



Home Office

Home Secretary

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Rt Hon Yvette Cooper MP  
Chair, Home Affairs Committee  
House of Commons  
London  
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01 May 2020

Dear Chair,

### **20,000 Police Officer Uplift Programme**

I am writing to provide the Committee with an update on the recruitment of 20,000 additional police officers in England and Wales.

The Home Office has today (30 April) published the first quarterly update on progress made towards the recruitment of an additional 20,000 police officers. Today's figures show, as at 31 March 2020, 3,005 additional officers have been recruited towards the target of 20,000. This publication also covers wider recruitment to 31 March 2020. Between November 2019 to March 2020, 6,435 officers were recruited in forces (with 3,005 counting towards the uplift).

These figures reflect the hard work and commitment of forces across the country and I am extremely grateful to those brave men and women who have signed up to join the police and keep our communities safe. The full publication can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/police-officer-uplift-quarterly-update-to-march-2020>


Events around the COVID-19 outbreak continue to move at pace. Our main concern is clearly managing the spread of the virus to protect the NHS and keep people safe.

The impact of COVID-19 has led to all forces suspending police recruitment assessment centres on the advice and guidance of the NPCC and College of Policing. In light of this, the College of Policing has rapidly developed a new, online assessment process, which will allow forces to use a secure platform as an alternative way to assess candidates without the need for face-to-face contact, whilst maintaining current standards in recruitment. The online assessment centre launched this week in two forces (West Midlands Police and Hampshire Constabulary) with all forces having access to this system by June. I am confident that this initiative will help support forces to maintain recruitment and resilience during this critical period.

The College of Policing has also issued emergency guidance to allow Chief Constables to deploy newly recruited officers safely on accompanied patrol as quickly as possible to support operational resilience. The temporary eight-week training programme provides learning associated with the basic operations expected of constables on patrol. New recruits who undertake the temporary programme will go on to complete the full training curriculum once COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted. These measures are both examples of policing responding professionally and quickly to the crisis.

Whilst the current COVID-19 crisis has presented challenges, police recruitment remains a top priority for this Government to ensure forces remain resilient during and following this national crisis.

A copy of this letter will be placed in the libraries of both Houses.

*With all good wishes*  


**Rt Hon Priti Patel MP**