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## Cleveland chief constable confirmed as Jacqui Cheer

**Jacqui Cheer has been confirmed as Cleveland's new chief constable by the force's police and crime commissioner.**

Mrs Cheer has held the post of temporary chief constable since Sean Price was suspended in 2011 and later sacked for misconduct.

Police commissioner Barry Copping said she was the "right person" to take the force through "challenging times".

Mrs Cheer, who helped catch Suffolk prostitutes murderer Steve Wright, was the only applicant for the job.

The appointment was confirmed by Cleveland's Police and Crime Panel.

Mr Copping said: "This really does mark an important step forward in putting the force on the firm footing we need to move forward.

### 'Tough times'

"Mrs Cheer understands that, as far as I am concerned, her key task has to be continuing to drive down crime: she is committed to integrity and professional standards."

Mrs Cheer said: "There is no doubt that we have been through some tough times and I am grateful to all our officers and staff for their support.

"I know we have some real challenges ahead with the ongoing financial pressures, but I am confident we will continue to deliver an excellent service to the communities in Cleveland."

Mr Price and his deputy Derek Bonnard were arrested in August 2011 as part of Operation Sacristy, a criminal investigation into allegations of corruption at the force.

Mr Price, who remains on bail, was dismissed after being found guilty of gross misconduct.

Mr Bonnard is due to appear at a misconduct hearing on 4 March.

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