

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 10th December 2025, and the meetings agenda, can be found below.

Alison HERNANDEZ

Police & Crime Commissioner

Commissioner's Accountability Board



Date & venue: Wednesday 10th December 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 Devon and Cornwall Police's performance for the purposes of assurance. These included:

- Devon and Cornwall Police's response to HMICFRS' Integrity Inspection
- Review of the Chief Constable's budget proposals
- Corporate Code of Governance

One item was deferred until the meeting on the 11th February 2026:

- Routine logs

No.	Title	Rationale	Current performance	Force plans
1	Devon and Cornwall Police's response to HMICFRS' Integrity Inspection	<p>In March 2025, His Majesty's Inspectorate of the Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFS) undertook an inspection into integrity arrangements of Devon and Cornwall Police. The inspectorate found that improvement was required in the police's handling of complaints, misconduct, vetting, and counter-corruption.</p> <p>Following a presentation to the Board, the Commissioner was part assured by Devon and Cornwall Police's performance in this area. The Commissioner noted that progress had been made since HMICFRS' inspection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The police had reduced their complaint backlog from 1,600, to 410.▪ The time taken for the police to log complaints had reduced from approximately 61 working days, to around 2 weeks.▪ The number of business interests awaiting assessment had decreased from 800, to 10. <p>However, the Commissioner recognised that some areas of performance could still be strengthened, particularly in relation to the proactive monitoring of encrypted devices, and the police's oversight of complaints outside of the Professional Standards Department.</p> <p>The Commissioner was assured of Devon and Cornwall Police's plans to continue improvement in this area. This included provision of a new IT system to improve management of complaints and continued plans to implement the new Police (Vetting) Regulations 2025.</p>	Part Assured 	Assured

2	Chief Constables budget proposals	<p>The Commissioner is assured by the Chief Constable's continued delivery of the 2025/26 budget, noting that most commitments are on track to be achieved by the end of the financial year.</p> <p>The Commissioner was assured by the Chief Constable's plans for the 2026/27 budget. Whilst budget proposals were in draft format, awaiting confirmation of the police settlement, the Commissioner supported plans to retain numbers of frontline police officers, maintain resilience in crime investigations, and improve technology.</p>	Assured 	Assured 
3	Corporate Code of Governance	<p>The Commissioner and Chief Constable were appraised of the Corporate Code of Governance as prepared by the OPCC's Treasurer. Both were assured that the Code was fit for purpose, and that it supported business operations to be conducted in an open, inclusive and accountable way.</p> <p>The Commissioner and Chief Constable were assured of the Treasurer's plans to continue biennial reviews of the Code.</p>	Assured 	Assured 

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, December 10, 2025, 2pm–5pm
Fowey Room, Andy Hocking House, Middlemoor

Agenda

Item no.	Title	Lead	Time
	Arrival		
1	Chair's opening address	Chair	2.00pm
2	Review of Previous Meeting and Assurance Statement (paper x 1) [FOIA Open]	Chair	2.05pm
3	Chief Constable's update report (paper x 1) [FOIA Various] To include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Force performance against the Police & Crime planForce budget & financial performanceHMICFRS/PPOG mattersRecent homicides or serious crimes the Commissioner should know about <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>	James VAUGHAN	2.10pm
4	Continued Review of Custody Provision <i>To discuss the Chief Constable's review of the custody estate.</i>	Sheon STURLAND Dave THORNE	2.30pm
	BREAK		3.00pm
5	HMICFRS Integrity Inspection (papers x 1) [FOIA s.22] <i>Assurance report on plans to improve complaint handling, misconduct, vetting, and counter-corruption, following the findings of the HMICFRS Integrity Inspection 2025.</i>	Jim COLWELL	3.10pm

6	Routine Logs <i>OPCC Scrutiny Terms of Reference</i> (papers x 1) [FOIA s.22]	Jon BACK	3.40pm
7	Review of Chief Constable's Budget Proposals (papers x 1) [FOIA s.22] <i>Appraisal of the Chief Constable's (draft) budget proposal letter for 2026-27 as well as assurance on the delivery (to date) of the items outlined in the Chief Constable's budget proposal for 2025-26.</i>	David WILKIN	4.05pm
8	Corporate Code of Governance (papers x 9) [FOIA s.22]	Nicky ALLEN	4.35pm
9	Assurance statement summary	Chair	4.50pm
10	AOB	Chair	4:55pm
11	Date & time of next meeting Meeting close	Chair	5.00pm

Attendance

Role	Name	Attended
OPCC		
Police & Crime Commissioner	Alison HERNANDEZ	Y
Chief Executive Officer	Fran HUGHES	Y
Treasurer	Nicky ALLEN	Y
Head of Performance & Scrutiny	Jon BACK	Y
Performance & Scrutiny Officer	Chloe HOWARD	Y
Executive Staff Officer	Seg ZULHAYIR	Y
DCP		
Chief Constable	James VAUGHAN	Y
Deputy Chief Constable	Jim COLWELL	Y
Assistant Chief Constable (Local Policing)	Glen MAYHEW	Y
Director of Legal, Reputation & Risk	Mike STAMP	Y

Assistant Chief Officer (People)	Alexis POOLE	Y
Staff Officer (DCC)	Zoe PARNELL	Y
Director of Finance & Resources	David WILKIN	Y
Assistant Chief Constable (Crime, Justice & Vulnerability)	Dave THORNE (joined via MS Teams for one item)	Y

Guests

Chief Supt, Protecting Vulnerable People, D&CP	Sheon STURLAND	Y
Head of Estates, D&CP	Laura WOOTON	Y
Supt, Head of Professional Standards, D&CP	Alexandra DOUGHTY	Y

Apologies

Assistant Chief Constable (Contact & Strategic Planning), D&CP	Nikki LEAPER
Non-Executive Director, D&CP	Dinah COX
Head of Communications & Public Affairs, OPCC	Ben WOOLVIN