

## 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, one of them via my Commissioner's Accountability Board that I introduced earlier this year. Through this Board, I select a number of areas of policing activity and related performance, and as Chair, 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 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2025, and the meetings agenda, can be found below.

**Alison HERNANDEZ**

Police & Crime Commissioner

# Commissioner's Accountability Board







**Date & venue:** Wednesday 22nd October 2025, Andy Hocking House, Middlemoor, Exeter  
**Chair:** Alison HERNANDEZ, Police & Crime Commissioner  
**Chief Constable:** James VAUGHAN QPM

## Statement of assurance

Within this meeting, the Commissioner explored three areas of force performance for the purposes of assurance. These included:

- Delivery of the Serious Violence Police and Crime Plan priority area
- Delivery of the Community Safety Accredited Scheme
- Review of custody

No.	Title	Rationale	Current performance	Force plans
1	Police and Crime Plan priority – Serious Violence	<p>The Commissioner was assured by the Chief Constable’s plans for ongoing delivery of the Police and Crime Plan priority of Serious Violence. The Commissioner noted work was planned across all themes, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Women and girls feel safer in our towns and cities</li> <li>2. Organised criminals are prevented from operating in our countryside</li> <li>3. There is a reduction in people killed and seriously injured on our roads</li> <li>4. Radical ideas are tested to prevent domestic abuse, violence against women &amp; girls, and child sexual abuse</li> </ol> <p>The Commissioner asked the Chief Constable to ensure that there remains appropriate focus on delivery in rural areas.</p> <p>Given the status of the ongoing work, the Commissioner will scrutinise the Chief Constable’s performance data in detail and provide a statement of assurance at a subsequent Board meeting, and therefore has not provided a statement of assurance against actual performance within this report.</p>	N/A	Assured 
2	Community Safety Accredited Scheme (CSAS)	<p>The Commissioner was assured by Devon and Cornwall Police’s current performance related to the delivery of the Community Safety Accredited Scheme, noting the number of trained CSAS officers across Devon and Cornwall’s communities remained high, despite some capacity issues in the force’s support team.</p> <p>The Commissioner recognised the Chief Constable has taken an operational decision to delegate only certain CSAS powers, preferring to use the scheme to promote guardianship and community engagement, rather than enforcement.</p> <p>The Commissioner was assured by plans to “scale-up” current provision by increasing CSAS officer capacity when appropriate.</p>	Assured 	Assured 

3	Custody review	The Commissioner was assured by the Chief Constable's programme of work to review custody provision across Devon and Cornwall. The ongoing review looks at how improvements could be made to secure consistency of custody services, to strengthen detainee safety and welfare, and control costs across custody services. The Commissioner remained assured that the ongoing work was necessary and appropriate.	N/A	<b>Assured</b> 
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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



Wednesday, October 22, 2025, 10am–1pm  
Fowey Room, Andy Hocking House, Middlemoor

## Agenda

Item no.	Title	Lead
1	<b>Chair's opening address</b>	Chair
2	<b>Review of Previous Meeting and Assurance Statement</b>	Chair
3	<p><b>Chief Constable's update report</b></p> <p>To include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Force performance against the Police &amp; Crime plan</li> <li>▪ Force budget &amp; financial performance</li> <li>▪ HMICFRS matters</li> <li>▪ Recent homicides or serious crimes the Commissioner should know about</li> </ul> <p><i>The aim of this item is for the Chief Constable to inform the Commissioner of key issues happening in the force, including areas of concern &amp; success</i></p>	James VAUGHAN
4	<p><b>Police and Crime Plan Priority - Serious Violence</b></p> <p><i>To appraise the Commissioner of progress against her Police and Crime Plan priority of Serious Violence</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Part a) Force Report</li> <li>• Part b) OPCC Report</li> </ul>	Part a – Sheon STURLAND Part b – Fran HUGHES
5	<p><b>OPCC Presentation – Strategic Investment Plan</b></p> <p><i>A presentation outlining the principles for an OPCC strategic investment plan</i></p>	Fran HUGHES
6	<p><b>CSAS (Community Safety Accredited Scheme)</b></p> <p><i>Assurance report including exploration of roles and powers to expand the scheme</i></p>	Glen MAYHEW
7	<p><b>Custody Review</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Part a) OPCC Custody Review</li> <li>• Part b) Opportunities to improve detainees safety and welfare</li> </ul>	Part a – Fran HUGHES Part b – Sheon STURLAND
8	<b>Assurance statement summary</b>	Chair
9	<b>AOB</b>	Chair
10	<b>Date &amp; time of next meeting</b>	Chair

## Attendance

Role	Name	Attended
<b>OPCC</b>		
Police & Crime Commissioner	Alison HERNANDEZ	Y
Chief Executive Officer	Fran HUGHES	Y
Deputy Chief Executive	Clare GOLLOP	Y
Treasurer	Nicky ALLEN	Y
Head of Accountability & Standards	Jon BACK	Y
Head of Communications & Public Affairs	Ben WOOLVIN	Y
Performance & Scrutiny Officer	Chloe HOWARD	Y
Executive Staff Officer	Nella BARKER	Y
<b>DCP</b>		
Chief Constable	James VAUGHAN	Y
Deputy Chief Constable	Jim COLWELL	Y
Assistant Chief Constable (Local Policing)	Glen MAYHEW	Y
Assistant Chief Officer (People)	Alexis POOLE	Y

## Guests

Chief Superintendent (Vulnerability), D&CP	Sheon STURLAND	Y
Support Inspector (Chief Officer Group), D&CP	Segil ZULHAYIR	Y

## Apologies

Assistant Chief Constable (Contact & Strategic Planning)	Nikki LEAPER
Assistant Chief Constable (Justice & Vulnerability)	Jim PEARCE
Assistant Chief Constable (Operations Support)	David THORNE
Director (Legal, Reputation & Risk)	Mike STAMP
Director (Finance & Resources)	David WILKIN
Non-Executive Director	Dinah COX

Staff Officer (DCC)	Zoe SMITH
Chief of Staff	Ed WRIGHT