



**Norwich to Tilbury Grid Reinforcement Project  
National Grid Development Consent Order Application EN020027  
("the Application")**

**Essex Police and Suffolk Constabulary  
Joint Forces Written Submissions of Oral Representations at Issue Specific Hearing 2 (ISH2) on 1 May 2026**

Essex Police and Suffolk Constabulary (the "**Joint Forces**") attended ISH2 on Friday 1 May 2026. The Joint Forces welcomed the opportunity to assist the Examining Authority ("**ExA**") in its assessment of Item 11, Traffic and Transport. Whilst this topic is of general importance to the Joint Forces, and has been widely referenced in multiple examination documents to date (**[REP1-232]**, **[REP3-066]**, **[REP3-068]**, **[REP3-109]**), item 11.3 (Abnormal Indivisible Load) was of particular interest to the Joint Forces due to the inherent involvement of the Joint Forces in providing escort capability for the transport of Abnormal Indivisible Loads ("**AILs**").

In this document, the Joint Forces summarise in writing the relevant oral representations made by the Applicant and the Joint Forces at ISH2. As a general point, the Joint Forces noted that, in principle, there appears to have been considerable progress in advancing the ongoing discussions between the Joint Forces and the Applicant. The Joint Forces, however, are not able to formally accept that these positions have been resolved on a without prejudice basis until the Applicant has engaged further with the Joint Forces to formalise the position.

Whilst the below summary details, amongst other matters, the Joint Forces' position on various legal agreements and commitments that will be required in order to mitigate the impact of the project on the Joint Forces, Appendix 3 below sets out a formal response to Action Point 22 which requested the Joint Forces (amongst other interested parties) to provide a response to the Appendix E document shared by the Applicant.

Item	Comments / Questions by the ExA	Response / Comments
<b>Agenda Item 11 – Traffic and Transport</b>		
1	<p>ExA invited the Applicant to provide a summary of the AIL strategy to date.</p> <p>The ExA indicated that the indicative programming and time scaling is critical</p>	<p><b>Post-Hearing Submission:</b> The Joint Forces welcome the ExA's acknowledgement that the Applicant's engagement with the Joint Forces regarding AILs has not met the needs of the Joint Forces. The Joint Forces also welcome the ExA's assertion that this very much remains a critical issue.</p> <p>Mr Harris KC for the Applicant offered to talk the ExA through the updated position, following discussions with the Joint Forces prior to the commencement of ISH2.</p>
2	<p>The ExA noted that the documents to date submitted by the Joint Forces had clearly demonstrated that there is considerable distance between the Applicant and the Joint Forces with respect to the issue of AILs.</p> <p>The ExA therefore invited an update from the Applicant following discussions with the Joint Forces. Both the Applicant and the ExA agreed that the issue of AILs was the most important agenda issue of the day.</p>	<p>Mr Harris KC acknowledged that close collaboration with the Joint Forces is critical to ensuring the earliest delivery of the project, conceding that it would not be possible to deliver the project without the assistance of the Joint Forces.</p> <p>Mr Harris KC further emphasised that the Applicant acknowledges and recognises the concerns of the Joint Forces and warranted that the Applicant will address the Joint Forces' concerns at the earliest possible time.</p> <p><b>Post-Hearing Submission:</b> The Joint Forces welcome the Applicant's acknowledgement that engagement with the Joint Forces is critical to ensuring the timely delivery of the project. However, the Applicant inherently bears responsibility for establishing and maintaining this collaborative relationship. Whilst the Joint Forces will continue to assist the Applicant insofar as possible, the Applicant needs to ensure that it remains in ongoing communication with the Joint Forces at every stage.</p> <p>Mr Harris KC explained the issues with providing clear information at this stage. Mr Harris KC noted that the Applicant cannot pre-emptively order items prior to the granting of any DCO, however the Applicant will procure the relevant equipment following grant. He emphasised that there is a</p>

		<p>similar issue with respect to shipping timescales and precise infrastructure at this stage, and therefore a detailed schedule of Ports of Origin is not currently possible to provide at this stage.</p> <p><b>Post-Hearing Submission:</b> The Joint Forces note that there are practical issues in providing full information on AILs at this stage. However, the Joint Forces ultimately need to be kept as informed as possible by the Applicant. The Joint Forces would welcome regular updates on this, even where such an update simply discloses that this remains outstanding.</p> <p>Subject to this caveat, Mr Harris KC provided an update on indicative timescales:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mr Harris KC noted that the earliest anticipated date for the grant of the DCO would be Q1 2027. Therefore, there will be increased post-procurement certainty and accuracy as to the number of deliveries of AILs and the nature of vehicles on which they sit, in addition to a better understanding of the routing.</li><li>• Mr Harris KC noted further that the first AILs will likely be cable drums and will be scheduled for Q3 2028, which will be delivered to the AONB. Therefore, the Applicant will provide this information to the Joint Forces as soon as possible.</li></ul> <p><b>Post-Hearing Submission:</b> Whilst the Joint Forces will be guided by the Applicant, the Joint Forces invite the Applicant to consider whether any AIL escorts would be required before this date. For example, the Joint Forces consider it reasonable to assume that initial supporting infrastructure, such as temporary worker cabins, may need to be escorted to the site prior to Q3 2028.</p> <p>Accordingly, we wish to reiterate that the Joint Forces will require at least 18 months from receipt of stand up funds/completion of a binding legal agreement to fully stand up an escort team. Therefore, we suggest that the Applicant considers whether it is likely that any AIL movements are reasonably likely to be required before Q3 2028 and, if so, we request</p>
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		<p>expedited engagement on this to ensure that timescales can be delivered.</p> <p>Mr Harris KC stated that funding would be able to be secured and agreed with the Joint Forces following the grant of the DCO and well in advance of the Q3 2028 target date for first AIL movements. Mr Harris KC formally accepted in principle that the cost of non-core policing duties will be funded by the Applicant, including all reasonable and proportionate costs of the Joint Forces in the delivery of the Application.</p> <p>Mr Harris KC noted that the NPCC Guidelines specified that the escorting of multiple AILs is identified as an additional activity beyond core policing for which the charging of police services is permitted. He concluded on this matter that this will be achieved via the entering into of a binding contractual arrangement between the Applicant and the Joint Forces, which is the standard mechanism for this.</p> <p>Mr Harris KC noted that the contract (or contracts) would be able to reflect the precise, known details of the AILs, their port(s) of origin, the size of the equipment and anything further that would be required.</p> <p><b>Post-Hearing Submission:</b> Please see the Joint Forces' representations on this at Item 3 below.</p> <p>Mr Harris KC opined that a s106 agreement would not be required due to this not fulfilling the CIL test of necessity.</p> <p><b>Post-Hearing Submission:</b> Whilst the Joint Forces have made representations on this at item 3 below, the Joint Forces further wish to emphasise that the impact with respect to traffic and transport on the Joint Forces is broader than just AIL funding. Accordingly, we reserve our position with respect to the extent to which obligations are required in favour of the Joint Forces in a s106 agreement.</p>
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		<p>For example, the relevant representation of the Joint Forces proposed the following non-exhaustive and without prejudice examples of potential mitigation to be secured in a s106 agreement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Construction phase incident management and community impacts.</li><li>- The impact caused by the increased population to facilitate construction workers.</li><li>- The establishment of a Transport, Community Safety and Cohesion Working Group.</li><li>- Impact on crime, community safety and policing more broadly, including from any additional burden on the Joint Forces that is separate from the AIL impact.</li></ul> <p>The Joint Forces also consider it possible that it may be appropriate to secure a commitment within the s106 for the Applicant to enter into a separate binding contract with the Joint Forces to provide for the funding for AIL services.</p> <p>The Joint Forces have requested below that we are able to engage with the Applicant's legal representatives in order to progress further on legal agreements.</p> <p>Mr Harris KC also considered whether the outline construction management plan should be amended to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• the principle that the Joint Forces will be fully funded for their costs associated with police activities;</li><li>• a framework for sharing information with the Joint Forces on a regular basis as information relevant to AILs (including Ports of Origin) becomes known, and whether this could be done via a weekly or ad hoc basis, or via a formal liaison group;</li><li>• a proportionate mechanism for the resolution of any disputes; and</li><li>• other traffic and transport issues identified as of interest to the Joint Forces.</li></ul>
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		<p><b>Post-Hearing Submission:</b> The Joint Forces reiterate our below request that we are able to engage with the Applicant's legal representatives in order to progress any and all legal agreements.</p> <p>Mr Harris KC further emphasised that the engagement with the Joint Forces will nonetheless be ongoing, with information to be provided as soon as it is known.</p> <p><b>Post-Hearing Submission:</b> The Joint Forces welcome this but note our previously stated position with respect to the expectation that the Applicant provides ongoing information.</p>
3	The ExA invited a response from the Joint Forces.	<p>Mr Ben Stansfield for the Joint Forces thanked the Applicant for their response. Mr Stansfield made some additional clarifications with respect to the Joint Forces' requirements.</p> <p><b>Stand-up Costs</b></p> <p>Mr Stansfield emphasised that there is an 18-month stand-up period required before any AIL escort services can commence. Mr Stansfield stressed that the police operate at capacity and that, accordingly, this time is required in order to vet, recruit and train applicants and to procure the necessary equipment. This is exacerbated by the inherently specialised nature of AIL escorting, which results in a limited pool of appropriate candidates.</p> <p>Mr Stansfield clarified that there is an associated cost with this stand-up period, in addition to any ongoing costs. It is to be noted that it is standard practice that any funding agreement would need to incorporate these costs, in addition to ongoing funding.</p> <p><b>Police AIL Powers and Operations</b></p>

		<p>Mr Stansfield welcomed the Applicant's acknowledgement that certain escorts can only be delivered by the police, and that therefore the Joint Forces are essential for the delivery of this project. Mr Stansfield offered to provide the ExA with further details on the legislative powers.</p> <p><b>Post-Hearing Submission:</b> Please see Appendix 1 for copies of the latest National Police Chiefs' Constable Guidelines on Charging for Police Services. This is a formal response to Action Point 42.</p> <p>Mr Stansfield further noted that the above described operational resourcing issues are amplified when considered on a cumulative basis. There are currently a significant number of NSIPs at the pre-application, application and post-consent stage in both Suffolk and Essex. Accordingly, this has impacts on the Joint Forces' capacity to deliver a dedicated escort team.</p> <p>Mr Stansfield stressed that because of the large pipeline of NSIPs, if the AIL escorting for this project was treated on a 'business as usual' basis, i.e. without a dedicated escort team or bespoke funding arrangements, it would likely take approximately 5 years – if not longer - for all of the Applicant's AIL requirements to be delivered. This would have impacts on the feasibility of delivering the project and may present procedural and technical implications for the validity of information outlined in the Environmental Statement, which bases its assessment on regular AIL movements.</p> <p><b>The Respective Role of the Joint Forces</b></p> <p>Mr Stansfield emphasised that whilst the Joint Forces have been presenting as a joint front in the Application process, the Applicant must appreciate that Essex Police and Suffolk Constabulary are ultimately separate forces. Accordingly, each of the Joint Forces will have its own bespoke requirements and needs, for example each force will inherently have slightly different internal protocols and risk assessments which</p>
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		<p>must be complied with at all times. Furthermore, each of the Joint Forces represents different communities, who in turn have their own policing requirements and needs.</p> <p>Therefore, mitigation must be approached in a nuanced way. For example, whilst a solution may be appropriate for Essex, this may not be appropriate for Suffolk (and vice versa). Appropriate mitigation can therefore only be achieved through meaningful collaboration which recognises the Joint Forces as experts in the needs and requirements of their force and the community they represent.</p> <p>This issue in particular highlights the importance for the Joint Forces in understanding the Ports of Origin for ALL movements. The Applicant must therefore ensure it collaborates with the Joint Forces to ensure that the chosen Ports of Origin align with the collective and respective requirements of the Joint Forces.</p> <p><b>Legal Agreements and Engagement</b></p> <p>Mr Stansfield noted that various funding arrangements have been agreed by the Joint Forces previously, and therefore we are confident that there is a sufficient legal framework for funding to be secured.</p> <p>Mr Stansfield noted that whilst there will be a dedicated escort team, it must be appreciated that the police officers are bound by their duties as officers and therefore would need to respond to any incidents which occur during the course of escorting ALLs. However, in the event of this the Joint Forces would return to their escorting duties as soon as possible. This is a matter that will be built into any binding agreement.</p> <p>Mr Stansfield stressed that from experience, it is essential that the Joint Forces are able to engage meaningfully with the Applicant's legal team as soon as possible. In particular, it is noted that based on the Applicant's indicative timescale, if the DCO were granted in Q1 2027, the proposed</p>
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		<p>first AIL movement date of Q3 2028 would be approximately 18 months following consent. It must therefore be restated that the Joint Forces require an 18 month period to start up a team. Therefore, early engagement is essential to ensure that a binding, funding agreement can be entered into as soon as the DCO is granted.</p> <p>Mr Stansfield suggested that, in light of this, it would be helpful to consider with the Applicant whether stand up arrangements could be put in place prior to the grant of the DCO, even if they were made conditional on grant.</p> <p>Mr Stansfield added that further discussion with the Applicant's legal team would assist with understanding whether a DCO requirement or s106 restriction is necessary, as well as to facilitate further engagement relating to the Construction Management Plan.</p> <p><b>Post-Hearing Submission:</b> Please see Appendix 2 for a short note which sets out the Joint Forces' takeaways from prior engagement on previous NSIPs. This note sets out what the Joint Forces consider essential for ensuring that AIL escorts can be secured and delivered collaboratively and effectively.</p>
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**Appendix 1 - National Police Chiefs' Council Guidelines on Charging for Police Services**



# National Policing Guidelines on Charging for Police Services: General

The National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) has agreed to these revised guidelines being circulated to, and adopted by, Police Forces in England, Wales & Northern Ireland.

It is NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED under the Government Protective Marking Scheme and any referrals for advice and rationale in relation to Freedom of Information Act disclosure should be made to the NPCC Central Referral Unit at [npcc.request@foi.pnn.police.uk](mailto:npcc.request@foi.pnn.police.uk).

## Document information

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These revised guidelines have been produced by [BlueLight Commercial](#) on behalf of, and approved by, the NPCC Finance Coordination Committee. The original version of this document was assessed by Home Office Counsel in July 2018. The purpose of this document is to provide comprehensive advice on cost recovery. Please note [Appendix 2 - Charge Rates for Common Items](#), is updated annually and re-published as necessary.

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Any queries relating to this document should be directed to the author using the contact details above.

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Throughout this document, for the purposes of ease of reading, please note that references to Chief Constable will include the Commissioner of Police for the Metropolis and the Commissioner for the City of London Police and references to Police & Crime Commissioners (PCCs) will include Police, Fire & Crime Commissioners (PFCCs), Deputy Mayor’s for Policing & Crime and the City of London Corporation’s Court of Common Council.

There may be occasions where legislation makes specific references to each of the above to ensure all are captured in the statute used to recover costs, income generate and collaborate.



## GUIDELINES

### 1 Introduction

#### Background

- 1.1. There are many competing demands on police resources and it is important that managers recognise that meeting those demands often has a significant cost implication. The key principle of this document is ensuring that police forces can properly balance resources to provide a level of policing that is fit for purpose by making appropriate decisions on when and what to charge for police services within the current legal framework.
- 1.2. For the most part policing is part of centrally and locally tax-funded services and is provided for the benefit of the public at large. In this way the majority of policing is provided as a public service. There are some functions that police perform that are provided beyond their ordinary public duty, and in some of these cases there are powers in law for a Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to recover the costs of this additional policing under the provision of “Special Police Services.” However, there are also a limited range of other non-policing activities where it is appropriate for the police to make charges to individuals or organisations to recover costs. Ensuring that charges are levied fairly and effectively in such circumstances will protect the public police provision and contribute to the overall funding of the service.
- 1.3. There are opportunities for police forces to provide goods and services which are relevant to their function, organisational ability and workforce skills. Also, within the legislative right under the Police Act 1996 (as amended) there is provision to accept income in other circumstances, such as Grants from Local Authorities Section 92 (with or without conditions) and other grant funding sources. Although not the subject of this document Sections 24 and 25 provide provision for mutual aid and special police services, details of which can be found in separate NPCC guidance documents.
- 1.4. Historically, charges levied have been variable between PCCs and within police forces. Some variability may be legitimate but consistency should be achieved where possible to secure credibility and confidence in the charging processes and to ensure that proper cost recovery across the service is not undermined.
- 1.5. The police service is increasingly implementing charging policies on a delegated basis within forces. Delegation requires an agreed framework of policies and procedures to ensure that individual decisions at different points in the organisation are made on a consistent basis and in accordance with the corporate requirements of the PCC and force.
- 1.6. In pursuance of these objectives the original version of this guidance (*Paying the Bill*), published by the Association of Chief Police Officers in 2005, was aimed primarily at police force managers. This current version has been revised in association with the APCC and is addressed at Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) as well as policing leaders and force managers.

### 2 Scope

- 2.1. The ability to charge for police services is generally determined by statutory provisions. This guidance covers two main areas:
  - [Section 15 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011](#) extends to PCCs the powers of the Local Authorities (Goods and Services) Act 1970 to supply goods and services to other



bodies or persons. This may include services provided in competition with other providers, e.g., training or vehicle maintenance, where charges will reflect market rates, or services as a by-product of core police activity such as provision of collision reports or photographs and film;

- [Section 92 of the Police Act 1996](#), which provides the ability for a PCC to accept a grant, either conditionally or unconditionally, from a council of a county, district, county borough or London borough;

2.2 This document does not provide guidance on the provision of Mutual Aid under Section 24 of the Police Act 1996 which is the policing assistance to another force and the provision of additionally requested special police services under Section 25 of the Police Act 1996. For detailed guidance on these areas please refer to:

- *National Policing Guidelines on Charging for Police Services: Mutual Aid Cost Recovery;*
- *National Policing Guidelines on Charging for Police Services: Special Police Services.*

### 3 Responsibilities

3.1 The PCC has a statutory responsibility for the overall finances of the police force. The PCC approves an annual budget and sets the local precept. The Chief Constable is responsible for the subsequent financial management of the force under a general delegation from the PCC. In general terms therefore the PCC should approve the framework of financial policies and procedures within which that delegated responsibility operates. In the general context of the police service's overall financial arrangements, it is the PCC's responsibility to approve policies for charging for police services.

3.2 The Chief Constable will assist the PCC in determining a charging policy and is then responsible for implementation of that policy within the agreed terms of delegation. Individual force managers will have delegated responsibilities as agreed by the Chief Constable.

3.3 The power to supply goods and services pursuant to [Section 15 of the Police Reform & Social Responsibility Act 2011](#) also lies with the PCC and includes the determination of payment terms. To assist each PCC in determining the appropriate rates for regularly requested material and services, a schedule of nationally calculated rates for Common Items are set out in [Appendix 2 - Charge Rates for Common Items](#). To ensure consistency across forces, it is strongly recommended that the national rates, as agreed annually by the NPCC Finance and Coordination Committee, and contained within this document are adopted.

3.4 The PCC's responsibility for setting charging policy includes the following elements:

- Establishing, in consultation with the Chief Constable, and approving the overall policy;
- Agreeing the scope of delegation to the Chief Constable;
- Determining exceptional cases;
- Monitoring implementation through annual reports;
- Reviewing the policy periodically;
- Supporting actions agreed with the Chief Constable.

### 4 Charging

4.1 Police services for which charges are raised represents a small part of overall police activity. The vast majority of budgeted police resource is used in the statutory duty to police the community. This is funded in the main by the national taxpayer, with a small but increasing proportion funded by local taxpayers. Businesses also contribute indirectly through redistributed business rates.



