

A message from
Joy Allen

Durham and Darlington
Police & Crime Commissioner

What is the precept?



The policing precept is the portion of your Council Tax that funds the local police force for Durham and Darlington.

The service is funded from two main sources:

- Central Government grant – approximately 71% of funding
- Policing Precept – approximately 29% of funding

In order to set the budget for Durham Constabulary, the Police and Crime Commissioner must determine the level of policing precept increase. In 2025-26 this increase is capped by Government at £14 (27p per week based on a Band D property).

Police Precept			
Band	Police Precept 2024/25 £	Annual increase 2025/26 £	Police Precept 2025/26 £
A	178.83	9.33	188.16
B	208.63	10.89	219.52
C	238.44	12.44	250.88
D	268.24	14.00	282.24
E	327.85	17.11	344.96
F	387.46	20.22	407.68
G	447.07	23.33	470.40
H	536.48	28.00	564.48

Every year the Police and Crime Commissioner is required to consult on what residents feel is an affordable increase on their Council Tax precept, taking into account cost of living and maintenance spends. Results from the public consultation were extremely supportive of the maximum increase.

Why are the public asked to pay towards policing?

Regrettably, our central government grant has failed to keep pace with the inflation since 2010 and we no longer receive £1 million per year in capital funding to invest in buildings, technology or vehicles.

Police spend per head of the population varies greatly from force to force. In Durham and Darlington, we are limited by the high proportion of households that fall into the lower tax bands of A and B. This means that for every 1% precept increase, Durham can raise approximately £490k- 50% lower than North Yorkshire at £970k.

There are also higher demand pressures than our central grant provides, not to mention unique social challenges owing to our location. We are still one of eleven forces with fewer police officers than in 2010 – a situation that the PCC continues to challenge through lobbying for a fairer settlement.

What was last years precept used for?

The additional income raised from the precept this year has made a strong impact on our capabilities, contributing to investment in:

01

Additional police officers



02

Additional PCSOs into Neighbourhoods



03

Increasing the Special Constabulary



04

Delivery of a new state of the art Custody Hub



05

Delivery of new call handling telephone system and additional resource into the control room



What would this years precept help deliver?

A rise in precept for the year 2025/26 will help to support:

01

Maintaining police officer numbers, increasing visibility on the streets, tackling drink and drug related crime and anti-social behaviour



02

PCSO numbers maintained in Neighbourhoods



03

Further investment in information technology to move towards a more intelligence led, data driven, problem solving approach



04

Investment in roads policing to reduce the number of people killed and seriously injured on our roads



05

Investment into the estate and fleet



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