

# News story: Police granted funding boost for action on serious violence

The Home Secretary has allocated police forces the final part of a dedicated £100 million fund to tackle serious violence.

Sajid Javid announced that £12.4 million will be distributed to 18 forces dealing with high levels of violent crime. It comes after £51 million was announced for the forces ahead of Easter for additional officer deployments, improved intelligence, and short-term operational actions such as targeting habitual knife carriers.

The announcement comes ahead of the first meeting of a new ministerial taskforce on serious youth violence, chaired by the Prime Minister, in Downing Street today.

Home Secretary, Sajid Javid said:

I've been doing everything in my power to ensure we have the strongest possible response to tackle violent crime – and law enforcement plays a key role in this.

This money means forces can take urgent action, including more officers on duty in the worst affected areas.

It takes a collective effort to tackle violent crime and I'll continue to work closely with police and partners to end this senseless bloodshed.

The ministerial meetings, starting today, will focus specifically on improving the coordination of the government's response and are designed to complement the existing Serious Violence Taskforce. The taskforce is chaired by the Home Secretary to bring together politicians from across parties, law enforcement and other agencies, regularly on this issue.

The taskforce will be supported by a new serious violence reduction team that will drive forward work to make sure every part of the government system intervenes earlier to protect young lives from violence.

The 18 forces in the worst affected areas of violent crime will now benefit from a larger share of the £100 million funding, including the Metropolitan Police, West Midlands and Greater Manchester.

The £100 million Serious Violence Fund was announced by the government in the March Spring Statement.

Around a third of the funding – £35 million – will support the setting up of violence reduction units (VRUs) and other preventative activity across the

country. VRUs are a multi-agency approach bringing together police, health agencies, local government, and community representatives to tackle violent crime and its underlying causes.

Another £1.6 million is being spent on ensuring forces collect better data to help their planning and ensure targeted action.

The funding comes after new figures showing that stabbings of under-25s have reduced by 15% in London, which the Metropolitan Police attributes to an increase in the use of stop and search and a “massive law enforcement effort”.

The Home Secretary last week chaired his latest Chief Constable roundtable to discuss how forces are using additional government funding to tackle serious violence.

The roundtables will continue and the Home Office will work closely with the police to monitor and assess the impact of the funding, including improving the quality of data returns on serious violence and knife crime in particular.

The police forces receiving the funding are:

<b>Police force</b>	<b>Serious Violence Fund allocation</b>
Metropolitan Police	£20,840,000
West Midlands	£7,620,000
Greater Manchester	£4,800,000
Merseyside	£4,200,000
West Yorkshire	£4,020,000
South Yorkshire	£2,580,000
Northumbria	£2,320,000
Thames Valley	£1,940,000
Lancashire	£1,820,000
Essex	£1,760,000
Avon and Somerset	£1,720,000
Kent	£1,660,000
Nottinghamshire	£1,540,000
Leicestershire	£1,400,000
Bedfordshire	£1,380,000
Sussex	£1,340,000
Hampshire	£1,260,000
South Wales	£1,200,000

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