

# AGENDA

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**Meeting:** WILTSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL  
**Place:** [Join the On-Line meeting here](#)  
**Date:** Thursday 4 February 2021  
**Time:** 10.00 am

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Please direct any enquiries on this Agenda to Kevin Fielding, of Democratic Services, County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, direct line 01249 706612 EXT 21612 or email [kevin.fielding@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:kevin.fielding@wiltshire.gov.uk)

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**The Panel welcomes contributions from members of the public**

#### Statements

If you wish to make a statement at this meeting on any item on this agenda, please register to do so at least 10 minutes prior to the meeting. Speakers are permitted to speak for up to 3 minutes on any agenda item. Please contact the officer named on the front page of this agenda for any further clarification

#### Questions

Members of the public are able to ask questions in relation to the responsibilities and functions of the Panel at each meeting. Those wishing to ask questions are required to give notice of any such questions in writing to the Head of Democratic Services at Wiltshire Council no later than **5.00 pm on Friday 29 January**. Please contact the officer named on the front page of this agenda for further advice. Questions may be asked without notice if the Chairman decides that the matter is urgent

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#### **Membership:**

Cllr Junab Ali - Swindon Borough Council  
Cllr Abdul Amin - Swindon Borough Council  
Mamie Beasant – Co-opted Independent member  
Cllr Alan Bishop - Swindon Borough Council  
Cllr Richard Britton - Wiltshire Council  
Cllr Ross Henning - Wiltshire Council  
Cllr Vinay Manro – Swindon Borough Council  
Cllr Brian Mathew – Wiltshire Council  
Cllr Nick Murry - Wiltshire Council  
Anna Richardson – Co-opted Independent member  
Cllr Tom Rounds – Wiltshire Council  
Cllr Jonathon Seed – Wiltshire Council  
Cllr John Smale - Wiltshire Council

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**Substitutes:**

Cllr Peter Evans  
Cllr Sue Evans  
Cllr Tony Trotman  
Cllr Sarah Gibson  
Cllr Ruth Hopkinson  
Cllr Gordon King  
Cllr Jim Lynch

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# AGENDA

## Part I

Items to be considered when the meeting is open to the public

1 **Apologies for Absence**

2 **Declarations of interest**

To receive any declarations of disclosable interests or dispensations granted by the Standards Committee

3 **Chairman's Announcements**

4 **Public Participation**

The Panel welcomes contributions from members of the public

Statements

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5 **Formal consideration of PCC Precept proposal**

6 **Forward Work Plan**

To note the 2021 Forward Work Plan

7 **Future meeting dates**

To note the future meeting dates below:

- Thursday 18 March 2021 - 10am
- Thursday 10 June 2021 – 10am
- Thursday 9 September 2021 – 10am
- Thursday 9 December 2021 – 10am

**Part II**

*Item(s) during whose consideration it is recommended that the public should be excluded because of the likelihood that exempt information would be disclosed*

**None**



Meeting	Police and Crime Panel
Date	4 February 2021
Report Title	Proposed Precept for 2021-22
Report presented by	Angus Macpherson, Police and Crime Commissioner
Author	Clive Barker, Chief Finance Officer

## **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. This paper notifies the Panel of the precept I am proposing for 2021-22.

## **INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

2. In January 2021 I presented to the Panel a paper which identified my initial thinking on the 2021-22 budget and my draft MTFs (Medium Term Financial Strategy). This paper identified that whilst overall funding levels had been announced no specific information had been received, this remains the case.
3. During January more information has been released on the Local Council Tax support grant and the Local Tax Income Guarantee for 2020-21. Information on these is included in the paper however there remains great uncertainty surrounding their implementation.

## **CENTRAL GRANT**

4. As detailed in the January paper the grant for Wiltshire has risen by £3.383m to £72.944m (excluding Pensions Specific Grant). This is Wiltshire's portion of the £415m provided by the government to fund nationally an additional 6,000 officers. No funding has been provided to finance any inflation or growth pressures.

