

## APCC General Meeting Minutes: Thursday July 15 2021:

### Item 1/Item 2: AGM Business:

- Simon Duckworth (SD, City of London) as a retiring APCC board member chaired the first part of the AGM and welcomed new and returning PCCs to the meeting.
- The revised APCC articles were presented for agreement by members, having been circulated to members 14 days in advance. The revised articles were agreed by 37 PCCs. There were no votes against and no abstentions.
- Following proposing and seconding, Members also elected the new APCC Board members who in turn elected a new APCC Chair and 2 Vice Chairs, all of whom are listed at the end of this section. SD thanked the interim acting Chair Roger Hirst (RH, Essex), Board Members and APCC staff for their hard work over the last year.
- Before handing over to the new Chair, SD emphasised the importance of the APCC collegiate approach and said that it had been a privilege to be involved over the last 9 years.
- As newly elected Chair, Marc Jones (MJ, Lincolnshire) took over the AGM business. MJ proposed that PCCs approve the 2020/21 APCC Accounts, the new APCC portfolio leads and deputy leads, and the minutes of the last meeting, which had all been approved by the APCC Board the previous day. These were all agreed by members.
- As the newly appointed Chair of the APCC, MJ spoke to PCCs about his vision and hopes for the year ahead in his new role. MJ emphasised the role of the APCC in supporting PCCs to deliver their Police and Crime Plans and in strengthening partnership relationships. MJ was also keen to ensure the PCC role is understood by parliamentarians. He also thanked a number of key individuals including:
  - RH for his role as acting Chair during the interim last 2 months
  - SD, who is standing down from the Board, for serving on the Board over the past 9 years and supporting the set-up of the APCC.
  - Portfolio leads Katy Bourne (KB, Sussex) for Technology and Matthew Scott (MS, Kent) for Mental Health who are standing down from their portfolio leads after many years of service.
  - The PCCs who did not return after the election who served on the APCC Board.

### Approved/Agreed Actions:

- **APCC Articles:** APCC Articles were approved by 37 of the PCCs / equivalents who were present at the time or had a designated proxy vote (86% of APCC membership). Katy Bourne was the designated proxy voter for 4 PCCs.
- **Election of new APCC Board Members:** Marc Jones, Alison Hernandez, Alun Michael, Roger Hirst, Katy Bourne. David Lloyd and Kim McGuinness were elected as Board Members by the 36 PCCs or equivalents who were present at the time or had a designated proxy vote (84% of APCC membership).
- **Election of APCC Chair:** Marc Jones was elected as the Chair of the APCC for the next 2 years following nomination by Katy Bourne and being seconded by Roger Hirst.
- **Election of APCC Vice Chairs:** Alison Hernandez and Alun Michael were elected as the Vice Chairs of the APCC following nominations and secondments.
- **Approval of 2020/21 APCC Accounts:** The Annual Accounts for the APCC for 2020/21 were approved.
- **Agreement of APCC portfolio leads and deputy leads:** Portfolio Leads, Joint Leads and Deputy Leads were agreed with the amendment that Donna Jones will replace Marc Jones as joint SOC lead with Bev Hughes.
- **Approval of the minutes of the last meeting:** The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

### Item 3: APCC Business and Portfolio Updates (Part 1):

#### Item 3.1: National Police Air Service (NPAS):

- John Champion (JC, West Mercia), Chair of the NPAS Board, updated members on NPAS and started by recognising Mark Burn-Williamson's previous contribution to this work. JC stated that we now need to decide as an Association a more sustainable solution going forward. Alun Michael (AM, South Wales) thanked JC and Dafydd Llywelyn (DL, Dyfed-Powys) for their work and agreed we need to look at a long-term plan and involve the Home Office in it. Philip Seccombe (Warwickshire) asked is there a lead force willing to be involved as an interim measure? Tim Passmore (TP, Suffolk) stated we need to decide on the future of NPAS soon.
- JC reassured members that the APCC will move quickly to a longer-term solution if no lead force comes forward. There is also still a vacancy on the NPAS Board if a PCC is interested. DL added there are no quick fixes on this issue and that the NPAS Board needs to become a wider Aviation Board as part of this development. MJ thanked everyone for their contributions.

