

Police chiefs calls cost fear

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Northumbria PCC Vera Baird

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Northumbria commissioner Vera Baird QC has backed the Home Affairs Select Committee after it promised to investigate the national 101 contract which allows a phone company to make profit from 101 calls.

It has emerged the provider of the 101 phone service could be making huge profits from people reporting crimes to the police via the non emergency number.

Mrs Baird said "The whole idea of the 101 number is to free up the 999 number for emergency calls only.

"People reporting crime are likely to be victims who should not be charged for seeking help from the police. People might be deterred from reporting crime or use 999 if they think they could be paying towards profits for the phone provider company.

"I have written to the Chairman, Keith Vaz MP, urging him to thoroughly look in to the new three-year contract which has been signed by the Home Office."

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