



FOI 16252 OPCC Formal Written Escalations, Assurance Requests and Direction to the Chief Constable

**Request:**

Please answer the below questions from the timeframe between 1 January 2023 to the date of this request.

- 1) The number of occasions where the PCC or OPCC issued a formal written escalation, assurance request, or direction to the chief constable (please state the date).
- 2) For each occasion, please provide the issue description or subject heading as recorded at the time of escalation within OPCC governance, risk, or assurance records. Where issue categories are used, please provide the policing function and risk category recorded for each escalation.
- 3) For each escalation, please state the current status as recorded in OPCC governance or assurance records, using the status labels held by the OPCC (e.g. open, closed, ongoing).

**Schedule of Response Information:**

The Commissioner uses a number of formal and informal methods to hold the Chief Constable to account, however the OPCC does not formally record formal written escalations, assurance requests or direction to the Chief Constable in the manner that you describe, i.e. using categories or status labels.

After conducting a reasonable search of our records, I have identified some information which may be relevant to your request, the majority of which is already available to view on our website. Therefore, we consider this information to be exempt under Section 21 – information already reasonably accessible. Please find links to this information below.

The OPCC conducts stand-alone scrutiny inquiries, assurance reviews and insight activity which can result in statements of assurance, findings reports and/or recommendations to the Chief Constable and other bodies. The Commissioner also holds her monthly Accountability Board where she selects a number of areas of policing activity and related performance and scrutinises 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. Please see [Scrutiny activity – Your voice in policing](#)

I have also identified one additional issue which may be pertinent to your request. This was a letter from the Commissioner to the Chief Constable regarding the implementation of Niche (crime recording system), dated 8th June 2023.



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On occasion the Commissioner or her team also raise casework issues directly with the Chief Constable. The majority of these cases come from individual members of the public and relate to delays in service around their case.