#### Item 3.2: Finance Portfolio:

# APCC General Meeting (15.7.21)

- RH (APCC Finance Lead) updated members on the CSR process which is also being supported by some of our OPCC CEOs and CFOs. We need to involve our NPCC counterparts and for new portfolio leads to channel information into the submission for the APCC. The Home Office recently sent a request for financial information which we forwarded onto PCCs but this needs to come back via the APCC for review by July 23<sup>rd</sup> as an important element of the evidence building for this submission.
- The Home Office will be holding a feedback session on the CSR which RH and Alan Billings (AB, Deputy Finance Lead) will be attending. PCCs must include costs relating to fleet, estates, expanding skills capability, and learning and development of new recruits. Additional funding will be included in the submission including for VAWG, CJ, Local Policing and tackling drugs. The APCC do not want to see the precept used to finance pressures such as pensions and are aware that the Home Office and the Treasury are looking for cashable savings.
- RH reported on funding formula work which will be led by a Senior Sector Group that will include 3 PCCs (RH; AB; MJ) who can provide a balance of police force area perspectives. The working timeline for this work is 2023/24. In response to PCC comments RH will include work relating to victims, specialist capabilities, prevention and freeports will be included in this submission.

#### **Item 4: Keynote from Lord Chancellor followed by Q & A:**

- The Lord Chancellor (LC) congratulated the 22 new PCCs following the local elections. He noted the collaborative spirit demonstrated by PCC over the pandemic with the priority of keeping people safe and protecting the public, acknowledging the important role PCCs have to play.
- Getting courts moving at pace is a priority as it means we can deliver justice quickly. However, the national picture does not reflect what is happening regionally, for example great gains have been made in places like Wales. He said that the reduction in cases going through the Crown Court with cases in recent weeks is encouraging alongside the considerable reduction of those in the Magistrates. PCCs have been a real influence in this space.
- However, we cannot be complacent and must work to improve things for victims. No limit has been set for Crown Court sitting days meaning judges can work through cases quicker. Local Criminal Justice Boards are also a forum for improving justice at a local level for victims. There is a need for sharing best practice, ensuring victims received best practice wherever they live.
- The LC noted his commitment to improving the data landscape and supporting data sharing. A high-level data group across MoJ and Home Office has been established with an action plan to oversee data work. PCCs insights into data will be invaluable.
- The LC gave a commitment to pressing the Treasury through the next Spending Review to ensure that victims get the support they need through funding.
- There is a high risk of victim attrition linked to the CC backlogs, particularly for victims of rape and sexual violence. A multi-agency response is crucial in helping victims to stay engaged in the process and PCC lead the way. The LC would appreciate PCC engagement with the new Victims' Code; the Victims' Bill will set out the 12 rights in the Code and the MoJ will work with the APCC in the run up to the consultation.
- The LC acknowledged the failings in the way rape cases have been handled, noting the end to end review into rape, published in June. An action plan has been developed with partners: the aim is to return to 2016 rates of prosecution; the development of a joint working culture between CPS and Police; the limit to information required from victims; and a reduction in the time victims will have to go without their mobile phone.
- He said that it is vital that we protect the public to stop them becoming victims in the first place and reduce the number of people committing crime; to tackle crime we must tackle reoffending. The LC noted the investment in Probation, with a record number of probation service recruits. The Unified Probation Service is also built on collaboration between partners which will cut the cycle of reoffending. PCCs will be able to support here, having experience of commissioning services targeted at specific groups.
- The LC closed by stressing the government's aim to build back safer, through collaboration and cohesion. He believes in PCCs as they are both grounded in, and serving, their local communities.

