



Update from
Barry Coppinger
Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland
January 2019

What's new this month.....

- ⇒ Commissioner's January update
- ⇒ PCC update following resignation of Chief Constable Mike Veale
- ⇒ Chief Constable Lee Freeman temporarily takes the reins at Cleveland Police
- ⇒ Commissioner welcomes outlawing of upskirting

"I'd like to wish a Happy New Year to all of my newsletter subscribers, old or new, and to thank you for your continued interest in my work.



"The new year has brought some changes in leadership at Cleveland Police, which I will go into more detail about below.

"I have always supported the Force against the unfair criticisms it sometimes faces – and have driven forward a reform programme to address problems and issues where they have arisen.

"Continuing the criticisms whilst ignoring the huge improvements in Cleveland Police as an organisation, works to the detriment of the fantastic officers, staff and volunteers who work to keep Cleveland's communities safe 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

"I have not shied away from the Force's historical challenges and have addressed them with the transparency expected of me as a Police &

⇒ Victims of child sexual abuse urged to come forward to the Truth Project

⇒ Commissioner for Counter Terrorism visits Cleveland

⇒ Your Force Your Voice update

⇒ And more...

Crime Commissioner. If I face criticisms for those decisions then so be it. I am elected to make the right decisions, not the easy ones.

“Residents of Cleveland can continue to rely on the dedicated teams of brave, hard-working officers and staff to deliver local policing in their communities and keep them safe.”

Barry Coppinger

Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland

PCC update following the resignation of Chief Constable Mike Veale

As you may have seen in the press in the last week, Mike Veale has resigned from his position as Chief Constable with immediate effect.

His resignation came after the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner became aware of allegations about Mr Veale’s behaviour while at Cleveland Police.

Due to the serious nature of the allegations, the matter has been referred to the Independent Office for Police Conduct.

At this point, I want to repeat advice not to speculate on the nature of the allegations Mr Veale faces. Individuals raising concerns are entitled to confidentiality, protection from any detriment and respect for their welfare. I will not offer any further comment on these matters.

The Force is on a journey of improvement and transformation, particularly in addressing and exposing poor behaviour and conduct. In 2018 they were recognised by Equality North East as the first police force in the UK to

receive their independent gold standard for Equality and Diversity, a testament to the changing culture and ethos of the organisation.

Residents of Cleveland can continue to rely on the dedicated teams of brave, hard-working officers and staff to deliver local policing in their communities and keep them safe.

You can read the PCC's [full statement](#) on the changes in Cleveland Police leadership on his website.

Lee Freeman appointed as Interim Chief Constable of Cleveland Police

The Police and Crime Commissioner has secured Humberside Chief Constable Lee Freeman to lead Cleveland Police on a temporary secondment.

The three month arrangement was agreed by Humberside Police and Crime Commissioner Keith Hunter on Monday 21st January, following the resignation of Chief Constable Mike Veale three days prior.

Mr Freeman made his first visit to the Force on Wednesday 23rd January and took up his post full-time on Monday 28th January.

PCC Barry Coppinger said: "I would like to express my thanks to Keith and his team at Humberside for their continued support in facilitating these arrangements.

"Lee has an excellent track record and comes highly recommended.

"I'm sure he will quickly establish himself and will bring a period of stability while we look to begin the recruitment process for a new Chief Constable."



Read more about [Mr Freeman's background](#) on the PCC's website.

Commissioner welcomes news that 'upskirting' will become a criminal offence



Police and Crime Commissioner Barry Copping has welcomed news that taking a photograph up someone's skirt will become a criminal offence.

Following an 18-month campaign by victim Gina Martin, the Voyeurism Bill was passed by the House of Lords earlier this month, with the stamp of Royal Assent expected to take place in the spring.

Mr Copping said: "It's shocking to think that until very recently, taking a photograph up someone's skirt was not a criminal offence.

"No one should have the right to invade the personal space of another person and commit what is no doubt a sexually motivated and degrading crime.

"I applaud Gina for making the brave shift from victim to campaigner and for having the tenacity to take on the UK criminal justice system and win."

Victims of child sexual abuse asked to contact the Truth Project

Victims of child sexual abuse are being asked to consider sharing their experiences of

The Truth Project was created for victims and survivors of child sexual abuse to share their experience and forms part of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA), which was set up following serious concerns that some organisations had failed and were continuing to fail to protect children from sexual abuse.

Over 2,000 victims have already come forward.



Read more about the [Truth Project](#) and how they can help victims share their stories

Your Force Your Voice

Your Force Your Voice is the PCC's personal commitment to attend public meetings in every one of Cleveland's Neighbourhood Police Team areas, as well as meeting with specialist policing units.



Public engagements during January 2019

Community meetings were limited during December, but Mr Coppinger will attend the following public engagements:

- Divert Public Consultation, Castlegate Shopping Centre, Stockton
- Volunteers Celebration Event, Community Safety Hub
- Strategic Independent Advisory Group, Community Safety Hub
- Belle Vue Residents Meeting, Belle Vue Community Centre, Hartlepool
- Eston Neighbourhood Action Partnership, Guisborough Street, Eston

Meet your PCC – February 2019

- **Cleveland Police and Crime Panel, Jim Cooke Conference Suite, Stockton Library**
Tuesday 5 February 2019, 17:00-19:00
- **Longbeck Neighbourhood Action Partnership, Gleneagles Community Centre, New Marske**
Thursday 7 February 2019, 14:00-15:00

- **Hartlepool Chinese New Year Celebrations, The Grand Hotel, Hartlepool**
Sunday 17 February 2019, 12:00-14:00
- **Clavering Residents Group, Hartfield Retirement Village, Bishop Cuthbert**
Tuesday 26 February 2019, 18:00-19:00

To invite the PCC to your community meeting or event, please contact Sarah Wilson, Commissioner's Officer for Consultation and Engagement on sarah.wilson@cleveland.pnn.police.uk or 01642 301446.

Commissioner for Counter Terrorism visits Cleveland

Earlier this month, agencies across Cleveland were given the opportunity to share their experiences of extremism,

as part of a national call for evidence.

The Commission for Countering Extremism visited the region to find out how local organisations were identifying signs of extremism and how they were tackling it.

The PCC opened the event with Lead Commissioner Sara Khan (pictured right), who is responsible for developing strategies for tackling extremism in all its forms.

The consultation into extremism is now closed.

Find out more about the Commission for Countering Extremism [here](#).

The PCC's newsletter is distributed every month. For a full range of news about the work of his office, please visit our [website](#), or follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

If you have any feedback or comments about the newsletter, please contact Hannah Smith, Support Officer for PCC Services and Communications on hannah.smith@cleveland.pnn.police.uk

Need a previous edition? They're archived [here](#).



Hannah Smith

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