



Strategic Policing and Crime Board

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Fees and Charges 2024/25

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Purpose of Paper

1. This report details the proposed fees and charges to be made by West Midlands Police for services provided from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.

Introduction and Background

2. West Midlands Police levies a charge to users for certain services. These rates are reviewed and approved on an annual basis. The attached document details the proposed fees and charges for 2024/25. It is important that the Force charges, where appropriate, to ensure that income is raised to offset the costs of delivering the services.
3. The proposed rates for 2024/25 have been calculated using the latest guidance issued by the National Police Chief's Council (NPCC) in their document National Policing Guidelines on Charging for Policing Services 2024.

The document separates charges into the following areas:

- (a) Charges for items where the guidance recommends minimum levels of charges for 2024/25. The attached booklet details these in Sections 1 to 11.
- (b) Statutorily set charges where the Police and Crime Commissioner has no choice but to charge the rates set out by the Home Office: these are mainly for firearm licenses. These are in Section 12 of the attached booklet.
- (c) Where a company requests it, the Police may make a charge for vehicle costs for escorting abnormal loads. These are set out in Section 13 of the attached booklet.

- (d) Road users caught exceeding the speed limit may attend a speed awareness course and pay a fee rather than receive penalty points in certain circumstances. These are set out in Section 14 of the attached booklet.
- (e) Charges for special policing services (SPS). These are police services provided over and above core policing at the request of a person or an organisation which are typically events including football, concerts etc. These are included in Section 15 for commercial events and Section 16 for non commercial events. These charges have been calculated using the NPCC guidance in terms of cost recovery calculations.
- (f) Section 17 of the booklet contains charges relating to the Policing Education Qualifications Framework (PEQF). This is when training establishments use the Force's trainers. Section 18 details the charges for documentaries/ filming.
- (g) Considerations around intellectual property rights and copyright have been included for the first time at Section 19 as advised by the NPCC.

Special Policing Services – National Guidance

- 4 The NPCC guidance on charging for events has the central principle that policing cannot charge for services which fall within their ordinary public duty i.e. those services the police are duty bound to provide. The duty is described as being a duty owed to the public at large for the prevention of violence and disorder. Whether Policing Services are chargeable as Special Police Services (SPS) depends on a number of issues in most cases, the answer can be ascertained by addressing the following questions: -
 1. Has there been a request for the services to be provided?
 - a. No – the services are not SPS.
 - b. Yes – continue to question 2.
 2. Are the services to be provided on private land (i.e. land which is owned or leased by a private individual or body)?
 - a. Yes – it is likely the services are SPS.
 - b. No – continue to question 3.
 3. Are the services to be provided on land which is ordinarily accessible to the public, but where access is restricted for the duration of the service provision (for example, areas closed off to non-ticket holders)?
 - a. Yes – it is likely the services are SPS, but legal advice should be obtained before proceeding.
 - b. No – continue to question 4.
 4. Are the services to be provided on public land?
 - a. Yes - the services are unlikely to be SPS unless the services requested are in excess of that which the Chief Constable considers necessary to provide to satisfy the police's public duties. Legal advice should be obtained before proceeding.
 - b. No – the services could be SPS.

- 5 If there is any doubt about whether services provided in response to a request are SPS the NPCC guidance states legal advice should be obtained. The national guidance also states there are other factors to be considered include consideration of the nature of the services to be provided. If they are being provided for the benefit of the general public in relation to a public event, they are unlikely to be SPS, but if they are being provided for a private purpose, then they may well be SPS. Policing of events such as protests and marches are part of core activity and no charges should be made.

Special Policing Services – Charges for Policing Football

- 6 Football deployments are made in line with individual contracts with each club. All are based on a nationally agreed threat and risk analysis matrix that categorises each fixture. The 2023/24 charges and the proposed charges for 2024/25 set out in Section 13 of the attached booklet have been calculated using NPCC guidance.
- 7 The proposed rates for 2024/25 assume a pay award of 2.5% for police officers from September 2024. If the pay award is higher than 2.5% then the rates in Section 13 will be increased.
- 8 The charges for public holidays for 2024/25 have been reviewed against the NPCC guidance and this has resulted in a reduction in the rate between years.

Special Policing Services – Other Events

- 9 Using the national criteria detailed in paragraph 5 of this report, to charge for Special Police Services other than football, the rates set out Sections 13,15 and 16 of the attached booklet will be applied.
- 10 Again, if the pay award is higher than 2.5% then the rates in Section 13, 15 &16 will be increased for 2024/25.

Speed Awareness Courses

- 11 During 2024/25, WMP will begin running speed awareness courses in-house, and therefore needs to set a competitive rate with other providers, ensuring that the best quality of course is delivered, and that drivers in the West Midlands choose us as a provider.
- 12 Any income over and above the full recovery of the function is reinvested back into Road Safety and Roads Policing in accordance with the Road Safety Act 2006.

Rates Set Nationally by the Home Office

- 13 Section 12 of the attached booklet sets out charges for services that are set nationally by the Home Office. Due to these rates being set nationally they do not reflect the costs of administering the charge / service. For example, it has been calculated that West Midlands Police in 2024/25 will make a loss of £339.8k administering shotgun and firearms licensing.
- 14 Nationally, based on a survey of other forces in 2018, the loss from forces administering shotgun and firearms licenses been estimated across all police

forces as a loss of circa £10m per annum. This loss will now be higher due to the impacts of inflation and the increased requirements on forces to complete checks on applicants following the tragic incident in Plymouth in 2021.

- 15 The Home Office undertook a consultation on this area which ended in August 2023 but there has been no further information since, with the Home Office simply stating that the Government response to the consultation would be published 'in due course'. In February 2024 a further consultation was launched on removing a firearm accessory known as a sound moderator from firearms licensing controls.

Financial Implications

- 16 The total budget in 2024/25 for fees and charges is £4.02m. This report sets out the how fees and charges will be calculated for the 2024/25 financial year.

Legal Implications

- 17 Fees and charges are governed by Section 25 of the Police Act 1996 and Section 2 of the Road Safety Act 2006.

Recommendation

- 18 The Board is asked to note the contents of this report.

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