#### **Q & A:**

- David Lloyd (DL, Hertfordshire), APCC CJS Lead, expressed PCCs thanks for the endorsement of the role of PCCs and LCJB chairs, the commitment to data sharing and working together on the CSR. He asked the LC to comment on disproportionality and how we deal with it across the country?
- The LC thanked DL for representing PCCs on the National Criminal Justice Board. In response to the question, he commented that each part of the system has its own responsibility and acknowledged that there are real pressures across the system. He noted that there is very good practice across the country, highlighting the cases in Wales where multiple partners have been brought together to bring only those

# APCC General Meeting (15.7.21)

cases that really need to go to court down that route. He acknowledged that for places like London, the picture is very complex, for example, here there are far less guilty pleas meaning more cases go through the court system. We therefore cannot look just at the national picture but must drill down to look at best practice and see what we can learn.

- Alison Hernandez (AH, Devon and Cornwall) gave the example of work that the South West region has undertaken to deliver housing as a good example of best practice. She is looking to roll this out further.
  - The LC agreed it was an excellent example and something he would like to see rolled out more widely.
- Jeff Cuthbert (JC, Gwent) noted the work undertaken in Gwent to develop the Victim' hub model which aims to share information with victims in a timely manner. He supported both best practice and information sharing.
  - The LC noted the togetherness demonstrated by Gwent and welcomed the support for data sharing. The Victims' Hub sounds like a very good scheme.
- TP thanked the LC for pressing the Treasury on funding for Victims and asked for an update on the CJS Royal Commission.
  - The LC thanked PCCs for getting the funds out for victims. He noted the pause to the CJS Royal Commission due to the more immediate and pressing issues presented by Covid-19. Pausing will allow time to reflect more fully on the system at the right time.
- Sophie Linden (MOPAC) emphasised the need for sustained investment on RASSO where there are delays. We need additional investment on ISVA and IDVAs consolidated to multi-year settlements so we can properly commission, plan and ensure that demand and complexity can be better met this way. In London specifically, there is a lack of capacity in the courts and greater investment is needed. Though co-commissioning in probation is very welcome, more flexibility in delivering contracts is needed.
  - The LC shared frustrations over timings. He noted that the Policing Minister is chairing an action group on RASSO and such issues. The funding question reflects the wider work on CSR and gives the opportunity to make the case for ISVAs and IDVAs; we have hard evidence that these are excellent services. On capacity, setting up super-courts is logistically difficult but we continue to look at sites to assess feasibility. It was suggested that some cases could be pushed out of London to spread the load.
- Emily Spurrell (ES, Merseyside), APCC CJS Deputy Lead, also noted the frustrating timelines around victims' grants and instability of year-long pots of funding and emphasised that PCCs are still waiting on some funding to come through. She welcomed the Rape Review recommendations and action plan but noted the need to look at the wider culture of rape myths and victim blaming.
  - The LC paid tribute to Liverpool Crown Court. He said that ES was right to hold him to account on funding and that the SR is about ensuring we get more consistent funding streams. He noted that part of the review the Law Commission is undertaking is looking into trial process and the law is stripping away misconceptions such as rape myths.
- John Dwyer (JD, Cheshire) shared concerns over the CPS asking for too much evidence and thereby taking away police time from tackling crime and supporting communities. He asked if a review could be arranged on case files in order to ensure the correct amount of evidence is provided to free up police time.
  - The LC commented on the need for better quality files and the historic issues of CPS getting poor quality files to the point that cases have discontinued. The DPP has agreed to challenge poor case files but this should not become burdensome. Evidence provided should be enough but should bear in mind further evidence can always be provided. He noted that the uplift to police officers is about quality in investigation not just neighbourhood policing.

**Further Questions to be shared with LC:** The following questions were sent to the LC after the meeting:

- Mark Shelford (MS, Avon and Somerset): Can we prevent prisoners being released on a Friday or Bank Holiday when they cannot access local government departments and support? Can we please check offenders ID as they go into Prison as a matter of course) and if they do not have ID then apply for it then so by the time they leave apply for support including housing etc?
- Caroline Henry (CH, Nottinghamshire): What is the Government's aspiration for out of court disposals? Will there be a national approach for consistency? Will there be safeguards to prevent a public perception of sentences being potentially weakened, especially on both DV and sex crime?

