

Police and Crime Panel

Monday 4 February 2019 at 10.00 am

Council Chamber - Shire Hall, Gloucester



AGENDA

ORGANISATION ITEMS

1	APOLOGIES	Stephen Bace
2	DECLARATION OF INTEREST	Stephen Bace
3	MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Pages 1 - 6)	Stephen Bace

SCRUTINY ITEMS

4	SAFE AND SOCIAL DRIVING	Mark Astle, Jo Arnold
5	CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT (Pages 7 - 16)	Paul Trott
6	PROPOSED GLOUCESTERSHIRE POLICE PRECEPT 2018/19 (Pages 17 - 20) The Panel must review the proposed precept. Having considered the precept, the Panel will either: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support the precept without qualification or comment;• Support the precept and make recommendations, or• Veto the proposed precept	PCC Martin Surl

Membership – *Cllr David Brown, Cllr Joe Harris, Cllr Loraine Patrick, Cllr Steve Robinson, Cllr Brian Tipper and Cllr Will Windsor-Clive Cllr Julian Beale, Cllr Jonny Brownsteen, Cllr Gerald*



Dee, Cllr Rob Garnham, Cllr Bruce Hogan, Cllr Keith Pearson, Cllr Mattie Ross and Cllr Louis Savage; Cllr Collette Finnegan, Cllr Colin Hay

Added Members - *William Alexander (Independent Member), Cllr Collette Finnegan, Colin Hay and Martin Smith (Independent member)*

- (a) **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – Members requiring advice or clarification about whether to make a declaration of interest are invited to contact the Monitoring Officer (Jane Burns ☎ 01452 328472 /fax: 425149/ e-mail: Jane.Burns@gloucestershire.gov.uk) prior to the start of the meeting.
- (b) **INSPECTION OF PAPERS AND GENERAL QUERIES** - If you wish to inspect Minutes or Reports relating to any item on this agenda or have any other general queries about the meeting, please contact:
Stephen Bace, Senior Democratic Services Officer (Scrutiny Team)
☎:01452 324204 /fax: 425850/e-mail: stephen.bace@gloucestershire.gov.uk
- (c) **GENERAL ARRANGEMENTS**
- 1 Will Members please sign the attendance list.
 - 2 Please note that substitution arrangements are in place for Scrutiny (see p64 of the Constitution).

Please note that photography, filming and audio recording of Council meetings is permitted subject to the Local Government Access to Information provisions. Please contact Democratic Services (tel 01452 324202) to make the necessary arrangements ahead of the meeting. If you are a member of the public and do not wish to be photographed or filmed please inform the Democratic Services Officer on duty at the meeting.

EVACUATION PROCEDURE - in the event of the fire alarms sounding during the meeting please leave as directed in a calm and orderly manner and go to the assembly point which is **outside the main entrance to Shire Hall in Westgate Street**. Please remain there and await further instructions.



POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

MINUTES of a meeting of the Police and Crime Panel held on Friday 16 November 2018 at the Cabinet Suite - Shire Hall, Gloucester.

PRESENT:

William Alexander, Cllr Will Windsor Clive (Chair), Cllr Julian Beale, Martin Smith, Cllr Keith Pearson, Cllr Rob Garnham, Cllr Gerald Dee, Cllr Brian Tipper, Cllr Lorraine Patrick, Cllr Joe Harris, Cllr Steve Robinson, Cllr Mattie Ross, Cllr Bruce Hogan, Cllr David Brown, Cllr Colin Hay, Cllr Collette Finnegan, Cllr Jonny Brownstein,

Substitutes: Cllr Stephen Cooke for Cllr Louis Savage

In attendance: PCC Martin Surl, Paul Trott, Richard Bradley, Ruth Greenwood, Chris Brierley, Stephen Bace

Apologies:

28. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes were agreed as a correct record.

29. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No additional ones.

30. FIRE GOVERNANCE

- 30.1 Martin Surl shared his outline business case for the Governance of the Fire and Rescue Service with the Panel for their comments. This document was out for consultation and the Commissioner would review it and decide whether to present it to the Home Secretary. In addition the Panel received a report from the Cabinet Member of Public Protection, Parking and Libraries at Gloucestershire County Council which provided an initial response to the Commissioner's report and identified some inaccuracies.
- 30.2 The Panel discussed a number of concerns relating to the business case, most notably around the timing of revisiting this proposal and how this would impact on relationships between the Commissioner's Office, the Council and other partners.

- 30.3 The Panel noted the information within the business case relating to the resignation of the Chief Fire Officer and the allegations brought forward. There was some discussion around that topic, particularly in relation to the Commissioner's criticisms around the current governance for the Fire and Rescue Service. The Panel was reminded that this was the remit of the Audit and Governance Committee and that an Audit report had been published and that a task group had also been set up by scrutiny members looking at the culture of the Fire and Rescue Service. The Commissioner stated that he shared Members' disappointment, but that it was necessary to reopen discussions as he could not ignore what he had heard. He formally requested to see more detailed work behind the published audit document. This was a matter that he would need to raise with the Cabinet Member.
- 30.4 The Panel recognised that should the business case be accepted by the Home Secretary and the governance arrangements change, that this would also lead to a change of role for the Police and Crime Panel which would also hold the Commissioner to account in relation to Fire.
- 30.5 One member raised the question around the Chief Constable position which had originally been kept temporary until the original queries around Fire Governance had been resolved. The Commissioner clarified that the recommendation was for the Governance model. This meant that should the business case be successful then the role of the Chief Constable and Chief Fire Officer would remain distinct and the organisations would remain distinct. Within the legislation (Police and Crime Act 2017) there was explicitly no option of operational merger.
- 30.6 With regards to the timescale for revisiting the business case, members were informed that the Home Office needed to complete the legislative process 6 months before the Police and Crime Commissioners elections in May 2020 so that it was clear to the public what role they were electing to (PCC or PFCC). The consultation was running until 21 December and the business case would need to be submitted by February 2019.
- 30.7 Members raised the costs associated with changing governance and noted the Commissioner's frustration around not having the detailed financial information he sought from the County Council around the Fire and Rescue Service. The Commissioner stated that he would welcome any engagement with the County Council around finances.
- 30.8 Some members commented that in relation to the current issues around the Fire and Rescue Service, the whistleblowing procedure had worked. When considering the governance arrangements around the Commissioner's Office and Constabulary, members noted the areas for improvements identified in the HMIC inspections into child protection and suggested that it was important the Commissioner 'got his own house in order first'.
- 30.9 One member was critical of the County Council and suggested there were issues around transparency but felt that in relation to the Fire and Rescue Service, the process had worked correctly. He stated that fifty-three councillors were in place to scrutinise the service and wanted to know how the Commissioner would improve

