



MOPAC

MAYOR OF LONDON
OFFICE FOR POLICING AND CRIME

PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF FEES AND CHARGES 2025/26

MOPAC Investment Advisory Monitoring Feb 2025

Report by Faizi Ainsworth, Income Manager, on behalf of Dan Worsley, Chief Finance Officer

Part 1 – This section of the report will be published by MOPAC. It is classified as OFFICIAL – PUBLIC

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the proposed Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) Schedule of Fees and Charges for approval by the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime (DMPC). The report details the results of a review of rates at the end of 2024/25 to reflect current price increases and sets out information on the recommended MPS fees and charges and Special Police Service rates from 1 March 2025.

NPCC guidance now allows forces to implement charge increases at the start of the calendar year. Subject to timely MOPAC approval the MPS wish to increase charges from 1 March 2025 and earlier for 2026.

It is anticipated that the increase in charges will result in a 6.1% increase in income totalling £1.26m. Charge rate increases vary from 0% to 132% dependent on the basis of charging.

The MPS is committed to maximising full cost recovery through increased overhead charges and maximising income recovery through fees and charges.

It is important to note that some fees and charges are determined by statute or legislation and backed up by recommended charging guidelines published by National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC).

In accordance with Paragraph 9.5 of the MOPAC Financial Regulations the Schedule of Fees and Charges requires approval of DMPC prior to publication.

Recommendations

The Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, via the Investment Advisory Monitoring (IAM) meeting, is asked to:

1. Approve the attached Schedule of Fees and Charges levied pursuant to Section 15 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (Supply of Goods and Services) Appendix 1 – Table 1 refers.
2. Approve the revised charges for Special Police Services under Section 25 of the Police Act 1996, which are based on full cost recovery, and recalculated to reflect the current cost of policing in line with NPCC guidance Appendix 2 - Tables 2A - F refer.

Time sensitivity

A decision is required from the Deputy Mayor by 28 February 2025 in order that the new rates may be received through the publication of a revised Schedule of Fees and Charges which take effect from 1 March 2025.

Non-confidential facts and advice to the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime

The entire content of this report is considered to be non-confidential and is therefore open for public release.

Introduction and background

1. The aim of this report is for Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime (DMPC) to agree the Schedule of Fees and Charges from March 2025 to December 2025. Historically this change in rates has been undertaken on a financial year basis however NPCC have revised this arrangement to a calendar year basis with effect from 1 January 2025. Note: For 2025 the MPS are proposing to increase charges with effect from 1 March 2025. The income from the fees and charges is recovered under the provisions of existing legislation, as outlined below, and can be classified under a number of specific categories, namely:
 - MPS calculated fees and charges which generally will be increased by a set percentage;
 - Fees and charges where the rates are either set or advised by other Agencies including: Legal Aid Agency and National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) (including Special Police Service (SPS) Charges); and,
 - Fees and charges that are determined by statute or legislation.

The paper is therefore presented under the above three categories.

2. Section 15 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) provides the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) with the legislative powers under Section 1 Local Authorities (Goods and Services) Act 1970 to charge for the supply of goods and services to a third party and make a charge to recover the full cost of providing those goods and services. These charges should be appropriate, which may include beyond cost recovery having taken all circumstances into account.
3. Section 25 of the Police Act 1996, as amended by Schedule 16, paragraph 24 of the 2011 Act, (Provision of Special Services) with reference to MOPAC, allows Forces to charge for Special Police Services which they may provide in respect of the provision of police officers and staff at the request of a third party.
4. Section 92 of the Police Act 1996 which provides the ability for MOPAC to accept a grant, either conditionally or unconditionally, from a London Borough and is used to charge local authorities for PatrolPlus officers.
5. There are a number of fees and charges that are set within statute or legislation. This includes items such as the removal, storage and disposal of vehicles, firearms certificates and pedlar certificates.

6. The review has been limited to fees and charges that are levied upon the public and other bodies based on rates that are normally reviewed and updated on an annual basis. The Schedule of Fees and Charges was last reviewed in 2023/24 for the 2024/25 year. The recent review does not cover contractual arrangements negotiated by the MPS, on behalf of MOPAC, on an individual basis. For example, the special arrangements regarding the PartnershipPlus Scheme with local authorities, as allowed by Section 92 of the Police Act 1996 or the specific agreements with Transport for London, the airports or the Palace of Westminster. As part of the financial strategy to optimise sources of income, the MPS will continue to review the options concerning charging for MPS services on a full cost recovery basis wherever feasible.

