

Briefing for Police and Crime Commissioner

Topic: Strategic Policing Requirement

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Purpose of briefing

To brief the new Commissioner on how Durham Constabulary meets the Strategic Policing Requirement. (SPR).

Background

The [Strategic Policing Requirement](#) (SPR) was introduced in 2012 in execution of the Home Secretary's statutory duty to set out what are considered as national threats at the time, and the appropriate national policing capabilities required to counter those threats, as set out in [s77 Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011](#).

The SPR is structured in two parts:

Part A – The national threats (as of March 2021):

- Terrorism
- Serious and organised crime
- National cyber security incident
- Public order
- Civil Emergencies
- Child sexual abuse (included in a 2015 revision of the SPR)

Part B – Police Response

Part B outlines the policing requirement to counter the threats set out in Part A, in terms of the 5 Cs: capacity and contribution, capability, consistency and connectivity. The operational detail is set out in professional assessments drawn up by the police, working in conjunction with PCCs and the College of Policing.

PCCs and Chief Constables are required to work collaboratively across force boundaries and regions to determine the most effective and cost-efficient manner of implementation in order to maintain sufficient levels of appropriate resource to meet operational needs.

PCCs should hold Chief Constables to account for each of these five areas and must have regard to the requirement for each national threat when setting their local police and crime plans. The SPR does not cover areas where Police and Crime Commissioners and Chief Constables are able to make effective local risk assessments.

PCCs are required to have regard to the Strategic Policing Requirement when issuing or varying their police and crime plans. They must keep the police and crime plan under review in light of any changes made to the SPR by the Home Secretary. Chief Constables must have regard to both the police and crime plan and the SPR when exercising their functions, and PCCs hold them to account for doing so.

Current Issues

The Home Office began their most recent review of the Strategic Policing Requirement in the Autumn of 2020, with a revised SPR document to be published after the PCC Elections 2021. The review is looking into three main areas of the SPR:

- Threats
- Police Response and Capabilities
- Accountability and Governance

In reviewing the SPR, the Home Secretary consulted national policing stakeholders, including PCCs; Durham OPCVC provided a response to this.

From the review consultation, the following direction of travel has become known:

- PCCs will be required to refer to the SPR in their Police and Crime Plans – a standardised statement for all PCCs to include in their Plans explaining what the SPR is and its purpose.
 - An explanation of how the SPR has been considered.
 - How the SPR has influenced the strategic direction in the Police and Crime Plan
 - How the PCC will hold their Chief Constable and Force to account for the adherence
- PCCs will publish an annual assurance statement in their annual reports.
- The APCC will produce an annual summary of assurance statement to the Home Office for discussion at the Strategic Change and Investment Board (SCIB)

The stated intention of compelling PCCs to include the SPR in their Police & Crime Plans is in order that the Home Secretary will be assured that SPR is more transparent with the public, and that there is a clear remit for PCCs to scrutinise and hold their Chief Constables to account for its adherence.

Decisions needed

The inclusion of the SPR and requirement to provide an assurance statement in the annual report is likely to be mandated.

Partnership Involvement

The SPR explicitly requires emergency service collaboration across borders to ensure capacity and capability.

Police Involvement

As part of the **Durham Constabulary Plan on a Page** objective: 'Maximise and capture the learning from Operation Talla, to transform the way Durham Constabulary operates in the future, Operation DeLorean was commissioned.

One of the workstreams of Operation DeLorean looked at broader support to Operational delivery with the specific strategic intent as follows:

'To ensure the force can respond quickly to the demand from higher risk and harm incidents with sufficient capacity and capability to support operational delivery to the public.'

This work has involved the creation of a new SPRU Team headed up by a Superintendent, the creation of a Governance Board chaired by the Deputy Chief Constable and the commissioning of a Threat Assessment Document which is produced by the Tasking and Coordinating Command.

Force meetings provide strategic oversight in the following areas to ensure the Demand, Threat and Risk is understood and action is taken to mitigate any risk.

The PCVC office receives regular updates about how the Force meets SPR requirements by attendance at monthly Force Threat and Risk meetings and can further receive updates at Executive Board.

People to Meet

DCC Dave Orford

ACC John Ward

Supt Steve Long