

Response from the Police & Crime Commissioner of Devon and Cornwall to [State of Policing: The Annual Assessment of Policing in England and Wales 2023](#)

In the His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary Andy Cooke's second State of Policing annual report to the Secretary of State, the HMCI highlights many of the issues and challenges that faces policing of today.

As he did in his first report a year ago, HMCI Cooke places a strong emphasis on the need for the police service to rebuild trust and confidence, and he is clear about the scale of the challenge ahead.

Within Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, I am proud to be able to write that the levels of confidence that our communities have in our policing remains more positive than the national picture, however I am very much aware that we must continue to play our part and strive to further increase confidence levels. As such, I welcome the forthcoming increase in oversight that my office and I will be taking in matters including the vetting of police officers and staff, and in the enhanced scrutiny of police officer misconduct.

I welcome the HMCI's championing of neighbourhood policing, as visible, accessible policing was a cornerstone of my previous Police and Crime Plan, and will continue into my next. Community policing is also at the heart of Devon and Cornwall's policing purpose, and this will actively support my vision of having safe, resilient, connected communities where everyone plays their part.

The report also states that too many victims of crime are still being let down by the police and wider criminal justice system, and I recognise this view. As Chair of the Local Criminal Justice Board, I recently instigated a formal scrutiny inquiry into related matters, the results of which confirm my thoughts that there remains much to do to better meet the needs of victims, and provide a more joined-up approach to delivering criminal justice.

Whilst I continue to disagree with some of the HMCI Cooke's views on increasing the Inspectorate's powers, particularly with regard to the recruitment of Chief Constables, I do see significant value in strengthening the ability of PCCs to hold Chief Constables to account, particularly in relation to their response to recommendations made by HMICFRS.

As the elected voice of the people in policing, the detailed, evidence-led findings produced by the Inspectorate are an essential tool in helping me prioritise where I need to focus my attention. I look forward to a continuing, healthy relationship between HMICFRS and my office, in support of my mission to, on behalf of the communities of Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, continue to hold the Chief Constable to account and further improve the confidence that our residents have in their local police.