- 4.2 There has, though, evolved circumstances where police time and expertise can be charged to third parties. Powers exist to make charges and a summary of these are shown at [Appendix 1 - Powers for Charging of Police Services](#). These powers have also evolved and been interpreted over time to make a clear delineation between core policing activity and additional chargeable services.
- 4.3 Each PCC should set their own charging policy having due regard to its local circumstances. A number of key principles have been identified which should underpin the charging policy. These are:
- Charging policy should have regard for the requirements for stewardship of public funds;
  - The policy should be set in the context of the overall funding position of the Office of the PCC;
  - Charging policy should have regard to and reflect both national guidance and national rates unless there is a robust reason for variance;
  - Charging policy should have regard to the PCC's overall policing objectives;
  - Charging policy should reflect proper accountability and ensure that costs are met by the body responsible for the purpose for which the service is being delivered;
  - Private persons/bodies should not be able to profit at the expense of the police service;
  - The policy should be clear and transparent to both providers and receivers of the service, and all decision-making within the policy should be transparent;
  - The charging policy should be consistent in its application including where discretion is allowed;
  - The basis of cost calculations should be consistent, so that significant variations in charges are explained by local circumstances rather than methodology differences;
  - There should be a clear understanding of how the charging policy and costing methodology are to be applied by practitioners.

### Treatment of VAT

- 4.4 VAT is a complex matter, for example the application of VAT on the supply of fingerprints is dependent on the purpose and the country to which the applicant is providing them. Secondment of Police Officers does not normally attract VAT although this is not the case with Police Staff. There are also various rules governing police services overseas. It is therefore prudent to seek expert guidance in individual cases, and in all cases of doubt, advice should be sought from Force VAT experts or HMRC.

## 5 Provision of Goods and Services to Third Parties

- 5.1 Potentially a PCC could provide and charge for a wide range of goods and services under section 1 of the Local Authorities (Goods and Services) Act 1970 as modified by the amendments set out in paragraph 15 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.
- 5.2 However, in practice the scope is limited in several ways. First, any service or activity has to be supported by the PCC's statutory powers. In effect such a service must spin off from normal police activity or be an activity which is incidental to the provision of the police service. The level of chargeable services must also be reasonable and proportionate to the services required by the police force itself. Chargeable activity should ultimately support and not undermine the core purpose of providing a public police service. However, where chargeable activity could be provided by another party within an open market, then charges must reflect market rates, even where this provides a net income stream.



- 5.3 Other services which support the police service itself, may have a market-competitive dimension. These include, for example, training of particular skills or vehicle maintenance. Where such services are provided to other bodies, the charges will have to take account of market rates. The general principle should be that, as a minimum, charges should always recover the costs of supplying the service. Where market conditions permit, those charges should be the full economic cost in order to contribute towards force overheads. Furthermore, so as not to disrupt the open market, the charges could be higher than cost recovery if the price of the relevant service is routinely higher than those costs; surplus income can be invested back into general policing. Service provision to third parties should be subject to a documented risk assessment, revealing any risk being created or effected by the service or product being provided.
- 5.4 Some areas of service which are beyond the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act, such as the provision of certain information (e.g. copy of a collision report book), can be, de facto, a national or local monopoly in that only the police service can provide the service. As a general principle, it can be difficult to justify widely varying costs across forces for say, the provision of Road Traffic Act information. At the least, it creates an overall problem for forces, in terms of credibility to sections of the business or other communities.
- 5.5 The NPCC Finance and Coordination Committee has created a standard set of common goods and services. These are shown in more detail in [Appendix 2 - Charge Rates for Common Items](#).
- 5.6 Under the Common Law Police Disclosure (CLPD) provisions that have superseded the Notifiable Occupations Scheme, Chief Officers will consider making a proactive disclosure upon arrest (or exceptionally upon charge) to an employer, volunteering organisation, regulatory body and/or licensing authority with which it is evident that the detainee is associated. That disclosure will contain adequate information to allow the recipient to determine the extent of any mitigation that may need implementing in respect of the risk the detainee may consequently pose to vulnerable groups (primarily children and/or vulnerable adults). ‘Supply Push’ disclosures made under the CLPD provisions will not result in a financial charge being made to the recipient(s).
- 5.7 The decision to disclose information under the CLPD regime rests solely with the Chief Officer or their delegate based on consideration of the relevancy and proportionality of any proposed disclosure. Potential recipients cannot solicit or suggest that a disclosure should be made under the CLPD provisions as clearly that would indicate they are already aware of the issue that would otherwise be the subject of the disclosure.
- 5.8 Any ‘demand pull’ request(s) for information by the employer etc., either in response to an initial disclosure made under the CLPD, or as a result of information received from other sources (e.g. self-declaration), must be made under a statutory authority rather than common law, and will attract a financial charge in accordance the rates/methods outlined in this guidance unless the required disclosure to satisfy the ‘demand pull’ request relates only to documents that would have been released under the ‘supply push’ disclosure had the need been known at the time of arrest.
- 5.9 [Appendix 2 - Charge Rates for Common Items](#) shows a range of items, both “goods” and services” where evidence has shown that the majority of forces supply, with an associated charge. A review of the charges has shown that some items have little variation across the country whilst for others charges can vary significantly. Charges shown at [Appendix 2 - Charge Rates for Common Items](#) will be updated each year by the NPCC Finance and Coordination Committee. The nature and level of charge will be re-assessed at 5 yearly intervals to review their continuing relevance and their link to the cost base. It is recognised that some forces will incur additional costs in retrieving documents that are held in off-site commercial archives. In these situations, it is acceptable for these costs to be passed on to the body requesting the information.



- 5.10 It should be noted that the cost of common items areas are based only upon the actual cost of locating, reading, assessing, redacting, quality assuring and despatching an existing item. The standard charges, unless specifically stated, do not reflect the cost of producing the original item, unless it has not been created for the purposes of core policing and has been produced specifically for the requesting party.
- 5.11 No charges should be made to the Motor Insurers Bureau for the statutory provision of collision reports (Previously referenced in HO Circular 163/1 1953).
- 5.12 No charges should be made to Responsible Authorities (such as Local Authorities, Health Authorities, Fire and Rescue Authorities, Primary Care Trusts, NHS Trusts, Probation Committees and Registered Social Landlords) due to the requirement within the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 for such partners to work together to combat anti-social behaviour.
- 5.13 No charges should be made to other public sector organisations where the requirement for the document is for the purpose of either safeguarding a child or vulnerable individual or to aid a statutory investigation.
- 5.14. Third sector agencies, (including sports, faith-based, voluntary, and community organisations covered by Section 11 of the Children Act 2004), should not incur any charges when fulfilling statutory safeguarding duties. This includes the obligation to share information in cases where an agency must assess safeguarding risks following allegations against individuals working with children.
- 5.15 The provision of goods and services will cover other professional or technical services such as the provision of training in particular skills, an extension of a support function (e.g. vehicle maintenance), the hire of premises or the sale of goods which can range from memorabilia to old and decommissioned equipment, etc.
- 5.16 The situation here is conceptually different to where police are the only potential supplier, in that the goods and services are provided and sold in market competitive conditions. As such, pricing policy is largely discretionary to an individual Force/PCC. Forces can be in competition with all other suppliers, including companies, non-profit organisations and other Forces.
- 5.17 **For those areas where the service is provided in open market conditions, then a general principle should apply that charges should, at least, recover the full costs of supplying the service.** For this to be able to be achieved, forces should be clearly able to identify the investment (start-up) and running costs of the service and then set charges accordingly. This should be based on the model for calculating direct costs. But the charges made will clearly depend on the nature of the market and local pricing decisions.
- 5.18 On some occasions, pricing policy may dictate a marginal costing approach initially being taken. Here, the employable cost identified in the costing model should be the baseline for consideration. Beyond this, forces should then have a clear understanding of the contribution requirements to direct overheads and set up or other investment costs, in order that they can demonstrate the adequate recovery of costs.
- 5.19 It is clear that pricing policy and market conditions can affect the level of charges. It is important that, in those conditions, all forces should be able to validate charges set. The costing model can provide a basis for this to be undertaken. In certain conditions, forces are taking advantage of their spare capacity. It is important in these circumstances that forces can demonstrate a strong "value for money" rationale to the use of the resources applied.



- 5.20 In other circumstances, the ability to market and benefit from an area of expertise needs pump priming or investment - often in support activities. It is expected that charges should be set that will recover all the supporting costs, including the pump priming or set up costs within a reasonable investment time period. Charges can exceed the overall level of cost recovery and therefore provide a net income stream where market conditions allow. But forces should be prepared to identify and justify pricing policies if required.

### Charging for Intellectual Property

- 5.21 Intellectual property rights (IPR) allow a PCC/Force to make money from the Intellectual Property (IP) owned. Protecting the IP makes it easier to take legal action against anyone who steals, copies or misuses it. In the UK, intellectual property (IP) is something that is created by a human using their mind - for example, a story, an invention, an artistic work or a symbol. IP is owned if you:
- created it (and it meets the requirements for copyright, a patent or a design);
  - bought intellectual property rights from the creator or a previous owner;
  - have a brand that could be a trademark, for example, a well-known product name.

The four main areas of IPR are:

- Copyright for material – films, pictures, literary and artistic material, sound recordings and broadcasts;
  - Trademarks for brand identity – of goods and services allowing distinction between different organisations;
  - Designs for shape and appearance – either functional or aesthetically pleasing articles or surface decoration, pattern or ornament;
  - Patents for inventions – new and improved products and processes that are capable of industrial application.
- 5.22 It is important to address the issue of IPR when developing products within the organisation, including working with suppliers to develop solutions that result in goods and services being created e.g., a training course on vehicle theft co-developed by a force and a car manufacturer which could be co-owned by both parties. The training could be licensed through other outlets thus creating a further source of income. It is important to include IP terms and conditions in purchasing contracts, grant agreements and collaboration arrangements to ensure the forces/PCC does not miss out on future opportunities.
- 5.23 Forces/PCCs are recommended to have policies on IPR that complement procurement and commercial policies and align with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015. The complex nature of IPR makes it advisable to seek relevant specialist professional advice on the subject before commencing exploitation of any asset.
- 5.24 Forces should be aware that any commercial use of the Royal Cipher, that may be contained within the force crest and/or other imagery, will require the written permission of the Lord Chancellor's Office. Further advice on the process can be obtained from BlueLight Commercial.
- 5.25 It is recommended that all forces protect any images (formally known as a 'device') that they want to either use commercially or prevent others from using for commercial gain. Advice on registering a trademark can be found at [Register a trade mark : Overview - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/register-a-trade-mark)



### Photographs and Film

- 5.26 Forces provide a wide range of material to the news media as part of policing operations. To protect and control the use of the material, licenses should be employed to formalise the arrangement between the force/PCC and the third party. These will provide the terms and conditions of usage and include timelines and instructions to the licensee regarding varying the terms for different usage; it also shows other third parties that the material is protected by a licensor. Forces should have a procedure on engagement with news agencies and it should include the policy on material release and include the time constraints regarding how long material should be regarded as news.
- 5.27 Forces/PCCs can seek to maximise the commercial potential of material created during their business. Areas that may be particularly appropriate for this include:
- Use of material that is no longer current news but was subject to intense media interest at the time;
  - Programmes regarding historical incidents no longer directly relevant to force priorities;
  - Documentaries and “reality TV”;
  - Fictional dramas;
  - Programmes intended for broadcast or re-sale abroad.
- 5.28 There may be occasions when charging for material is inappropriate. These include:
- If material has been released as current news and falls within the force news-broadcast ‘exclusivity’ time, or would still assist an active investigation, prevent crime or meet the original purpose for which it was released through force media departments.
  - If the material would compromise an ongoing investigation or court case, or may compromise future operations through description of procedure, equipment or other sensitive items.
  - If the material will gain coverage of a successful or important area of force work that failed to gain publicity as news or will highlight a particular problem or issue and in doing so contribute to meeting publicity and policing objectives.
  - If the force would be morally or ethically compromised by requesting payment or if the material is unsuitable for release into the public domain.
  - If the material would be detrimental to the aims of the Force/PCC.

It is important to note that even where a decision is made **not to charge for the materials initial use, a license should still be put in place**, as without a suitable license the future use of the material cannot be adequately controlled.

- 5.29 Unlike material released as part of activities in Common Items table in [Appendix 2 - Charge Rates for Common Items](#), existing photographs and film owned by the Force/PCC that is to be used by a third party for commercial purposes should be charged for on the basis of their commercial value rather than the cost of their reproduction and disclosure. A suggested national rate card for photographs and film has been developed using current market rates from comparable organisations and is included in a separate table in [Appendix 2 - Charge Rates for Common Items](#). This is intended to be used by Forces for direct sales to third parties rather than changing any tariffs created through commercial archives or resellers.

### Merchandising

- 5.30 Merchandising is the use of a force logo or campaign image or brand on products that have been created. Forces often use merchandising such as pens, flags and key-fobs to promote individual initiatives and recruitment, however a more diverse range of material can be created for additional



benefit, such as calendars, mugs clothing and toys; the purchase of which should comply with relevant procurement policy and legislation.

- 5.31 Imagery and branding aligned with a Force/PCC should be protected either by default through copyright legislation or through the act of registering it as a trademark. Either way, forces should be pro-active in protecting its imagery and branding to ensure its misuse does not have a negative impact on the force brand or commercial activities.

### Police Documentaries

- 5.32 Many forces have or considered working with television production companies in order to produce police based documentaries about either their force in general or a specific aspect of their force. There continues to be a public demand for documentaries based on the various aspects of operational policing and it can provide the public with an increased and improved level of insight into the work of the police.

- 5.33 While forces generally have a positive experience of working with production companies, the level of in-house effort involved is significant. The level of preparation, support and post-filming work required to support documentary productions is often vastly underestimated. There can be a significant level of stakeholder engagement (blue light partners, social services, charities) required to ensure that objections to filming do not arise late in the day. This reflects the diversity of incidents that police are called to respond to.

- 5.34 Prior to committing to a production company a force and PCC should consider the purpose, workload and intended outcomes. The answers to the following list of questions will assist in the decision making:

- Does the proposal support the force priorities?
  - Does it add value for the force?
  - Does it support the force values?
  - Will it be a source of pride for the officers and staff?
  - Will it benefit recruitment?
- Does it benefit the local communities?
  - Will it resonate with the communities?
  - Will it improve public trust and confidence
  - Will it help us get messages out to 'harder to reach' audiences?
- Will it benefit UK policing in general?
  - Will it cover a wide range of policing issues? (that other forces may then need / want to respond to)
  - Will it cover currently high-profile national policing matters? (that other forces will then need / want to respond to)
- Has the programme/ series been commissioned?
  - For what channel
  - Anticipated timing for broadcast (in the TV schedules)
  - Expected audience demographics?
  - Anticipated viewing figures?



- Expectation of repeat broadcasts/ being sold elsewhere?
- Any other organisations involved/ already approached?
- What evaluation insights could they offer?
- What level of editorial control, if any, will the force have?
- Expected filming timeline?
  - <1 month
  - <3 months etc
- What fee is being offered for the programme?
- How many documentaries are the force currently involved in?
  - Consider maximum capacity within the Corporate Communications team across the year
  - Consider the additional workload on supporting functions – will the required supporting functions be available to play their part? E.g. legal, operations, custody etc.
- Has the force or any other force had previous experience with this production company?
  - References available?
  - Have they worked in any form of public service / public sector?

5.35 It is strongly recommended that an Access Agreement is put in place between the PCC, Chief Constable and the production company that sets out the conditions upon which the producer will be granted access and what the producer is being commissioned to produce as a final product. The access agreement should also specify the charges that will be levied for the access to the force and individual officers.

5.36 Consideration should be given as to how the charges should be calculated. This will be based upon the purpose of the documentary i.e. driven by the force for education or community relations purposes versus the production companies intentions to use the material for commercial gain. It is recommended that a flat fee for access is charged with additional charges based on the number of intended episodes and the intended distribution beyond its initial airing.

5.37 Further information and guidance on police documentaries and working with production companies can be found in the Association of Police Communicators' Documentary Working Group Study January – July 2023.

## 6 Charging for Services to Councils - Section 92 of the Police Act 1996

6.1 Section 92 of the Police Act 1996 (as amended) allows councils<sup>1</sup> to make grants, with or without conditions, to a PCC above the normal level of the precept.

6.2 Councils may wish to consider the use of Section 92 to grant PCCs funding to undertake additional services, over and above that level the Chief Constable considers necessary to discharge their duties.

<sup>1</sup> Councils in this case includes county, district, borough, parish or community whose area falls wholly or partly within the police area or metropolitan police district concerned.



This may be to fulfil a priority objective for the Council or a specific measure that the council believe are important to their residents.

- 6.3 Examples of this might include a Town Council that wishes to fund additional high-visibility town centre patrols, additional patrols on a particular housing estate or additional officers to increase the presence within the night time economy area. It is recommended that any additional activity undertaken does have some synergy with the Police and Crime Plan and officers are not deployed on lower-level initiatives such as dedicated operations targeting litter dropping or cycling on the pavement.
- 6.4 Whilst the additional services provided may be akin to those provided as special police service under Section 25 of the Police Act, Section 92 allows for the payment to be made as a grant and therefore, within the confines of the legislation, does not necessarily need to equate to full economic cost recovery. As such grants are likely to have a beneficial impact to other objectives within the Police and Crime Plan and it is therefore recommended that PCCs provide guidance within their charging policy on the acceptance of council funded grants and whether grants covering direct or employable costs only, could be accepted.
- 6.5 Council grants may range from the funding of overtime to fund a specific initiative for a few weeks right up to the funding of an additional team of officers on a permanent or semi-permanent basis. A council may choose to agree a monthly and annual spending limit.
- 6.6 Any such grant would need a formal agreement establishing between the parties, identifying the constraints and processes which will underpin the grant usage and any conditions imposed.
- 6.7 It should be noted that Section 92 only relates only to Councils and does not extend to other public sector organisations, however similar in construct or purpose. Furthermore, non-council organisations should not be allowed to use the legislation to pass funding through a council to benefit from any agreed charges as set by the PCC.

## 7 Cost Recovery under Grant Funding Regimes

- 7.1 Bidding for external funding is a valuable way of augmenting police budgets to solve specific issues or to take forward an innovative new approach to a problem. Whilst the process can be time-consuming, the potential financial gains from bids and grants can be significant.
- 7.2 Income from Bids and Grants is not limited and, if managed ethically and effectively, presents few pitfalls. However, understanding the organisation's ability, capacity and commitment to deliver the required work should an application be successful needs to be understood and considered from the outset.
- 7.3 Some grant providers require the receiving organisation to match fund their grant funding, either by the receiving organisation directly or from another source. It is imperative that forces understand whether a grant requires match funding and where it does, where that funding is coming from. Bids for grant funding should be made in accordance with the PCC's and force scheme of delegation
- 7.4 It is good practice for funding to follow a clearly defined need, rather than have funding availability dictating action. Projects often involve hidden costs such as meetings, supervision of project staff and provision of office accommodation. In order to justify these costs, projects should always address key organisational priorities within the Police and Crime Plan. These priorities may be crime related or may relate to other priorities such as an ambition to become carbon neutral.



- 7.5 For a variety of reasons, it will not be possible to pursue all grant opportunities, although it is likely that most Home Office grants opportunities will be pursued as they are only competed within the closed policing community and therefore the chances of success are higher. However, for non-Home Office grants the reasons for not bidding may include:
- Bidding for grants is a time-consuming process and whilst it may be tempting to use the wording prepared for a previous bid for subsequent bids, this is unlikely to prove successful unless the bid criteria and assessment technique are absolutely identical.
  - The chances of success are not equal across all opportunities and it is recommended that opportunities are assessed carefully before committing any time or resource to compiling a bid.
  - Not all grants are economically equitable as many will stipulate what can and cannot be included in the grant bid, for example in regard to overheads and match funding from your own organisation or partner organisations.
  - The degree of information and evidence required in order to claim the grant funding at the end of the project will vary and this should be factored in prior to making a decision to bid.
  - Many grants opportunities will be available at the same time, for example at the start of a financial year, with similar submission deadlines. Spreading resources across too many bids simultaneously is likely to result in compromised or less effective submissions.
  - Good quality grant bids will require input from internal subject matter experts and consideration would need to be given to their time in relation to both the frequency of their input and other commitments or competing priorities they may have.
- 7.6 It is therefore strongly recommended that a structured evaluation tool that objectively considers grant opportunities is used to assess which should be progressed and which should not.
- 7.7 Conditions of grant vary depending on which body is responsible for issuing the grant. Care should be taken to ensure that any conditions stipulated are met in full. In particular they will specify:
- How the money is to be used.
  - How reimbursement will be made for expenditure incurred.
  - The final date by which claims should be submitted.
  - Proper financial records and controls should exist.
  - Audit requirements in terms of annual reports.
  - Issues relating to the purchase of capital assets where applicable.
  - Treatment of VAT.
- 7.8 Force's and in particular the project manager and Senior Responsible Officer should be totally familiar with the terms, reporting and claiming timescales and any other requirements of the grant. Late or incomplete claims or submissions may result in the failure to recover expected grant funding and leave the force to meet the costs.