**Approved/Agreed Actions:**

- The APCC will email any outstanding PCC questions to the Lord Chancellor and circulate the replies.

**Item 5: Presentation from Home Office Permanent Secretary Matthew Rycroft followed by Q & A:**

- The Permanent Secretary Matthew Rycroft (MR) thanked the APCC for all its work. He noted the success of the PUP programme, not just the numbers but also the opportunity to improve quality and diversity.

# APCC General Meeting (15.7.21)

- On the Home Office role and priorities MR noted:
  - The National Crime and Policing Measures set out key government priorities, but with scope for PCCs to reflect these appropriately in and for their own areas. PCCs would want to consider this in developing their Police and Crime Plans.
  - The national Crime Plan will be published soon.
  - There is a particular concern to use data to improve performance and transparency.
  - Part 2 of the Dame Carol Black Independent Review of drugs has been published and the government would respond in the next couple of weeks. A new Joint Drugs Unit has been established in the Home Office – bringing together HO, DHSC, MOJ, DWP, DfE, and MHCLG. This will ensure a relentless focus on drugs across government given the strong links to crime, serious violence and acquisitive offending. tackling drug supply and demand would also be a key issue for the next CSR, where the government would be looking to match their ambition and investment. He noted the involvement of PCCs in the Project Adder pilots.
- MR also noted how public safety fitted into the overall mission of the Home Office. It was one of three missions alongside migration and borders and homeland security (terrorism, cyber-crime, etc), with other resource organised in cross-cutting capabilities.
- Finally, MR noted that Tricia Hayes was now the second Permanent Secretary in the Home Office. A new Director General would be appointed, in the interim Rachel Watson was ‘acting up’ in the Director General role. The Home Office is embarked on a wider transformation programme – including addressing culture, use of tech and data, etc.

## Q&A:

- MJ asked about the announcement of the review of the Funding Formula and sought a commitment a revised funding formula would be delivered, noting that there had been some false starts.
  - MR reported that the Home Office is committed to making progress on the Funding Formula ASAP; the formula is out of date and funding needs to be distributed more fairly, and to support efficiency too.
- JD raised a concern about the bureaucracy for the recording of crime, particularly ‘crimes within crimes’ being recorded as separate offences, where the victim’s experience is that one offence has been committed against them and they want it investigated. He asked the Permanent Secretary to review the Home Office counting rules which were not fit for purpose.
  - MR undertook to take a look at the counting rules and get back; we all want to ensure the best possible service for victims and that victims are at centre of the process.
- KB highlighted the impact on victims and services where the release of Home Office funding was delayed. While Sussex had had its VRU and Grip Funding confirmed, it had not received the funding for the ‘Teachable Moments’ programme run by Brighton and Hove Albion in the Community, which was working on diversion for young people. It had been promised for June 25th, then for last week, but still had not arrived, and one programme had been shut. Could the Permanent Secretary please expedite this?
  - MR responded by noting that this was probably about Home Office requirements that had to be met to release the funding. It was very disappointing if projects were being pulled because money that had been approved had not been released.
- MS said as a new PCC his impression was that the Home Office provided funding for specific issues, with a relatively short time to bid, and when awarded there was often a requirement to spend the money in a short period. A more strategic view would be welcome e.g. pre-announcing ‘money for this will become available over the year’ and not requiring it to be spend within a narrow time frame.
  - MR would look into this point internally and report back.
- CH asked if the Home Office envisaged a role for PCCs in the Prevent and Protect Counter-terrorism work.
  - MR said he would investigate and come back.
- Ben Adams (Staffordshire) asked about the balance between the NCA and regional work on SOC, etc., and felt that the ROCUs could end up becoming less regional and more national as the NCA role was expanded.
  - MR noted that the Government’s manifesto included a commitment to strengthen the NCA but added that there were several ways this could be done e.g increasing its national role and responsibilities or its involvement in regional arrangements, or both, or something else.