## **LOCAL FUNDING GRANTS**

5. Local funding is the sum of the precept plus collection funds. Collection funds hold any variances on precept collection in both collecting authorities (Wiltshire Council (WC) and Swindon Borough Council (SBC)). The collecting authorities must estimate the number of equivalent Band D properties, considering their local support scheme and the collection rate to arrive at a council tax base.
6. With the pandemic and higher unemployment the cost of local support has increased. This and a reduction in payments, which in the long term may be collectable, has led to deficits being forecasted. To assist precepting authorities the government are proposing two financial support schemes.

7. The Local tax Income Guarantee scheme is to assist in covering shortfalls in 2020-21. The government are proposing that they will cover 75% of non-recoverable shortfalls occurring in 2020-21. This is very specific and does not cover deficits brought forward (which is the reason for the SBC shortfall) nor non-payments which may become collectable in the future. Due to the level of uncertainty I am assuming that the level recovered will be low. My current intention is to add any income I receive to the ringfenced reserve outlined in paragraph 9.
8. The Local Council Tax Support Grant is a one-off payment to all precepting authorities and is expected to be used to help cover shortfalls. Wiltshire PCC has been allocated £0.924m.
9. The scheme also allows for deficits relating to 2020-21 to be spread across 3 years. My intention is to ringfence the Local Council Tax Support Grant to pay for the known deficits and any which may occur from shortfalls in 2021-22. The estimated profile of the use is shown below allowing £0.282m for future shortfalls;

		Balance of Funding
Grant Received		£0.924m
SBC Shortfall 20-21	-£0.110m	£0.814m
WC Shortfall 20-21 (yr. 1)	-£0.184m	£0.630m
WC Profiled Shortfall 21-22 (yr. 2)	-£0.174m	£0.456m
WC Profiled Shortfall 22-23 (yr. 3)	-£0.174m	£0.282m

10. With this reserve it will reduce the risk of shortfalls in future years, as such I will not be planning for a surplus or deficit in my final MTFS.

## **THE PRECEPT**

11. My initial paper identified that I was considering a £15 increase in precept. This would result in a 6.9% increase and help resolve issues arising from the limited central grant settlement.
12. I am considering the whole funding position. Wiltshire remains the 3rd lowest total funded area per head of population. It has the lowest council tax in the South West (the 2020-21 regional average excluding Wiltshire is £236.82 for a Band D property). Based on this low funding position I am minded to increase the precept by £15 for a Band D property to £231.27 (from £216.27 in 2020-21). This increase will help the long term funding of policing in Wiltshire.
13. This will assist in the long term funding of Wiltshire Police as it will impact the base for which all future precepts start from. I am campaigning for fairer funding for Wiltshire. To not increase the precept when the government has specifically given me the option to do this would be a missed opportunity. I have taken into consideration the feedback from the public consultation and I intend explaining to them the benefits that a £15 increase will deliver.

## **THE FUNDING AVAILABLE**

14. The table in paragraph 16 outlines the funding available to me based on a £15 increase.
15. The Legacy Council Tax Grants includes the grant payable surrounding Council Tax Localisation and any previous freeze grants.
16. It acknowledges that Wiltshire Council and Swindon Borough Council have reported a new council tax base of 263,777 this is a 0.01% decrease on 2020-21.

	2020-21	2021-22
Central Grant	£62.942m	£66.909m
Legacy Council Tax Grants	£5.235m	£5.235m
Uplift Grant	£1.384m	£0.800m
Total Central Funding	£69.561m	£72.944m
Precept Income	£57.055m	£61.004m
Council Tax Collection Fund	£0.293m	-£0.294m
Local Council Tax Support Grant	-	£0.294m
Total Funding Received	£126.909m	£133.948m
Investment Income	£0.200m	£0.079m
Total Funding Available	£127.109m	£134.027m

## **FUNDING ALLOCATION**

17. I am expected to commission services from the funding available. The table below identifies how I intend using these resources.