## APPENDIX 1 - Powers for the Charging of Police Services

### Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 – Section 15 Supply of Goods and Services

This section of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility 2011 Act augments the 1996 Police Act with changes to reflect the creation of the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner:

#### 15 Supply of goods and services

- (1) Subsections (1), (2) and (3) of section 1 of the 1970 Act (supply of goods and services by local authorities) apply, with the modification set out in subsection (2), to each elected local policing body as they apply to a local authority.
- (2) In those subsections, references to a public body (within the meaning of that section) are to be read as references to any person.
- (3) An elected local policing body may not enter into an agreement with another elected local policing body, or with the Common Council of the City of London in its capacity as a local policing body, under section 1 of the 1970 Act in respect of a matter which could be the subject of force collaboration provision in a collaboration agreement under section 22A of the Police Act 1996.
- (4) In this section “1970 Act” means the Local Authorities (Goods and Services) Act 1970.

### Police Act 1996 – Section 25 Special Policing Services

This act provides the basis of the provision of Special Police Services.

#### 25 Provision of Special Services.

- (1) The chief officer of police of a police force may provide, at the request of any person, special police services at any premises or in any locality in the police area for which the force is maintained, subject to the payment to the local policing body of charges on such scales as may be determined by that body.
- (1A) The Chief Constable of the British Transport Police Force may provide special police services at the request of any person, subject to the payment to the British Transport Police Authority of charges on such scales as may be determined by that Authority.

### Police Act 1996 – Section 92 Grants by local authorities.

This provides the ability of a force to receive a grant towards policing costs from a local authority above normal precept arrangements.

#### 92 Grants by local authorities.

- (1) The council of a county, district, county borough, London borough, parish or community may make grants to any police and crime commissioner whose police area falls wholly or partly within the council's area.
- (2) The council of a London borough, county, district or parish which falls wholly or partly within the metropolitan police district may make grants for police purposes to the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime.
- (3) Grants under this section may be made unconditionally or, with the agreement of the chief officer of police for the police area concerned, subject to conditions.
- (4) This section applies to the Council of the Isles of Scilly as it applies to a county council.



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## **Police Act 1996 – Section 93 Acceptance of gifts and loans**

This provides the ability of a force to receive gifts of money and gifts or loans of other property. (Forces should take great care in undertaking 'due diligence' in reviewing the source of any such gift or loan and any taxation liabilities thus created.)

### **93 Acceptance of gifts and loans.**

- (1) A local policing body may, in connection with the discharge of any of its functions, accept gifts of money, and gifts or loans of other property, on such terms as appear to the authority to be appropriate.
- (2) The terms on which gifts or loans are accepted under subsection (1) may include terms providing for the commercial sponsorship of any activity of the local policing body or of the police force maintained by it.

## **Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000 – Section 11 Charging for Special Services.**

This act provides the basis of the provision of Special Police Services in Northern Ireland.

### **11 Charging for Special Services.**

The Chief Constable may, at the request of any person, provide special police services subject to the payment to the Board of such charges, or charges on such scales, as may be determined by the Board.

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## APPENDIX 2 - Charge Rates for Common Items<sup>2</sup>

### NPCC Recommended Minimum Rates<sup>3</sup>

Where stated costs include a number of products e.g. ‘Vehicle digital data download - IDR/Blackbox/Tachograph/Infotainment’, the cost is per listed item i.e. a download of the tachograph and the infotainment systems would incur two charges.

Items that are listed as per hour will be charged at the special police service rate for the relevant rank or grade of the individual completing the chargeable activity.

Previous		Revised
2025		2026
Per item £	<b>Accident Reports</b>	Per item £
125.90	Copy of Collision Report (full extract up to 30 pages)	130.70
5.60	Additional pages for same incident ( <b>per page</b> )	5.80
44.70	Limited particulars (RT Act details)	46.40
44.70	Copy of self-reporting / minor accident form	46.40
31.10	Information / record search	32.20
540.10	Forensic Collision Investigator - Technical Report	560.70
107.70	Forensic Collision Investigator - Reconstruction video	111.80
35.90	Forensic Collision Investigator - Rough data ( <b>per page</b> )	37.30
54.20	Copy of Scale plan - other than in collision report	56.20
89.70	Forensic Collision Investigator/ Forensic Vehicle Examiner - Vehicle Examination Report ( <b>unless provided as full extract</b> )	93.10
5.60	Forensic Collision Investigator / Forensic Vehicle Examiner - Reconstruction report ( <b>per page</b> ) ( <b>unless provided in full report</b> )	5.80
Per hour + £66.90	Forensic Collision Investigator - adhoc requested services	Per hour + £69.50
94.00	Specialist Report – (CCTV/Tachograph/Vehicle download) if separate	97.60
83.90	External Expert Report – Requested by force	87.10
Cost + £83.90	External Expert Report – Requested by external party	Cost + £87.10
	<b>Photographs &amp; Recordings</b>	
37.10	from Digital camera ( <b>per disc or contact sheet</b> )	38.50
73.10	Curated photo sets ( <b>per 10 digital photos or part thereof</b> )	75.90
Per hour + £37.00	Video footage – Police (handheld, drone, vehicle mounted or body warn video) (per hour rate for reviewing and redaction)	Per hour + £38.40

<sup>2</sup> Cancellation of requests may incur a charge, if received after work has started on any service. If received before any work has commenced, no charge should be made. If received immediately prior to despatch of requested items(s), full charge should be made. Cancellation requests received where the request is part complete, should be charged proportionately.

<sup>3</sup> Individual Force charges may exceed these guidelines, were demonstrable to recoup higher local costs.



36.40	3D Virtual World - Simulations / Fly Throughs – Already prepared	37.80
Per hour + £36.40	3D Virtual World - Simulations / Fly Throughs – Requested	Per hour + £37.80
37.00	Dashcam, Drone & CCTV footage – Public/Private	38.40
	<b>Digital Data</b>	
76.70	Laser scan data – Raw/Registered Point cloud	79.70
32.40	Skid test & survey data – Raw/Registered	33.60
76.70	Skid test & survey data - Digital mapping	79.70
76.70	Video recording aligned to digital mapping / survey data	79.70
76.70	Vehicle digital data download - IDR/Blackbox/Tachograph/Infotainment (per item)	79.70
	<b>Copies of statements - other than in booklets</b>	
46.20	Copy of statement - (up to 3 pages)	48.00
5.60	Copy of additional pages (per page)	5.80
54.20	Copy of witness statement ( <b>witness agrees to disclosure of personal details</b> )	56.20
71.40	Copy of witness statement ( <b>witness not agreeing to disclosure of personal details</b> )	74.20
181.40	Interview with Police Officer (per Officer)	188.30
181.40	Request for a statement to be written by Police Officer	188.30
71.90	Copy of interview record (only where prepared during investigative process)	74.70
107.70	Copy of VHS videotapes	111.80
108.00	Copies of audio tapes	112.10
34.70	Copies of CDs/DVDs	36.10
	<b>Cancellation charges</b>	
	See footnote (below)	
	<b>Fingerprinting Fees</b>	
101.40	One set	105.20
50.70	Additional sets thereafter (each)	52.60
	<b>Requests for Disclosure of Information</b>	
114.10	Request for information (up to 2 hours work)	118.40
38.30	Hourly rate for work above 2 hours (including redaction)	39.70
	<b>National Guidance on Data Sharing for NPCC in respect of Association of British Insurers (ABI)</b>	
162.30	Request for disclosure of Information held by the police (Guidance Appendix D(A))	168.40
No charge	Request for Information held by police where there is evidence to suspect a fraudulent insurance claim (Schedule 2) (Guidance Appendix E)	No charge
181.40	Interview with Police Officer (per officer) - (Guidance Para 6.20)	188.30



<b><u>Other common items</u></b>		
114.30	Crime report	118.70
45.60	MG5 - Offence Report	47.30
45.60	MG3 Report to CPS for a charging decision, decision log and action plan	47.30
46.50	Incident / Call Log	48.20
68.70	Domestic Violence Report	71.30
23.10	Occurrence Summary	24.00
23.00	Custody Record	23.90
<b><u>ACRO Services - provided only to authorised agencies with a lawful basis to information</u></b>		
16.50	PNC Names Enquiries	17.20
100.00	PNC Record Creation	104.00
34.00	International Criminal Convictions	35.50
N/A	Police Certificates	For current rates visit: <a href="http://acro.police.uk">Home (acro.police.uk)</a>
N/A	International Child Protection Certificates	
<b>Alarm URN Fees (set by Police Crime Prevention Initiatives)</b>		<b>Effective from 1st April 2026</b>
56.70	Alarm Registration (Intruder)	58.90
56.70	Alarm Registration (Hold Up Alarm)	58.90
68.60	Lone Worker Devices up to 10,000	71.20
102.80	Lone Worker Devices 10,001 - 50,000	106.70
137.10	Lone Worker Devices 50,001 and over	142.30

<b>Intellectual Property Rights and Copyright</b>			
<b>Still Images</b>		<b>£ per image</b>	
<b>Usage</b>	<b>Region / Type</b>	<b>Time Limited Use</b>	<b>In Perpetuity</b>
Books	UK	106.00	212.00
	Europe	116.70	233.20
	Worldwide	127.20	254.40
Newspapers & Magazines	Single Use	116.60	N/A
Internet	Non-commercial	N/A	137.80
	Commercial	N/A	370.90
TV / Film	UK	127.20	291.40
	Europe	185.50	370.90
	Worldwide	291.40	582.90



Footage	Region / Type	£ per 15 Seconds	
		Time Limited Use	In Perpetuity
TV / Film	UK	127.20	259.70
	Europe	185.50	392.10
	Worldwide	291.40	620.00
Internet	Non-commercial	N/A	137.80
	Commercial	N/A	370.90

Disclosure of any documents, images or data held by a Police Force is subject to any such disclosure being lawful, in accordance with legal professional privilege and being in compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679 data protection and privacy (as amended).

Section 15 services are generally subject to VAT at the then current rate, except where a service is required by statute or authority direction.

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## Statutory Charge Rates for Common Items

	<b>Statutory Charges (From 5/2/25)</b>
	<b>£</b>
<b>Firearms Licensing Fees</b>	
Firearms Certificate grant	198.00
Firearms Certificate renewal	131.00
Firearms Certificate replacement	9.00
Shotgun Certificate grant	194.00
Shotgun Certificate renewal	126.00
Shotgun Certificate replacement	9.00
Shotgun Certificate grant (co-terminus/including Firearms Certificate)	202.00
Shotgun Certificate renewal (co-terminus/including Firearms Certificate)	155.00
Visitors Permit (Individual 1-5) per person	47.00
Visitors Permit (Group 6-20) in total	233.00
Home Office Club approval	84.00
Registered Firearms Dealer registration	466.00
Registered Firearms Dealer renewal	466.00
Game Fairs	30.00
Variation (not like for like)	47.00
Firearms Museum License	200.00
<b>Other Licensing Fees</b>	
Peddler Certificates	12.25

It should be noted that these charges are set by reference to Statutory Instruments

### The Removal, Storage and Disposal of Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Regulations 2023.

<b>Vehicle Removal Fees</b>				
Vehicle position and condition	Vehicle equal to or less than 3.5 tonnes maximum authorised mass (MAM)	Vehicle exceeding 3.5 tonnes MAM but equal to or less than 7.5 tonnes	Vehicle exceeding 7.5 tonnes MAM but equal to or less than 18 MAM	Vehicle exceeding 18 tonnes MAM
Vehicle on road, upright and not substantially damaged or any 2 wheeled vehicle whatever its condition or position on or off the road	£192	£256	£448	£448
Vehicle, excluding a 2 wheeled vehicle, on road but either not upright or	£320	£832	Unladen - £2,561 Laden - £3,842	Unladen - £3,842 Laden - £5,763



substantially damaged or both				
Vehicle, excluding a 2 wheeled vehicle, off road, upright and not substantially damaged	£256	£512	Unladen - £1,281 Laden - £1,921	Unladen - £1,921 Laden - £2,561
Vehicle, excluding a 2 wheeled vehicle, off road but either not upright or substantially damaged or both	£384	£1,089	Unladen - £3,842 Laden - £5,763	Unladen - £5,763 Laden - £7,684
<b>Storage (for each period of 24 hours or part thereof)</b>				
Two wheeled vehicle	£13			
Vehicle, not including a 2 wheeled vehicle, equal to or less than 3.5 tonnes MAM	£26			
Vehicle exceeding 3.5 tonnes MAM but equal to or less than 7.5 tonnes	£32			
Vehicle exceeding 7.5 tonnes MAM but equal to or less than 18 MAM	£38			
Vehicle exceeding 18 tonnes MAM	£45			
<b>Disposal</b>				
Two wheeled vehicle	£64			
Vehicle, not including a 2 wheeled vehicle, equal to or less than 3.5 tonnes MAM	£96			
Vehicle exceeding 3.5 tonnes MAM but equal to or less than 7.5 tonnes	£128			
Vehicle exceeding 7.5 tonnes MAM but equal to or less than 18 MAM	£160			
Vehicle exceeding 18 tonnes MAM	£192			

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# National Policing Guidelines on Charging for Police Services: Special Police Services

The National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) has agreed to these revised guidelines being circulated to, and adopted by, Police Forces in England, Wales & Northern Ireland.

It is NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED under the Government Protective Marking Scheme and any referrals for advice and rationale in relation to Freedom of Information Act disclosure should be made to the NPCC Central Referral Unit at [npcc.request@foi.pnn.police.uk](mailto:npcc.request@foi.pnn.police.uk).

## Document information

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These revised guidelines have been produced by [BlueLight Commercial](#) on behalf of, and approved by, the NPCC Finance Coordination Committee. The original document that was the genesis of this document was assessed by Home Office Counsel in July 2018. The purpose of this document is to provide comprehensive advice on Special Police Services and its associated charging. Please note Appendices 2 ,3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 10 are updated annually and re-published as necessary.

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Any queries relating to this document should be directed to the author using the contact details above.

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Throughout this document, for the purposes of ease of reading, please note that references to Chief Constable will include the Commissioner of Police for the Metropolis and the Commissioner for the City of London Police and references to Police & Crime Commissioners (PCCs) will include Police, Fire & Crime Commissioners (PFCCs), Deputy Mayor's for Policing & Crime and the City of London Corporation's Court of Common Council.

There may be occasions where legislation makes specific references to each of the above to ensure all are captured in the statute used to recover costs, income generate and collaborate.



## FOREWORD

There are many competing demands on police resources, and it is important that managers recognise that meeting those demands often has a significant cost implication. The police service is generally provided out of public funds for the benefit of the public at large. However, there are a limited range of activities where it is appropriate for the police to make charges to individuals or organisations to recover costs. Ensuring that charges are levied fairly and effectively in such circumstances will protect the public police provision and contribute to the overall funding of the service.

The key principle of this document is ensuring that police forces can properly balance resources to provide a level of policing that is fit for purpose by making appropriate decisions on when and what to charge for special police services within the current legal framework.

For the most part policing is part of centrally and locally tax-funded services. In this way the majority of policing is provided as a public service. There are some functions that police officers perform that are provided beyond their ordinary public duty, and in some of these cases there are powers in law for a Chief Constable to provide and a Police & Crime Commissioner to recover the costs of this additional policing under the provision of "Special Police Services."

Special Police Services can be a complex area and the original act of parliament that invested Chief Constables with the power to provide these additional services did not offer the detail or clarity that forces and event organisers required. Following a series of legal challenges, guidance on what constitutes a special police service, how it should be requested and where geographically it might apply, have all now been shaped through case law.

The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) first issued guidance on charging for police services in 2005. Working in consultation with the Association of Police & Crime Commissioners (APCC), this original document has been updated to set it within the wider landscape of policing in and within communities, and to reflect necessary adjustments to the charging regime as a result of case law.

In March 2006 the case of Reading Festival Limited v West Yorkshire Police Authority was heard at the Court of Appeal. This followed a dispute between the Police Force and a festival organiser over the cost of policing an event. Subsequently, in 2007 and 2008 another significant case (Greater Manchester Police v Wigan Athletic AFC Ltd) added to the overall set of implications that need to be taken account of in charging for police services. In 2012 through 2014, the footprint and associated details were clarified in a case and appeal (Leeds United Football Club v West Yorkshire Police) in the High Court. In 2017 further clarification was issued regarding policing in public places and confirming previous footprint guidance (Appeal by Ipswich Town FC v Suffolk Constabulary).

Following the Ipswich case, in 2018 the Home Office and the National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) advised that the provision of policing services on private land or, in some cases, land which has been closed off to the general public, is likely to be SPS which can be charged for. Whenever the requested service is to be provided on public land, legal advice should be sought before any arrangements are entered into.

This guidance is intended to offer a clear charging framework and **national rates** that will be of value both to police resource managers and to organisers of events, who may incur costs connected with police services requested.

Although not the focus of this document it should be remembered that forces have the legislative right under the Police Act 1996 (as amended) to accept income in other circumstances, such as Grants from Local Authorities (section 92) with or without conditions)) and Sponsorship / Donations (section



93) further information on these areas of cost recovery can be found in the ***NPCC Guidelines for Charging for Police Services: General Cost Recovery***.



## GUIDELINES

### 1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

#### 1.1 Introduction

Section 25 of the Police Act 1996 states that *'a chief officer of police of a police force may provide, at the request of any person, special police services at any premises or in any locality in the police area for which the force is maintained, subject to the payment to the local policing body of charges on such scales as may be determined by that body'*.

In order for a provided service to be deemed as a special police service (SPS) and chargeable as such, it must in the first instance be requested and secondly capable of being deemed as SPS in nature.

#### 1.2 The Request

- (i) SPS has to be requested; the police cannot impose;
- (ii) The police are at liberty to decline the request;
- (iii) The person requesting SPS can limit their budget to pay for SPS as to the amount of SPS they would wish to pay for, **however**;
- (iv) The police can limit their deployment to that budget, negotiate an increased budget **or** decline the request if the level of SPS funded by the budget would compromise security or safety (see 2.1.3);
- (v) Conditions set by a Licensing Authority or Safety Advisory Group may mandate a third party to request police to provide SPS;
- (vi) There should be a signed written agreement between the police and the person requesting SPS. This should be in place prior to the SPS deployment and consideration should be given to charging an initial part-payment at the time of the request .

##### The Service

The central principle is that the police cannot charge for services that fall within their ordinary public duty i.e. those services the police are duty bound to provide. The duty is described as a *'duty owed to the public at large for the prevention of violence and disorder'*.

#### 1.3 Background

Historically, charges levied have been variable between different police & crime commissioners (PCCs) and within police forces. To address the variable nature of charges, the NPCC Finance and Coordination Committee introduced standard rates for police officers, which allow for regional pay variations, for the provision of SPS in 2023 with the recommendation that these are adopted by all PCCs and forces. In 2025, the national rates were extended to include Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) and police staff.

#### 1.4 Responsibilities

The PCC has a statutory responsibility for the overall finances of the police force. The PCC approves an annual budget and sets the local precept. The Chief Constable is responsible for the subsequent financial management of the force under delegation from the PCC. The PCC should therefore approve in consultation with the Chief Constable a framework of financial policies and regulations within which that delegated responsibility operates, including policies and processes for charging.



The Chief Constable is responsible for agreeing the services to be provided. This will normally be in accordance with a risk-based assessment. The Chief Constable will assist the PCC in determining a charging policy and is then responsible for implementation of that policy within the agreed terms of delegation. Individual force managers will have delegated responsibilities as agreed by the Chief Constable.

### **1.5 Charging**

SPS provided to commercial events are charged on a full economic cost recovery basis in order that they are not being subsidised by the public purse or an event organiser is gaining a commercial or competitive advantage.