Review of Charges for 2025 - Methodology

7. Revisions to the different categories of fees and charges are mostly based on increases by either set percentages to reflect average pay costs movements over the period or, where appropriate, the 12 month average CPI¹ rate (as at July 2024). The review for 2025 therefore takes account of the base rates from 2024/25 and the approved salary cost uplift for 2024/25, and an inflation factor.
8. The methodology set out in paragraph 7 above for reviewing fees and charges is entirely consistent with previous years. It should be noted that the NPCC recommendation for CPI increases has been approved by NPCC Finance Committee and subsequently the current 12 month average CPI (as at July 2024) rate of 2.1% has been applied where appropriate. It is proposed to continue using this basis of CPI average rate for all future years' inflation.
9. NPCC has created a Charge Rate for Common Items which the MPS has influenced. This is a guidance schedule of charges to create consistency between forces for both goods and services. Where pre-existing MPS charges have been higher than NPCC guidance charges these rates have not been lowered but have been increased in line with inflation.

MPS Calculated Fees and Charges

Intellectual Property

10. The MPS has worked closely with NPCC to bring national guidance in line with charges for activities undertaken by the MPS. Nationally agreed guidance and rates have now been produced by NPCC based on MPS processes and rates.

Fees and Charges where the Rates are set or advised by other Agencies

Charges for Special Police Services (SPS)

11. Section 25 provides the legal power to charge for SPS. MPS charges are reflective of NPCC National Policing Guidelines in that they are based upon full cost recovery, where appropriate, but recognise that it is not permissible to make a profit within the confines of the legislation.

¹ The CPI is a more accurate measure of inflation than RPI as it "better reflects changes in consumer spending patterns relative to changes in the price of goods and services" (Office for National Statistics)

12. The MPS provides policing services on private premises, such as sporting stadia and shopping centres and also in the provision of assistance for activities including film making, community and charitable events and traffic surveys. All of these policing services fall within the remit of SPS. NPCC guidance clearly specifies when different rates of charges for SPS should be applied and this is detailed at Annex A.
13. During 2024/25 the MPS has worked closely with NPCC to continue to review and revise the methodology for calculating SPS charges to ensure that the NPCC methodology is being applied consistently across all forces. This national review has highlighted that in order to make full economic cost recovery there needs to be an average 6.6% increase in SPS officer rates for the MPS in 2025. This 6.6% increase will only impact SPS services provided for those commercial events such as football matches where we make full economic cost recovery. SPS charges for non-sporting events are set internally and will be increasing by 15.6%. The proposed charges for commercial events, whilst increasing by less than non-commercial events, remain above the non-commercial events levels. This is due to NPCC using a different methodology including overtime as all that activity is deemed to be undertaken as overtime not core policing.
14. The SPS charges include daily rates and hourly rates for police ranks up to and including Assistant Commissioner. A general administrative overhead charge of 31% is also applied in accordance with NPCC agreed guidance which states that all charging should be based upon full cost recovery. See Appendix 2 – Tables 2A–2F. From 2025 the national rates have been extended to include PCSOs and police staff.
15. In compliance with relevant legislation and applicable case law, the MPS will only charge the London Football Clubs SPS for the policing provided on land owned, leased or controlled by the Club. This involves the deployment inside the ground and Club properties outside, such as concourses; but in keeping with the Ipswich ruling, excludes any areas under the temporary control of the Club as a result of the application for a traffic management order. A Home Office led review is currently underway to review the relevant legislation.
16. Depending on the Agency, the individual fee and charge to be levied can relate to either a set rate or an agreed calculation methodology.

Third party cell accommodation

17. The MPS has worked with NPCC to establish national annual rates with regional variations to account for regional location allowances, for the charges applied to both His Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) and Home Office Immigration and Enforcement (HOIE) for the use of placing their detainees in police custody. Final approval of increased rates (5.1%) is still awaited at the time of writing this report.
18. There have been no other changes since last year to any of the Fees and Charges that are set by other Agencies. However, the MPS is continuing to work closely with NPCC who are undertaking national reviews of charges and charging

methodology to ensure that any changes in rates and methodology in calculating charges are reflective of MPS processes.

