

FOI 14740 PCC's obligations under the Victim's Code

Request:

How does the PCC meet her obligations under the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime in England and Wales (Victim's Code)?

Schedule of Response Information:

Following receipt of your request, I can confirm the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) holds information relevant to your request.

Under the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime in England and Wales (Victim's Code), Police and Crime Commissioners are responsible for commissioning many of the services that support victims outlined in this code. Each year, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner writes a commissioning intentions plan which sets out the Commissioner's approach for making decisions about which interventions will be commissioned, how existing services will be updated and what new services will be created. This funding is allocated fairly and proportionately, with due regard to the competing demands on available funding. The plan is presented to the Police and Crime Panel each year as part of the budget setting process. The Commissioning Intentions Plan for the Police and Crime Commissioner for Devon and Cornwall can be viewed on our website here: [About commissioning – Your voice in policing](#)

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Devon and Cornwall, in conjunction with victim care and victim support, set up a local victim care website for Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. This website includes the telephone numbers for accessing support via the victim care unit if a crime has been reported and Victim Support if a crime has not been reported to the police. Victims can contact any of the services directly if they would like support from them. The website can be viewed here: [Home - Victim Care Devon & Cornwall](#)

[The Local Criminal Justice Board](#) (LCJB) which is chaired by the Police and Crime Commissioner, have developed a Victims of Code of Practice (VCoP) Scrutiny Panel, overseen by the LCJB Business Manager on behalf of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

This panel was introduced in February 2022 and was the first of its kind in the country. The aim is to objectively scrutinise local compliance with the Victims Code of Practice (2020) and to report its findings to the LCJB. The findings will also be reported to the Ministry of Justice as evidence of local monitoring of compliance with the Victims Code of Practice.



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The panel review a sample of anonymised criminal cases, under a particular theme or offence and assess whether organisations have met their obligations under the 12 individual rights of the Victims Code of Practice.

It is important to independently scrutinise, recognise and promote good practice, and robustly challenge areas for improvement so that the public can be assured and confident in their local criminal justice system.

Scrutiny panels are held four times a year and comprise of representatives from a variety of agencies including:

- Local Criminal Justice Board Business Manager (Chair)
- Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Devon, Cornwall, and the Isles of Scilly
- Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service
- Youth Justice Service (rotational attendance as required)
- Devon and Cornwall Police
- Strategic Delivery Partner/ Victims representative
- Crown Prosecution Service
- Probation (HMPPS)
- As required to include invitations by exception relevant to the theme / focus of the panel which may include VCSE organisations and the Magistracy.

The result of the panel's scrutiny will take the form of a report which contains findings and the panels rationale, including best practice or lessons learnt.

Victim Code of Practice scrutiny panel reports can be accessed through the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner using the following link: [Local Criminal Justice Board – Your voice in policing](#)

In addition to this the LCJB in collaboration with the OPCC have also developed a resource for victims and witnesses [Criminal Justice and You – Your voice in policing](#). This platform contains a section on 'your rights as a victim' and contains a short animated video which explains the rights available under the code.



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