He said that there is a broader issue of the status of the NCA and how it fits in the wider policing system: it is neither a government department, nor an independent statutory agency, nor a police force, although there are elements of all three. The reach of the NCA into the regions was an open question and the Home Office would appreciate PCCs continuing input into those discussion. The ultimate concern is that our shared fight on organised crime is being hampered by our system architecture.
- AB thanked the Home Office for its handling of the legacy issues in South Yorkshire, notably Hillsborough and the Rotherham CSE/CSA cases. He appreciated how helpful and sensitive Home Office officials had been in their handling of these difficult issues.
- Darryl Preston (Cambridgeshire) noted John Dwyer’s earlier point and added that forces were also having

# APCC General Meeting (15.7.21)

to record offences where a policing/CJS response was inappropriate (e.g. two ten year olds sharing a sexual image and this being recorded as a sexual offence).

- MR agreed there needed to have a proportionate response, and this was an issue/area that needed to be worked through earlier. He noted the Home Office focus on ethics, with the report on the Windrush scandal providing a focus that was helping to drive a wider transformation programme, which was putting an ethnical decision framework at the centre of things.

## **Item 6: Presentation from Domestic Abuse Commissioner Nicole Jacobs followed by Q & A: (Chaired by Donna Jones – APCC Joint Victims lead)**

- Donna Jones (Hampshire) introduced Nicole Jacobs (NJ), as the first Domestic Abuse Commissioner. NJ introduced her role and that of her office. The office of the Domestic Abuse Commissioner is an arms-length body, set up to advise and hold the government to account. The DA office was created as a recognition that reform is needed. Systems have not kept pace with the evolving view of what constitutes domestic abuse.
- NJ set out some key statistics:
  - 50% of sexual violence and stalking is related to domestic abuse, with a huge overlap between domestic abuse and other violence. NJ therefore sees the role of commissioner as cross cutting with wider areas.
  - 2.3 million adults were affected by domestic abuse in the year ending March 2021. This is a hugely prevalent issue when compared to the amount we struggle to deal with. Despite the fact that many who suffer abuse do not report it the police, it still takes up a large volume of police time.
- The interim HMICFRS report suggests a need for a step change in culture. Domestic abuse does not sit in one area, and we need a coordinated community response informed by lived experience. Health, housing, charities etc. must be aligned and early interventions are needed.
- NJ noted that sustained funding is needed to build a coherent picture for individuals in the system and for the specialist services which are so valuable for victims and survivors. Sharing learning across areas and working in consortium to share specialist services for groups are both key.
- Covid-19 has driven up service demand with an increased uptake of community-based services. NJ noted there is an ongoing call with stakeholders on the impacts of Covid.
- A report commissioned by Safe Lives about court support highlighted the lack of support in relation to the family court. Changes are need and this will be a priority of the DA office. NJ asked PCCs to consider what support is available in their areas.
- The Domestic Abuse Act provides good provisions for new offences which the DA office is tracking. They will work with THE APCC to communicate those implementation dates.
- As a priority NJ's office is mapping community based services in order to understand what is available. This will influence Spending Review bids and the Victims' Funding Strategy. The aim is to complete this by August. The office is also looking into an oversight mechanism for reviews to ensure recommendations get taken forward and investment pays off.