The PCC is responsible for setting an annual schedule of charges for SPS although, to ensure consistency across forces, it is strongly recommended that the national rates, as agreed by NPCC Finance and Coordination Committee, and contained within this document are adopted.

### **1.6 Overseas Assistance**

Section 26 of the Police Act 1996 provides for the provision to supply advice and assistance on similar activities to that carried out by the force to an international organisation or to any other person, which is engaged outside the United Kingdom



## 2 PROVISION OF SPECIAL POLICE SERVICES

### 2.1 What are Special Police Services

- 2.1.1 The definition of Special Police Services (SPS) and the conditions for charging for such services have been the subject of several legal cases, including Reading Festival Limited v West Yorkshire Police Authority (the 'Mean Fiddler' case) and latterly GMP v Wigan Athletic AFC, Leeds United FC v West Yorkshire Police and most recently Ipswich Town FC v Suffolk Constabulary.
- 2.1.2 SPS are policing services which are carried out a) on request; and b) which are in addition to the regular duties of police forces. They include policing services provided on privately owned property or, in some cases, publicly owned property where access to the general public has been restricted (either permanently or temporarily, e.g., by requiring a ticket for entry). They may also include providing policing services which have been requested and which go above and beyond the resourcing which the Chief Constable considers necessary. Such services may be charged for.
- 2.1.3 Where SPS is requested, it is the Chief Constable's responsibility to determine the level of policing (over and above those the police are duty-bound to provide without charge) required for each instance or event on the basis of a risk assessment. This assessment will normally cover both crime and disorder and public safety issues and when taken with the requestor's responsibilities towards the safety, form the basis of the required policing deployment and any contractual arrangement between the force and the requesting party.
- 2.1.4 The legal judgements clarified that a PCC cannot charge for SPS in the absence of an agreement, between the requesting party and the police, detailing the need for such services. SPS need to be specifically requested by a land owner, event organiser, promoter or individual. This may be a clear explicit request (or in some limited cases an implied request). Both cases severely limited the circumstances in which such a request would be implied. For instance, a condition on a premises licence relating to the need for SPS will not necessarily be sufficient to constitute a request for SPS since there may not have been an agreement between the organiser and the police of the need for such services. Police forces are therefore advised to secure a clear basis of understanding as to the services that are to be provided.
- 2.1.5 Whether policing services are chargeable as SPS depends on a number of issues in most cases, the answer can be ascertained by addressing the following questions.
1. Has there been a request for the services to be provided?
    - a. No – the services are not SPS.
    - b. Yes – continue to question 2.
  2. Are the services to be provided on private land (i.e. land which is owned or leased by a private individual or body)?
    - a. Yes – it is likely the services are SPS.
    - b. No – continue to question 3.
  3. Are the services to be provided on land which is ordinarily accessible to the public, but where access is restricted for the duration of the service provision (for example, areas closed off to non-ticket holders)?
    - a. Yes – it is likely the services are SPS, but legal advice should be obtained before proceeding.
    - b. No – continue to question 4.
  4. Are the services to be provided on public land?



- a. Yes - the services are unlikely to be SPS unless the services requested are in excess of that which the Chief Constable considers necessary to provide to satisfy the police's public duties. Legal advice should be obtained before proceeding.
- b. No – the services could be SPS.

2.1.6 Other factors to be considered will include consideration of the nature of the services to be provided. If they are being provided for the benefit of the general public in relation to a public event, they are unlikely to be SPS, but if they are being provided for a private purpose, then they may well be SPS.

2.1.7 The Court of Appeal judgement in the *Ipswich Town Football Club Company Limited v The Chief Constable of Suffolk Constabulary* [2017] EWCA Civ 1484; [2017] 4 WLR 195 was clear that by default, policing on public land is not normally chargeable and generally forms part of forces' primary duty. There could however be rare occurrences where the provision of additional policing over and above that required to meet the statutory duty would be chargeable for example:

- a) If the organiser of an event on public land requested the provision of considerably more police resources than the Chief Constable considered necessary for the police to adequately discharge their public duty or
- b) The event was of such a scale or type that the police did not necessarily consider any policing was required then to the extent that additional policing was ultimately provided it is likely that the provision of those additional police resources could be SPS.

2.1.8 The four-question test set out above does not cover all circumstances. If there is any doubt about whether services provided in response to a request are SPS, a force should take legal advice and formally assess the risk, before considering deployment of chargeable SPS on public land and, if undertaken, document the decision to demonstrate the assessment and subsequent reasoning behind any decision to supply.

2.1.9 Policing of events such as protests and marches on public land are part of core activity and no charges should be made.

## 2.2 Scope of Special Police Services

2.2.1 For many forces the provision of SPS will be restricted to the policing of events, such as sporting or music events. For other forces, the legislation has been used successfully to provide additionally requested policing services in other scenarios, for example in the provision of additional policing in shopping centres, retail parks or dedicated music and entertainment venues. These services may be provided either with the use of a dedicated policing presence or at key times as requested by the requesting party.

2.2.2 Where SPS are provided in instances, other than at a specific event or series of events, it is the responsibility of the Chief Constable to ensure that the services provided would be determined to be SPS. The four-question test, as outlined above, should be the starting point to assess whether the services provided are indeed SPS.

2.2.3 Where SPS services are requested on land that is owned, leased or in the control of the requesting party, but are deemed to be over and above the level that the Chief Constable believes are necessary to fully discharge their core policing responsibilities, the superfluous portion of the provided services may be chargeable (see *Glasbrook Brothers Limited v Glamorgan County Council*). If there is any



doubt about whether services provided in response to a request are SPS, legal advice should be obtained.

- 2.2.4 In cases where forces are providing permanent additional policing services on a regular basis, which are not subject to the provision solely on overtime, consideration should be given to the force's establishment. Funding for additional posts funded by way of SPS charges are in addition to force's core budget that is funded through the general grant, specific grants and precept.
- 2.2.5 An additional service that many forces will undertake and is also considered to be a SPS is that of escorting wide or abnormal loads. As the escorting of abnormal loads is an additional activity above and beyond 'core policing', it is recommended that, with the exception of a short-term junction closure where local discretion may be applied, all escort duties are carried out on rest days in order that the public's expectations and entitlement to core policing is not eroded. Further information on providing support for abnormal loads can be found in the *NPCC Abnormal Load Guidance*.
- 2.2.6 One area of additional policing services that is not classified as SPS is the dedicated policing provided to UK airports. Principles for the provision and charging for policing at airports are defined by the Aviation Security Act 1982 as amended.

### 2.3 Special Police Services - Policing of Events

- 2.3.1 The Chief Constable is responsible for agreeing any special police services to be provided over and above the level considered necessary to discharge their duties and the PCC for determining the charges to be made. The Chief Constable, or the delegated individual, will determine the policing need in discussion with the event organiser and in accordance with the circumstances of each event or request. Within the agreed scope of delegation, this will usually lead to agreeing the basis of the associated charges although significant or exceptional events will be subject to consultation with the PCC in accordance with its policy.
- 2.3.2 A police force has a responsibility to assess the safety requirements in liaison with all partner agencies of an event. It often works with a local Safety Advisory Group but, in some circumstances, this may not be available. The force will review the nature of the event with the organiser in order to minimise the risk to the assessed safety requirements. The safety of the event is primarily the responsibility of the event organiser.
- 2.3.3 However, safety is only part of the role. There is normally an important secondary element of assessing the direct community effect of the potential impact on crime and disorder and in some cases traffic management, occurring within the community, as a result of the event. There must be an agreement between the event organiser and the police of the need for SPS, which must be requested by the event organiser and accepted by the police as over and above that which the Chief Constable considers necessary to discharge their duties. SPS would then be supplied to:-
- Increase aspects of core policing over that which would normally be required in the locality to address crime and disorder issues arising from the staging of the event;
  - Provide additional policing services to increase the overall level of safety to an adequate level relative to the risk assessment and, therefore, the safety requirement.
- 2.3.4 Based on an adequate risk assessment, the level of police resource can be determined for each event. This will normally be achieved by direct communication with the event organiser but may also be undertaken through a Safety Advisory Group, if required.



- 2.3.5 Policing an event may involve providing special police services to an event organiser over and above that which the Chief Constable considers necessary to discharge their duties. Although, predominantly, this involves police officer or police staff time, it can also require other elements of a specialist nature, including vehicles, consumables, specialist equipment and support functions as part of the service provision.
- 2.3.6 It should first be recognised that core service is that service which the Chief Constable considers necessary to discharge their duties within, and for, communities. It is, therefore, important to acknowledge that many small scale local events can be policed with a relatively low input that may represent a public reassurance role within the overall framework of risk assessment. The local charging methodology needs to allow for this and provide some discretion on who should be charged, and under what circumstances.
- 2.3.7 A principle has been established within mutual aid arrangements, that a de-minimus level should be agreed so that a small police input below the threshold is not chargeable. This principle can be extended, with the agreement of the PCC, into policing events where the requirement, including planning and preparation time, would equate to a charge less than the value of raising an invoice and processing the payment.
- 2.3.8 A second general principle can also be established. Charges for policing services should be made to the event organiser. These should then be able to be taken into account by the event organiser when planning an event. Event organisers should consult with their local force early in the planning process. Forces should then assess the policing needs of the event so the level of resources and the likely charges that will apply can be identified well in advance of the event.
- 2.3.9 Cases heard in 2006 in the Court of Appeal (Reading Festival Limited v West Yorkshire Police Authority), 2007/08 (Greater Manchester Police v Wigan AFC) and 2017 (Ipswich Town FC v Suffolk Constabulary) have impacted on the approach to be taken in providing SPS. The cases also identified a clear issue in agreeing the size and scale of the services to be provided. The tactics in respect of police deployments in support of an event are a matter for Chief Officers. There is however a requirement for a meaningful discussion on the availability of valid alternative provision that may influence the scale of SPS that will then be provided.
- 2.3.10 Some of the alternatives to provision of police services are relatively clear in the context of the above. The provision of stewarding or traffic management consultancy can mitigate the requirement of police involvement in the safety element of the policing role, thus reducing the consequent requirement for SPS. The overall necessity for policing deployment in managing crime and disorder, and in consultation with the organiser the overall safety of the public, is a matter for Chief Officers to consider. Policing comprises a wide range of relevant activity, from visible patrol to other deployable and specialist support roles. The key issue is to ensure that an organiser or promoter is made properly aware of the nature and options that might exist in the circumstances of an event so that a transparent and mutually understood request for SPS can be made, if appropriate.
- 2.3.11 It is strongly recommended that police resource managers draw up a written agreement and statement of intent when planning policing of events with event organisers. This in turn will form the basis of subsequent charges, subject to the possibility that deployment requirements might be changed by mutual agreement.



2.3.12 A written agreement should resolve to respective parties understanding of the relevant SPS and charges involved, over and above that which the Chief Constable considers necessary to discharge their duties. In some circumstances there may be a failure of the parties to agree. This would in turn lead to a circumstance where the organiser would not make a request for SPS. Chief Officers must then review the event in the light of a clear community based risk assessment together with other statutory partners.

## 2.4 Planning for the provision of Special Police Services

2.4.1 The relevant Chief Officer's judgement must review the ability of the force to provide a suitable police response in line with the police duty to the general public and contingency arrangements, including their ongoing ability to provide appropriate policing to the remainder of the police force area.

2.4.2 There are a range of measures that can be introduced to ensure that events are conducted in a responsible manner. It should be noted that there are significant variations in the approach of organisers to promoting an event in a responsible manner and accordingly, the level of intervention that is necessary. A Safety Advisory Group has influence over the planning of an event although the structure and role of the Safety Advisory Group varies with each Local Authority Area. There is no legal requirement for an event organiser to refer an event to the Safety Advisory Group but local impetus should be generated to develop such referrals as best practice amongst organisers. Assessment of the need for police attendance and action at public events will be principally based on the need to discharge their core responsibilities which legal advice indicates are as follows:

- Prevention and detection of crime;
- Preventing or stopping breaches of the peace;
- Activation of a contingency plan where there is an immediate threat to life and co-ordination of resultant emergency service activities;
- Traffic regulation within the legal powers provided by statute, a Road Closure Order (TPCA 1847) or a Traffic Regulation Order (RTRA 1984). (Traffic regulation is not to be confused with the management of the road closure.)

(Responsibility for applications for Traffic Regulation Orders and Road Closure Orders and the management of the same are the responsibility of the Local Authority. Where police resources are requested to assist the Local Authority to police such road closures, they will be considered to be SPS.)

2.4.3 The Licensing Act 2003 gives a range of powers to the relevant licensing authority to allow an event to proceed. The use of the term 'Licensing' suggests that the powers are related only to the supply of alcohol. This is far from the case and there are in fact a wide range of activities that require a Premises Licence to be granted under Section 12 of the Licensing Act 2003. Regulated Entertainment includes:

- Exhibition of plays;
- Exhibition of films;
- Indoor sporting events;
- Boxing or wrestling entertainment;
- Exhibition of live music;
- Exhibition of recorded music;
- Performance of dance.



2.4.4 Given the range of activities that fall within Regulated Entertainment, the Licensing Act 2003 is a powerful tool in ensuring the responsible conduct of an event. It is the responsibility of an event organiser to prepare an Operating Schedule when applying for the grant of a relevant Licence. The schedule must include details of how the manner of the event will promote the four licensing objectives of:

- The prevention of crime and disorder;
- Public safety;
- The prevention of public nuisance;
- The protection of children from harm.

An objection to the Operating Schedule can be made by a police force and it is strongly suggested that where necessary the grounds for such an objection be supported by a Senior Police Officer (Superintendent or above) in consultation with Force Legal Advisors. Police forces (and PCCs) should ensure that strong and effective relations are established and maintained with licensing authorities and safety bodies so that the service's views are fully taken into account in licensing decisions.

2.4.5 The event locality should be defined to encompass the need to properly protect or benefit the persons organising the event or their attendees. It should not be determined on the basis of a need to protect the general public at large as a consequence of the event. Where a commercial event attracts protestors who protest outside the locality of the event, event organisers would not be expected to pay for the policing of those who attend to protest. However, organisers would still be liable to pay for the deployment of officers in areas they own, lease or control the access of the public to, for other duties associated with the event.

2.4.6 The requirement to define the event locality should also apply to established sites where a series of events will take place – e.g. sporting events (such as football, cricket, rugby etc.) or dedicated music and entertainment venues.

## 2.5 Policing of Football

2.5.1 Football matches can be seen as a series of planned events occurring in a Force area. In this circumstance the promoter is the Chief Executive of the football club. The general principles for the basis of providing the SPS are the same as those for commercial events, but have been sharpened by case law.

2.5.2 The provision of policing for football matches reflects both operational policing requirements and SPS provided at the request of the club.

The key criteria for the provision of SPS to clubs include:

- a) A formal agreement between the club and the force which includes a request for service;
- b) A common clear understanding of the chargeable amount that relates to the area owned, leased or controlled by the event organiser and there are restrictions to the access of the general public;
- c) Clear and transparent policing deployment at the event.;
- d) Agreed rates for police charges for different categories of matches. Categories of matches are dependent on the threats and risks to a specific fixture and apply to the whole event (phases 1 – 3)



- 2.5.3 A charging agreement represents the codification of the overall request for policing services across the football season. Within the agreement, provision should be made to vary the request for an individual match or to add an additional request e.g., a cup match. Such changes need to be identified to and agreed with the club prior to the provision of SPS.
- 2.5.4 The policing provision depends upon a number of roles<sup>1</sup>, some of which are determined as core policing for the purposes of the match. These can be supplemented by further partial deployments and/or specialist roles.
- 2.5.5 The core policing component would cover all phases of the match which extends to a period before and after the match itself. The methodology in this instance sets a minimum six-hour chargeable period to reflect:
- Parading at a station.
  - Briefing and equipment allocation.
  - Transport to locality.
  - Policing “Phases 1 to 3” – a period before, during and after the match.
  - Debrief.
  - Transport to home station.
- It should be noted that 6-hours is not a maximum charging period and if officers are deployed within the chargeable area, and the activities identified at a – f above extend for more than 6-hours, they should be charged accordingly for the full period.
- 2.5.6 Some of the operational police resource will be deployed in the areas owned or leased by the match organiser, or in areas where the access of the public is restricted for the duration of the match. Where deployment is not in the areas owned or leased by the match organiser, then that component of the deployment will generally not be chargeable. Special care should be taken to ensure that there is clarity as to the ownership of the land in which the deployment is to occur and legal advice should be sought if there is any doubt.
- 2.5.7 Nationally, the policing required for football matches is set by categories that reflect an assessment of the risk and threat relating to both crime and disorder and public safety. It is important that all local assessments are structured and objective to support the policing need. Where a request for service is made by a club, the aspects of the services which are in excess of the requirements identified by the local assessment will be chargeable – including the provision of all policing on property which is privately owned or leased.
- 2.5.8 In common with other commercial events, full economic cost recovery should be used to recover the costs of the officers and staff for the period of their service supplied.
- 2.5.9 The standard deployment of Operational Football Officers (OFO) (two to four home OFO supported by two away OFO) does not attract any SPS cost recovery. This is because their deployment is considered to be solely for a policing purpose. In an enhanced deployment where OFO resources over and above this level have been deployed, these additional OFO should be charged for. They are policing the wider football going public, deployed instead of PSU staff, often as the only deployed resource. They have been deployed as additional assets in the form of a uniformed stadium presence, that is trained to hold the enhanced skill set highlighted.

<sup>1</sup> See the College of Policing Authorised Professional Practice on [Policing Football](#) for further operational detail.



- 2.5.10 In the case of CT Protective Resources being required to be deployed to a match for a CT Protective purpose with either Taser or firearms capability then no charge under SPS will be made for these resources.
- 2.5.11 Occasionally, Mutual Aid from other forces is requested to police certain matches, as allowed for under Section 24 Police Act 1996. In this context, the host force is, in effect, contracting additional officers under Section 25 Police Act 1996 (as amended) to provide the service. Section 25 rates should, therefore, apply and the providing force reimbursed for the service provided at those SPS rates and not the normal Mutual aid rates. It may often be the case that the officers supplied on Mutual Aid will be deployed both within and outside the land that is owned, leased or in the control of the club, in these circumstances the recharge between forces will need to reflect the difference in recharge rates.
- 2.5.12 Further advice on Mutual Aid is given in more detail in a separate document, '**National Policing Guidelines on Charging for Police Services: Mutual Aid Cost Recovery**'.

## 2.6 Deployment of Firearms and Taser Officers

- 2.6.1 It is the view of the NPCC lead for Armed Policing and the NPCC lead for the policing of Events, that any decision to deploy firearms or Taser officers within the footprint of an event, is the decision of the Accredited Firearms Commander or Gold Commander based on the threat assessment. This is no different from any other decision to authorise the issue and deployment of firearms or Tasers for any other policing purpose. As a result, any decision regarding the issue and deployment of firearms at an event to which this advice applies should be taken in accordance with the Armed Policing APP.
- 2.6.2 Following a request for SPS from an event organiser, if as a result of a risk assessment, it is determined a preventive deployment of firearm or Taser officers to the land that is 'owned, leased or in the control' (the "footprint") of the organiser, those officers can be charged as SPS. The deployment of firearm or Taser officers can only be as a result of a decision by an Accredited Firearms Commander or Gold Commander based upon the risk assessment. It is the decision of the Gold Commander as to the level and capability of the resources required to address the threat posed by the event being held.
- 2.6.3 It should be made clear to the organiser that they are requesting the police to provide a "service" in order to keep an event safe; that service will be based on the police's professional judgement. Event organisers should not be permitted to request or refuse any specific resources if those resources are not in accordance with that professional judgement. Should an event organiser decide not to pay for all necessary resources, it will ultimately be up to the Chief Constable to decide whether, or not, to accept the request for SPS if it is considered the funded resources would leave the event at an unacceptable level of risk.
- 2.6.4 An organiser can request resources above the level deemed necessary by the Gold Commander but it is the decision of the force if they wish to provide the "excess" or not. Similarly, a Chief Constable, Accredited Firearms Commander or Gold Commander may decide, as a precaution, to deploy additional resources over and above those considered necessary by the risk assessment, the cost of any additional resources will be borne by the police.
- 2.6.5 Officers deployed outside of the footprint, or as a spontaneous, or reactive measure, will not be chargeable as SPS for an event.