	2020-21	2021-22
OPCC Office Costs	£1.471m	£1.622m
OPCC Commissioning Costs	£1.646m	£1.646m
OPCC Shared Services Costs	£26.327m	£27.683m
OPCC Capital Contribution	£1.781m	£2.329m
OPCC Chief Constable Allocation	£95.884m	£100.747m
	£127.109m	£134.027m

18. Included within the Shared Services element is £0.578m provided by the government within the Uplift grant to finance the impact on the infrastructure. The allocation of this is currently being finalised, this will involve employing more police staff. It is likely that some of this budget will be moved to the Chief Constables and capital budgets, an example of this is increased Fleet costs.

19. The 2021-22 allocation will allow for 3 new staff in the OPCC. 2 of these posts arise from the national mandating of a new complaints process. The other new role surrounds improving scrutiny in the Criminal Justice System and Victims Support.

20. The Shared Service allocation includes 4 new posts. 3 of these are to improve the capacity of the HR team to deal with an ever increasing workload. The other post is that of Welfare Officer, with mental health an increasing issue due to the pandemic and new ways of working this post is seen as essential.

## **CAPITAL**

21. The Capital Financing Strategy introduced in 2020-21 identified the need for me to increase the level of revenue contributions to capital. This was due to rapidly reducing capital reserves and continual reductions in capital grant whilst need, especially in ICT, continues to grow.

22. Within the draft MTFs a revised Capital Financing Strategy was reported. This shows a need to increase the revenue consequences of capital to £6m by 2027-28 (this is dependent on the capital plans over the next 5 years). This budget will allow me to increase the revenue contributions budget to £2.329m which is in line with the approach of smoothing the increase over the life of the strategy.

## IMPACT ON THE CHIEF CONSTABLE'S BUDGET

23. The draft MTFS showed the budget requirement increase by £5.215m (post the 2020-21 Uplift Grant). The table in paragraph 17 shows the Chief Constables funding allocation increase by £4.863m with a £15 council tax increase, meaning that £0.352m of savings would be required.

24. £1.795m of the £5.215m increase is required to deal with unavoidable costs. These include 5/12th of the 2020-21 pay award, inflation, increases in Bank Holidays and the impact of increased national and contract costs. The remaining £3.420m is broken down below.

Initial Child Protection Conferences (2 staff)	£0.066m
Fortitude LCI (1 staff)	£0.034m
Armed Response Posts – non pay officer costs	£0.018m
Collision Investigation Unit (1 staff)	£0.051m
Collision Investigation Equipment	£0.250m
Covert Authorities Bureau (2 staff)	£0.079m
Drone related non staff costs	£0.036m
Information Management (1 staff)	£0.043m
Force Command Restructure – non pay officer costs	£0.102m
Out of Court Disposal (3 staff)	£0.085m
49 Increase in Officers (yr. 1 uplift exc. yr. 1 grant)	£0.478m
46 Increase in Officers (yr. 2)	£1.728m
Enabling Equipment/ICT	£0.144m
Overtime Review	£0.306m
<b>Total Requirement</b>	<b>£3.420m</b>

25. The requirement to increase staffing is based on the outcome of the Force Management Statement (FMS) and the Risk Register. The draft MTFS includes the executive summary from the FMS which identifies the key threats. The table above shows an increase of 10 staff.

26. Year 2 of Uplift funding has provided me with 46 additional officers (48 including the 2 additional posts provided for me to allocate to the ROCU (Regional Organised Crime Unit)). The table below shows the impact on the Chief Constables workforce and where he has advised me to place the officers to best reduce threat and harm. It is important to note that these officers have to be employed and trained before they can be released to target these areas. Initial forecasts show the earliest some officers may be deployed is October 2021:

	<b>Officers</b>
Starting Position	1050
Community Intelligence	7
Rural Crime	2
Community Road Safety	3
Early Intervention	4
Exploitation Team	2
Digital Investigation Unit (incl CIET)	4
Fraud Team	2
Child Abuse Investigation Team	3
Offender Management	6
Investigative Standards	1
Authorised Firearms Officers	4
Force Command Structure	7
Fraud Prevention	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1096</b>



## **SAVINGS**

27. To finance the growth requested requires for savings of £0.584m to be identified across the various budgets. The table below shows how these savings will be achieved;

