

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 14th January 2026, and the meetings agenda, can be found below.

Alison HERNANDEZ

Police & Crime Commissioner

Commissioner's Accountability Board






Date & venue: Wednesday 14th January 2026, 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 two areas of performance for the purposes of assurance. These included:

- The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner's delivery of the Police and Crime Plan priority of drugs and alcohol
- The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Devon and Cornwall Police's plans for management of the 2026/27 police budget

No.	Title	Rationale	Current performance	Plans
1	Police and Crime Plan priority; drugs & alcohol – OPCC delivery	<p>The Commissioner was assured of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner's (OPCC) continued delivery and oversight of the Police and Crime Plan priority of drugs and alcohol.</p> <p>Initiatives supported by the OPCC included Street Focus projects, support for businesses to report crime through UK Partners Against Business Crime (UKPAC), Night Bus routes for key night-time economy areas, a Lift Legend Campaign to reduce drink-driving, and funding for a drugs intelligence desk within Devon and Cornwall Police.</p>	Assured 	N/A
2	Budget 2026/27	<p>The Commissioner was presented with plans by the OPCC's Treasurer and Devon and Cornwall Police's Director of Finance to deliver the 2026/27 police budget. The Commissioner was made aware that any plans were subject to amendment as the police and OPCC awaited confirmation of the police settlement from central government.</p> <p>The Commissioner was assured as she could be given the information available that the budget for 2026/27 was subject to robust planning and financial management.</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, January 14, 2026, 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 and success.</i>	James VAUGHAN	2.15pm
4	Chief Executive's update report (paper x1) [FOIA: Open] To include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Delivery against the Police and Crime PlanWork to hold the police to accountKey engagement and partnership activitiesTransparency obligations <i>The aim of this item is for the OPCC's CEO to inform the PCC of key areas of work undertaken by the OPCC to deliver their strategic aims and objectives.</i>	Fran HUGHES	2.45pm

5	Police and Crime Plan Priority – Drugs & Alcohol (papers x2) [FOIA: various] <i>To appraise the Commissioner of progress against her Police and Crime Plan priority of Drugs & Alcohol</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cover paper: Details an assurance statement against the OPCCs delivery of the drugs and alcohol priority • Annex 1: Provides a detailed overview of activity delivered by the OPCC and Devon and Cornwall Police on drugs and alcohol 	Fran HUGHES	3.15pm
	<i>BREAK</i>		3.45pm
6	Budget 2026/27 [Verbal update] Part A: OPCC - Draft policing budget Part B: Force – Draft Chief Constable's Budget proposals	Nicky ALLEN David WILKIN	3.55pm
7	Assurance statement summary	Chair	4.25pm
8	AOB	Chair	4:30pm
9	Date & time of next meeting – Wednesday 11 th February, 2-5pm	Chair	4:35pm
10	Meeting close	Chair	4:45pm

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 (Contact & Strategic Planning)	Nikki LEAPER	Y
Assistant Chief Constable (Local Policing)	Glen MAYHEW	Y
Assistant Chief Constable (Crime, Justice & Vulnerability)	Dave THORNE	Y
Assistant Chief Officer (People)	Alexis POOLE	Y
Director of Legal, Reputation & Risk	Mike STAMP	Y
Director of Finance & Resources	David WILKIN	Y

Guests

Chief Officer Support Sergeant, D&CP	Leanne MOORHOUSE	Y
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Apologies

Staff Officer (DCC)	Zoe PARNELL
Non-Executive Director, D&CP	Dinah COX
Head of Communications & Public Affairs, OPCC	Ben WOOLVIN