upon that. The Commissioner explained that he felt that the Commissioner model provided more effective scrutiny and stated that in relation to the Fire and Rescue Service the members had missed the issues.

- 30.10 Some members explained that they felt that the timing was wrong from a national perspective and that the focus of Central Government was directed towards Brexit at this time.
- 30.11 In response to a question it was explained that the Commissioner's salary was set by the salary review board and that taking on responsibility for fire governance would see an additional £3,000 in salary for the position of Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner.
- 30.12 There was some discussion around the Chief Fire Officer's current position as being a Director at the County Council and the way in which the work cut across service areas.
- 30.13 One member questioned whether the Police and Crime Commissioner being part of the current committee overseeing scrutiny for Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service be explored. The Commissioner explained that this would be the Representative model as set out in the Policing and Crime Act and had been previously ruled out by the Council.
- 30.14 In response to a question the Commissioner explained that he had spoken to Fire Unions and would continue to do so as part of the consultation.
- 30.15 The Panel felt that they needed more time to consider the report in full and to make a response to the consultation. Members agreed to set up an informal briefing to discuss their response where they could also get the view of the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Fire.

ACTION **Stephen Bace**

31. CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT

- 31.1 Paul Trott, Chief Executive, presented the report providing details on the actions of the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office. One correction was made to the report that detailed the summary of decisions should read September to October.
- 31.2 There was some discussion around the issue of employers pension contributions. The Treasury had recalculated a formula which related to all public sector pension schemes, but particularly hit the unfunded schemes such as the Police. There would be an increase in the contributions that the employer would have to make which equated to the Commissioner needed to find an extra £1.7m in the coming financial year. This would have a large impact on the budget and on areas of planned investment if there was no additional support through funding. It was

recognised that the contribution paid by local tax payers as part of the Police Precept was become an increasing part of the overall police funding. The Panel would be meeting in January to receive details of the draft budget and the Commissioner's plans around the Police Precept. Further information would be provided at that stage.

ACTION PCC Martin Surl

- 31.3 Six new Independent Custody Visitors had been introduced and there was now a waiting list of people wishing to become volunteers. In response to questions it was explained that there was a good group of custody visitors in place and that there was a feeling that the current pool was sufficient to ensure that there was regularity of visits for all volunteers. Each volunteer carried out approximately six visits a year. A lot of work had been carried out in order to diversify the group. An example of this was the work with the university in order to bring in a variety of experience and perspectives. Members congratulated the team on the excellent work with regards to custody visits.

32. POLICE AND CRIME PLAN PRIORITIES HIGHLIGHT REPORT

- 32.1 Richard Bradley introduced the report which detailed that for each of the six priorities within the Police and Crime Plan there was a priority lead. The plan worked across Gloucestershire and heavily involved partners.
- 32.2 Members noted increased exclusion rates in schools and the restorative practice work taking place. Gloucestershire had the highest rate of pupil exclusions in the South West. Cheltenham had the higher rate of exclusion in the County. A significant reduction in exclusions had been seen in those schools where restorative practice had been introduced. One member raised the issue around governance of schools and the effect of the introduction of academies. He suggested where a child is excluded the county council be aware and inform the police. The Commissioner explained that this did happen and Safer Gloucestershire had looked at this. Members noted they had received a briefing on Children First previously. Members commented on successful examples of how a restorative practice was working in communities and in some schools. The plan was to introduce this into more schools and move from a punitive approach which encouraged exclusion to a restorative approach which did not.
- 32.3 School based officers had been introduced by the Constabulary with four of the six already appointed. This had been a commitment by the Commissioner in relation to the increase in the Police Precept.
- 32.4 The Panel understood that with pressure on police resources, it was important to focus on the really tricky areas. At the same time, Members welcomed the focus on community policing. The Commissioner emphasised the continued commitment to neighbourhood policing which was challenging to deliver in response to financial pressures. Members were informed that Gloucestershire had been rated the highest in the country for dealing with vulnerability and a lot around modern day

slavery. One member provided an example of police officers now unable to attend neighbourhood policing panels in one particular area. It was important that there was continued good communication in place but there could be no guarantee that they would always be able to attend every meeting.

- 32.5 Members asked for an update on the summer recruitment of officers. The Commissioner explained that the Constabulary was on track to recruit the full commitment, but that it took two years to train officers so that they were fully operational. He estimated that it would be another 6 months before the Constabulary was staffed up to budgeted levels.
- 32.6 The Panel were informed that there was a new priority lead for Safer Cyber and a new Police lead. It was explained that previous work under the priority had focused on businesses and that it was now time to focus on communities and where possible maximise the work of the Neighbourhood Watch and community alerts system. This would cascade information and understanding of cyber crime more effectively. There was some further discussion around national issues around cyber crime with members highlighting examples of issues around harm to children and fraudulent activity.
- 32.7 Members thanked the Commissioner and his team for the report and the good work that was taking place against the plan. The Commissioner outlined that it demonstrated good relationships across organisations.

