

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 2:](#)

Commissioner's response

I welcome the findings from HMICFRS' second inspection into the policing response to national public disorder following the tragic death of three young girls in Southport last year.

As detailed in my [response](#) to HMICFRS' first [inspection](#), I am proud of how Devon and Cornwall Police responded to the violent disorder in Plymouth in August 2024 and I welcome the Inspectorate's recommendations to improve co-ordination in the national policing of disorder.

HMICFRS's second inspection considers the police's approach to intelligence, online content, and crime investigations throughout the unrest. I fully recognise the challenges that were faced by policing throughout this disorder, exacerbated by the sharing of harmful online content and widespread misinformation which fuelled disorder both nationally and locally.

Whilst HMICFRS' report has no recommendations for local police forces, I welcome the recommendations made to the National Police Chief's Council (NPCC) to support co-ordinated approaches in the sharing and monitoring of online content and intelligence across policing.

The Inspectorate also make recommendations to the NPCC to support plans and strategies for the policing of large-scale public disorder. The policing of riots and public disorder often requires police forces to work together through mutual aid arrangements and I am encouraged that HMICFRS recognise the importance of a co-ordinated and joint-up approach.

I am fully supportive of the Chief Constable in Devon and Cornwall working with the NPCC to assist this important work.

Chief Constable's comments

The findings of 'An inspection of the police response to the public disorder in July and August 2024: Tranche 2' are fully noted by Devon & Cornwall Police. Work in this area is led by the Assistant Chief Constable (ACC) for Operations.

Devon & Cornwall Police have already made steps to improve a 'state of readiness' through new strategically placed kit stores to support local and regional deployment. We are supporting the national response to these findings through testing and exercising and improvements to Mercury data.

Staff wellbeing is being improved through increased support from our Chaplaincy in operations as well as more tactical steps such as providing hydration tablets for staff.

In the Intelligence space, we have been supporting national improvements in intelligence collection using our drone academy, and our work to align investigation with operations in the public order theatre was recognised publicly during Navette. We are building upon that success through future planning and training.

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