Description	Budget Impacted	Saving
Reduced collaboration unit costs	Chief Constable	£0.059m
Review of capital schemes and spend profile	Capital Contribution	£0.176m
Reduction in budgets due to pandemic	All	£0.181m
Reduced Software Licencing costs	Chief Constable	£0.168m

## **RISK**

28. To deliver an increase of 46 police officers and replace leavers the Chief Constable will need to recruit and train 100 officers in 2021-22. This is similar to 2020-21, but 30 more than 2019-20. The 2020-21 plan is on target however this has been difficult with the pandemic. The Force has robust plans in place to deliver the uplift, with increased capacity supported by the investment in infrastructure funding. Failure to recruit and maintain officer numbers could lead to me not being able to claim the full specific grant available.

29. Precept and budget increases will increase public expectations of an immediate, visible, policing impact. With fully independent and operational officers taking three years to deliver (due to training) this immediate impact will not be seen.

30. The settlement released was only for 2021-22. With the pandemic there are concerns surrounding the public finances and the ability to finance the police at the current level. If funding is reduced there will be a need to stop recruitment in future years. It should also be noted that at the time of writing this is a provisional central grant settlement.

31. There are concerns surrounding the impact of the pandemic on people's ability to pay council tax. The ringfencing of the remaining Council Tax Support Grant to deal with future shortfalls helps mitigate this risk.

32. Reserves exist to help manage risk. The review of reserves, as part of the MTFs, provides me assurance that overall these are adequate. It should however be noted that they are reducing each year.

## **LEGAL**

33. I am required to receive advice from my Chief Financial Officer surrounding the budget and my reserves. The Chief Financial Officer is content that with a £15 increase my budget and the Chief Constable's budget are sound and deliverable. The Chief Financial Officer has also confirmed to me that he believes my reserves are adequate to manage risk.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

34. After carrying out the necessary consultation I am minded to set a precept of £61.004m. This will require council tax to be set on all property bands based on £231.27 for a Band D property. This represents a £15 (6.9%) increase on the 2020-21 level.

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Meeting	Police and Crime Panel
Date	4 February 2021
Report Title	Report on the Police and Crime Commissioner's Consultation on the Policing Precept for 2021/2022
Report presented by	Angus Macpherson, Police and Crime Commissioner
Author	Kieran Kilgallen, Chief Executive

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To provide the Police and Crime Panel (PCP) with a summary of the PCC's public consultation and the public's view on the proposed £15 a year, per household, increase in the policing precept on a band D property.

## **2.0 BACKGROUND AND CONSIDERATIONS**

- 2.1 The public consultation on the policing precept began at 11am on Tuesday 5 January 2021 and is due to close on Tuesday 2 February. This report covers all responses from the consultation led by the Corporate Communications and Engagement team, and highlights responses/statistics as of Tuesday 26 January at 1pm.
- 2.2 The consultation strategy has built on experience in recent years and the increased public awareness. This year, the priority has been to direct all consultation responses through our short and simple survey. This survey consulted on views on the proposed increase, priorities and age/location of those taking part.
- 2.3 A range of channels were used to raise awareness and encourage completion and feedback, including; high-profile media campaign launching the precept proposal, social media awareness campaign, video setting out the proposal, community messaging, engagement with local media and press statements, PCC and D/PCC virtual engagement with local communities at area boards and parish councils in January.