33. WHISTLEBLOWING PROCEDURE

- 33.1 Paul Trott presented the report to the Panel stating that it was a procedure that was shared with the Constabulary. The Chairman explained that he had requested the item as the Council had reviewed its own and it was important that the Panel was satisfied that the Commissioner was happy with his own procedure.
- 33.2 In response to a question as to whether the Office was aware of any whistleblowers whose identity had been revealed after following the procedure, the Panel were informed that the Commissioner's Office was not aware of any issues of that nature.
- 33.3 It was suggested that within the procedure the contact details for the Police and Crime Panel including the website address should be provided.
- 33.4 One member asked how whistleblowing events were reported. It was explained that since the current Chief Executive of the Office had been in post there had only been one. With regards to the Constabulary, the team would look at the figures and update the Panel.

ACTION **Paul Trott**

Minutes subject to their acceptance as a correct record at the next meeting

34. SAFE AND SOCIAL DRIVING

- 34.1 The Chairman informed members that the item had been deferred until the next meeting.

35. REPRESENTATION ON NATIONAL AND REGIONAL BODIES

- 34.1 Cllr Rob Garnham had been selected to be part of the Executive on the National Association of Police and Crime Panels. The Chairman and the Vice Chairman of the Panel attended meetings. The Panel agreed that they were happy for Cllr Garnham to sit on this body. Cllr Hay has raised a concern at the meeting about the need for greater political representation on the executive of the Association.
- 34.2 It was agreed that the Panel would also be represented at South West Police and Crime Panel Chairs and Officer meetings.

CHAIRMAN

Meeting concluded at 13:15



Report of the Chief Executive

This is my report to the Police and Crime Panel on the activities of the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office. It is intended to assist the Panel in reviewing and scrutinising decisions made and actions taken by the Commissioner, in accordance with its statutory responsibilities.

1 Decisions

1.1 The complete decision log may be viewed on the OPCC's website [here](#).

1.2 A summary of decisions for up to the end of October 2018 has been presented to the Panel at previous meetings. Table 1 below covers the period November 2018 – January 2019.

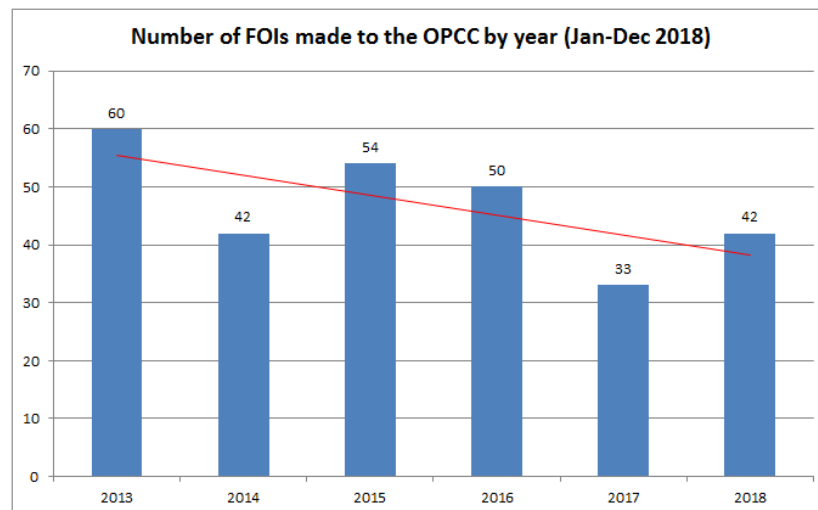
Table 1: Summary of decisions recorded by the OPCC in November 2018 – January 2019			
Month	Reference	Subject Matter	Decision
Nov	D31	Land at Bamfurlong Lane	<p>Considerable work has been undertaken to assess the options for the redevelopment of the Operations Centre at Bamfurlong, making best use of its unique position in the centre of the county and on the junction of the M5 and the A40 Golden Valley Bypass. One of the issues identified has been the need to provide an alternative route for power, gas, water and IT services to and from the site and space which can be used by the Constabulary while any redevelopment of the site takes place. Agreement has consequently been reached with the owners of the field to the east of Bamfurlong Lane to purchase the field from them to supplement the existing site.</p> <p>The report to Governance Board recommended that the freehold of the land from its current owners is purchased at a price of £65,000 plus a contribution towards the sellers' legal costs.</p>
Nov	D32	Electric charging points	<p>The paper presented to Governance Board outlined the options for the installation of additional charging points within the Constabulary estate. It also highlighted issues with the current public infrastructure which restrict the opportunities for staff to use public recharging points. The options for upgrading the current infrastructure for charging points were raised because the existing points at HQ may become inoperable at any time due to their age. A decision to install additional points at GTEC and Phoenix House would provide alternatives to the points at HQ, until they can be replaced and will also support the Constabulary's commitment to the Carbon Management Plan by supporting the move towards more electric fleet vehicles.</p> <p>The following recommendations were approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To install three charging posts at GTEC and two charging posts at Phoenix House. To Install two new electric posts at HQ (to replace the two existing points).

