



Research Note 99 | 16 December 2011

Police Authority Budgets

In April 2011, the TaxPayers' Alliance published a report exposing the money wasted on Local Policing Summaries – often expensive glossy documents that can easily be published online – by Police Authorities in England and Wales.¹ This note builds on that research: with much public debate about cuts to policing budgets we further examine taxpayers' money spent by Police Authorities.

Police Authorities exist to hold each police force to account. They appoint the chief officers, set the budget and are meant to keep policing priorities in line with local needs. In general, each Police Authority has 17 members (23 for London). Nine of these are councillors nominated by the local authority and eight are independent, appointed by the Police Authority. Each police authority also has a team of officers.

The Government plans to replace the current Police Authority structure with local elected Commissioners. This note helps to inform that debate.

The key findings of this research are:

- In 2009-10, the total bill for members' allowances was **over £10 million**, with an average payment to members of **£14,100**.
- In 2009-10, the average salary for a Police Authority Chief Executive was **£90,000**. With pension payments, this increases to **nearly £103,000**.
- Police Authority budgets **averaged £1.7 million** in 2009-10.
- On average, **9 per cent of an Authority's budget** was spent on the salary and pension of the Chief Executive.
- The average number of staff at a Police Authority was **13** in 2009-10.
- Police Authorities paid **£1.3 million in subscriptions** to the Association of Police Authorities in 2009-10.

¹ <http://www.taxpayersalliance.com/policingsummaries.pdf>



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Summary of Police Authority Spending in 2009-10

Police Authority	Chief Executive's Remuneration			Members' Allowances (£)	Subscriptions to APA or ACPO (£)	Number of Staff	Total Authority Budget (£)	Chief Executive's Remuneration as a Percentage of Total Budget (%)
	Salary	Pension	Total					
Avon & Somerset	94,851	10,671	105,522	195,644	-	13	1,180,694	9%
Bedfordshire	66,159	8,534	74,693	228,425	33,802	8	935,097	8%
Cambridgeshire	89,299	12,501	101,800	185,520	32,518	8	957,987	11%
Cheshire	98,467	13,711	112,178	221,000	36,000	8	1,025,000	11%
Cleveland	163,011	16,523	179,534	195,000	-	9	1,275,000	14%
Cumbria	87,000	13,000	100,000	248,000	30,500	8	1,070,900	9%
Derbyshire	84,501	12,371	96,872	267,435	35,798	8	942,114	10%
Devon & Cornwall	104,915	15,634	120,549	285,000	48,000	17	1,558,000	8%
Dorset	72,819	10,072	82,891	171,730	31,031	6	754706	11%
Durham	60,000	-	60,000	253,000	33,000	10	1,347,000	-
Dyfed	89,148	12,080	101,228	251,313	47,458	7	893,374	11%
Essex	94,622	12,411	107,033	237,255	81,210	12	1,445,287	7%
Gloucestershire	85,834	13,843	99,677	193,080	21,396	8	726,482	14%
Greater Manchester	35,000	-	35,000	312,593	105,151	39	3,012,250	1%
Gwent	95,805	13,716	109,521	190,439	51,556	8	671,738	16%
Hampshire	71,916	11,070	82,986	292,048	69,000	13	1,481,000	6%
Hertfordshire	96,832	19,441	116,273	245,000	58,586	7	983,494	12%
Humberside	85,000	15,000	100,000	236,000	46,720	14	1,507,978	7%
Kent	103,114	14,380	117,494	253,824	-	9	1,260,696	9%
Lancashire	101,740	12,684	114,424	283,000	69,000	12	1,880,000	6%
Leicestershire	74,731	11,568	86,299	193,094	20,410	6	765,408	11%
Lincolnshire	90,040	2,287	92,327	199,684	34,181	10	922,324	10%

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	Salary	Pension	Total					
Merseyside	112,534	15,014	127,548	260,350	-	24	901,000	14%
Metropolitan	142,008	34,508	176,516	496,565	-	99	16,705,000	1%
Norfolk	123,762	16,641	140,403	228,191	38,064	11	1,188,658	12%
North Wales	90,634	15,668	106,302	184,999	-	8	1,243,000	9%
North Yorkshire	83,000	15,000	98,000	208,713	32,874	9	1,264,202	8%
Northamptonshire	65,008	9,964	74,972	161,000	46,832	7	858,731	9%
Northumbria	27,704	-	27,704	246,100	-	-	3,455,600	1%
Nottinghamshire	78,873	10,569	89,442	246,639	-	6	1,311,000	7%
South Wales	92,551	14,217	106,768	220,088	-	10	821,251	13%
South Yorkshire	49,297	8,972	58,269	264,746	69,731	joint secretariat	2,279,109	3%
Staffordshire	56,765	8,004	64,769	215,449	63,094	6	991,572	7%
Suffolk	99,000	21,000	120,000	196,800	34,000	8	978,700	12%
Surrey	106,610	13,859	120,469	250,587	55,447	10	1,158,445	10%
Sussex	113,000	16,000	129,000	172,749	-	12	1,302,131	10%
Thames Valley	103,824	14,990	118,814	270,688	89,076	13	1,957,961	6%
Warwickshire	74,719	8,038	82,757	240,317	-	9	930,000	9%
West Mercia	95,811	12,699	108,510	326,416	67,252	8	1,013,382	11%
West Midlands	109,800	13,100	122,900	278,000	-	-	1,922,866	6%
West Yorkshire	114,151	12,942	127,093	278,263	103,044	25	1,879,549	7%
Wiltshire	97,242	12,323	109,565	267,088	-	6	1,198,000	9%
Totals:	3,781,097	525,005	4,306,102	10,151,831	1,484,731	511	69,956,685	-
Averages:	90,026	13,462	102,526	241,710	51,198	13	1,665,635	9%