- 2.6.6 It has been agreed by the respective NPCC leads for: Armed Policing, Policing of Events and Income and Cost Recovery, that firearm and Taser officers will not be charged at any enhanced rate but will be chargeable in accordance with their respective rank in line with the prevailing rates as outlined in the 'NPCC Guidelines for Charging for Police Services – Special Policing Services'.

### 3 CHARGING FOR SPS

#### 3.1 Responsibilities and Charging Policy

- 3.1.1 The PCC has a statutory responsibility for the finances of the police force. The Chief Constable is responsible for the financial management of the force under a general delegation from the PCC. In general terms therefore the PCC should approve the framework of financial policies and procedures within which that delegated responsibility operates.
- 3.1.2 In the general context of the police service's overall financial arrangements, it is the PCC's responsibility to approve policies for charging for police services. In the case of SPS there is also a specific statutory requirement under Section 25 of the 1996 Police Act (as amended) which permits the Chief Constable to provide SPS at the request of any person subject to the payment to the PCC of charges on such scales as may be determined by that PCC.
- 3.1.3 The PCC will agree, and publish, annually the charges that will be set for goods and services provided under both Section 25 of the Police Act 1996 (as amended) and section 1 of the Local Authorities (Goods and Services) Act 1970 as modified by the amendments set out in Section 15 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, although recommended rates for both are set and agreed annually by the NPCC Finance and Coordination Committee. The purpose of the national rates is to ensure consistency across forces and to avoid duplication in effort from forces calculating rates locally; PCCs are strongly advised to adopt the NPCC approved rates.
- 3.1.3 It is the PCC's responsibility for setting a charging policy, particularly in relation to SPS but also chargeable services generally, which would include the following elements:
- Establishing, in consultation with the Chief Constable, and approving the overall policy;
  - Agreeing the scope of delegation to the Chief Constable;
  - Determining exceptional cases;
  - Monitoring implementation through annual reports;
  - Reviewing the policy periodically;
  - Supporting actions agreed with the Chief Constable.
- 3.1.4 Each PCC when setting their own charging policy should have due regard to its local circumstances. However, a number of key principles have been identified which should underpin the policy:
- Charging policy should have regard to the requirements for stewardship of public funds;
  - The policy should be set in the context of the overall funding position of the Office of the PCC;
  - Charging policy should have regard to and reflect national guidance and national rates unless there is a robust reason for variance;
  - Charging policy should have regard to the PCC's overall policing objectives;



- Charging policy should reflect proper accountability and ensure that costs are met by the body; responsible for the purpose for which the service is being delivered;
- Any persons/bodies should not be able to profit at the expense of the police service;
- The policy should be clear and transparent to both providers and receivers of the service, and all decision-making within the policy should be transparent;
- The charging policy should be consistent in its application, including where discretion is allowed;
- The basis of cost calculations should be consistent, so that significant variations in charges are explained by local circumstances rather than methodology differences;
- There should be a clear understanding of how the charging policy and costing methodology are to be applied by practitioners.

3.1.5 In relation to SPS the charging policy needs to distinguish between different categories of event, in particular:

- Commercial events, intended to generate private profit;
- Non-commercial events, i.e., charitable or community events;
- Statutory events reflecting constitutional rights or processes.

3.1.6 PCCs are strongly recommended to charge the **Full Economic Cost** of the SPS provided for commercial events. It is essential that this approach is adopted consistently across the country to ensure that legitimate recovery of police costs is not undermined. It is for this very reason that the NPCC Finance and Coordination Committee agree each year national SPS rates that reflect full economic cost whilst taking account of regional pay variances. Any departure from the principle of charging full economic cost should only be made on exceptional grounds and with the specific approval of the PCC.

3.1.7 It is appropriate to consider an abatement of charges for non-commercial events. The trust and confidence of local communities are fundamental to the success of modern policing, both in respect of neighbourhood policing and securing cooperation and information to address serious crime and terrorism, and this is a proper factor to take into account in considering the policing of community events and any charges.

3.1.8 Whilst charitable events may generally be viewed favourably, PCCs need to give careful consideration to their policy on charging for police services. Some major events may require substantial policing and can generate large sums albeit for charitable distribution. A reasonable contribution towards police costs as a necessary part of the organisation of the event is both desirable and feasible. Non recovery of costs represents a subsidy from public funds and PCCs should satisfy themselves that they are supporting charitable events appropriately.

3.1.9 The detailed guidance is provided in [Appendix 1 - Charging for Events and Abatements](#) describes a simple model for determining levels of charge for non-commercial events. This model should be adopted by PCCs to fit their own circumstances and policies. For events where policing requirements are small, then a 'de-minimis' level (often covered by existing local policing) applies so that no charge is levied. Above this level, a charge is normally set at either Direct Cost or Full Economic Cost Recovery. PCCs may choose to implement a different methodology in exceptional cases, where such an approach can be justified.

3.1.10 The **National rates for Special Policing Services**, which include variances to account for regional pay variations, are set out in [Appendix 2 - National SPS Rates - Police Officers](#). Although the rates have been calculated for all forces, for completeness, and determining the costs of any specialist police officers or police staff deployed, the costing model used has been set out in [Appendix 9 - Charging](#)



[Methodology](#) of this guidance and incorporates instructions on standard approaches for the following items:

- Police basic pay and allowances
- Police overtime
- Relevant ancillary costs
- General overhead recovery
- Productive hours and deployable time

3.1.11 The cost of a service and the charging for the service are clearly linked. But, the cost of a particular service can relate to the purpose of the usage. For the purposes of this approach, the following basic costing approaches are defined:-

- **Employable Cost.**  
This represents the basic actual cost of the service providers, including on-costs but with no allowance for the recovery of overheads;
- **Direct Cost**  
This is the cost of an officer including a standard overtime recovery element;
- **Operational Resource Cost.**  
This represents the cost of the resource employed in the provision of the service. Here, the direct costs and the direct overheads are included;
- **Full Economic Cost.**  
This calculation includes all properly attributable costs, including contributions to administrative and general indirect overheads. However, this indirect overhead recovery must relate to the relevant overhead base.

3.1.12 Occasionally, Mutual Aid from other forces is requested to police certain matches, as allowed for under Section 24 Police Act 1996. In this context, the host force is, in effect, contracting additional officers under Section 25 Police Act 1996 (as amended) to provide the service. Section 25 rates should, therefore, apply and the providing force reimbursed for the service provided at those rates.

## 3.2 Charging Periods

3.2.1 The charging period for SPS is not confined to the time deployed at an event or additional policing service. Deployment time for the chargeable service must include all relevant components, from initial parading and briefing, travel time included to and from the service point, the actual policing service itself and any de-brief. It is recommended that, with the exception of football duty and the escorting of abnormal load related deployments, forces apply a minimum 4-hour charge to the provision of additional policing services. In accordance with paragraph 2.5.5, football deployments for the full 6 phases of a policing a match should be remain as a 6-hour minimum and in accordance with paragraph 2.2.5 the escorting of abnormal loads should also be charged as a minimum 6-hour charge.

3.2.2 The SPS rates at [Appendix 2 - National SPS Rates - Police Officers](#) include both hourly and daily charges as well as charges for SPS supplied on Public Holidays and at short notice. The daily charge is based on a 8 hour day although the calculated rate equates to 7¼ hours, as a 45 minute refreshment period is included but is not chargeable. For SPS duties supplied for longer than a chargeable 8 hour tour of duty, the daily charge should be used plus the number of individual hours incurred over and above the 8-hours. For example, an 11-hour SPS charge would be 1 daily rate + 3 x hourly rate.



- 3.2.3 Where SPS are requested from a person or an organisation with no proven track record of payment, it may be appropriate to request payment or part-payment in advance of the provision of SPS. Any pre-payment would need to be far enough in advance as to not incur any financial penalties for cancelled overtime or rest days. It is recommended that where SPS are requested from a new customer, some form of due diligence is undertaken to check their credit score or ability to pay.
- 3.2.4 In some situations the request for additional services may be made for the service to be provided on a permanent or semi-permanent basis. It may therefore be beneficial for a force to provide dedicated officers to the SPS rather than different officers each day. Where dedicated officers are provided it may not be appropriate to charge for the officers on an hourly or daily basis as an annualised full cost recovery charge can be calculated that encompasses all employment costs and both direct and indirect overheads.

### 3.3 Charging for Services to Government Agencies

- 3.3.1 The police service increasingly provides a range of services for, and with, other Government Agencies. Many of these are elements of Central Government, such as the Home Office Immigration Enforcement and His Majesty's Prison and Probation Service. Some, however, are quasi commercial activities having Agency Status.
- 3.3.2 In the event of a request to provide policing services to either Central Government or a Government Agency consideration should be given to whether the requested service should be provided under the provisions of section 25 of the Police Act 1996 or another available power.
- 3.3.3 In the first category (**Type 1**), Police Forces are providing often core policing service as a support to the wider public sector delivery of Government objectives - e.g., addressing potential illegal immigrants. Although this can be seen to be akin to special police services, there are other issues that need to be considered in these circumstances.
- 3.3.4 A guiding principle here is that in providing the service, a Force often gains an element of self-help towards its overall strategic plan. The cost of the resource usage needs to be recovered in that light. The basis for charging for Type 1 assistance will be direct costs (see [Appendix 3 - Direct Charges - Police Officers](#)) plus any other direct costs or direct overheads incurred
- 3.3.5 Where police or support staff resource is used in providing the service, then **the Direct Cost, plus any other specific costs incurred** should be recovered. **This should include any overtime incurred and additional specific direct costs incurred e.g., consumables, additional contracted services, travel and expenses, etc.** This can either be actual cost, if quantifiable, or can be an average cost calculation, where it is unlikely that differences will be material.
- 3.3.6 In a number of cases, the provision of the service includes the use of a police provided facility e.g. custody suite, interviewing facilities, etc. A contribution to these overheads can be added to the direct costs used. This can either be by means of a calculation of the direct costs incurred – rent, utility costs etc. or, where in practice this would be difficult or onerous to obtain, by the addition of a general overhead recovery element. In this circumstance, the recovery should be in the range 5% - 15% of the direct costs incurred. The range allows some discretion in the amount of administrative support incurred in providing the service.
- 3.3.7 In certain circumstances, police support to a Department or Agency may be more long term or require a number of instances of service provision. Here it may be more appropriate to either agree



a specific rate based on projections of anticipated costs – based on the Resource Cost model or SPS rates as an alternative.

- 3.3.8 In the second category (**Type 2**) – the quasi commercial activity, the service provided is much more akin to operating in market conditions. Here the same principle should apply. **The charging methodology should use the calculation for Operational Resource Costs as the starting point for identifying the costs of the service** (see [Appendix 4 – Operational Resource Charges](#)) To this should be added all associated specific costs incurred in the provision of the service and a contribution towards overheads. Market conditions will either provide a practical constraint or allow Full Economic Cost Recovery to be utilised.
- 3.3.9 It is important to understand the police role in such activities. In most cases, the skills and experience of officers and staff are being used to enhance another Government based service. Where this is outside of the normal policing role, then there should be the aim of covering all recognised costs together with the appropriate contribution to overheads.

### 3.4 Charging for Special Constabulary, PCSOs and Police Staff

- 3.4.1 At some events or occasions, the additional police service will be augmented by supplementary Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs), Special Constabulary and/or specialist police staff for either the full period of the additional police service or a proportion of the additional period of time. In this case, the supplementary resource should be added as an additional Direct Cost - for a relevant number of hours. (An hour, or multiples of an hour, should be the minimum time unit used provided that additional resource has been charged out for a minimum of 4-hours). The charging model should still be applied in the same way but for a different amount of deployed hours, allowing a transparent approach to be taken for the use of supplementary resource at an event. When calculating the costs of the supplementary resource consideration should also be given to both the time incurred either side of the actual duty in order to supply the specific number of deployable hours and any minimum number of hours the force are committed to pay for on overtime.
- 3.4.2 The Special Constabulary forms a resource that is capable of providing part of the policing service. They are a trained supplementary police resource, generally deployed to provide “small event” policing or to augment policing at larger events. Specials incur a range of costs in uniform/equipment, travel and subsistence, training, and the use of police vehicles and control equipment. There are no direct employable costs, albeit they do receive expenses paid.
- 3.4.3 It is important that the use of Special Constables is not distorted - (by the supplier or receiver) by charging at the full cost of their equivalent regular’s rank. On the one hand, Specials have the powers of a constable and can therefore be deployed as a recognisable police resource. On the other, the cost base of the Specials is demonstrably lower than regular officers. To reflect that it is recommended that a charge of 50% of the Police Constable (or equivalent rank) rate is made for each Special Constable.
- 3.4.5 PCSOs represent a different element of the extended police family. Their role is complementary to police activity. They are capable of being deployed to augment the service and provide visibility and re-assurance (e.g., small scale events), and should be included at the police staff direct charging calculations. National SPS rates for charging for PCSO are contained in [Appendix 5 - National SPS Charges - Police Community Support Officers](#).



- 3.4.6 There are increasingly circumstances where specialist police staff provide a front-line service as part of special police services. Where police staff have relevant powers and are acting in a dedicated operational role then they should be included within the direct cost of service calculation.
- 3.4.7 Care should be taken in making this assessment. This charging methodology includes the majority of a force's support staff as part of the overhead recovery and it is therefore important to be clear and transparent in the use of specialist police staff.
- 3.4.8 However, it is often the case that police staff can and are used in the delivery of services delivered as part of the Section 25 arrangements. These staff then form part of the direct cost of service delivered and should be included as part of the direct service cost element. National SPS rates for police staff are contained in [Appendix 8 - National SPS Charges - Police Staff](#). Due to the differing range of police staff roles and grades across forces, the police staff SPS rates have been banded by pay. To ascertain the correct hourly or daily rate, forces should apply the applicable charge according to the individual's full time equivalent salary including any shift disturbance allowance and any other permanent allowances but excluding ERNIC and superannuation i.e. the gross salary as per a full time employee's P60.
- 3.4.9 For completeness, the charging methodology for how all SPS charges are calculated is included in [Appendix 9 - Charging Methodology](#). This will assist forces explaining how charges are calculated as it sets out guidance on the basis for the inclusion of the individual cost elements in the model. It should be remembered that there is a balance to be struck between precision and materiality, whilst striving to maintain a consistent approach to the charging methodology.

### 3.5 Charging for Ancillary Cost (including the escorting of abnormal loads)

- 3.5.1 Additional specific items of cost can also be calculated by use of average actual cost. Examples would include the specific use of vehicles or specialist items of kit such as barriers or marquees. Whilst force transport costs are reflected in the direct overheads, this would only account for the general use of vehicles for officers to travel to and from the event. Where specialist vehicles (e.g., horse boxes or traffic cars) are required and are fundamental to the deployment (e.g., escorting a wide or abnormal load) the cost of the additional vehicles can be calculated and charged as a supplementary item.
- 3.5.2 To ensure consistency, it is recommended that for purposes of charging for the escorting of wide and abnormal loads, that in addition to the SPS cost of the officers involved (see [Appendix 2 - National SPS Rates - Police Officers](#)) the vehicles and fuel costs are charged as per the rates as shown at [Appendix 10 - Vehicle Costs for Escorting Abnormal Loads](#). The rates are in accordance with the existing and current mutual aid rates that are used for the charging of vehicles between forces.
- 3.5.3 As the escorting of abnormal loads is an additional activity above and beyond 'core policing', it is recommended that, with the exception of a short-term junction closure where local discretion may be applied, all escort duties are carried out on rest days in order that the public's expectations and entitlement to core policing is not eroded. In order to charge in line with both operational and Police Regulation requirements the minimum charging period for officers engaged in escorting abnormal loads is six-hours.
- 3.5.4 It is recommended that forces put in place a contractual agreement with any road haulage company that requests the escort of an abnormal load. The contract should be put in place at the point of the



request, and it is advised that it covers how any incurred overtime costs are recovered should the escort be cancelled at short notice.

- 3.5.5 For the costing of additionally supplied police dogs and horses, a suitable methodology can be found at Appendix 7 of the '*NPCC Policing Guidelines on Charging for Police Services: Mutual Aid Cost Recovery*'. However, the general principle for charging is calculating the whole life cost of the dog or horse and dividing this by the effective days the force would expect to receive from the animal. Whole life costs will include any breeding and training programmes, feed, kenneling or stabling, staffing costs, veterinary costs, tack or equipment and any expected costs to be incurred in retirement. It should be noted, that neither a dog or horse can be deployed alone and therefore the cost of any handlers, groomers and specialist vehicles to transport the animal must be included in the final cost.

### 3.6 Treatment of VAT

- 3.6.1 The VAT element of charging for SPS is a complex matter as consideration needs to be made of a number points including the nature of the SPS provided, to whether the requirement for SPS has been mandated by another body or whether the requesting party had a choice to receive the requested service from another source. In all cases of doubt, advice should be sought from Force VAT experts or HMRC.

## 4 CHARGING FOR SERVICES PROVIDED OVERSEAS

- 4.1 Section 26 of the Police Act 1996 allows a policing body to provide advice and assistance to an international organisation or institution, or any other person or body which is engaged outside the UK in the carrying out activities similar to that carried out by police.
- 4.2 Officers or staff should not be allowed to travel overseas to provide advice or assistance to an international organisation, foreign government or police service without the authorisation of their PCC and the Home Secretary.
- 4.3 The legislation does not specify what constitutes 'advice and assistance'. However, Home Office practice, is that if the assistance, whether advisory or operational, is intended to be primarily of benefit to an overseas agency, then the Home Secretary's consent under section 26 is required. If the assistance is to pursue UK interests/operational work (e.g. officers travelling abroad in furtherance of an investigation into an offence committed in the UK, or to attend a conference), then a section 26 authorisation is not required.
- 4.4 In order to obtain advice and guidance as to whether a matter falls within the remit of section 26 or to obtain Home Secretary authorisation, forces and PCCs should contact the Home Office International Police Assistance Service (IPAS) in the first instance. The IPAS works under the authority of the Home Office and National Police Chief's Council. Policing must not initiate or respond to direct requests for assistance to overseas agencies without first consulting IPAS.
- 4.5 Section 26 (paragraph 6) does provide provision for a local policing body to make charges for advice or assistance provided.
- 4.6 Where a PCC or force is providing training to an overseas or international organisation, that training may in certain circumstances be provided alternatively as a 'professional and technical service' under the provisions set out in section 1 of the Local Authorities (Goods and Services) Act 1970 as modified



by the amendments set out in paragraph 15 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 ('The 2011 Act'). PCCs and Chief Constables should satisfy themselves that the services to be provided can adequately be provided under the Act and document their rationale accordingly. Where there is any doubt that a particular service would fall under section 15 of the 2011 Act, legal advice should be sought and in any event the supply contract should make clear that those are the powers under which the service is provided.



## APPENDIX 1 - Charging for Events and Abatements

By default, charging for events is always at **Full Economic Cost** Recovery (see [Appendix 2 - National SPS Rates - Police Officers](#) for national rates and [Appendix 9 - Charging Methodology](#) for calculation formula). For some events, Forces may decide to make reductions, based upon the type of event which may reflect a charitable or community benefit. It is recommended that where a decision is taken not to charge the full economic cost, a record is made of the reasons why the abatement has been applied. This will assist in the case of a subsequent challenge and will ensure that it does not undermine those events that are rightfully charged on the basis of full economic cost recovery.

For Statutory events, such as Remembrance Day parades, Jubilee or constitutional events, police attendance is often part of the normal police annual duties and **Not Chargeable**.

For non-commercial events, such as local authority community events, religious parades and wholly charitable events, forces often charge the **Direct Cost** (see [Appendix 3 - Direct Charges - Police Officers](#) for national rates) of policing the event (Employee Cost + Overtime Premium).

Some forces have historically applied an abatement formula, to guide senior officers as to a 'sliding scale' percentage abatement. It is recommended that forces adopt the simpler approach of applying one of the following three categories to all events:

1. **Full Economic Cost** – default position for special police services.
2. **Total Direct Cost** - non-commercial events, such as local authority community events, religious parades and wholly charitable events.
3. **Not Chargeable** – statutory or constitutional events.