Table 1: Summary of decisions recorded by the OPCC in November 2018 – January 2019			
Month	Reference	Subject Matter	Decision
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration is given to replacing the “Rolec” electric post at Compass House with two (22kw) “Chargemaster” posts. • That it is noted that using charging points not owned by the Constabulary is currently not an option but that further work is carried out to explore the options available.
Nov	D33	Budget underspend	<p>Funding was approved in the budget for 2018/19 to increase the officer establishment by 23 posts. This has been built into the recruitment plans but, even with the current ambitious plans, the Constabulary will not reach its officer establishment until 2019. There will be an underspend of around £1m on the police officer salaries budget in 2018/19.</p> <p>The paper presented to Governance Board explored how this underspend could be used for one off commitments that would help to reduce demand on frontline officers and ensure that the officer recruitment plans were achieved.</p> <p>The following recommendations were endorsed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the funding already approved for £500k is noted. • That funding for the two additional posts for a Research Officer and a Violence Reduction Officer is noted. • That additional funding for the disk library is approved – total £196k. • That the additional proposed commitments for funding for £240k are approved.
Nov	D34	Not published: not of significant public interest.	
Dec	D35	Violence Prevention Co-ordinator	<p>During 2018, a Violence Prevention Task Group was established to scope existing and potential partnership action to prevent violence in Gloucestershire. This group identified that a public health approach to violence prevention locally would form part of the overall Safer Gloucestershire strategy, but for this to happen well, there were a number of actions which required focus and capacity to support this. This paper outlines a proposal for a Violence Prevention Coordinator post which is intended to facilitate this work.</p> <p>The main outputs from this fixed term post in the 12 month period will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalised Safer Gloucestershire strategy and implementation plan • A report on the implementation and findings from the strengths based community resilience and violence prevention pilot • A communications, media and challenging social norms plan • Recommendations to Safer Gloucestershire for a training plan The total funding requested is £61,093 for one year with office costs to be met by the Prevention and Communities Hub in Gloucestershire County Council (GCC). <p>The recommendation that a full time GCC RB1 banded post is funded for one year fixed term in the Prevention,</p>

Table 1: Summary of decisions recorded by the OPCC in November 2018 – January 2019			
Month	Reference	Subject Matter	Decision
			Wellbeing and Communities hub at GCC was approved. This would provide capacity and skills to fulfil a number of short term actions supporting the Safer Gloucestershire and violence prevention agendas.
Dec	D36	Not published: commercial sensitivity	
Jan	D01	Publication of Correspondence in re. former Gloucestershire Road Safety Partnership	In view of comments recently made by the leader of Gloucestershire County Council, the Commissioner wishes to put in the public domain copies of correspondence received and sent by the OPCC in 2016 and 2017 in relation to his decision to withdraw from the Gloucestershire Road Safety Partnership. It has been decided that a copy of the documents disclosed pursuant to the Freedom of Information Request 015-17 in relation to the Gloucestershire Road Safety Partnership be published on the OPCC website.

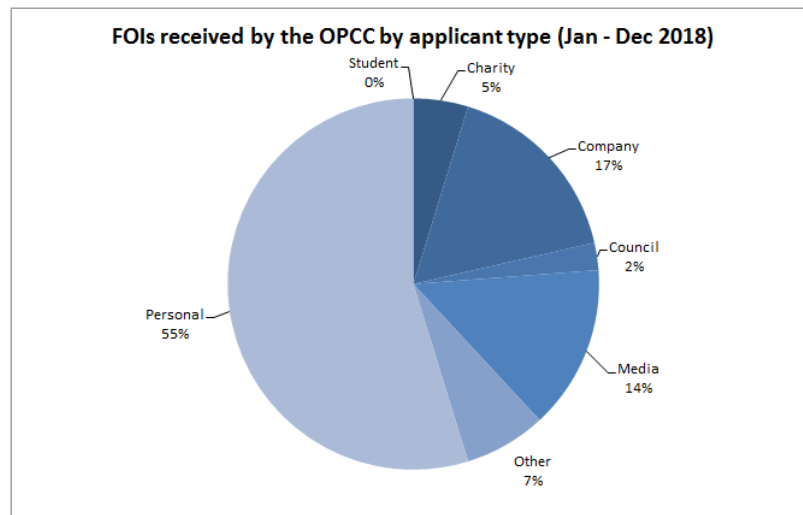
2 Freedom of Information Act and complaints (01 January – 31 December 2018)

2.1 In the 12 month period up to the end of December 2018, the OPCC has received 42 Freedom of Information (FOI) requests. This compares to 33 in the same period last year (+9%).

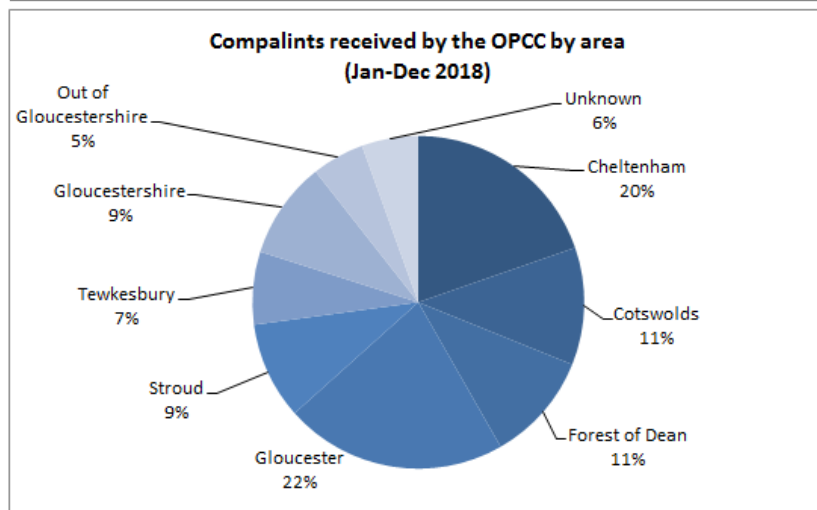
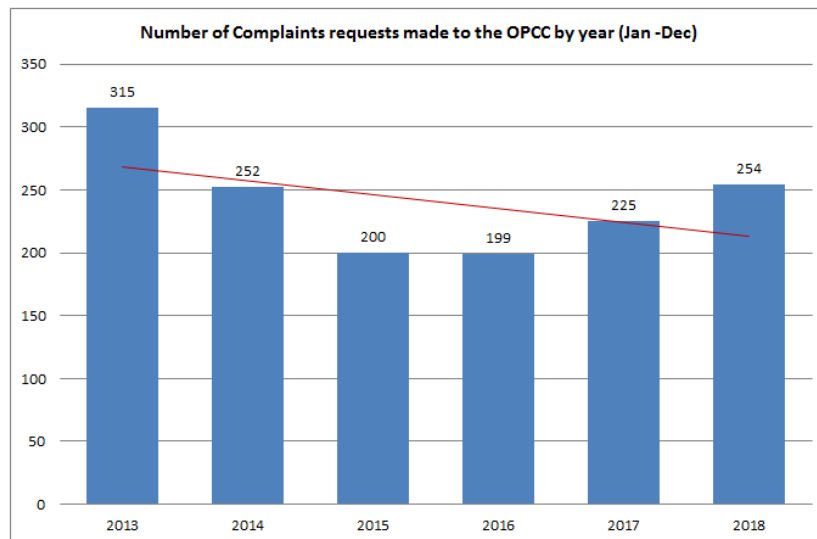