Fees and Charges that are determined by Statute or Legislation

Firearms Licensing

19. In relation to Firearms Licensing fees, NPCC have led on a collaborative review with the Home Office, Warwickshire Constabulary and Thames Valley Police to evaluate data sets and make recommendations to create charges which represent full cost recovery. The MPS has been available to support this work when required. On 14 January 2025 the government laid a Statutory Instrument to increase firearms licensing fees to full cost recovery from 5 February 2025. On average there will be a 132% increase to charge rates and a corresponding increase to forecast income in 2025/26 subject to demand remaining stable.
20. There have been no other changes since last year to any of the Fees and Charges that are set by statute or legislation.

Contributes to the MOPAC Police & Crime Plan 2022-2025² and New Met for London Plan

21. Whilst many of the activities contained within the Schedule of Fees and Charges are statutory requirements, optimising the income available to the MPS ensures that existing funding is not diverted away from activities that could directly support the Police and Crime Plan and New Met for London plan.

Financial Impact.

22. The estimated income from fees and charges for 2024/25 is £20.52m. The forecast income generated from fees and charges for 2025 for the items that are not set by statute or legislation is estimated to be 2.1% higher than last year for Section 15 fees and charges; between 6.6% and 15.6% higher for SPS from commercial arrangements; 2.1% higher for some fees set by the MPS, and an increase of 132% to Firearms Licensing Fees set by Statute which all in total result in an income increase of £1.26m which will be reflected in 2025/26 budgets. Where appropriate full MPS calculated overheads have been applied following a comprehensive recalculation of overhead charges to maximise income recovery.
23. It has been assumed that demand for services will remain consistent between years in calculating estimated income for budget estimate comparison. Note that this transition charging year is unique in that NPCC is moving from financial year to calendar year to increase charges so the comparison is made on that basis. Future years will be like for like comparisons.

26 As part of a wider review to implement an income strategy, a detailed assessment will be required to understand fully the financial impact on the MPS budgets across the three categories which the MPS charge for services. The MPS is committed to making full cost recovery through all fees and charges where

² [London's Police and Crime Plan 2022-25 | London City Hall](#)

appropriate, noting the constraints of statutorily set fees and those set by NPCC guidance. The MPS is working closely with NPCC and all other forces nationally to ensure that income recovery is maximised through fees and charges.

Table 1 – Fees and Charges Budgets

Fees and charges area	Estimated income 2024/25	Estimated income 2025	% increase
	£m	£m	
Copies – Evidence & Actions Book, Collision Accident Report Book, Interview Receipts	1.680	1.715	2.1%
Charges for Special Police Services	6.569	7.402	12.7%
Charges for Detention of prisoners in MPS Cell Accommodation	1.170	1.230	5.1%
Defence Examinations in Criminal Matters	0.023	0.023	2.1%
MoU between NPCC & Lloyd's Market Association and Association of British Insurers	0.082	0.084	2.1%
Intruder Alarm Income	0.400	0.410	2%
Fingerprints	0.240	0.245	2.1%
Information Disclosure	0.112	0.114	2.1%
Firearms/Shotgun Certificates	0.237	0.550	132.0%
Seconded Officers	0.403	0.403	0.0%
Vehicle Seizure, Removal and Storage	9.590	9.590	0.0%
Intellectual Property	0.015	0.015	2.1%
TOTAL	20.52	21.78	

27. VAT will be accounted for at the appropriate rate according to the tax point date and in line with the HM Revenue and Customs guidance on the VAT treatment of charges made by the police (VAT: Government and Public Bodies).

Legal Comments

28. MOPAC has the legal power to charge third parties for goods and services under section 15 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 and to charge for the provision of special police services under section 25 of the Police Act 1996.

29. The legislation referred to above does not specify how the charges should be calculated but the case law and NPCC guidance referred to in this report allows

the MOPAC to increase its charges to reflect its increased costs caused by inflation.