### **Q & A:**

- CH asked if PCCs have been involved in the community based services mapping? She also noted that the DA Duty on Local Authorities will have a big impact on the agenda locally. Does the DA Commissioner have any thoughts on how PCCs can ensure consistency of approaches across their areas?
- The DA Commissioner commented that to avoid complicating the picture they had not asked PCCs to send the survey. She said that there is need to build strong strategic partnerships and mapping is a good place to start. She noted that there is a clear tension is around budgets as they do not sit with one entity and are a shared problem, so it is a case of coming together. There is a need for strong leadership.
- TP noted the increase of cases in his area with only 50% willing to go through court, did the DAC have evidence as to why this is? And why do victims and children have to move and not perpetrators?
- The DA Commissioner noted there is a reasonable expectation of collecting evidence from police or victim as why a victim does not want to go ahead but this should be fast tracked. We need to understand what needs to put in place to support those callouts and victims, officers need skill and training to protect and link to services for victims. We need evidence on what works best and can give more support on how perpetrators are dealt with in different areas. The Home Office is drafting a perpetrator strategy which could do this. She noted the perpetrator reference group which she chairs, hopefully work stemming from this will have influence.
- ES asked about the efficacy of the blunt/safe knives scheme and whether it dies reduce the risk of stabbing?

# APCC General Meeting (15.7.21)

- The DA Commissioner agreed she understood the logic but commented that she felt it was 'gimmicky' as it does not get to the core issue. Though knives are a common method of harm, there is an argument that a perpetrator would find another way if harm were meant.
- KB expressed an interest in joining the perpetrator group. She was one of the first areas to fund Drive and is undertaking a perpetrator project. She asked we work with service providers to improve professionalism, to ensure fair and open competition between them and allow PCCs to choose the best service for their area.
- The DA Commissioner agree that we need to understand and know outcomes and standards; it is something that is on her mind and will be looking into.

**Approved/Agreed Action:**

- NJ agreed to share slides.

**Item 7: APCC Business and Portfolio Updates (Part 1 continued):**

**Item 7.1: Police Digital Service (PDS):**

- Stephen Mold (Northamptonshire), Chair of the PDS, updated members the PDS AGM will be held on Thursday July 28<sup>th</sup>. The PDS is also expanding and improving on the National Management Centre. AH raised a key point about PCCs linking into the Single Online Home.

**Item 7.2: BlueLight Commercial:**

- MS, Chair of BlueLight Commercial, noted that the update on all the activity BlueLight Commercial the Company was undertaking could be found in the meeting papers. He highlighted the need to have a conversation on the future sustainability of the Company and that should start soon. While the Home Office had agreed to fund the Company for its first 3 years if it did not continue to fund it thereafter then other options such as subscriptions would need to be considered. The Board were meeting later in the day to begin that discussion. MJ mentioned that BLC had done some incredible work and was making a big difference.

**Approved/Agreed Actions:**

- The APCC will field and send PCC questions regarding both PDS and BLC respectively and circulate the responses back.

**Item 8: In conversation with Rt Hon David Lammy MP Shadow Secretary of State for Justice and Shadow Lord Chancellor:**

- Alison Lowe (AL, West Yorkshire), APCC Lead on EDHR, introduced Rt Hon David Lammy (DL) MP, the Shadow Lord Chancellor and Shadow Secretary of State for Justice. AL outlined DL would be talking about race disparity and disproportionality in the Criminal Justice System, as highlighted by his 2017 [report](#).
- DL stated that the Lammy Review was a cross-party initiative that was received favourably. David compared the reception to his Review with that received by the Government's Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities' [report](#) earlier this year.
- DL observed that since the publication of his Review race disparities in the CJS had got worse: a higher percentage of young people involve in the YJS are now from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) backgrounds; diversity amongst the senior judiciary had not improved; there has been no marked increase in the percentage of Black officers in the police workforce.
- DL stated that it was essential to address race disparities, particularly when Serious Violence is blighting all our communities. He stated his disappointment that the Government has disbanded the Serious Violence Task Force.
- DL underlined the importance of PCCs looking closely at equality impacts and ensuring that Community Scrutiny Panels are made up of members from diverse communities. He stated that in parts of the country with low population diversity, Black communities can easily feel very targeted by some policing methods. DL emphasised the key role that PCCs can play as leaders in challenging overrepresentation.
- DL also stated the importance of consider the needs of Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller (GRT) communities.