2.2 Of the FOI requests made to the OPCC during this period, 11 were redirected to the Constabulary (as the request related to information held by the Force), one required a joint OPCC/Constabulary response and 20 were for OPCC held information. In all, a total of 158 questions have been asked requiring an OPCC response.

2.3 The chart below provides an overview of FOI applicants by type (all FOI requests received). Individual requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act constitute the greatest number of requests received by the OPCC (55% / 23), followed by companies (17% / 7) and then the media (14% / 6):



2.4 254 complaints were made to the OPCC in the period January to December 2018 from members of the public. This represents a 12.9% increase (29) compared to the same period in 2017.



2.5 The chart above shows the greatest number of complaints were received from residents from Gloucester (22%), followed by Cheltenham (20%). This mirrors the distribution of complaints by area reported at the previous Panel meeting in November.

- 2.6 Table 2 below outlines complaint types by area from January to December 2018 (excluding those from outside of the area or unknown). Complaints received by the OPCC are broadly categorised and include a wide range of issues to facilitate analysis for this report.

Complaint Type	Chelt.	Cots.	FoD	Gloucester	Stroud	Tewkes.	Total
ASB report	11	1	5	15	2	1	35
Crime report	4	3	3	0	2	1	13
Road safety issue	3	6	6	4	6	6	31
Police service / presence	28	14	11	31	11	9	104
OPCC complaint	2	5	1	2	1	1	12
OPCC complaint relating to GFRS governance debate	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Other	2	0	1	4	1	0	8

- 2.7 Table 2 shows that the greatest number of complaints received by the OPCC are categorised as police service / presence followed by reports of anti-social behaviour and road safety issues. The OPCC complaints relate to dissatisfaction with the precept increase earlier this year. Again this mirrors the distribution of complaints by theme presented to the last Panel in November.
- 2.8 Up to the end of December 2018, the Independent Appeals Officer had received 31 complaint appeals. Of these, 25.8% (8) appeals were upheld.

3 Crime data

- 3.1 The OPCC is able to compare national and local crime rates via various Home Office performance management tools. Unfortunately, due to the conditions of use we are unable to share the full content publicly but the table below provides information about how Gloucestershire is performing when compared to the national picture. The data we are using refers to the British Crime Survey (BCS) Comparator Crimes and were chosen because they represented those crimes that (according to the Crime Survey) caused the most amount of harm to communities. The most recent data available is up to the end of November 2018.
- 3.2 Table 3 below shows that BCS crime rates in Gloucestershire continue to fall in Gloucestershire in line with peer groups. Across the districts BCS crime is falling with the exception of Stroud and Gloucester – both of these areas were showing increases at the time of the last report (12 months up to the end of August 2018). Whereas the rate of increase of BCS crime in Gloucester has reduced (+11% up to the end of August and +8% up to the end of November), Stroud is showing a greater increase (+2% up to the end of August, +8% up to the end of November). Despite this, Stroud remains significantly low in relation to BCS crime rates, with the lowest number of crimes per 1000 population in its Most Similar Group.
- 3.3 Rates in all areas are lower than the MSG average although both Gloucester and Cheltenham are closer to the average than the other areas. This is reflected in their MSG position.
- 3.4 The Forest of Dean and Tewkesbury are showing the greatest decreases and both are performing well in relation to rates in their MSGs.

Table 3: BCS Crime in the 12 month period up to the end of November 2018			
Area	MSG position out of 15 (1 = good)	Rate per 1000 population	Percentage change compared to the same period last year
<i>Gloucestershire (out of 8)</i>	2	27.488 (MSG average 31.447)	-1%
Cheltenham	7	38.488 (MSG average 40.736)	-6%
Cotswolds	2	16.227 (MSG average 21.826)	-4%
Forest of Dean	1	16.869 (MSG average 24.493)	-16%
Gloucester	8	45.823 (MSG average 49.365)	+8%
Stroud	1	18.928 (MSG average 24.504)	+7%
Tewkesbury	2	18.952 (MSG average 25.884)	-10%
South West	N/A	31.8	-1.92%
MSG for Gloucestershire	N/A	31.2	-1.74%
England & Wales	N/A	40.8	+1.09%

- 3.5 In light of recent media coverage regarding crime trends and in anticipation of queries from the Panel, table 4 provides members with further detail of crime trends in comparison to peers.