## **3.0 THE CONSULTATION**

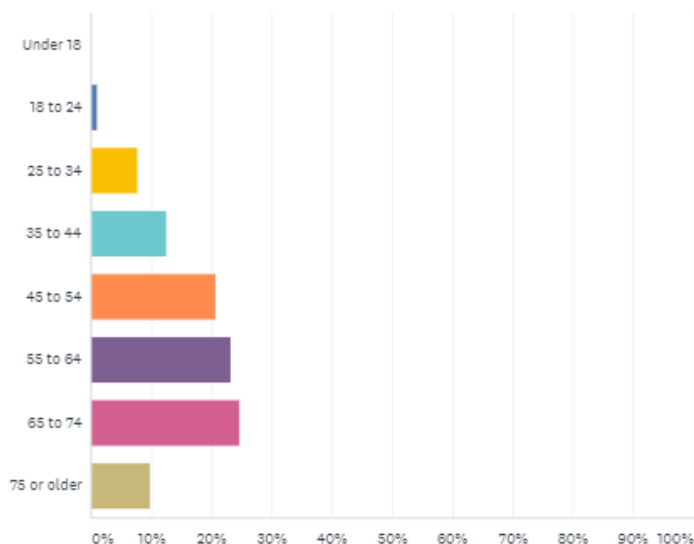
- 3.1 Despite the response rate being down on last year, I am still pleased with the response from the public and the comments received. In total, I have received 1526 responses to the consultation. I am grateful to the public for taking the time to share their views, whether positive or negative.
- 3.2 Four canvas questions were covered in this survey:
- What local authority area do you live in?

- Would you support a £15 per household, per year, increase in the policing precept to support the recruitment of 46 additional officers for Wiltshire and Swindon in 2021/22 and maintain essential services?
- Which one of these policing priorities is most important to you?
- What is your age?

### 3.3 The responses have been made up of the following ages:

#### What is your age?

Answered: 1,521 Skipped: 5

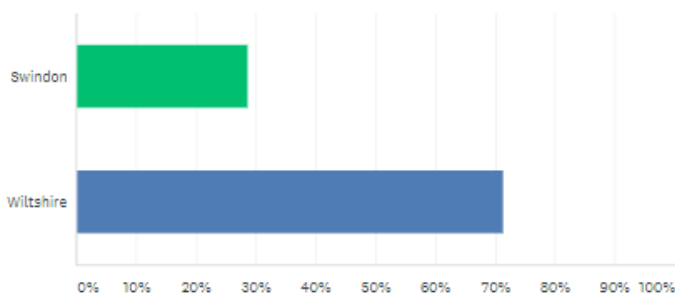


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Under 18	0.07% 1
18 to 24	1.12% 17
25 to 34	7.82% 119
35 to 44	12.62% 192
45 to 54	20.71% 316
55 to 64	23.21% 353
65 to 74	24.65% 376
75 or older	9.80% 149
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,521</b>

### 3.4 The majority of responses came from the Wiltshire local authority:

#### Which local authority area do you live in?

Answered: 1,521 Skipped: 5

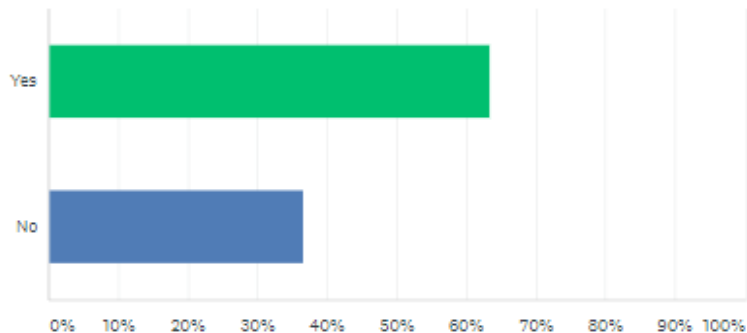


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Swindon	28.60% 435
Wiltshire	71.40% 1,086
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,521</b>

3.5 The majority of the public stated they would support the proposed increase.

Would you support a £15 per household, per year, increase in the policing precept to support the recruitment of 46 additional officers for Wiltshire and Swindon in 2021/22 and maintain essential services?

Answered: 1,522 Skipped: 4

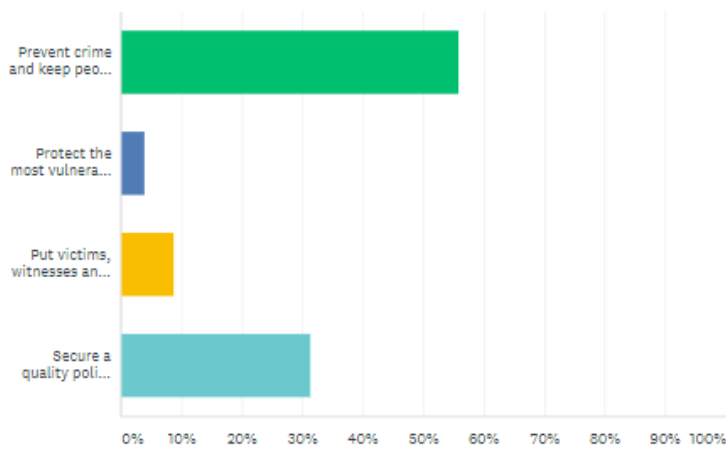


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	63.47% 966
No	36.53% 556
TOTAL	1,522

