

From: Matthew Scott, Kent Police and Crime Commissioner
To: Kent and Medway Police and Crime Panel
Subject: Preparations for leaving the European Union
Date: 27 September 2018



INTRODUCTION:

1. As outlined in the 'Safer in Kent' Plan, part of the PCC's role is to ensure the Chief Constable has the resources he needs to deliver effective policing across the county.
2. As the 'Gateway to Europe', Kent Police faces some very unique challenges with ferry ports, the Channel Tunnel and miles of coastline. Kent also has more motorways by distance than any other county, and some of the busiest, with significant levels of traffic flowing through the ports and a corresponding high level of freight and HGVs.
3. Kent's officers and staff are on the frontline in protecting the country from terrorism and international criminality, including human trafficking and drugs smuggling which are of course national challenges.
4. Following the outcome of the referendum, this paper provides a brief overview of how the PCC is engaging locally and nationally to ensure policing in the county and nationally is as prepared as it can be for the UK leaving the European Union on 29 March 2019.

LOCAL ENGAGEMENT:

5. The PCC has undertaken a number of extended visits across Kent to see first-hand how Kent Police, and other agencies such as Highways England, are responding to the challenges of preparing for the UK's exit from the European Union.
6. This has included visiting policing operations at both the Port of Dover and the Channel Tunnel – where the PCC was able to see first-hand what alterations may need to be implemented depending on the type of deal secured with the European Union by the Government.
7. There are also plans for the PCC to visit the Kent Police team in Coquelles in the near future to understand any potential impact on the juxtaposed border controls.
8. In November 2017, the PCC met with the former Chief of Staff at the Department for Exiting the European Union. During the meeting the PCC raised Kent-specific issues such as Operation Stack, and protection of the juxtaposed border controls which are a bi-lateral agreement and not European Union specific.
9. Further to this, the PCC has engaged with the Department of Transport on the lack of available Advanced Passenger Information to aid policing activities in relation to passengers and vehicles using the ferry ports and the Channel Tunnel.
10. In September 2017, the PCC appointed a Head of Strategy and Engagement whose portfolio includes monitoring preparations ahead of the UK's exit from the European Union which may affect policing.
11. To date, the Head of Strategy and Engagement has visited policing operations at Dover and Longport – with a visit to Coquelles planned for next month. On behalf of the PCC, they have also attended meetings with the Centre for European Studies at Canterbury Christ Church University in order to contribute to their upcoming report preliminarily titled 'Delivering a Brexit Border: Customs, Immigration, Policing Cooperation and Transport/Infrastructure'.

NATIONAL INFLUENCE:

12. Nationally, in May 2018 the PCC was appointed the Association of Police and Crime Commissioner's Co-National Lead on Exiting the European Union. As part of this role the PCC has met with representatives of the Metropolitan Police Service, the National Police Chiefs' Council, and the National Crime Agency in order to be briefed on preparations to maintain policing cooperation once the UK leaves the European Union.

13. On 17 July 2018 the PCC co-chaired a national meeting of all PCCs to discuss the preparations – there was also representation from the National Police Chiefs' Council, the National Crime Agency, the Home Office, the Crown Prosecution Service and Border Force.
14. As a consequence of the meeting, the PCC, along with his two Co-National Leads wrote to the Home Secretary to promote the necessity for a deal to be secured in relation to security and policing as soon as possible. A copy of the letter can be found [here](#).
15. The letter also attracted a lot of media interest, and the PCC explained the concerns to national media including BBC Radio 5 Live and Channel 4 - click [here](#) to watch the Channel 4 interview, which also features the PCC for Leicestershire.
16. Regular briefings also continue to take place between the Association of Police and Crime Commissioner's leads and the National Police Chiefs' Council.

HOLDING TO ACCOUNT:

17. Ahead of the United Kingdom leaving the European Union, the PCC is continuing to work closely with the Chief Constable and other senior police officers and staff to fully understand the potential impact on policing.
18. Kent Police's preparedness for the 29 March 2019, and potential options in the event of a 'No Deal' exit, are now regularly discussed during the PCC and Chief Constable's weekly 1:1 meetings.
19. On behalf of the PCC, the Chief Executive is also a standing member of Kent Police's Operation Blythe Gold Group. Chaired by an Assistant Chief Constable, this group is responsible for engaging with partners to understand the potential implications of the UK's exit from the European Union, and plan for the county accordingly.
20. One of the principle ways the PCC holds the Chief Constable to account is through the quarterly Performance and Delivery Board.
21. Open to Panel Members and the public, on a non-participating basis, the meeting is chaired by the PCC and papers are submitted by the force in advance and published [here](#). The Chief Constable is required to attend the meeting in order to present and discuss the papers, and answer questions about delivery of the Safer in Kent Plan and policing generally in the county.
22. At the time of writing, the next Performance and Delivery Board is scheduled for 26 September 2018, and the Chief Constable is expected to provide a verbal update on Kent Police's preparations for the UK's exit from the European Union. This will present the PCC with an opportunity to formally ask questions and seek clarity on behalf of all Kent residents.