Table 4: Percentage changes (compared to previous year) and rates per 1000 population by crime type in the 12 months up to the end of November 2018								
NB: Rate per 1000 households for residential burglary								
	Gloucestershire		South West		MSG		England & Wales	
	% change	Rate	% change	Rate	% change	Rate	% change	Rate
All crime	+2.4%	55.8	+0.57%	66.9	+1.65%	63.9	+6.86%	86.1
All burglary	+0.17%	6.6	-11.64%	5.0	-8.83%	5.2	-3.58	7.2
Residential burglary	+22.9%	11.6	-3.83%	7.5	+0.67%	8.2	+5.32	12.8
Violence against the person	+14.71%	14.9	+10.97%	22.2	+10.53%	21.0	+18.88%	26.8
Most serious violence	+19.41%	0.5	+17.64%	0.4	+11.99%	0.5	+14.28%	0.6
Robbery business	-4.88%	0.1	-9.06%	0.1	+17.57%	0.1	+12.28%	0.1
Robbery personal	+20.82%	0.5	+15.02%	0.5	+14.93%	0.5	+11.8%	1.2
Theft offences	-2.38%	26.7	-6.81%	24.3	-3.53%	24.4	-0.96%	33.6
Shoplifting	-9.83%	5.4	-6.56%	5.5	-2.01	5.5	-3.12	6.3
Criminal damage	-0.16%	7.1	-3.66	8.4	-4.86	8.1	-3.73	9.6
Sexual offences	+2.72%	1.7	+2.11%	2.4	+2.72%	2.4	+10.05%	2.7

- 3.6 Crime trends and performance are continually monitored by the Policy Officers in the OPCC in order that the PCC is able to hold the Chief Constable to account in accordance with his statutory responsibilities.

3.7 For more information about crime rates by area, please go to www.police.co.uk. This is publically available data from the Home Office that shows, through charts and maps, how Gloucestershire Constabulary is performing and includes analysis by crime type.

4 Holding to account

4.1 As reported at previous Panel meetings, the OPCC has recently refreshed the approach to holding to account in a new policy and, in line with our commitment to transparency, the topics of these meetings are now shared on the OPCC website [here](#).

4.2 Table 5 summarises topics discussed at the holding to account meetings for November and December 2018:

Table 5: Summary of HTA discussion topics recorded by the OPCC November and December 2018	
Month	Topics of discussion:
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross-border firearms cover • Budget underspends • Blackrock regional firearms training centre • Income generation • Transformation programme • Building alterations • Sponsorship • Drink drive campaign • Uniform changes
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Strategic Board meeting • Tri-force futures programme • Blackrock regional firearms training centre • Estates management • OPCC/COG meeting arrangements

5 Tri-Force update

5.1 The Panel will be aware of the decision by Avon and Somerset Police to withdraw from the existing Tri-Force structure by 1 April 2019 in respect of Roads Policing and the Dog Section

5.2 While we accepted the return of the dogs and roads policing units, we had hoped to continue a Tri-Force arrangement involving our firearms officers working alongside those from Avon and Somerset and Wiltshire under a single joint command.

5.3 On Tuesday 20 November 2018, however, the Chief Constable and the Police and Crime Commissioner of Avon and Somerset declared their decision not to continue with a Tri-Force command structure for firearms officers.

5.4 A meeting took place with the other two Police and Crime Commissioners and Chief Constables to consider a number of different options but sadly it wasn't possible to reach a consensus which met the needs of all three forces. We regret that the discussions have now been terminated by the decision of Avon and Somerset to withdraw entirely from the arrangement they had with us and Wiltshire.

5.5 This means that all Gloucestershire Tri-Force officers and staff will come back under the sole command of our Constabulary from April 2019 and that Tri-Force Specialist Operations will no longer exist from that date.

- 5.6. We were already planning for the return of the dogs and roads policing units. This work has now been extended to plan for the return of the firearms team and retain the armed officers who work within the Royal Household Protection Group (RHPG).
- 5.7 It is important to recognise the operational success of Tri-Force since its inception in 2014 which has been based on the talent and hard work of the officers involved. The decision is not in any way a reflection of the important work that Tri-Force staff do in keeping our communities safe.
- 5.8 With regards to the Black Rock Specialist Training Centre arrangement, this will continue to operate, providing the same training that it does now. This will need to be adapted going forward to ensure it meets the needs of all three forces.
- 5.9 We will of course seek to ensure that our firearms capability is fully resourced – that will mean more opportunities for other Gloucestershire officers if they want to pursue a career as a firearms officer.

6 Victim Services and National Victims Portfolio Group

- 5.1 The OPCC Commissioning Team is currently in the process of recommissioning Victim Services for the county. The current contract with Victim Support ends in March 2020 and the new service will start in April 2020. The contract will be for a seven year period.
- 5.2 An independent victims' needs assessment has been commissioned to inform the service specification. One of the key recommendations from the needs assessment is for a separate young peoples' service. This should be branded differently to the adults' service and should seek to engage young people through various routes including social media, chat forums and schools. As such, the newly commissioned service will have an adults' and young peoples' arm.
- 5.3 A bidders' day has been held and the advert will be going live in the summer. More information on this will be available later in the year.
- 5.4 The Deputy Chief Executive of the OPCC is now a member of the National Victims' Portfolio Group. This group is chaired by Dame Vera Baird QC (PCC for Northumbria), and comprises senior representatives from the Ministry of Justice, MOPAC, Department for Housing, Communities and Local Government and other PCC offices.
- 5.5 The Group provides advice, support and guidance to the Government on victim related matters and, to date, has supported the below initiatives and work packages:
- Victims Strategy
 - Support for victims of major incidents
 - CSE/A Network
 - VAWG Transformation Fund Projects
 - Interoperability
 - Rape prosecutions & disclosure issues
 - Sexual Violence & Court Based witness service pilots
 - Support for victims of road traffic incidents & MOJ funding of BRAKE
- 5.6 Work planned for the next few months includes:
- Consultation on the new Victims Law
 - A review of the Victims Code of Practice (VCOP)
 - Devolution of holding to account responsibilities to PCCs for VCOP

