good engagement. She said on the Independent Sentencing Review a full impact assessment on policing was required and this was crucial to operationalise the legislation.

28. On the Independent Criminal Courts Review, she reflected that there were some good recommendations which signalled a step forward for victims. However, there is a cost associated with more preventative work which is currently unfunded.

29. GAVIN STEVENS said in continuing their scrutiny of the recommendations, the NPCC would apply two tests 1) out of court should not mean out of justice and 2) out of prison should not mean out of control.

30. MATT JUKES supported the reviews and agreed that steps taken to free up prison capacity was the right course of action. He said that policing should not lose sight of victims, and offenders not in custody should be subject to an order to control risk which need to be clear and transparent. **JESS PHILLIPS** added that for the order system to work police officers need to be able to get an order quickly and highlighted the concerns around the lack of specialism in domestic abuse perpetration.

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31. None raised.

Closing

- 32. THE HOME SECRETARY** concluded the meeting, emphasising the need to reinforce cross-agency collaboration on public order. Members were urged to leverage the success of the Knife Enabled Robbery Taskforce to inform future approaches to neighbourhood and town centre crime.
- 33.** The progress on organised immigration crime was noted, with a commitment to revisit the issue if further action is required. On criminal justice reform, she encouraged continued engagement to ensure effective implementation following the reviews.