This makes any charging assessment simpler, more transparent and more easily understood by both customers and forces.

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## APPENDIX 2 – National SPS Rates - Police Officers

### Special Policing Services 2026 - Tables of Rates by Rank and Region Chargeable from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026

Rates calculated at Full Economic Cost recovery and should be used for all charging of special police services provided at commercial events.

REGION	FORCE	CONSTABLE					
		Hourly			Daily		
		NORMAL	BANK HOLIDAY	BH <8	NORMAL	BANK HOLIDAY	BH <8
<b>NATIONAL</b>	ALL	<b>£92.02</b>	<b>£113.15</b>	<b>£146.98</b>	<b>£667.16</b>	<b>£820.34</b>	<b>£1,065.63</b>
<b>N. IRELAND</b>	PSNI	<b>£97.20</b>	<b>£118.33</b>	<b>£152.16</b>	<b>£704.68</b>	<b>£857.86</b>	<b>£1,103.14</b>
<b>OUTER ROSE</b>	SUSSEX	<b>£94.03</b>	<b>£115.16</b>	<b>£148.99</b>	<b>£681.74</b>	<b>£834.92</b>	<b>£1,080.20</b>
	HAMPSHIRE						
	BEDFORDSHIRE						
<b>INNER ROSE</b>	THAMES VALLEY	<b>£95.04</b>	<b>£116.17</b>	<b>£150.00</b>	<b>£689.03</b>	<b>£842.21</b>	<b>£1,087.49</b>
	SURREY						
	KENT						
	HERTFORDSHIRE						
	ESSEX						
<b>LONDON</b>	MPS	<b>£101.20</b>	<b>£122.33</b>	<b>£156.16</b>	<b>£733.69</b>	<b>£886.88</b>	<b>£1,132.16</b>
	CoLP						

REGION	FORCE	SERGEANT					
		Hourly			Daily		
		NORMAL	BANK HOLIDAY	BH <8	NORMAL	BANK HOLIDAY	BH <8
<b>NATIONAL</b>	ALL	<b>£116.25</b>	<b>£142.56</b>	<b>£186.75</b>	<b>£842.80</b>	<b>£1,033.55</b>	<b>£1,353.97</b>
<b>N. IRELAND</b>	PSNI	<b>£121.48</b>	<b>£147.79</b>	<b>£191.98</b>	<b>£880.70</b>	<b>£1,071.46</b>	<b>£1,391.88</b>
<b>OUTER ROSE</b>	SUSSEX	<b>£118.26</b>	<b>£144.57</b>	<b>£188.77</b>	<b>£857.37</b>	<b>£1,048.13</b>	<b>£1,368.55</b>
	HAMPSHIRE						
	BEDFORDSHIRE						
<b>INNER ROSE</b>	THAMES VALLEY	<b>£119.26</b>	<b>£145.57</b>	<b>£189.77</b>	<b>£864.66</b>	<b>£1,055.42</b>	<b>£1,375.84</b>
	SURREY						
	KENT						
	HERTFORDSHIRE						
	ESSEX						
<b>LONDON</b>	MPS	<b>£125.57</b>	<b>£151.88</b>	<b>£196.08</b>	<b>£910.39</b>	<b>£1,101.14</b>	<b>£1,421.57</b>
	CoLP						



REGION	FORCE	INSPECTOR			
		Hourly		Daily	
		NORMAL	BANK HOLIDAY	NORMAL	BANK HOLIDAY
<b>NATIONAL</b>	ALL	<b>£112.17</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>£813.21</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>N. IRELAND</b>	PSNI	<b>£117.40</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>£851.12</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>OUTER ROSE</b>	SUSSEX	<b>£114.18</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>£827.79</b>	<b>N/A</b>
	HAMPSHIRE				
	BEDFORDSHIRE				
<b>INNER ROSE</b>	THAMES VALLEY	<b>£115.18</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>£835.07</b>	<b>N/A</b>
	SURREY				
	KENT				
	HERTFORDSHIRE				
	ESSEX				
<b>LONDON</b>	MPS	<b>£121.63</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>£881.81</b>	<b>N/A</b>
	CoLP				

REGION	FORCE	CHIEF INSPECTOR			
		Hourly		Daily	
		NORMAL	BANK HOLIDAY	NORMAL	BANK HOLIDAY
<b>NATIONAL</b>	ALL	<b>£119.11</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>£863.57</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>N. IRELAND</b>	PSNI	<b>£124.34</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>£901.47</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>OUTER ROSE</b>	SUSSEX	<b>£121.12</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>£878.14</b>	<b>N/A</b>
	HAMPSHIRE				
	BEDFORDSHIRE				
<b>INNER ROSE</b>	THAMES VALLEY	<b>£122.13</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>£885.43</b>	<b>N/A</b>
	SURREY				
	KENT				
	HERTFORDSHIRE				
	ESSEX				
<b>LONDON</b>	MPS	<b>£128.63</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>£932.55</b>	<b>N/A</b>
	CoLP				



REGION	FORCE	SUPERINTENDENT			
		Hourly		Daily	
		NORMAL	BANK HOLIDAY	NORMAL	BANK HOLIDAY
<b>NATIONAL</b>	ALL	<b>£147.70</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>£1,070.85</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>N. IRELAND</b>	PSNI	<b>£152.93</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>£1,108.76</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>OUTER ROSE</b>	SUSSEX	<b>£149.71</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>£1,085.43</b>	<b>N/A</b>
	HAMPSHIRE				
	BEDFORDSHIRE				
<b>INNER ROSE</b>	THAMES VALLEY	<b>£150.72</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>£1,092.72</b>	<b>N/A</b>
	SURREY				
	KENT				
	HERTFORDSHIRE				
	ESSEX				
<b>LONDON</b>	MPS	<b>£157.44</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>£1,141.43</b>	<b>N/A</b>
	CoLP				

REGION	FORCE	CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT			
		Hourly		Daily	
		NORMAL	BANK HOLIDAY	NORMAL	BANK HOLIDAY
<b>NATIONAL</b>	ALL	<b>£169.98</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>£1,232.35</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>N. IRELAND</b>	PSNI	<b>£175.21</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>£1,270.26</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>OUTER ROSE</b>	SUSSEX	<b>£171.99</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>£1,246.93</b>	<b>N/A</b>
	HAMPSHIRE				
	BEDFORDSHIRE				
<b>INNER ROSE</b>	THAMES VALLEY	<b>£173.00</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>£1,254.22</b>	<b>N/A</b>
	SURREY				
	KENT				
	HERTFORDSHIRE				
	ESSEX				
<b>LONDON</b>	MPS	<b>£179.89</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>£1,304.18</b>	<b>N/A</b>
	CoLP				

The **Normal** rates shown in the tables above should be charged for special police services provided on non-Bank Holiday and includes a premium for overtime.



The **Bank Holiday** rates shown in the tables above should be charged for special police services provided on Bank Holidays where at least 8-days' notice has been given; the rate includes a premium for overtime at double time.

The **Bank Holiday less than 8** rates shown in the tables above should be charged for special police services provided on a Bank Holiday where less than 8-days' notice has been given; the rate includes a premium for overtime at double and the cost of the additional time the officer can take off in lieu.

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## APPENDIX 3 – Direct Charges - Police Officers

### Direct Costs 2026 - Tables of Rates by Rank and Region Chargeable from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026

Rates calculated below are Direct Employment Costs only including overtime premium and should be only used for charging of special police services provided at non-commercial events such as local authority community events, religious parades and wholly charitable events – see [Appendix 2 - Charging for Events and Abatements](#) or as a starting point for calculating Type 1 assistance to a Government Department or Crown Body i.e., core policing activities that support the wider public sector delivery of Government objectives.

REGION	FORCE	CONSTABLE					
		Hourly			Daily		
		NORMAL	BANK HOLIDAY	BH <8	NORMAL	BANK HOLIDAY	BH <8
NATIONAL	ALL	£62.18	£79.10	£112.93	£450.80	£573.44	£818.72
N. IRELAND	PSNI	£65.30	£82.22	£116.05	£473.42	£596.06	£841.35
OUTER ROSE	SUSSEX	£63.73	£80.64	£114.47	£462.01	£584.65	£829.94
	HAMPSHIRE						
	BEDFORDSHIRE						
INNER ROSE	THAMES VALLEY	£64.50	£81.42	£115.25	£467.62	£590.26	£835.54
	SURREY						
	KENT						
	HERTFORDSHIRE						
	ESSEX						
LONDON	MPS	£68.74	£85.66	£119.49	£498.39	£621.03	£866.31
	CoLP						

REGION	FORCE	SERGEANT					
		Hourly			Daily		
		NORMAL	BANK HOLIDAY	BH <8	NORMAL	BANK HOLIDAY	BH <8
NATIONAL	ALL	£82.01	£104.11	£148.30	£594.57	£754.78	£1,075.21
N. IRELAND	PSNI	£85.17	£107.27	£151.47	£617.50	£777.71	£1,098.13
OUTER ROSE	SUSSEX	£83.56	£105.65	£149.85	£605.79	£766.00	£1,086.42
	HAMPSHIRE						
	BEDFORDSHIRE						
INNER ROSE	THAMES VALLEY	£84.33	£106.43	£150.62	£611.39	£771.60	£1,092.03
	SURREY						
	KENT						
	HERTFORDSHIRE						
	ESSEX						
LONDON	MPS	£88.57	£110.67	£154.87	£642.16	£802.38	£1,122.80
	CoLP						



REGION	FORCE	INSPECTOR			
		Hourly		Daily	
		NORMAL	BANK HOLIDAY	NORMAL	BANK HOLIDAY
<b>NATIONAL</b>	ALL	<b>£73.77</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>£534.84</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>N. IRELAND</b>	PSNI	<b>£76.93</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>£557.77</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>OUTER ROSE</b>	SUSSEX	<b>£75.32</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>£546.05</b>	<b>N/A</b>
	HAMPSHIRE				
	BEDFORDSHIRE				
<b>INNER ROSE</b>	THAMES VALLEY	<b>£76.09</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>£551.66</b>	<b>N/A</b>
	SURREY				
	KENT				
	HERTFORDSHIRE				
	ESSEX				
<b>LONDON</b>	MPS	<b>£80.34</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>£582.43</b>	<b>N/A</b>
	CoLP				

REGION	FORCE	CHIEF INSPECTOR			
		Hourly		Daily	
		NORMAL	BANK HOLIDAY	NORMAL	BANK HOLIDAY
<b>NATIONAL</b>	ALL	<b>£79.11</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>£573.58</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>N. IRELAND</b>	PSNI	<b>£82.28</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>£596.50</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>OUTER ROSE</b>	SUSSEX	<b>£80.66</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>£584.79</b>	<b>N/A</b>
	HAMPSHIRE				
	BEDFORDSHIRE				
<b>INNER ROSE</b>	THAMES VALLEY	<b>£81.43</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>£590.40</b>	<b>N/A</b>
	SURREY				
	KENT				
	HERTFORDSHIRE				
	ESSEX				
<b>LONDON</b>	MPS	<b>£85.68</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>£621.17</b>	<b>N/A</b>
	CoLP				



REGION	FORCE	SUPERINTENDENT			
		Hourly		Daily	
		NORMAL	BANK HOLIDAY	NORMAL	BANK HOLIDAY
<b>NATIONAL</b>	ALL	<b>£101.11</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>£733.03</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>N. IRELAND</b>	PSNI	<b>£104.27</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>£755.95</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>OUTER ROSE</b>	SUSSEX	<b>£102.65</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>£744.24</b>	<b>N/A</b>
	HAMPSHIRE				
	BEDFORDSHIRE				
<b>INNER ROSE</b>	THAMES VALLEY	<b>£103.43</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>£749.85</b>	<b>N/A</b>
	SURREY				
	KENT				
	HERTFORDSHIRE				
	ESSEX				
<b>LONDON</b>	MPS	<b>£107.67</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>£780.62</b>	<b>N/A</b>
	CoLP				

REGION	FORCE	CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT			
		Hourly		Daily	
		NORMAL	BANK HOLIDAY	NORMAL	BANK HOLIDAY
<b>NATIONAL</b>	ALL	<b>£118.24</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>£857.26</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>N. IRELAND</b>	PSNI	<b>£121.40</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>£880.18</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>OUTER ROSE</b>	SUSSEX	<b>£119.79</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>£868.47</b>	<b>N/A</b>
	HAMPSHIRE				
	BEDFORDSHIRE				
<b>INNER ROSE</b>	THAMES VALLEY	<b>£120.56</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>£874.08</b>	<b>N/A</b>
	SURREY				
	KENT				
	HERTFORDSHIRE				
	ESSEX				
<b>LONDON</b>	MPS	<b>£124.81</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>£904.85</b>	<b>N/A</b>
	CoLP				

Direct Costs include all employable costs plus an overtime premium for overtime ranks.

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## APPENDIX 4 – Operational Resource Charges – Police Officers

### Operational Resource Costs 2026 - Tables of Rates by Rank and Region Chargeable from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026

Rates calculated below are the Operational Resource Costs and may be used as a starting point to calculate charges for Type 2 services to other government agencies or Crown Bodies i.e., quasi commercial activities with no direct benefit to policing or delivery of the wider Government objectives. The rates include all direct employment costs plus direct overheads.

REGION	FORCE	CONSTABLE					
		Hourly			Daily		
		NORMAL	BANK HOLIDAY	BH <8	NORMAL	BANK HOLIDAY	BH <8
NATIONAL	ALL	£74.69	£95.82	£129.65	£541.50	£694.68	£939.97
N. IRELAND	PSNI	£78.67	£99.80	£133.63	£570.36	£723.54	£968.82
OUTER ROSE	SUSSEX	£76.24	£97.37	£131.20	£552.72	£705.90	£951.18
	HAMPSHIRE						
	BEDFORDSHIRE						
INNER ROSE	THAMES VALLEY	£77.01	£98.14	£131.97	£558.32	£711.50	£956.79
	SURREY						
	KENT						
	HERTFORDSHIRE						
	ESSEX						
LONDON	MPS	£81.25	£102.38	£136.21	£589.09	£742.27	£987.56
	CoLP						

REGION	FORCE	SERGEANT					
		Hourly			Daily		
		NORMAL	BANK HOLIDAY	BH <8	NORMAL	BANK HOLIDAY	BH <8
NATIONAL	ALL	£94.52	£120.83	£165.03	£685.28	£876.03	£1,196.45
N. IRELAND	PSNI	£98.54	£124.85	£169.05	£714.44	£905.19	£1,225.61
OUTER ROSE	SUSSEX	£96.07	£122.38	£166.57	£696.49	£887.24	£1,207.67
	HAMPSHIRE						
	BEDFORDSHIRE						
INNER ROSE	THAMES VALLEY	£96.84	£123.15	£167.35	£702.10	£892.85	£1,213.27
	SURREY						
	KENT						
	HERTFORDSHIRE						
	ESSEX						
LONDON	MPS	£101.09	£127.40	£171.59	£732.87	£923.62	£1,244.04
	CoLP						



REGION	FORCE	INSPECTOR			
		Hourly		Daily	
		NORMAL	BANK HOLIDAY	NORMAL	BANK HOLIDAY
NATIONAL	ALL	£86.28	N/A	£625.54	N/A
N. IRELAND	PSNI	£90.30	N/A	£654.70	N/A
OUTER ROSE	SUSSEX	£87.83	N/A	£636.76	N/A
	HAMPSHIRE				
	BEDFORDSHIRE				
INNER ROSE	THAMES VALLEY	£88.60	N/A	£642.36	N/A
	SURREY				
	KENT				
	HERTFORDSHIRE				
	ESSEX				
LONDON	MPS	£92.85	N/A	£673.13	N/A
	CoLP				

REGION	FORCE	CHIEF INSPECTOR			
		Hourly		Daily	
		NORMAL	BANK HOLIDAY	NORMAL	BANK HOLIDAY
NATIONAL	ALL	£91.63	N/A	£664.28	N/A
N. IRELAND	PSNI	£95.65	N/A	£693.44	N/A
OUTER ROSE	SUSSEX	£93.17	N/A	£675.50	N/A
	HAMPSHIRE				
	BEDFORDSHIRE				
INNER ROSE	THAMES VALLEY	£93.95	N/A	£681.10	N/A
	SURREY				
	KENT				
	HERTFORDSHIRE				
	ESSEX				
LONDON	MPS	£98.19	N/A	£711.87	N/A
	CoLP				



REGION	FORCE	SUPERINTENDENT			
		Hourly		Daily	
		NORMAL	BANK HOLIDAY	NORMAL	BANK HOLIDAY
<b>NATIONAL</b>	ALL	<b>£113.62</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>£823.73</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>N. IRELAND</b>	PSNI	<b>£117.64</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>£852.89</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>OUTER ROSE</b>	SUSSEX	<b>£115.16</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>£834.94</b>	<b>N/A</b>
	HAMPSHIRE				
	BEDFORDSHIRE				
<b>INNER ROSE</b>	THAMES VALLEY	<b>£115.94</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>£840.55</b>	<b>N/A</b>
	SURREY				
	KENT				
	HERTFORDSHIRE				
	ESSEX				
<b>LONDON</b>	MPS	<b>£120.18</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>£871.32</b>	<b>N/A</b>
	CoLP				

REGION	FORCE	CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT			
		Hourly		Daily	
		NORMAL	BANK HOLIDAY	NORMAL	BANK HOLIDAY
<b>NATIONAL</b>	ALL	<b>£130.75</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>£947.96</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>N. IRELAND</b>	PSNI	<b>£134.78</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>£977.12</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>OUTER ROSE</b>	SUSSEX	<b>£132.30</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>£959.18</b>	<b>N/A</b>
	HAMPSHIRE				
	BEDFORDSHIRE				
<b>INNER ROSE</b>	THAMES VALLEY	<b>£133.07</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>£964.78</b>	<b>N/A</b>
	SURREY				
	KENT				
	HERTFORDSHIRE				
	ESSEX				
<b>LONDON</b>	MPS	<b>£137.32</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>£995.55</b>	<b>N/A</b>
	CoLP				

Operational Resource Costs include Total Direct Costs, including superannuation and overtime plus direct overheads.

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## APPENDIX 5 – National SPS Charges - Police Community Support Officers

### Special Policing Services 2026 - Tables of Rates by Region Chargeable from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026

Rates calculated at Full Economic Cost recovery and should be used for all charging of special police services provided at commercial events.

REGION	FORCE	PCSO			
		Hourly		Daily	
		NORMAL	BANK HOLIDAY	NORMAL	BANK HOLIDAY
<b>NATIONAL</b>	ALL	<b>£72.58</b>	<b>£88.82</b>	<b>£526.20</b>	<b>£643.97</b>
<b>N. IRELAND</b>	PSNI				
<b>OUTER ROSE</b>	SUSSEX	<b>£72.58</b>	<b>£88.82</b>	<b>£526.20</b>	<b>£643.97</b>
	HAMPSHIRE				
	BEDFORDSHIRE				
<b>INNER ROSE</b>	THAMES VALLEY	<b>£72.58</b>	<b>£88.82</b>	<b>£526.20</b>	<b>£643.97</b>
	SURREY				
	KENT				
	HERTFORDSHIRE				
	ESSEX				
<b>LONDON</b>	MPS	<b>£75.92</b>	<b>£92.17</b>	<b>£550.44</b>	<b>£668.21</b>
	CoLP				



## APPENDIX 6 – Direct Cost Charges - Police Community Support Officers

### Direct Costs 2026 - Tables of Rates by Region Chargeable from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026

Rates calculated below are Direct Employment Costs only including overtime premium and should be only used for charging of special police services provided at non-commercial events such as local authority community events, religious parades and wholly charitable events – see [Appendix 2 - Charging for Events and Abatements](#) or as a starting point for calculating Type 1 assistance to a Government Department or Crown Body i.e., core policing activities that support the wider public sector delivery of Government objectives.