7 Criminal Justice: Gloucestershire Criminal Justice Board (LCJB) and future of Probation Services

- 7.1 Since the last update provided in September 2018, the LCJB has developed its strategic plan and agreed the three main outcomes on which it would like to focus. These are:
- Higher public confidence in the delivery of justice in the county (Victims and Witness group – Chaired by GRASAC)
 - Increased efficiencies throughout the system (Delivering Justice group – Chaired by CPS)
 - Reduced re-offending and increased rehabilitation opportunities (Rehabilitation and re-offending group – Chaired by Glos. Constabulary)
- 7.2 A corresponding delivery group has been established underneath each of these areas as noted in brackets above. Each group has now met and is developing its purpose and aims. Current activity includes:
- **Victims and witnesses:** The group is looking at how it can improve the process work for the most vulnerable, including offenders. This includes practical issues such as improving facilities at courts, staggering attendance times and is looking at how the statutory agencies can improve their adherence to the Victims Code of Practice.
 - **Delivering Justice:** The group focuses on the specific performance of prosecution systems and focuses on how to drive performance improvements. Current areas of concern are a high level of adjournments per case (in the Magistrates Court), police file quality and improving the quality of domestic abuse cases (throughout the system).
 - **Rehabilitation and Re-offending:** The group is currently focusing on three priority themes of accommodation, female offending and mental health. Multi-agency working groups have been established to drill down into the issues and will be looking at how best to improve the system for offender, make the pathways more accessible and ensure better connections between agencies, the voluntary sector and out of county partners.
- 7.5 The Ministry of Justice *Transforming Rehabilitation Programme* 2015 (TR) dissolved the former Probation Trusts and replaced them with a National Probation Service (NPS) which has responsibility for High Risk offenders (c.20% of the offender cohort) and Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRCs) who have responsibility for the medium to low risk offenders (c.80% of the offender cohort). This latter group can include offenders who have been convicted for burglary, theft and some violent crime types.
- 7.6 As part of the TR programme the CRC element was commissioned from the private sector to provide this service. Sadly this approach has failed and the government, having accepted this, has agreed to terminate the existing CRC contracts at the end of 2020. This has shortened the original contract period by two years and has led to the recommissioning of a new service.
- 7.7 Unlike the original commissioning process in 2014/15, PCCs and other partners are now included in the re-commissioning process which includes:
- Re-design of the new service
 - Inclusion within the commissioning process
 - Contract management once awarded.
- 7.7 The CRC landscape within England currently comprises 21 Contract Package Areas (CPAs) with services being delivered by a variety of providers. The current Gloucestershire provider is Working Links. The new approach will reduce the number of CPAs within England to ten with the South West being one CPA. It is felt this approach will be beneficial as a regional approach will be more effective and enable greater local provision, oversight and accountability.

7.8 The Deputy Chief Executive of the OPCC is working closely with the Ministry of Justice in the recommissioning and progression of this new approach on behalf of the OPCC.

8 Modern slavery and human trafficking

6.1 The OPCC was successful in obtaining funding from the Modern Slavery Transformation fund to put towards a CPD accredited awareness training course for front line staff. Approximately 120 people have attended this course in January 2019, including Fire Fighters, Social Workers, Police, council staff and foster carers.

9 Commissioner's Fund

9.1 The Commissioner's Fund supports activity towards the delivery of the Police & Crime Plan priorities, in the knowledge that the Police cannot bring about the change we need on their own. More widely, the Police & Crime Plan values better connected communities where people utilise our collective assets and can act together to make life better.

9.2 Each year the Commissioner allocates 1% of the policing budget (c.£1m) to the Commissioner's Fund to support projects and programmes that seek to break the cycle of harm and offending. In total the OPCC has allocated grants to 440 projects throughout the county. All applications received go through an evaluation process which includes feedback from priority leads and subject matter experts, with the PCC making the final decision.

9.3 We are currently processing this year's round of applications with decisions to be made in March 2019. We will have more information on the successful applications for the next report.

10 Estates update

10.1 No further update.

11 OPCC Staff update

7.1 No further update.

Paul D. Trott
Chief Executive
Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Gloucestershire
January 2019

Police and Crime Panels – Scrutiny of Precepts

This guidance note explains the process for the police and crime panel's (PCP) scrutiny of the police and crime commissioner's (PCC) proposed precept and should be read alongside:

- Schedule 5 of the [Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011](#) ("the Act")
- Part 2 of the [Police and Crime Panels \(Precepts and Chief Constable Appointments\) Regulations 2012](#) ("the Regulations")

A separate [guidance note setting out the scrutiny of chief constable appointments](#) has been published alongside this guidance note.

Background

Schedule 5 of the Act sets out the process for issuing a precept, including the panel's role in reviewing the proposed precept, their power to veto the precept and the steps to be taken if they do veto the proposed precept.

The Regulations provide greater detail to the Act, including time limits applicable to the stages of the process and the process for reviewing and issuing a revised precept.

Schedule 5 requires:

- the PCC to notify the panel of his/her proposed precept;
- the panel to review the proposed precept;
- the panel to make a report to the PCC on the proposed precept (this may include recommendations);
- the panel's report (if they veto the proposed precept) to include a statement that they have vetoed it;
- a decision of veto to be agreed by two-thirds of the panel members;
- the PCC to have regard to the report made by the panel (including any recommendations in the report);
- the PCC to give the panel a response to their report (and any such recommendations);
- the PCC to publish the response.

It is for the panel to determine how a response to a report or recommendations is to be published.

If there is no veto and the PCC has published his/her response to the panel's report, the PCC may then issue the proposed precept - or a different precept (but only if in accordance with a recommendation in the panel's report to do so).

The Regulations require:

- the PCC to notify the panel of his/her proposed precept **by 1 February**;
- the panel to review and make a report to the PCC on the proposed precept (whether it vetoes the precept or not) **by 8 February**;
- where the panel vetoes the precept, the PCC to have regard to and respond to the Panel's report, and publish his/her response, including the revised precept, **by 15 February**;

- the panel, on receipt of a response from the PCC notifying them of his/her revised precept, to review the revised precept and make a second report to the PCC **by 22 February**;
- the PCC to have regard to and respond to the Panel's second report and publish his/her response, **by 1 March**.

