

Commissioner's covering note

The role of Police and Crime Commissioner was created to help make the police more accountable to the people they serve, and the holding of our local police to account on behalf of the people of Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly is my core responsibility.

I do this in a number of ways and recently, I have convened a new Accountability Board at which as Chair, I select a number of areas of policing activity and related performance, and scrutinise them in detail, requiring the Chief Constable and his team to explain both current performance, and any plans they have in place to make improvements where required.

Following this, I then make a judgment on how assured I am, again both in terms of current police performance and the quality of any improvement plans. I then publish a statement describing my levels of assurance for the public to see, along with the agenda and attendance at each Board, to ensure as wide a visibility as is possible.

I remain committed to ensuring that Devon and Cornwall Police delivers a service to our communities as effectively and efficiently as is possible, and my office and I will continue to not only scrutinise and challenge robustly, but also to celebrate and champion whenever appropriate, on behalf of the people of Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

My statement of assurance from my Board meeting of 31st July 2025, and the meetings agenda, can be found below.

Alison HERNANDEZ

Police & Crime Commissioner

Commissioner's Accountability Board



Date & venue: Thursday, July 31, 2025, Andy Hocking House, Middlemoor, Exeter
Chair: Alison HERNANDEZ, Police & Crime Commissioner
Chief Constable: James VAUGHAN QPM, Chief Constable



Statement of assurance

Within this meeting, the Commissioner explored one specific area of force performance for the purposes of assurance:

- Crime Investigation Capacity (see assurance judgement below)

The force presented one additional area to the Commissioner for information and direction:

- Youth Justice – Force Governance

No.	Title	Rationale	Current performance	Force plans
1	Crime Investigation Capacity	<p>The force outlined the challenges for investigation standards around forensics, PIP2 (qualified detectives) and SOLOs (sexual offences liaison officers) capacity, and the plans in place to better resource these areas and improve crime investigation standards.</p> <p>Plans for building PIP2 resilience into the future were clear and provided the Commissioner with confidence that the right processes were in place to make improvements. The impact of the SOLO role was discussed and the Commissioner recognised the need for the force to develop the most appropriate model, taking into account future demand. Whilst challenges continue around timeliness of forensics services (managed through South West Forensics), the force demonstrated clear plans for improvement in this area.</p> <p>Therefore the Commissioner is part assured regarding the force's current performance and assured regarding the force's plans for improvement.</p>	<p>Part assured</p> 	<p>Assured</p> 
2	Youth Justice – Force Governance	<p>The force informed the Commissioner that the current approach to youth justice including governance, was in need of refreshing, but were clear that a child first justice pathway was already in place and a renewed focus will be brought to the area with a new force lead at senior level.</p> <p>The Commissioner and Chief Constable agreed on the following direction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> That a future Accountability Board meeting will receive an overview of youth crime to include data on children held in custody, charging, offence types, timeliness of investigations, interventions and outcomes That a whole system response to youth crime and justice would be incorporated through the work of the Serious Violence Board 		

Key:

Assured	Part assured	Not assured
Sufficient evidence has been provided to assure the Commissioner.	Some evidence has been provided, however insufficient to offer full assurance. Some further work is required.	Insufficient evidence has been provided to assure the Commissioner. Improvements are required.

Alison HERNANDEZ, Police & Crime Commissioner for Devon, Cornwall & the Isles of Scilly

Commissioner's Accountability Board



Thursday 31st July 2025, 12-3pm
Fowey Room, Andy Hocking House, Middlemoor

Agenda

Item no.	Title	Lead	Time
1	Chair's opening address	Chair	12.00pm
2	Review of Previous Meeting	Chair	12.20pm
3	<p>Chief Constable's update report (paper x 1) [FOIA Open]</p> <p>To include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Force performance against the Police & Crime plan ▪ Force budget & financial performance ▪ HMICFRS/PPOG matters ▪ Recent homicides or serious crimes the Commissioner should know about <p><i>The aim of this item is for the CC to inform the PCC of key issues happening in the force, including areas of concern & success</i></p>	Chief Constable James Vaughan	12.35pm
4	<p>Crime Investigation Capacity</p> <p>Performance deep dive (papers x 1) [FOIA S31 Law Enforcement]</p> <p>To deep dive the crime investigation capacity strategy, including medium term planning, succession planning and sustainability planning and sustainability planning for resourcing to include but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Forensics (2) SOLOs (3) PIP2 	ACC Jim Pearce and C/Supt Sheon Sturland	1.05pm
	BREAK		1.45pm
5	<p>Youth Justice – Force governance</p> <p>Report for information and direction (papers x 1) [FOIA S31 Law Enforcement]</p> <p>To explore how effective force governance of youth justice is, including reporting structures and clarity of force lead.</p>	ACC Jim Pearce and C/Supt Sheon Sturland	1.55pm
6	Assurance statement summary	Chair	2.25pm

7	AOB	Chair	2.40pm
8	Date & time of next meeting Meeting close	Chair	3.00pm

Attendance

Role	Name	Attended
OPCC		
Police & Crime Commissioner	Alison Hernandez	Y
Chief Executive Officer	Fran Hughes	Y
Treasurer	Nicky Allen	Y
Interim Deputy Chief Executive Officer	Clare Gollop	Y
Staff Officer	Nella Barker	Y
Accountability and Standards Officer	Vicky Church	Y
Devon and Cornwall Police		
Chief Constable	James Vaughan	Y
Assistant Chief Constable (Justice & Vulnerability)	Jim Pearce	Y
Assistant Chief Constable (Local Policing)	Glen Mayhew	Y
Director (Legal, Reputation & Risk)	Mike Stamp	Y
Non-Executive Director	Dinah Cox	Y
Staff Officer	Zoe Smith	Y
Guests		
Chief Superintendent (Crime & Justice), D&C Police	Sheon Sturland	Y

Apologies

Head of Performance & Scrutiny, OPCC	Jon Back
Deputy Chief Constable, D&C Police	Jim Colwell
Assistant Chief Constable (Contact & Strategic Planning), D&C Police	Nikki Leaper
Assistant Chief Constable, D&C Police	Dave Thorne
Assistant Chief Officer (People), D&C Police	Alexis Poole
Director (Finance & Resources), D&C Police	David Wilkin
Chief of Staff, D&C Police	Ed Wright