



By email only

Monday 6 April 2020

Dear Colleague,

## Re: College action to support policing during the outbreak of COVID-19 – 3rd Update

We are writing to update you on the College's efforts to support policing through COVID-19. The latest developments will continue to be posted on our COVID-19 web page.

We are continuing to work at pace to ensure we are best positioned to support our policing colleagues through this difficult period, closely monitoring the impact of COVID-19 on all of our College work. We continue to:

- Be guided by the national advice provided by Government and Public Health Bodies.
- Communicate daily with the NPCC and Home Office and work with NPoCC to provide daily updates to Chief Constables.
- Review and monitor decisions regarding assessment centres, training, examinations and other commitments.
- In partnership with key stakeholders, provide guidance to frontline officers to support in keeping the public safe and reducing the spread of the virus.
- Provide the most up to date information on our dedicated College of Policing COVID-19 web page.

### What new activity is the College undertaking?

Further to the last update, we would like to highlight **new additional key activity** that we are undertaking to ensure policing is best prepared and able to deal with the pandemic:

- **College's commitment to COVID-19 impact on policing.** We are committed to providing policing with the most up-to-date information and guidance during this unprecedented situation. Two key areas of work include:
  - **developing briefings and guidance** on policing during the pandemic. Guidance on the **Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) Regulations 2020** can be found [here](#). An updated version of the guidance was published on 31 March. A briefing document was circulated to police chiefs to highlight key changes to the original guidance.
  - **helping forces to share ideas and learning** to support policing to best respond to the current challenges: we have launched a dedicated [Covid-19 Ideas Survey](#), inviting ideas, shared examples of policing initiatives and suggestions. The information gathered will be considered as part of Op Talla and our national response.
- **Coronavirus Act 2020 Guidance Published:** The College and NPCC published (3 April) [new guidance on additional powers for policing](#) set out in the Coronavirus Act 2020. The new laws **provide policing in England with additional powers relating to potentially infectious persons** and gives powers to the Secretary of State to issue directions relating to events, gatherings and premises. The new laws provide additional powers for **policing to better support healthcare professionals**.

- This **additional guidance** follows on from the Health Protection Regulations guidance published last week to ensure policing provides a measured and consistent approach during this difficult period.
  - Officers should **engage, explain, encourage the public and only enforce as a last resort**.
  - The **guidance includes details on the need for officers to work at the direction or advice of healthcare professionals** in using these powers. **The law allows officers to remove or detain a suspected infectious person** for screening and assessment where necessary. All details are available on our COVID-19 web pages [here](#).
- **Engaging directly with policing:** The College hosted a #wecops Twitter chat on 1 April which gained an overwhelming reach of more than 2.7 million twitter accounts. The twitter chat provided the opportunity to understand how our policing colleagues are feeling and coping during this time. CC Andy Rhodes led the conversation in his capacity as National Lead for Wellbeing. A full transcript and summary will be made available [here](#).
- **Recruitment processes and Police Constable/Special Constable Initial Learning Programmes for Emergency Deployment:** Whilst the resilience of policing is tested, it is essential to continue with the recruitment and training of new officers. Working with the Police Uplift Programme team we have developed a number of 'COVID-19 Emergency Provisions' for Chief Officers which will be shared with heads of HR and L&D. These cover:
    - **Emergency pre-employment processes** including updated guidance on fitness tests, medical assessments and Occupational Health.
    - **Curriculum for Emergency Deployment of Student Officers and Special Constables:** we have developed a revised programme covering the minimum training that new officers need to support their operational colleagues. The curriculum provides learning associated with the basic operations expected of constables on patrol and will maximise the potential of student officers to support policing during this difficult period. Use of this shortened initial learning curriculum as an emergency measure is optional and a matter for consideration by chief officers. It will be stood down after the emergency period.
    - **Online Assessment Centres:** We are developing an assessment centre that meets the required standards and is able to be delivered on-line. We expect to have a solution available within four weeks. A new set of FAQ's have been published [here](#) to help answer questions from policing.
- **Investigators exam:** The Investigators exam scheduled for 2 June 2020 has been postponed. We will give them a **minimum of three months notice** before any exam is to take place.

Thank you for your on-going cooperation. We hope that you and your colleagues will find the regular updates on our COVID-19 web page useful.

With our best wishes at this challenging time.

Stakeholder Engagement Team  
The College of Policing