

# Report examines policing response to the pandemic

Published on 23 February 2022

Strengths and weaknesses were found in the policing response during the first 12 months of the COVID-19 pandemic

Brief 2 mins read

A report into the UK policing response to the COVID-19 pandemic found the service has been presented with unprecedented challenges.

The report – co-authored and jointly published by the Police Foundation and Crest Advisory – set out how UK policing responded to these challenges from March 2020 to April 2021.

Despite coming under considerable pressure, the report found that the police responded well to the operational challenge and kept core services running at a time when other public services often struggled.

Less positively, the pandemic reinforced the limits of the existing 43-force model and the demands that require different policing skills and capabilities.

The report covers:

- public consent and legitimacy in a pandemic
- police demand during the pandemic
- the effectiveness of the police's response
- policing COVID-19 across Europe – comparisons with England and Wales
- the pandemic and the future of policing

The report identifies five key lessons that can be taken from how the COVID-19 pandemic has been policed and makes a series of recommendations based upon them. These are centred around:

- crime prevention
- managing demand and workforce reform

- clarity around the rules
- communication and engagement
- the importance of a strong strategic centre

[Read the Policing the pandemic report](#)

## Download our latest edition of Brief

This article was published in the February 2022 edition of Brief, which brings you updates in police law, operational policing practice and criminal justice, produced by the College of Policing's legal services department.

- Share your ideas and feedback with the Brief team: [brief@college.pnn.police.uk](mailto:brief@college.pnn.police.uk)

- [College of Policing Brief: February 2022 \(pdf\) 560.68 KB](#)

## Tags

COVID-19

## Brief archive

Download our previous editions covering the latest updates in the policing and criminal justice field.

- [College of Policing Brief: January 2022 \(pdf\) 896.27 KB](#)
- [College of Policing Brief: December 2021 \(pdf\) 789.36 KB](#)
- [College of Policing Brief: November 2021 \(pdf\) 711.13 KB](#)
- [College of Policing Brief: October 2021 \(pdf\) 584.84 KB](#)
- [College of Policing Brief: September 2021 \(pdf\) 554.5 KB](#)

- [College of Policing Brief: August 2021 \(pdf\) 524.99 KB](#)
- [College of Policing Brief: July 2021 \(pdf\) 571.54 KB](#)
- [College of Policing Brief: May 2021 \(pdf\) 664.28 KB](#)
- [College of Policing Brief: April 2021 \(pdf\) 650.22 KB](#)
- [College of Policing Brief: March 2021 \(pdf\) 437.86 KB](#)
- [College of Policing Brief: February 2021 \(pdf\) 539.5 KB](#)
- [College of Policing Brief: January 2021 \(pdf\) 600.32 KB](#)
- [College of Policing Brief: November/December 2020 \(pdf\) 617.67 KB](#)
- [College of Policing Brief: August/October 2020 \(pdf\) 447.49 KB](#)
- [College of Policing Brief: June/July 2020 \(pdf\) 604.13 KB](#)
- [College of Policing Brief: May/June 2020 \(pdf\) 466.94 KB](#)
- [College of Policing Brief: April/May 2020 \(pdf\) 537.01 KB](#)
- [College of Policing Brief: March/April 2020 \(pdf\) 466.16 KB](#)
- [College of Policing Brief: February/March 2020 \(pdf\) 468.63 KB](#)
- [College of Policing Brief: January/February 2020 \(pdf\) 380.5 KB](#)