REGION	FORCE	PCSO			
		Hourly		Daily	
		NORMAL	BANK HOLIDAY	NORMAL	BANK HOLIDAY
<b>NATIONAL</b>	ALL	<b>£46.10</b>	<b>£58.13</b>	<b>£334.19</b>	<b>£421.42</b>
<b>N. IRELAND</b>	PSNI				
<b>OUTER ROSE</b>	SUSSEX	<b>£46.10</b>	<b>£58.13</b>	<b>£334.19</b>	<b>£421.42</b>
	HAMPSHIRE				
	BEDFORDSHIRE				
<b>INNER ROSE</b>	THAMES VALLEY	<b>£46.10</b>	<b>£58.13</b>	<b>£334.19</b>	<b>£421.42</b>
	SURREY				
	KENT				
	HERTFORDSHIRE				
	ESSEX				
<b>LONDON</b>	MPS	<b>£48.29</b>	<b>£60.32</b>	<b>£350.12</b>	<b>£437.35</b>
	CoLP				



## APPENDIX 7 – Operational Resource Charges - Police Community Support Officers

### Operational Resource Costs 2026 - Tables of Rates by Region Chargeable from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026

Rates calculated below are the Operational Resource Costs and may be used as a starting point to calculate charges for Type 2 services to other government agencies or Crown Bodies i.e., quasi commercial activities with no direct benefit to policing or delivery of the wider Government objectives. The rates include all direct employment costs plus direct overheads.

REGION	FORCE	PCSO			
		Hourly		Daily	
		NORMAL	BANK HOLIDAY	NORMAL	BANK HOLIDAY
<b>NATIONAL</b>	ALL	<b>£58.61</b>	<b>£74.85</b>	<b>£424.90</b>	<b>£542.66</b>
<b>N. IRELAND</b>	PSNI				
<b>OUTER ROSE</b>	SUSSEX	<b>£58.61</b>	<b>£74.85</b>	<b>£424.90</b>	<b>£542.66</b>
	HAMPSHIRE				
	BEDFORDSHIRE				
<b>INNER ROSE</b>	THAMES VALLEY	<b>£58.61</b>	<b>£74.85</b>	<b>£424.90</b>	<b>£542.66</b>
	SURREY				
	KENT				
	HERTFORDSHIRE				
	ESSEX				
<b>LONDON</b>	MPS	<b>£60.80</b>	<b>£77.05</b>	<b>£440.83</b>	<b>£558.59</b>
	CoLP				



## APPENDIX 8 – National SPS Charges – Police Staff

To ascertain the correct hourly or daily rate, forces should apply the applicable charge, as per the table below, according to the individual's full time equivalent salary including any shift disturbance allowance and any other permanent allowances but excluding ERNIC and superannuation i.e. the gross salary as per a full-time employee's P60.

For the avoidance of doubt, the daily and hourly figures below do include both ERNIC and superannuation as well as direct and indirect overheads.

2026 SPS Rates	£20,000 - £30,000	£30,001 - £40,000	£40,001 - £50,000	£50,001 - £60,000
Daily	£355.29	£468.58	£581.87	£638.41
Hourly	£49.35	£65.08	£80.81	£88.67

2026 SPS Rates	£60,001 - £70,000	£70,001 - £80,000	£80,001 - £90,000	Over £90,000
Daily	£613.09	£696.21	£779.34	£862.46
Hourly	£85.15	£96.70	£108.24	£119.79

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## APPENDIX 9 – Charging Methodology

The methodology below, which is used to calculate the special police service rates has been included for completeness and can be used for calculating ‘full economic’ cost as well as ‘total employable’ and ‘total direct’ costs. This methodology can be adapted as required to calculate charges for abated charging (see guidance in [Appendix 1 - Charging for Events and Abatements](#)) and charging for specialist officers and police staff.

	Key Data	Calculation
<b>A</b>	<b>Direct Costs</b>	
1	Basic Salary	Average salary per rank based on service profile – see note 1 below
2	Location Allowance	e.g. South East England or London Allowance
3	Rent / Housing allowance	Average Rent/Housing Allowance per rank
4	Police reform payments	Average CRTP, unsociable hours and Bonus payment per rank
5	Subsistence	Total police subsistence budget / no. of officers
6	Non-Pensionable Pay	Average Non-Pensionable Pay per rank
7	Other allowances / benefits	Average allowances / benefits per rank
8	National Insurance	Total of 1-7, calculated as per NI model
9	National Government Levies	Government levies such as Apprenticeship Levy (*Apprenticeship Levy calculated as 0.5% of pay and allowances.)
10	Superannuation / Pension cost	Calculated cost reflecting force contribution
11	Holiday Pay Adjustment <sup>2</sup>	Any additional entitlement to holiday due to overtime e.g. Bear Scotland
12	Anticipated pay rise	Apply x/12 <sup>ths</sup> of the anticipated September pay rise to all lines above impacted by a pay increase - see note 2 below.
=13	<b>Total Employable Cost</b>	<b>Sum of lines 1 -12</b>
14	Overtime premium	50% of Basic Salary (Line 1).
=15	<b>Total Direct Cost</b>	<b>Sum of lines 13 + 14</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>Direct Overheads</b>	
16	Uniforms and equipment	Total Budget /no. of police officers and PCSOs who wear a uniform – See note 3 below
17	Insurance	Total Budget /no. of police officers and PCSOs – See note 4 below
18	Transport	Total Budget /no. of police officers and PCSOs – See note 5 below
19	Training	Training Dept. budget + devolved budgets / no. of police officers and PCSOs – See note 6 below
20	Call Handling	Call answering, crime recording, incident handling / no. of police officers and PCSOs – See note 7 below
21	Information Communications Technology	ICT infrastructure, voice & data services, applications, support and maintenance / no. of police officers and PCSOs – See note 8 below
=22	<b>Total Direct Overheads</b>	<b>Sum of lines 16 to 21</b>
23	<b>Operational Resource Cost</b>	<b>Sum of lines 15 + 22</b>

<sup>2</sup> Includes any additional payments necessary since the Bear Scotland Employment Appeal Tribunal (Bear Scotland v Fulton)



<b>C</b>	<b>Indirect Overheads</b>	
24	General overhead recovery	Average indirect overhead recovery @ 30% (estimated national average) applied to <b>Total Employable Cost (line 13)</b> + <b>Direct Overheads (line 22)</b> – see note 9 below
=25	<b>Full Economic Cost</b>	<b>Sum of lines 15 + 22 + 24</b>

**Note 1** – Whilst the basic salary should be reflective of service profile, where a force has a high number of probationary constables or has a policy of not using probationary constables for SPS, it would be legitimate to remove them from the calculation prior to calculating the average salary cost.

**Note 2** – As police pay rises are effective from September, x/12<sup>ths</sup> of any anticipated pay rise should be applied to basic pay (line 1), national insurance (line 8), apprenticeship levy (line 9), superannuation (line 10), Bear Scotland (line 11) and Overtime Premium (line 14).

**Note 3** - The budget to be used as the basis for the Uniform and Equipment overhead should include all items of clothing plus equipment such as batons, quick-cuffs, PAVA spray etc. The total budget should then be divided only by those officers and PCSOs that wear a uniform as to reflect the true cost of uniform both CID and plain clothed officers should be excluded from the calculation.

**Note 4** – The budget to be used as the basis for the Insurance overhead should include the cost of all insurance premiums e.g., property, motor, public liability, professional indemnity. Airside insurance should be excluded from the SPS calculation as this should be charged in its entirety to the airport operator through the relevant Police Services Agreement. In addition to the insurance premiums and to reflect the full cost of insurance, the Insurance overhead should include the value of any budget allocated for settling claims below the levels of each of the policy deductibles. Once calculated, the full cost of insurance and settlements should be divided by the total number of officers and PCSOs.

**Note 5** – The budget to be used as the basis for the Transport overhead should include the full cost of managing and keeping the fleet operational, this should include the costs of maintenance, repairs, parts, fuel, workshop staff, fleet managers and any outsourced vehicle services provided. In addition to these costs and to reflect the full cost of maintaining an operational fleet, the Transport overhead should also include the cost of depreciation of the vehicle fleet. Once calculated, the full cost of transport should be divided by the total number of officers and PCSOs.

**Note 6** – The budget to be used as the basis for the Training overhead should include the full cost of providing learning and development to the force, this should include the cost of police and police staff trainers' total employment costs (see line 13 in table above), training consumables, external training courses and any external training providers. Although police staff may be the recipient of training, that training is delivered to enable a support function; therefore, the full cost of training should be divided by the total number of officers and PCSOs. Where a force has set itself up, under the Apprenticeship Scheme, as either an Employer Provider or an Accredited Training Provider, any draw down from the force's digital Apprenticeship Levy account should be netted off to avoid any double counting with the Apprenticeship Levy charge.

**Note 7** – The budget to be used as the basis for the Call Handling overhead should include the cost of police and police staff call handlers' total employment costs (see line 13 in table above) in the force's control room and any crime recording or incident handling facility, any non-pay budgets associated with the control room, crime recording and incident management. Where officers are deployed on a rotational, short term or back-filling basis the cost of the average number of additional officers deployed to the permanent complement of officers and staff should be added. Once calculated, the full cost of call handling should be divided by the total number of officers and PCSOs.

**Note 8** – The budget to be used as the basis for the Information Communications Technology (ICT) overhead should include the full costs of maintaining ICT services including: hardware and infrastructure costs including depreciation, application and software costs, maintenance costs, help desk and support costs, Airwave costs,



internal ICT staff costs and any external or outsourced support provider's costs. Once calculated, the full cost of ICT should be divided by the total number of officers and PCSOs.

**Note 9** – The indirect overhead is a national figure and is added to support the costs of providing elements such as: accommodation and estate management, HR, finance, payroll, commercial, legal, forensics, intel, professional standards, media and communications, criminal exhibits, catering, logistics, strategy, planning, vetting, continuous improvement, corporate projects etc.

## Productive Days and Hours

### Police Officers

<b>Total Days</b>	<b>365</b>
less	
Rest Days and Weekends	104
Average Annual Leave	26
Average Sickness	11
Training Days	10
Public Holidays	8
<b>Net Effective Days</b>	<b>206</b>
Productive hours per day (excluding refreshments)	7.25
<b>Total Effective Hours per year</b>	<b>1,493.5</b>

### Police Staff

<b>Total Days</b>	<b>365</b>
less	
Rest Days and Weekends	104
Average Annual Leave	28
Average Sickness	7
Training Days	10
Public Holidays	8
<b>Net Effective Days</b>	<b>210</b>
Productive hours per day	7.2
<b>Total Effective Hours per year</b>	<b>1,512</b>

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## APPENDIX 10 – Vehicle Costs for Escorting Abnormal Loads

In addition to the minimum six-hour charging period for the officers deployed to the escort duty, the cost of the vehicles and fuel should be included in the total cost of the escorting service.

The mileage cost should be calculated against the three distinct phases of the escort duty:

1. The distance travelled from the vehicle's base to the start of the escort;
2. The total distance of the escort;
3. The distance travelled from the end of the escort back to the vehicle's base.

Vehicle Type	Daily Rate £	Miles Per Litre / Kwh	Fuel Cost Per Mile £
Marked Car – petrol	47	6	0.2350
Marked Car - diesel	47	6	0.2436
Marked Car – electric only	56	2.5	0.0920
Motorcycle	36	8	0.1763

For additional vehicle types refer to Appendix 4 – Vehicle Cost Recovery of the National Policing Guidelines on Charging for Police Services: Mutual Aid Cost Recovery.

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## APPENDIX 11 - Case Law – Charging for Special Police Services

Case law offers helpful material and the key cases are listed below:

- Glasbrook Brothers Limited v Glamorgan County Council [1925] AC 270.
- Reading Festival Ltd v West Yorkshire Police Authority 2006 [2006] EWCA Civ 524
- Harris v Sheffield United Football Club Ltd [1988] 1QB 77.
- Chief Constable of Greater Manchester Police vs. Wigan Athletic AFC LTD [2007] EWHC 3095 (Ch)
- Chief Constable of Greater Manchester v Wigan Athletic AFC LTD [2008] EWCA Civ 1449
- Leeds United Football Club Ltd v Chief Constable of West Yorkshire Police [2012] EWHC 2113 (QB)
- Leeds United Football Club Ltd v Chief Constable of West Yorkshire Police [2014] EWHC 2738 (QB)
- Ipswich Town Football Club Company Limited v The Chief Constable of Suffolk Constabulary [2016] EWHC 1682 (QB)
- Ipswich Town Football Club Company Limited v The Chief Constable of Suffolk Constabulary [2017] EWCA Civ 1484; [2017] 4 WLR 195

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# NPCC Abnormal Load Guidance.

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<b>National Policing Coordination Committee Area:</b>	Operations
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## **NPCC Abnormal Load Guidance 2025**

### Preface

This document has been produced recognising the complexity surrounding the movement of abnormal loads, the significant number of stakeholders, the impact the current inconsistency is having on all those involved, the associated risk, and current legislation.

Engagement has taken place over a period which has included formal and informal conversations, the use of established along with specifically convened meetings, and the creation of ongoing relationships to capture the knowledge and experience of those directly involved in this sector.

The previous 2010 ACPO guidance was used as the starting point for this review however as of the date of publication of this new NPCC document no further reference should be made to the previous document which has been superseded.

A draft of the new guidance was circulated to a wide range of stakeholders including police forces, industry, and key partners inviting their feedback to achieve the objective as set out below. Feedback was received, reviewed, and considered to produce a revised document that was subject to discussion at a symposium held in London where key stakeholders came together in person to review and agree the guidance.

Several key topics were discussed on the day, but the consensus was overall support for the new guidance with a few minor amendments which have been included in producing the final version.

It was agreed this document should be subject of ongoing review and amendment, so it remains fit for purpose and the recommendation was for a formal review to take place twelve months after publication.

I am conscious there is variance in legislation across England, Scotland, and Wales and there may also be different terminology, however the principles of this guidance should be applicable to all, and any points of clarification should be achievable through discussion.

Finally, I would like to express my thanks to all those who have supported the creation of this reviewed guidance.

Marc Clothier  
Chief Superintendent

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## 1. Introduction

- 1.1. This guide is intended to assist police forces concerning the movement of abnormal indivisible loads from here on referred to as Abloads. The overriding factors in setting out these guidelines is the safety of the public and those involved in the movement and/or escorting of any Abloads.
- 1.2. It is not intended, nor would it be appropriate to reproduce all relevant legislation within this document and therefore it should be used in conjunction with the relevant information which can be found on the gov.uk website.
- 1.3. Changes in the construction and transport industry over recent years which include a shift to modular build and large projects such as HS2 have resulted in a significant increase in the movement of Abloads. It has also become apparent that the policing of Abloads is inconsistent across the Country creating significant challenge for the industry who frequently travel across force areas.
- 1.4. The need to ensure safety and compliance with legislation whilst supporting the industry and the UK economy is the balance that must be achieved to ensure our legitimacy in this area of business.
- 1.5. It is also recognised that policing is one of many key stakeholders involved who have a role. The road network is managed by National Highways and local authorities, road and bridge authorities own relevant structures, and the haulage and associated industries are responsible for the movement itself. As a result, this guidance has been produced in collaboration recognising the need to work together.
- 1.6. The overarching objective of this guidance is:
  - 1.6.1. To improve consistency in the policing of abnormal load movements across the UK, which includes the administration, use of embargoes, enforcement, and police escort in line with current legislation.
- 1.7. This will be achieved by providing relevant information along with national recommendations where appropriate in relation to:
  - 1.7.1. The procedure that police forces nationally should adopt in respect of the notified routes, time, and date of abnormal indivisible load movement.
  - 1.7.2. The proportionate use of embargoes, considering road safety, traffic flow, local issues, and the impact on the industry.
  - 1.7.3. Enforcement which is proportionate and supports delivery of the National Roads Policing Strategy.
  - 1.7.4. The provision of police escorts including requirements in relation to the training of those officers involved, criteria to be considered, and cost recovery.
  - 1.7.5. Committing to maintaining and building relationships so we can work effectively together with the relevant stakeholders involved to consistently review our practices and build a culture of continuous improvement.

**Responsibility for safety and compliance with relevant legislation including managing the risk associated with the movement of Abloads is primarily that of the driver and haulier, recognising that others will have a role in certain circumstances such as when providing an escort.**

## 2. Legislation

- 2.1. The legislation that permits Abnormal Indivisible Load movements is:
  - 2.1.1. The Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations (C&U) 1986 (SI 1986/1078).
  - 2.1.2. The Road Vehicles (Authorisation of Special Types) (General) Order (STGO) 2003 (SI 2003/1998).
- 2.2. The Construction and Use Regulations (1986) are the primary legislation for the construction and maximum dimensions for all vehicles. Providing certain conditions are complied with, hauliers can transport loads up to 27.4m in length Reg 82(3) Con and Use Regs, and 4.3m in width Reg 82(1) Con and Use Regs. The vehicle combination must comply with the weights permitted under Construction and Use or The Road Vehicles (Authorised Weight) Regulations 1998.
- 2.3. Where a vehicle and load cannot comply with the maximum C&U dimensions or weight limits or cannot be without undue expense or risk of damage divided into smaller loads, it can then be moved under the STGO – again if certain conditions are complied with.
- 2.4. Compliance with all relevant aspects of the STGO protects a driver and operator from prosecution under the C&U regulations. A breach of a condition in the STGO is not an offence in itself – a breach causes the protection from prosecution to fall away, meaning the vehicle reverts to C&U construction, weight, dimensions etc. and prosecutions can then be brought for those offences.
- 2.5. The legislation is in the most part permissive, in that, providing the haulier complies with the requirements of notification procedures, an abnormal load can be moved without the need for any permit or authorisation. Exceptions are covered in the procedural notes which follow.
- 2.6. It is also worthy of note as this guide includes information of charging for police services, that the relevant legislation is:
  - 2.6.1. The Police Regulations 2003.
  - 2.6.2. The Police Act 1996.

## 3. Movement of Abnormal Indivisible Loads

- 3.1. An abnormal load can be moved without the need for any permit or authorisation, except:
  - 3.1.1. Loads exceeding 5m (and up to 6.1m) in width require consent from National Highways on behalf of the Secretary of State. Operators must complete a VR1 form and then use the normal notification procedure, quoting the VR1 reference.
  - 3.1.2. Loads exceeding 6.1m wide, 27.4m rigid length (C&U) 30m (STGO) or 150,000kg gross vehicle weight or an individual axle over 16500kg, require a Special Order from the Secretary of State. A Special Order ensures that the route is acceptable and may lay down certain conditions. It does not, however, replace the notification procedure.
- 3.2. A failure to give the proper notice can lead to the protections of the STGO and/or extended C&U dimensions to be lost and for the driver/operator to be liable to prosecution.

- 3.3. The method by which a haulier is required to make a notification of an Abnormal Load movement, is not defined in the legislation other than to notify the Chief Officer of Police for every area or county through which the load will pass, however the notice must be in a form acceptable to the recipient and should be agreed by both parties. In practice the use of the ESDAL or AbHaulier notification services or email are the most common methods of notification although conventional postal services are still used; in any case, best practice dictates that an accessible system capable of being archived must be adopted.
- 3.4. Guidance for Abnormal Loads Officers (administrators) on procedures to be followed on receipt of notification are contained at Appendix A.
- 3.5. Two clear working days are required for notification to the police. However, for certain load or vehicle sizes or weights, five-day notification to road and bridge authorities is required. The notice period allows the relevant authorities (police, local councils, road and bridge authorities) time to assess the route and any potential impact on traffic and road safety. With regards to notices given under the C&U Regulations, “working day” means a day which is not a Sunday, a bank holiday, Christmas Day or Good Friday. “Working Day” does though include a Saturday (unless the Saturday is Christmas Day). Under the STGO, working, or “clear” days excludes Saturday, Sunday, and bank holidays.
- 3.6. Bank holidays should only be considered if they are applicable in the country where the planned movement is taking place.
- 3.7. A police force (Chief Officer or ALO) may accept a shorter period of notice in any case; however, this is at the discretion of the force. Examples could include where a minor change has been made to a previously submitted notice where the initial risk assessment is unlikely to change, or where there is a short notice urgent need such as a risk to the environment or risk of disruption to the UK road network, or other critical national infrastructure.
- 3.8. It is worthy of note, that should Special Police Services be required; short notice periods may impact on the availability of officers and the cost to forces that will need recovering.
- 3.9. The minimum contents of a notice of intended movement are set out in the C&U Regulations and the STGO. These include the registration number of the motor vehicle to be used. Forces should consider allowing operators to specify a small number of substitute vehicles (maximum of 5) on a notification which share the same characteristics as the original vehicle (i.e. number of axles, weights etc). This will mitigate against short notice submissions being made for operational reasons.
- 3.10. Under the C&U Regulations, there is no requirement to provide a description of the load, however in certain circumstances there is a requirement to provide details of the projection. Under STGO, there is a requirement to provide particulars of the load (including description and profile).
- 3.11. There is no legislative guidance as to description and profile however we should obtain sufficient detail to ensure the load is in line with the notification whilst recognising specific plant or loads may be subject to last minute change and therefore requesting the exact model or specific dimensions may cause unnecessary bureaucracy.
- 3.12. C&U Regulations state that in relation to the advance notice to police the details should include the time, date, and route of the proposed journey. However, it is recognised that for a variety of reasons the exact date of a movement may be subject to change at short notice. As a result, to mitigate against the need for multiple notifications to be submitted and the associated impact on all parties the

presumption is that under normal circumstance forces should accept a thirty-day window unless there are local reasons why this is not appropriate.