Panel's report on the proposed precept

If the panel fails to report to the PCC by 8 February the scrutiny process comes to an end, even if the panel have voted to veto the proposed precept, and the PCC may issue the proposed precept.

PCC's response to a veto

Where the panel vetoes the proposed precept, the PCC must have regard to the report made by the panel, give the panel a response to the report and publish the response, by 15 February. In his/her response, the PCC must notify the panel of the revised precept that he intends to issue.

Where the panel's report indicates that they vetoed the precept because it was:

- too **high**, the revised precept must be lower than the previously proposed precept.
- too **low**, the revised precept must be higher than the previously proposed precept.

The PCP may only veto the first proposed precept. Such a veto must be agreed by two-thirds of PCP members (the full membership rather than those present at a meeting). Where a veto occurs, the report to the PCC must include a statement to that effect.

Panel's review of the revised precept

On receipt of a response from the PCC notifying them of the revised precept proposal, the panel must review the revised precept proposal and make a second report to the PCC on the revised precept by 22 February. This report may:

- indicate whether the panel accepts or rejects the revised precept (although rejection does not prevent the PCC from issuing the revised precept); and
- make recommendations, including recommendations on the precept that should be issued.

If the panel fails to make a second report to the PCC by 22 February, the PCC may issue the revised precept.

Issuing the precept

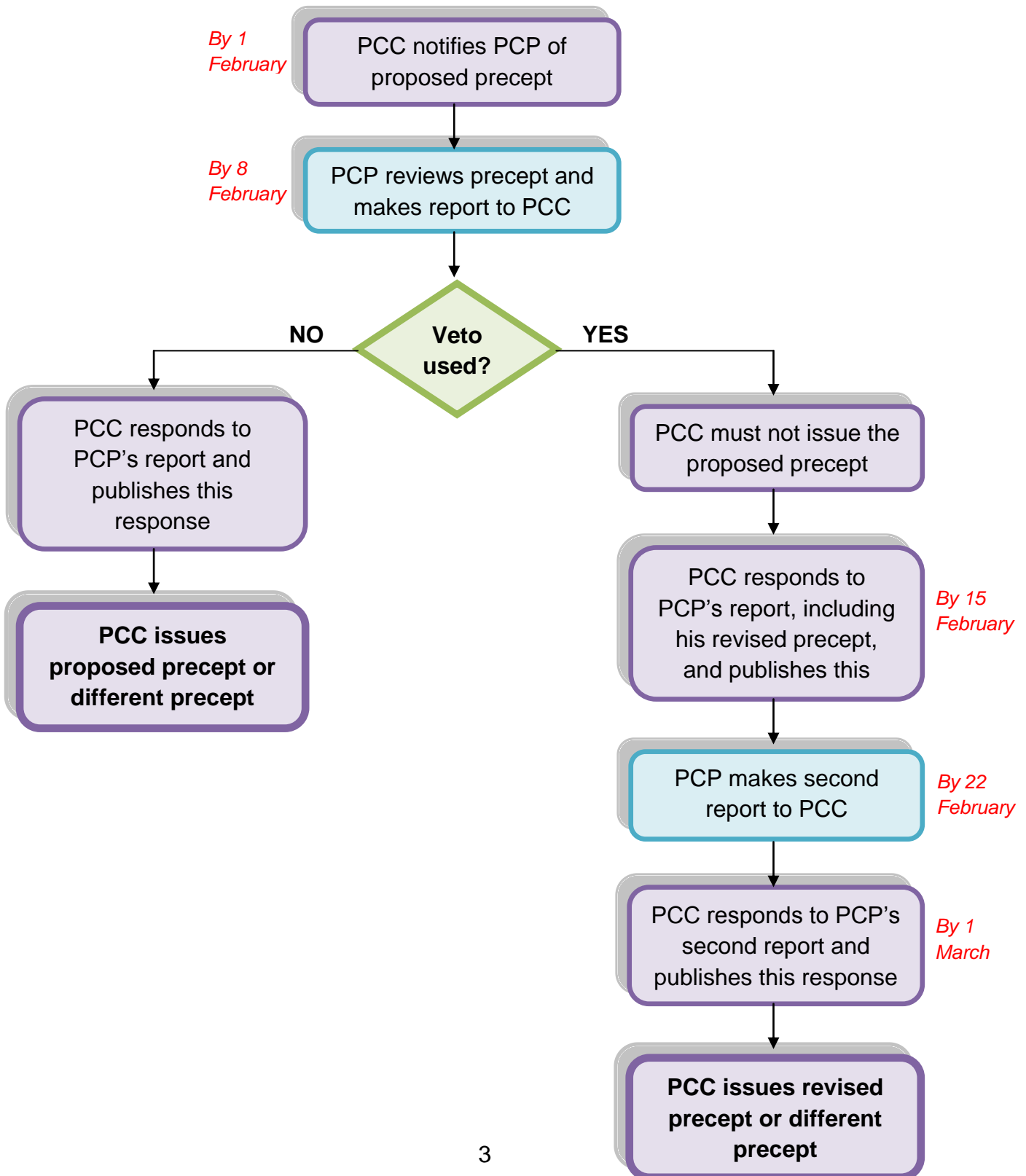
Excluding where the panel fails to report on the proposed precept by 8 February or make a second report on the revised precept by 22 February, the scrutiny process ends when the PCC gives the panel his/her response to their second report.

The PCC may then:

- issue the revised precept; or
- issue a different precept, although:

- they must not issue a precept that is higher than the revised precept if the revised precept was lowered following the panel's initial report on the first proposed precept indicating it was vetoed because it was too high;
- they must not issue a precept which is lower than the revised precept if the revised precept was raised following the panel's initial report on the first proposed precept indicating it was vetoed because it was too low.

Process for PCP scrutiny of PCC's proposed precept



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