

Response from the Police & Crime Commissioner of Devon and Cornwall to [How effectively do the police record crime?](#)

Effective and accurate crime recording is essential if victims are to get the justice they deserve and for offenders to be dealt with appropriately. However, achieving full compliance in line with Home Office Crime Recording Rules can be resource intensive for police forces.

When HMICFRS last assessed Devon and Cornwall Police's ability to record crime as part of the 2023-25 PEEL inspection, the inspectorate estimated that the force was recording 90.6% of all reported crime (excluding fraud), 95% of sexual offences and 89.8% of violent offences. HMICFRS raised a cause of concern for this area and identified that the force needed to address gaps in its systems and processes for recording crime (particularly rape, assault, conduct crimes, domestic abuse related crime and antisocial behaviour related crime), provide specific training for officers and staff in crime recording roles, and regularly audit and monitor areas of crime recording where there are known gaps.

In my own [Police and Crime Plan](#) I have set the Chief Constable a target of recording 95% of all crime accurately and I continue to monitor the force's progress, including regularly reporting performance in this area to the Police and Crime Panel.

Recommendation 1

Forces need to improve their recording of all violent crime, in particular conduct crimes such as harassment, stalking and controlling or coercive behaviour and less serious assaults.

Action planned/taken: Devon and Cornwall Police continue to conduct internal audits of its crime recording. CDI (crime data integrity) compliance has been consistent over recent audits with the most recent figures showing an (unverified) overall compliance rate of 92%. The current compliance rate for sexual offences is 95.8%.

The results of the antisocial behaviour (ASB) audit and conduct crime audit suggest that stalking or harassment has high compliance when opened as a stalking or harassment incident, but many crimes are missed when opened as ASB.

The investigation quality assurance team (IQAT) have been introduced to review ASB (personal) at the front end. This is having an impact with 60% of ASB (personal) crimes recorded being done so through IQAT. Plans are in place to increase capacity in the team and to expand their remit to nuisance and environmental ASB also.

Finally, the procurement process has been completed for a crime recording assistant app, which will use Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Home Office Counting Rules (HOCR) to guide officers on which crimes to record based on the circumstances entered in the app.

Recommendation 2

Forces should make sure they quickly and correctly record crimes related to domestic abuse.

Action planned/taken: A dip sample of 50 each of vulnerable adult (VA) and child protection (CP) public protection unit (PPU) crimes has been undertaken and results suggest that 4 crimes were missed overall. The HMICFRS quality service review (QSR) in October will review 25 VA and CP cases. Assuming results of QSR are consistent with the latest audit findings then, compared with the HMICFRS review in 2024, the CDI compliance for vulnerable victims had a statistically significant increase.

As above, the AI crime recording app will ensure consistent performance in this area. Plans to increase capacity and change working practices in the crime standards unit will also contribute as the force seeks to include domestic abuse (DA) incidents without crime stats in their 24 hr reviews.

Recommendation

Forces need to make sure all officers and staff involved in crime recording are appropriately trained and understand their role in recording crime. They should also make sure there is effective oversight and scrutiny of crime-recording decisions and accuracy.

Action planned/taken: Ongoing learning and risk identification from force crime and incident registrar (FCIR) audits has informed specific training that has been delivered through bite size videos and cascade briefings. This approach will be continued. Early evidence indicates a positive impact on recorded crime volumes and in the specific areas highlighted for focus, such as [N100](#) and rape.

Gold and silver command governance structures remain in place and a refreshed audit plan has been developed from the advice and guidance provided by an external consultant. A suite of monitoring indicators has been identified and detailed analysis provided. The force have recently recruited a Detective Inspector to work alongside the FCIR to provide additional capacity to deliver the enhanced audit programme.