- 3.13. For both C&U and STGO movements, the police may accept fewer details than are set out in the legislation at their own discretion.
- 3.14. The relevant police force's Abnormal Loads Department, or agent instructed on behalf of the police, will receive all notifications, examine, and verify that the details provided are as required by the legislation.
- 3.15. A record of the notification will be entered into an accessible database to ensure there is an auditable record of the notification and any subsequent action that was required.
- 3.16. Upon receipt of the notice of intended movement, the power of police is limited to changing the date, time, or route of the journey. The relevant police force's Abnormal Loads Officer or other suitable nominated person will carry out a risk-assessment of the notified intended movement and decide whether any action is required regarding either the route or time of the movement, including the safety of other road users or congestion likely to be caused.
- 3.17. The operator may also be requested to carry out a risk assessment and route survey, but this will only relate to the ability of the Abnormal Load vehicle to negotiate the route which is primarily their responsibility. They are not expected to be aware of local road safety issues.
- 3.18. The risk assessment will be completed to ensure the use of the safest and most suitable roads, having regard to the weight, speed, type, and load of the vehicle, relative to the time & date of the proposed movement, including the movement at night-time if applicable.
- 3.19. In the event of the route being deemed unsuitable the relevant police force's Abloads Officer or another suitable nominated person will notify the operator so they can identify a suitable alternative. Consultation will be progressed with other interested parties and subject to those enquiries the haulier will be re-routed accordingly. A written confirmation of the re-route will be served, a copy of which will be stored in the event of the necessity to prove non-compliance by the haulier and a new notification will be required.
- 3.20. A copy of the police risk assessment requiring the changes should be retained and made available to the operator upon request.
- 3.21. Where agreement cannot be reached in relation to the proposed movement of a load which may relate to notification or the requirement for the provision of a police escort, forces should have a process in place which allows for review in a timely manner by a suitable officer within the relevant Senior Leadership team. This is not intended to replace or interfere with established force/police complaints processes but is suggested to demonstrate appropriate transparency and scrutiny in relation to decision making at a tactical level.

## 4. Embargoes

- 4.1. The decision to impose embargoes by a Chief Constable is based on the interests of road safety and to avoid undue traffic congestion and may be implemented in relation to specific events. As a result, due to the significant variance in the road network across the UK, local geography, and events it is expected there will be some local, and regional difference.
- 4.2. However, it is also recognised that movements regularly cross force borders and we should seek to achieve consistency wherever possible balancing the needs of local communities with that of the road haulage and associated industries.
- 4.3. It is recommended that an evidence-based approach in collaboration with key stakeholders should be adopted to understand traffic flow and movement which can then be used to justify any restrictions that are imposed, as opposed to a blanket approach.
- 4.4. Where, due to specific local geographical issues the Chief Officer of Police determines that embargoes on Abloads should be in place, the following principle is suggested:
  - 4.4.1. Category 1 STGO vehicles, Cat A mobile cranes and those moving wide or long loads under C&U Regulations should not be subject to any embargo save for congested urban roads, or where the width of the vehicle and load cannot reasonably remain within the width of the lane in which the vehicle is travelling unless there are specific local issues to be taken into consideration.
- 4.5. A pragmatic approach whereby only vehicles that are notifiable to the police and therefore likely to have an impact on traffic flow and safety should be subject to embargoes, unless there are specific local issues which justify the use of an embargo for non-notifiable loads under relevant legislation

## 5. Nighttime movements

- 5.1. Police forces should consider permitting the movement of abnormal loads during the hours of darkness on motorways recognising the reduced traffic flow overnight, providing the abnormal load remains within the motorway network and having regard to lighting conditions and any specific local issues.
- 5.2. Consideration, using a risk-based approach for the movement in question, should also be given to the usage of dual carriageways, depending on whether such sections of road are illuminated with street lighting and variable factors such as weather conditions, anticipated traffic flows etc.
- 5.3. The movement of Abloads on all other roads should be based on the risk assessment of the proposed movement. Whilst they may not be permitted during the hours of darkness, except with the permission of the police force's Abnormal Loads Officer, such permission should not be unreasonably withheld.

## 6. Dispensations

- 6.1. **General Dispensation** – The consideration of any dispensations and the process involved is a local force decision, however, it is suggested that a police force should issue such Dispensations to move abnormal indivisible loads with dimensions up to 3.5m (11'6") wide to hauliers who can demonstrate the movement of loads of a like nature on a regular basis. The roads permitted will be limited to major motorways and selected A class roads. Where an operator requests such a dispensation any rejection should be supported by an appropriate rationale justifying the decision. (See appendix - B)
- 6.2. **Agricultural Dispensation**- It is suggested that a police force should issue a Dispensation to farmers and agricultural contractors for the movement of agricultural tractors, machines, trailers, and trailed appliances for agricultural purpose without the requirement to notify the movement of such equipment up to 4.1m wide without prior notification, or for reduced notification period for all other loads up to 4.3m wide. (See appendix C).
- 6.3. **Explosives & Military Convoys** – movements involving MOD vehicles relating to urgent times of conflict moves/operations and derogations applied by MOD under their codes of practice will be notified to police and reviewed as per paragraph 3.16.

## 7. Enforcement

- 7.1. Enforcement is a legitimate tactic and is academically accepted as one of the key components of a systematic approach to achieve compliance with road traffic legislation, designed first and foremost to protect all road users from harm.
- 7.2. Enforcement should be proportionate and based on the threat and risk posed to maintain trust and legitimacy in policing. There are a range of options available in relation to the use of road traffic and other legislation and this guide is not intended to cover that level of detail which is provided in other guidance such as sentencing guidelines or the DVSA Enforcement Sanction Policy (ESP)
- 7.3. An evidence-led approach working with partners is also key to ensuring we focus our efforts in the right place and against those who pose the greatest risk on the roads. We should strive for consistency in our approach across different organisations through sharing priorities and understanding the specific roles and responsibilities of different partners to be as efficient and effective as possible.
- 7.4. We should also work with the communities involved such as drivers, operators, transport managers and hauliers adopting a problem-solving approach to prevent incidents taking place through effective education and engagement.
- 7.5. Where there is a prosecution the operator would be under a duty to inform the OTC of a conviction. Where persistent offenders are identified police forces should consider referral to the DVSA intelligence unit and or referral to the Office of the Traffic Commissioner (OTC) who can consider operator or driver conduct
- 7.6. All enforcement activity should have a legitimate purpose, and this can be achieved through alignment with the [NPCC National Roads Policing Strategy](#).

## 8. Escorting abnormal indivisible loads

- 8.1. An escort or escort vehicle is not defined in legislation and there is no legal requirement for any abnormal loads to be escorted, although the police can make sure an escort vehicle is used when necessary. There is however a requirement for loads of certain dimensions to have an attendant under both C&U and STGO regulations.
- 8.2. STGO 2003 permits the attendant to be in an accompanying vehicle, which may, for practical purposes, be considered as an 'Escort Vehicle', providing that it remains with the Abnormal Load throughout the whole journey and the same approach should be considered in respect of C&U regulations.
- 8.3. In addition to the requirement for an attendant there are also conditions that must be complied with if they are in a separate vehicle.
- 8.4. An attendant or private escort is for the purposes of giving warning to the driver of that vehicle or combination, and to any other person, of any danger likely to be caused by the presence on the road of that vehicle or combination. Subject to the provisions of the CSAS scheme (see below), an escort driver or any other person or attendant to the abnormal load does not have any legislative powers to stop and control other road users or contravene road traffic legislation, such as causing an obstruction by blocking a highway.
- 8.5. Self or private escorts should comply with the [National Highways guidance](#), although this is a voluntary code and can only be used for evidential purposes in the event of an incident occurring, it is evidence of good practice and a standard to which the Haulage Associations subscribe.
- 8.6. The self / private escort will always comply with any instructions issued by a police force, local authority or road and bridge authorities.
- 8.7. There is no power in either the C&U Regulations or the STGO for the police to mandate to an operator the use of a police escort. Police escorts should only be provided in the following circumstances:
  - 8.7.1. When the operator is unable to provide their own attendant and requests the police to provide this service for vehicles that meet the criteria as detailed in the relevant legislation.
  - 8.7.2. When the vehicle due to its size or the nature of the route will contravene road traffic legislation, such as negotiating a roundabout contraflow, or there are other specific local issues which require the police to control or direct other traffic/pedestrians etc, and where no person employed by the operator is accredited to undertake such functions under the Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (CSAS).
  - 8.7.3. When following its own risk assessment of the notice of intended movement, the police force's Abnormal Loads Department determines that for reasons of public safety, even though the vehicle will not perform any unlawful manoeuvre, a police presence is still required for some or all of the journey.
- 8.8. In circumstances 8.7.1 and 8.7.2 above, when the police presence is requested or required by the operator, the provision of police support will be classed as a Special Policing Service (SPS) and be chargeable in the normal way. With regards to circumstance 8.7.3 above, this should be considered an operational matter and is not chargeable to the operator.

- 8.9. In cases where a load is required to negotiate a single identified issue on a route that would otherwise not be deemed to require an escort, police assistance may be provided without charge, subject to availability. However, the demands on policing are significant and therefore any support provided in this manner will be subject of competing operational demands and may result in delays.
- 8.10. To overcome the above, police forces could also consider the provision of an officer(s) not as an escort, but purely to stop and direct traffic to allow the successful negotiation of a single point. An officer to be specifically deployed would need to be requested by the haulier and have their costs recovered in line with the prevailing NPCC approved SPS rates. The charging period should comprise of whole hours and be the time the officer(s) were deployed on the activity (i.e. not available for other duties).
- 8.11. Alternatively, hauliers can also consider applying to the local authority for a TTRO to facilitate the movement if appropriate.
- 8.12. The police and National Highways encourage hauliers to use self or private escorts. As stated above, police escorts should only be supplied if specifically requested and payment for their services will be required.
- 8.13. An operator who cannot supply such an escort, and / or requests the provision of a police escort, should give as much notice as possible but at least eight days' notice of any proposed movement, and be required to pay for such services in accordance with the scale of charges applied.

## 9. Police escort

- 9.1. Only police officers that have had the relevant approved training regarding police driving and escort should be utilised.
- 9.2. Every effort will be made to utilise officers performing overtime on their rest days if that duty is requested as a Special Police Service, however, it is the decision of the police force as to how resources are allocated; the hourly rate will be at the approved NPCC rates.
- 9.3. An escort should not be commenced until the vehicle and load have been examined and the national Abload check form completed confirming it is safe to move. This will require the officers to be in possession of, or have access to, the content of the relevant paperwork.
- 9.4. Where a journey passes through several police forces, and the vehicle and paperwork has been considered in detail previously either at the start of the journey or during it, officers are not so required to undertake a full examination provided this can be confirmed at point of handover. However, it is the decision of the attending officers.
- 9.5. Alternatively, if an escort is crossing several police force areas, consideration should be given to the option for one police force taking primacy for the entire escort.
- 9.6. Officers will ensure that they have a copy or detailed knowledge of the route prior to commencing movement. It is best practice for the escorting officer(s) to have carried out a 'recce' of the route if it is anticipated difficulties will occur enroute.
- 9.7. The relevant police force's Control/Communications Centre will be provided with advanced details of the movement and programme prior to the movement commencing and these should also be shared with other emergency services if the movement will impact their response to incidents.

- 9.8. Special Police Service (SPS) rates for a minimum of six hours, and for every part of an hour thereafter will be charged.
- 9.9. Standard SPS rates take into account overtime working and compensation for rest day working. Where the duty is on a public holiday, there are enhanced rates for with the national guidelines. There is a third set of rates for public holiday duties where less than eight days' notice is given. It is highly recommended that hauliers give a minimum of eight days' notice to
- 9.10. Both prevent high costs and to lessen the impact of duty moves and days off in lieu to police forces.
- 9.11. Charges are to be paid in full in the event of any cancellation or amendment, by the operator, to the travel date that occurs within eight days of the movement date first indicated.

## 10. Community safety accreditation scheme (CSAS)

- 10.1. CSAS is a voluntary scheme under which Chief Constables can choose to accredit employed people already working in roles that contribute to maintaining and improving community safety, with limited, but targeted powers. These include the power to direct traffic for the purposes of escorting abnormal loads, including the power of a Constable engaged in the regulation of traffic in a road, for the purpose of escorting a vehicle or trailer carrying a load of exceptional circumstances (vehicle or trailer the use of which is authorised by an order made under section 44(1) and 44(2)(d) of the Road Traffic Act 1988) either to, or from, the relevant police area, to direct a vehicle to stop, to proceed in, or keep to, a particular line of traffic, and to direct pedestrians to stop.
- 10.2. Forces are encouraged to work with operators and private escort companies to consider the possibility of accrediting attendants and vehicle escort drivers under the CSAS scheme to reduce potential burdens upon the police, especially when dealing with single pinch points or other simple interventions.

## 11. Roles and responsibilities

- 11.1. The Abnormal Loads Officer
  - 11.1.1. Should have in-depth knowledge of the legislation relating to the movement of Abnormal Loads.
  - 11.1.2. Should be trained in conducting risk assessments of proposed movements.
  - 11.1.3. Should have a good working knowledge of their own police force area roads and the surrounding local networks.
  - 11.1.4. Should be able to visit locations or survey routes of proposed movements if practicable.
  - 11.1.5. Should risk assess proposed movements where appropriate.
  - 11.1.6. Should co-ordinate requests for escorting loads through the county with the appropriate line manager or supervisor.

- 11.1.7. Should be aware of roadworks or events that may interfere with abnormal load movement and share with neighbouring forces when relevant such as loads being escorted across several force areas.
- 11.1.8. Should where possible use a consistent email format such as [abloads@force.police.uk](mailto:abloads@force.police.uk)
  
- 11.2. Roads Policing Officer
  - 11.2.1. Should receive instruction on relevant legislation.
  - 11.2.2. Should be pro-active in regulating and enforcing Abload movements.
  - 11.2.3. Should conduct checks in line with the national Abloads check form.
  - 11.2.4. Should only commence an escort when fully conversant with the proposed route including an appropriate briefing with those involved.
  - 11.2.5. Should only commence an escort when the load, vehicle and route have been fully risk-assessed.
  - 11.2.6. Should work with the police force's Abnormal Loads officer and road and bridge authorities if there is any requirement to divert from the notified route or, if not available, a TMO for the police force or local authority to ensure the alternative route is suitable.
  
- 11.3. Force Control Room staff
  - 11.3.1. Should be aware of local force processes and have access to relevant force policy and national guidance for the movement of Abloads.

## 12. Appendices

- 12.1. Appendices will be retained as separate documents to this guidance, so they can be updated and amended as necessary independently of the main guidance document.

## Appendix 2 – AIL Team Lessons Learned and Best Practice

The Team who delivered AIL escorting services for Sizewell C ("**SZC**") has prepared a short list of key learning points from establishing the dedicated the AIL team for SZC. The purpose of this note is to provide the ExA and the Applicant with the key learning points that the Joint Forces identified in liaison with the members of the SZC AIL escorting team. It is hoped that this document will facilitate the Applicant's ongoing communication with the Joint Forces which will assist with formally securing these services from the Joint Forces in relation to this project.

### Key Learning Points

- **Early Appointment of an Operational SPOC**

Identifying a dedicated operational Single Point of Contact (SPOC) at an early stage proved really beneficial. This provided consistency and clear coordination in establishing the team from the outset.

- **Early Demand Profiling**

Understanding demand ahead of core AIL movements—including preparatory site activity such as equipment and cabin deliveries—helped build a clearer picture of requirements. This also highlighted where an interim "AIL Team Lite" approach may be needed. While less likely for Norwich to Tilbury, it remains worth considering.

- **Supporting Roles and Capacity Uplift**

It's important to plan early for the wider support functions that sit alongside the AIL Team (e.g. ALO officer, Vehicle Technician). Although these roles are covered through NPCC charging, timely provisioning is key to maintaining operational effectiveness.

- **Use of Technology (ANPR)**

Where appropriate, incorporating ANPR within vehicles can support operational efficiency and enhance what is being delivered by the Team.

- **Fleet Procurement and Lead Times**

Early scoping, ordering, and commissioning of vehicles is essential, particularly given varying lead times depending on the specification required.

### **Appendix 3 - Response to Action Point 22 (Response to ExQ1 GEN 1.21 [PD-014] and the Applicant's Response at Appendix E to [REP3-074])**

Question GEN 1.21 raised by the ExA at ExQ1 **[PD-014]** requested that the Applicant provide an update on the legal agreements identified by various LIRs in order to secure a range of mitigation and compensation measures and packages. The Applicant provided a full response to this in its written response at Appendix E **[REP3-074]**.

The Joint Forces consider that the most efficient way to provide a response to both GEN 1.21 itself and the Applicant's response is by generalising the position with respect to the two types of agreements which the Joint Forces consider necessary in order to appropriately mitigate the impact of the Project on the Joint Forces. This response broadly aligns with the representations made during the course of ISH2 – by both the Applicant and the Joint Forces – as well as the written submissions set out in this document.

#### **Police Resource Agreement**

The Joint Forces do not consider it necessary to formally respond to the Applicant's response to this issue, noting that the position with respect to an agreement having evolved considerably during the course of ISH2. Indeed, the Applicant has agreed in principle to meet all necessary and proportionate costs associated with the Project and incurred by the Joint Forces where they related to non-core policing activities that are necessary for the Project, including AIL Police escort services. The Joint Forces will be engaging with the Applicant's legal representatives in due course to further discuss these arrangements.

With respect to the form of such an agreement, we restate our position that was set out during ISH2 and captured at Item 3 above, which is that such resource funding must necessarily be secured by way of a binding contract (or contracts) between the Applicant and the Joint Forces. The agreement will, amongst other matters, secure the full funding for all costs incurred by the Joint Forces in delivering an escort service to facilitate the delivery of AILs. Accordingly, this is a private contract outside the scope of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 or the Planning Act 2008 and therefore is not subject to the CIL test. However, the Joint Forces do consider that it may be appropriate to include within the s106 Agreement a commitment to enter into the binding police resource agreement if the Applicant is not prepared to enter into a conditional contract prior to the granting of the DCO.

#### **S106 Agreement**

Whilst Appendix E only refers to a broader agreement to support the resourcing of additional officer time post consent of the Project, the Joint Forces wish to reserve our position more broadly as to the extent of any rights, powers or obligations that would need to be reserved under the terms of any s106 agreement. As set out at Item 2 above, the following non-exhaustive and without prejudice list sets out potential mitigation that may be necessary to be secured in a s106 agreement:

- Construction phase incident management and community impacts.
- The impact caused by the increased population to facilitate construction workers.
- The establishment of a Transport, Community Safety and Cohesion Working Group.
- Impact on crime, community safety and policing more broadly, including from any additional burden on the Joint Forces that is separate from the AIL impact.

The Joint Forces request to engage with the Applicant's legal representatives in order to progress this matter. The Joint Forces consider it self-evident that these matters fulfil the CIL tests in that these are necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms, directly related to the development and fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development.