**Q & A:**

AL then invited DL to answer the following pre-submitted questions:

- If there was one thing that we could do as PCCs/Deputy Mayors for Policing and Crime to positively impact the overrepresentation of Black people within the CJS, what would that be?
  - DL stated that there is no one 'silver bullet', but underlined factors including the quality of legal advice young people receive when in custody; poor performance of Youth Offender Teams (YOTs) in terms of rehabilitation; and the importance of youth diversion.
- How can we improve confidence for people from Black and Racial Minority (BRM) communities in regard to recruitment in the Criminal Justice agencies, particularly around the vetting systems?
  - DL underlined the need for greater flexibility in terms of addressing the low level of Black representation

# APCC General Meeting (15.7.21)

within the police workforce.

- How can the balance of providing a visible policing presence with mitigating the potential for rises in disproportionality be best be achieved?
  - DL underlined the huge importance of officers recruited as a part of the Police Uplift Programme to understand the impact of unconscious bias in relation to race. DL stated that often, people of the same age, committing the same crime, will have a different outcome dependent on their race and class.
  - DL stated that if a young Black person receives a criminal conviction, this will diminish their prospects of employment and could incentivise them to commit further crime. DL stated that this is particularly important to consider, given that Black youth unemployment is currently ten times higher than for White young people.
- Is there recognition that the method of recording ethnicity in the CJS needs to be unified across agencies in order to implement a National framework to ensure disproportionality can be captured consistently?
  - DL underlined the need to interrogate simplistic groupings within data in order to better understand the issues communities face. He stated that in many parts of the country there is a need for greater specificity, citing the overrepresentation of the Somali community in the CJS in some parts of the country.
 AL then invited questions from participants. The following questions were posed:
  - What are your thoughts around early intervention and prevention in helping the police to tackle disproportionality?
    - DL underlined the importance of early intervention and stated that there have been significant cuts to financial support for 'troubled families'.
  - How do we emphasise the ethical issues of buying drugs to the consumer?
    - DL stated that there is not enough emphasis on this and observed how many of the young Black people involved in selling drugs are simply at the front end of an industry run by serious criminals. DL stated that cuts to the UK Border Agency had damaged the UK's ability to fight the drug trade. He underlined the need for a clear set of Government policies on drugs.

## Item 9: APCC Business and Portfolio Updates (Part 2):

### Item 9.1: Police Technology and Digital Portfolio:

- KB reported that after leading the APCC digital and tech portfolio for many years, she is now handing over this portfolio to Matthew Barber (Thames Valley) and Andy Dunbobbin (North Wales) which includes some major law enforcement programmes. PCCs are welcome to attend any portfolio meeting and she thanked previous as well as present PCCs and Paul Dutton at the APCC for their work in this area, as well as welcoming Libby Avery who is supporting this work.

### Item 9.2: Workforce:

- Kim McGuinness (KM, Northumbria), APCC Workforce Lead, reported that there were 3 important matters to update PCCs on:
  1. Police Staff Council pay offer: The APCC have already written to PCCs to get their view.
  2. Police Staff Council Funding: The APCC have also written to PCCs about this. KM felt this Council does some good work and PCCs should keep funding it.
  3. Special Constabulary Federation membership: The APCC has been trying to get a reduced membership fee for Specials from the Police Federation. Some members felt that the Police Federation should be contributing more towards these subscriptions although it was recognised that Specials are not paid employees. Some members were keen to get further information on this if possible.

### Item 9.3: Local Policing:

- AH and JC (APCC local policing leads) updated members on a range of issues falling under the Local Policing Portfolio which includes tackling anti-social behaviour and improving 101 calls. PCCs are invited to come to portfolio meetings and the Road Safety Portfolio where the APCC are influencing the national road strategy. JC noted an overlap with other portfolios which is constructive and the portfolio's intention to produce some briefing notes that PCCs can use when drawing up their Police and Crime Plans. MJ is very keen to promote both local policing and road safety portfolio work.

## Item 10: AOB and Close:

- MJ thanked PCCs and APCC Staff for their attendance. The next General Meeting will be on Wednesday October 13<sup>th</sup>/Thursday October 14<sup>th</sup> which we hope to have in person. The AGM was closed.