

## **Response from the Police & Crime Commissioner of Devon and Cornwall to [An inspection of the police response to the public disorder in July and August 2024: Tranche 1](#)**

### **Commissioner's response**

I welcome this report commissioned by the Home Secretary into the policing response to the public disorder seen nationally, following the tragic death of three young girls in Southport in July last year. Violent disorder in the UK is rare, but it is vital that police forces are prepared and equipped to respond to these events swiftly and appropriately to ensure public safety and secure justice.

I am proud of Devon and Cornwall Police's response to the riot in Plymouth in August last year and the outstanding teamwork across the criminal justice system which led to the swift prosecution of offenders and an end to the disorder.

I convened a Local Criminal Justice Board Meeting within 48hrs on 7<sup>th</sup> August, producing a joint strategy and an open letter to our communities condemning the violence. Within 72 hrs, four men were arrested, charged and imprisoned. To date, 24 people have been charged and 23 of them sentenced. This is an excellent example of how we work best when we work together.

Whilst I am confident in Devon and Cornwall Police's preparedness to respond to any future public disorder occurrences, I also welcome HMICFRS' recommendations to the National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC), the College of Policing and the Home Office to work with Chief Constables to improve the police service's capacity and capability to respond nationally, the mobilisation of public order public safety (POPS) resources and to improve well-being support for officers and staff.

Furthermore, as Chair of the Local Criminal Justice Board I am now working with colleagues to review the wider criminal justice partnership response to the disorder, by considering lessons learnt and developing best practice in order to improve the system wide response to any future instances of public disorder on this scale. As such I would also welcome any similar inspections by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons and His Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation which consider the response of His Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) to the violent public disorder seen last summer.

I have invited the Chief Constable to comment on this report and his comments are provided below. I am assured that the force are undertaking appropriate action to strengthen their own response to disorder, and to support the national picture.

### **Chief Constable's comments**

The findings of the 'An inspection of the police response to the public disorder in July and August 2024' are fully noted by Devon & Cornwall Police. Work in this area is led by the ACC Operations. Whilst the response in Plymouth (our main seat of disorder) was broadly a positive one, we are assisting in the national picture of mobilisation, wellbeing and readiness. Devon & Cornwall is home to the SWRICC who have given their expertise into national work

to support NPoCC specifically relating to Op Navette. We are undertaking a review of our own state of readiness in both personnel and assets. Our drone team is well resourced and deploys readily to spontaneous events. We are working on welfare considerations, which include a greater role for the Force chaplaincy.

Work is coordinated through the Strategic Operations Board through which will continue to support work on Force, Regional and National effectiveness.