30. Section 25 provides the legal power to charge for SPS. MPS charges are reflective of NPCC National Policing Guidelines in that they are based upon full cost recovery but recognise that it is not permissible to make a profit within the confines of the legislation.
31. On this basis, the recommendations can be lawfully approved.

Scheme of Delegation and Consent

32. The Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime (DMPC) has the delegated authority (para 4.7) to approve “Changes to the level of all rents, fees and charges to be levied by MOPAC/MPS”

Equality Comments

33. Equality in fees and charges were last reviewed during 2022/23 in conjunction with the Inclusion Team for expert advice; DLS and CSUs were involved to establish a process whereby no protected characteristic group or vulnerable person will be put at risk due to an inability to pay for a disclosure. Due regard has been taken to ensure compliance with the Equality Act’s Public Sector Equality Duty. Real consideration has been taken to assess Equality impact caused by the proposed business changes. As a result, no positive or negative impact has been identified to any individual and/or group safeguarded by a protected characteristic including those who would fall under the ‘vulnerable’ category and for those who do not. There has been no new fees and charges set since the review nor changes in the methodology for setting of fees, therefore, the EIA remains applicable.
34. Under the current system of charging, it has been established that no protected characteristic or vulnerable group or individual has reported an inability to access required documents or information. It is not expected that any issues will be experienced as a result of either the continuation of the existing methodology or charging regime for 2025. The MPS is not aware of any cases in which victims or their families have ever sought to access documentation.
35. The fees and charges are available electronically via the MPS Website [Metropolitan Police Service - General fees and Charges 2024/25](#). Information on fees and charges is made available to members of staff who would be the normal first point of contact with the public.
36. The outcome of this report does not negatively impact the delivery of the London Anchor Institutions’ Charter³.

Privacy Comments

³ <https://www.london.gov.uk/coronavirus/londons-recovery-coronavirus-crisis/anchor-institutions-charter>

37. There are no privacy issues relating to the content of this paper.
38. The MPS is subject to the requirements and conditions placed on it as a 'State' body to comply with the European Convention of Human Rights and the Data Protection Act (DPA) 2018. Both legislative requirements place an obligation on the MPS to process personal data fairly and lawfully in order to safeguard the rights and freedoms of individuals.
39. Under Article 35 of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Section 57 of the DPA 2018, Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIA) become mandatory for organisations with technologies and processes that are likely to result in a high risk to the rights of the data subjects.
40. The Information Assurance and Information Rights units within MPS will be consulted at all stages to ensure the schedule of charges meets its compliance requirements.
41. The Schedule of charges does not use personally identifiable data of members of the public, so there are no GDPR issues to be considered.

Real Estate Implications

42. There are no real estate costs incurred by the recommendations within this report and contribution to existing real estate costs are included as appropriate.

Environmental Implications

43. The contents of this report does not raise any environmental issues or contribute to delivering the Mayor's London Environment Strategy.

Background/supporting papers

44. There are no supporting or background papers.

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Annex A – Special Policing Services.

NPCC guidance clearly specifies when different rates of charges for SPS should be applied:

For commercial events such as football matches and other sporting events, SPS charges are made at full economic cost recovery including pay costs, overtime premiums and overheads, in line with NPCC guidance. These events are undertaken on an ad hoc basis using existing police resources;

For SPS arrangements where organisations such as shopping centres, schools, universities, etc., enter into Agreements to pay for dedicated additionality, income recovery is made at full cost recovery for actual costs incurred;

For charitable, community events or non-commercial events such as local authority community events, religious parades and wholly charitable events the MPS may consider an abatement of charges when policing requirements are small and are often covered by existing local policing. The trust and confidence of local communities are fundamental to the success of modern policing in terms of neighbourhood policing and building relationships with local communities. However, for those events where substantial policing is required the MPS may charge a reduced rate covering the direct staffing costs only for policing the event; and,

For Statutory events, such as Remembrance Day parades, Jubilee or constitutional events, police attendance is often part of the normal police annual duties and not chargeable.

A national charge has been agreed for Constable to Chief Superintendent ranks, police staff in salary bandings and PCSOs for all forces with variations to account for regional allowances where appropriate – in relation to the MPS every London specific pay allowance is included in the calculation plus a higher than national rate for indirect overhead charges to recognise London costs. Charges for other ranks have been calculated using the NPCC model.