- 3.6 As the chart above sets out, a majority, 63.47% of respondents were supportive of paying an extra £15 per household, per year, in the policing precept to support the recruitment of 46 additional officers for Wiltshire and Swindon in 2021/22 and maintain essential services.
- 3.7 The high number of responses, and the majority in support, demonstrate overwhelming public support for increasing our officer numbers and maintaining essential services.
- 3.8 The suggested £15 increase followed a national announcement made about central police funding which was based upon the assumption that all PCCs would seek to use the maximum flexibility afforded them by the Government to increase local precepts. The extra £15 a year funding, or £1.25 a month, means that Wiltshire Police will recruit 46 additional officers for Wiltshire in 2021/22. The Force is also on track to recruit this year's target of an additional 65 police officers by March 2021. This will take officer numbers to 1,050 - the highest number of Wiltshire Police officers in six years. The additional 46 officers in 2021/22 would see officer numbers rise to 1,096 by March 2022.
- 3.9 I also asked the public to identify their most significant priority in my Police and Crime Plan. It is clear that the public identify with the work to 'prevent crime and keep people safe' and 'secure a quality police service that is trusted and efficient'.

## Which one of these policing priorities is most important to you?

Answered: 1,519 Skipped: 7



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Prevent crime and keep people safe	55.89% 849
▼ Protect the most vulnerable people in society	3.88% 59
▼ Put victims, witnesses and communities at the heart of everything we do	8.82% 134
▼ Secure a quality police service that is trusted and efficient	31.40% 477
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,519</b>

3.10 There is a wealth of valuable information within the survey responses and this will take time to analyse. 71% of respondents provided additional comments as part of the survey. Main themes include; police officers needing to be more visible, happy to support the precept rise, police station closures, concern over finances during the Covid-19 pandemic, and more funding needed from central government.

### 4.0 **RECOMMENDATION**

4.1 Panel members are asked to consider this report as part of their recommendations on my precept proposals.

# Police and Crime Panel Forward Work Plan - 2021

Please note: this is a working document which is subject to change

Date	Location	Provisional Agenda Items
Thursday 7 January 2021  10am-1pm	On-Line Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PCC Budget 2019/20 and MTFS</li> <li>• Capital Program</li> </ul>
Thursday 4 February 2021  10am-1pm	On-Line Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formal consideration of PCC Precept proposal</li> </ul>

<p>Thursday 18 March 2021  10am-1pm</p>	<p>On-Line Meeting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quarterly data (Q3)– Risk / Performance / Finance / Complaints</li> <li>• Commissioning budgets and delivery objectives</li> <li>• Road safety work in Wiltshire &amp; Swindon - <i>Chair of Road Safety Group – ACC Deb Smith &amp; DPCC Jerry Herbert to provide a presentation and discussion with members</i></li> <li>• Impact of EU exit on policing</li> </ul>
<p>Thursday June 2020  10am-1pm</p>	<p>On-Line Meeting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quarterly data (Q4)- Risk / Performance / Finance / Complaints</li> <li>• PCP/PCC working protocol</li> <li>• Complaints system, including local performance and governance mechanisms</li> </ul>
<p>Thursday September 2020  10am-1pm</p>	<p>On-Line Meeting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quarterly data (Q1)- Risk / Performance / Finance / Complaints</li> </ul>



Thursday December 2021  10am-1pm	On-Line Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Quarterly data (Q2)- Risk / Performance / Finance / Complaints</li><li>• Service Commissioning update</li></ul>
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