



Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner

Frequently Asked Questions – Sussex Police Precept

Why is there a 4% increase in the total budget of Council Tax funding?

This increase is calculated by the final tax base and collection fund positions which have been received from billing authorities. The final position for 2015/16 is better than expected and the improved tax base (£1.6m) and collection fund (£1.0m) provides funding of £2.4m higher than assumed.

Why is there a discrepancy of 0.2% between the PCC Council Tax Leaflet and local authority bill?

The information provided on your council tax notice is governed by the "Council Tax (Demand Notice) (England) Regulations 2011 (Statutory Instrument 2011/3038)".

The regulations specifically state that the percentage change for each of the relevant amounts, from the preceding year to the current year, should be expressed to one decimal place. That is why your council tax notice presents the policing precept as 2%.

It is also worth emphasising that the actual increase was agreed as 1.98%, as set out in the Council Tax leaflet from the Police & Crime Commissioner, and this is what you are paying.

How much has the Commissioner's salary increased?

The increase in precept does not result in any increase or bonus to the Commissioner's salary. Salaries for all Police & Crime Commissioners are set by Government. The current rates were introduced in November 2012 when the first election for Commissioners took place. There have been no pay rises since that time.

The Government has recently accepted the recommendation of the Senior Salaries Review Body that the current rates of pay for Police & Crime Commissioners should remain unchanged for 2015/16.

In addition, Mrs Bourne does not claim for any additional expenses or allowances, as is permitted in the regulations.

Why has the total spending plan for 2015/16 decreased but the precept still increased by 1.98%?

The police precept is the element of your Council Tax you pay for policing. It is one of several sources of income for Sussex Police and pays for around 30% of the total annual cost. The largest contribution to police spend (nearly 60%) comes from Government and this has reduced from £174m in 2014/15 to £165.8m in 2015/16. As a result, the overall police spending plan has been reduced.

What is the source of "Other" income in the total funding?

The source of the "other" income in the total police funding includes a number of smaller items, such as the policing of Brighton & Hove Albion football matches, contributions from Gatwick Airport for policing support and policing of other large events in the county.

How were residents consulted on the proposed increase to the precept?

The Commissioner sought the views of Sussex taxpayers regarding the 2015/2016 police precept between October and December 2014 through a number of different channels. This included an online consultation, a paper version of the consultation and through the inclusion of a question in the Local Neighbourhood Survey, carried out by the Citizen Focus Branch within Sussex Police.

The consultation was widely publicised through social media channels, local print media, radio and as part of messages circulated by the Sussex Police Community Messaging System.

A total of 2,061 people responded to the consultation through the online survey. Of which, 1,498 responded with an answer of "yes", which equated to 73%.

In addition, a total of 59 people responded to the consultation through a paper version of the online survey. Of which, 52 responded with an answer of "yes" which equated to 88%.

Through the Local Neighbourhood Survey, a total of 601 Sussex residents were asked, "would you be willing to pay an additional £2.79 on your council tax precept toward policing? Of which, 403 responded with an answer of "yes", which equated to 67%.

A [report](#) was submitted to the Sussex Police & Crime Panel on 23 January 2015 which provides a further breakdown of these responses, in Appendix B.

How much money of the total budget goes out to police pensions?

Sussex Police employees are enrolled in two different pension schemes, depending on their role.

Police Officers are enrolled in the "Police Pension Scheme", which is operated nationally by the Home Office. Details of this scheme, which has recently been reformed, can be found [here](#).

Police Staff (including Police Community Support Officers) are entitled to join the "Local Government Pension Scheme". Sussex Police does not run this internally and makes use of the West Sussex County Council pension scheme. Details of this scheme, including investment plans, can be found [here](#).

Sections 37 & 38 of the [Statement of Accounts](#) demonstrate the amounts that were paid in and out of pensions across 2013/14 (the last year we have published accounts for).

Finally, the budget for next year (2015/16) can be viewed [here](#), in Appendix 2. It highlights that contributions for Police Officers are £24.7m and £1.2m for Police Staff. A further £2.8m is set aside for early retirements through injury and/or ill health.