

Continued Provision of Police Driver Training to HMRC

Contract Reference: 017-2025

Subject: Continued Delivery of Driver Training Courses to His Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC)

Originator: Des Pooley, Chief Driving Instructor

Decision Number: 33 - 2026

Reason for Submission: Extension of existing contract

Submitted to: Approval to continue the provision of police driver training courses to HMRC officers.

Summary

1. Suffolk Police Driver Training currently provides specialist driver training to HMRC personnel, supporting national law enforcement activity and strengthening inter-agency collaboration. HMRC officers require appropriately accredited driving qualifications to undertake operational duties safely, and Suffolk Constabulary has the necessary expertise, facilities and qualified instructors to deliver this training. Delivery is undertaken on a full cost recovery basis, ensuring there is no financial detriment to Suffolk Constabulary, with appropriate governance, insurance, risk assessment and legislative compliance arrangements in place.
2. Approval is therefore sought to extend the contract for a further 2-year period from the 14 September 2026 to 13 September 2028 and continue providing driver training courses to HMRC personnel.

Recommendations

1. That the PCC agrees to the continued provision by Suffolk Constabulary of police driver training to HMRC once the legislative uncertainty has been resolved and sufficient reassurance has been provided to the OPCC Chief Executive by the Constabulary.
2. That the PCC authorises the OPCC Chief Executive to sign the Change Authorisation Note on their behalf.

Approval by PCC

The recommendations as outlined above are approved.

Signed: Tim Passmore

Signature: 

Date: 27 October 2026

Detail of Submission

1. Objective

- 1.1 The objective is to maintain the established provision of driver training to HMRC officers, supporting national enforcement and investigative capability while ensuring drivers are trained to nationally recognised standards. The arrangement will strengthen partnership working between policing and HMRC, promote safe driving and reduce collision risk. It will also maximise the use of Suffolk Police driver training resources, support instructor competence through broader delivery, recover all associated costs and provide a sustainable framework for future requests.
- 1.2 All activity will remain compliant with relevant legislation and College of Policing standards.

2. Background

- 2.1 Suffolk Police Driver Training has historically provided training support to HMRC, whose officers undertake enforcement activity requiring professional driving skills. A recent review identified uncertainty in the relevant legislation concerning the delivery of certain courses to non-police personnel, and provision was therefore temporarily suspended while the legal and governance position was examined.
- 2.2 Anticipated legislative amendments are expected to provide the necessary framework for training to resume, but no delivery will recommence until those changes have been formally enacted and confirmed. The Constabulary will update the Police and Crime Commissioner through his office once this legislative amendment has taken place and prior to the training starting. This submission is intended to establish the required approval and governance arrangements in readiness for this legislative change.

- 2.3 Subject to resolution of the legislative position, the review has confirmed that suitable governance can support continued delivery, providing operational benefits to both organisations while maintaining public safety and national enforcement capability.

3. Areas for Consideration

- 3.1 Before training resumes, confirmation will be required that the anticipated legislative amendments permit lawful delivery to HMRC personnel. No activity should recommence until the revised framework has been enacted and formally confirmed.
- 3.2 Appropriate governance, authorisation and oversight arrangements should be established in advance, with liability, insurance and risk management reviewed once the legal position is clear. Consideration must also be given to instructor capacity and the effect on Suffolk Constabulary operational training commitments. Full cost recovery must be maintained to avoid financial detriment, alongside continued adherence to national driver training standards and public safety requirements.

4. Other options considered

4.1 Option 1: Continue Suspension Indefinitely

Continuing the suspension indefinitely would remove the risk associated with legislative uncertainty. However, it would prevent Suffolk Constabulary from supporting a key law enforcement partner and require HMRC to secure alternative training arrangements.

4.2 Option 2: Resume Training Prior to Legislative Confirmation

Resuming training before the legislative position is confirmed is not recommended. Doing so would create legal and organisational risk and could expose both organisations to challenge over the legitimacy of the training delivered.

4.3 Option 3: Prepare for Future Resumption Subject to Legislative Change (Recommended)

Preparing for future resumption, subject to legislative change, is the recommended option. It maintains compliance with the current legal position while allowing governance and approval processes to be completed in advance. This would enable training to restart promptly if the anticipated amendments are enacted, while continuing to support partnership working and operational effectiveness.

5. Strategic aims / objective supported

- 5.1 The proposal supports collaborative working with partner law enforcement agencies and ensures that any future training is delivered within a lawful and appropriately governed framework.
- 5.2 It supports public confidence through accountable decision-making and helps protect communities by enabling HMRC officers to maintain the operational capability required for their duties.
- 5.3 Full cost recovery will provide value for money, generate additional income to offset the cost of maintaining specialist driver training capability, and maximise the use of existing police resources and facilities. Advance preparation will also enable Suffolk Constabulary to respond efficiently to future training demand.

6. Financial and other recourse implications

- 6.1 No financial commitment will be incurred until legislative changes permit training to resume, and preparatory governance and approval work will be managed within existing resources. If delivery recommences, all costs will be recovered from HMRC on a full cost recovery basis, using existing instructors, facilities and training infrastructure where appropriate.
- 6.2 Training will be scheduled to minimise disruption to Suffolk Constabulary operational commitments, with periodic review to confirm continuing financial viability and value for money. Formal agreements and charging arrangements will also be reviewed following legislative confirmation. No additional staffing requirement is anticipated at this stage.

7. Environmental Implications

- 7.1 There are currently no significant environmental implications because training remains suspended. If practical driver training resumes, vehicle use will create associated emissions; however, existing facilities and resources will be used wherever practicable, and activity will be planned efficiently to avoid unnecessary vehicle movements.
- 7.2 Environmental considerations will form part of implementation planning. The operational benefits of competent and safely trained enforcement drivers are considered to outweigh the limited environmental impact of the training.

8. Other implications and risks

- 8.1 The anticipated legislative amendments may be delayed, changed or not implemented as expected. There is also a risk that stakeholders could interpret this decision as authorising an immediate restart, so communications must make clear that training remains suspended pending formal legislative confirmation. Any future delivery arrangements will need to be reviewed against the final legal framework, and delay could affect HMRC's training requirements and operational planning.
- 8.2 Delivering training before the position is clarified would create reputational risk. These risks will be mitigated by maintaining the current suspension, limiting activity to preparatory governance work and requiring formal confirmation before any training recommences.

Originator Checklist (must be completed).

Please state 'yes' or 'no'

Checklist Item	Yes / No
Has legal advice been sought on this submission?	No
Has the PCC's Chief Finance Officer been consulted?	Yes
Have equality, diversity and human rights implications been considered, including equality analysis, as appropriate?	Yes
Have human resource implications been considered?	Yes
Is the recommendation consistent with Police and Crime Plan objectives?	Yes
Has consultation been undertaken with people or agencies likely to be affected by the recommendation?	Yes
Has communications advice been sought on areas of likely media interest and how they might be managed?	No
Have environmental factors been considered?	Yes
In relation to the above, have all relevant issues been highlighted in the 'other implications and risks' section of the submission?	Yes
Is this report a Confidential Decision?	No

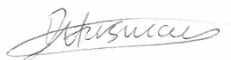
If yes, please state reasons below:

Approval to submit to the decision-maker (This approval is required only for submissions to the PCC)

Chief Executive

I am satisfied that relevant advice has been taken into account in the preparation of the report, that the recommendations have been reviewed and that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the PCC.

Signed: Darren Horsman

Signature: 

Date: 14 October 2026

Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer)

I certify that:

- a) there are no financial consequences as a result of this decision,
Or
- b) the costs identified in this report can be met from existing revenue or capital budgets,
Or
- c) the costs identified in this report can be financed from reserves
And
- d) the decision can be taken on the basis of my assurance that Financial Regulations have been complied with.

Signed: Colette Batson

Signature: 

Date: 14 October 2026

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