

Annual Report 2024-25

Easy Read Summary

**Safe, resilient,
connected communities**
where everyone plays their part

Your voice in policing



PCC
Office of the Police and
Crime Commissioner
Devon and Cornwall

Summary of the Devon & Cornwall PCC Annual Report (2024–25)

👋 Who's the PCC and what's this report about?

Alison Hernandez is the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. Her job is to listen to the public, set policing priorities, and hold the police to account.

The Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan for 2025-29 sets out four priorities

1. Serious violence
2. Antisocial behaviour (ASB)
3. Drugs and alcohol-related crime
4. Tackling theft (new in 2025-29 plan)

This report explains highlights of what local policing teams, partners and the PCC achieved during 2024–25.

● 1. Reducing Serious Violence

◆ Tackling organised crime

- Teams worked together nationally to disrupt gangs involved in drugs, rural theft, and violence.
- Plymouth piloted Clear, Hold, Build — clearing criminals out of neighbourhoods and building community confidence.

◆ Domestic abuse work

- A new programme (CARA) will help lower-risk offenders change behaviour instead of going straight to court, aiming to keep victims safer.

◆ Knife arches in busy places

- Pop-up “knife arches” were used in high streets, train stations and schools to raise awareness and spot people carrying weapons.

◆ Support for people affected by sexual violence

- Agencies designed a more joined-up support system, especially for groups who don't always access help.

● 2. Dealing With Antisocial Behaviour (ASB)

- ◆ Hotspot policing
 - £1.2m funded extra patrols in areas with high levels of ASB.
 - 13 towns took part; people said they felt safer seeing more officers on foot.
- ◆ Night buses
 - Extra late-night buses helped people get home safely in North Devon and Torbay — reducing ASB, drink-driving, and risks for women and girls.
- ◆ Safe Buses
 - In Plymouth and Torquay, mobile “safe buses” offered first aid, welfare support, and a place to go if someone feels unsafe on a night out.
- ◆ Rural and heritage crime
 - Work continued to stop livestock worrying (dogs chasing farm animals) and vandalism at historic sites.

● 3. Tackling Drugs & Alcohol Harm

- ◆ Pubs Against Drugs
 - Police teams visited pubs, used drug-detection dogs, and tested toilets for drug residue — helping crack down on recreational drug use.
- ◆ Operation Scorpion
 - A massive South West partnership making the region “No Place for Drugs”, disrupting dealers and protecting vulnerable people.
- ◆ Training for professionals
 - Specialist sessions were run to help frontline workers understand issues like gateway drugs and gambling harms.

● 4. Road Safety

- Vision Zero South West rolled out innovative projects to prevent deaths on the road:
- AI cameras tested for the first time in the world to spot drink/drug drivers.
- Pub breathalysers that warn people if they’re unsafe to drive.
- Lift Legend scheme offering free drinks to designated drivers.
- Police arrested 284 impaired drivers in December alone.
- New safety cameras placed on dangerous routes like the A38.

5. Tackling Theft (New Priority)

- ◆ Shoplifting support
 - Businesses got a reporting app (UKPAC/Auror) to make reporting faster and reduce repeat offenders.
- ◆ Rural equipment theft
 - Theft of tractors, quad bikes, and farm equipment is rising.
 - Police now use a special RAPID app to identify stolen machinery quickly.

Police Stations & Community Contact

- ◆ Reopening front desks
 - More police enquiry offices (PEOs) opened in Liskeard, Ivybridge, Tavistock and more coming in 2025.
 - Over 90,000 people used these walk-in services in less than a year.
- ◆ Contact centre performance improved
 - 999 and 101 waiting times got significantly better after investment.

Community Projects

- ◆ Street Focus Torquay
 - A big project to improve safety and confidence in Torquay town centre through:
 - Better street cleanliness
 - Support for businesses
 - Targeted policing
 - Night buses
 - More reporting through Crimestoppers and Neighbourhood Watch
- ◆ Tri-Service Safety Officers (TSSOs)
 - These are unique roles combining police, fire, and ambulance skills — especially useful in rural areas.

Partnerships & Justice

- ◆ Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB)
 - Police, courts, CPS and others work together to improve support for victims and speed up justice.
 - Created “Criminal Justice and You” — a simple online guide for victims and witnesses.
- ◆ Prisoners Building Homes
 - Prisoners get training in construction while building modular homes.
 - Reoffending rate: less than 5%
 - 90+ sites identified for new affordable housing nationally.

Finance in Brief

- Total budget: £406.5m
- Only £20k underspent (very close to on target).
- More funding allowed reopening of police stations and better contact services.
- 3,610 police officers — the highest number ever.

Public Voice & Engagement

- Over 1,600 people completed the Your Safety, Your Say budget survey.
- Young Voices in Policing survey gathered feedback from 350 young people:
 - 70% feel safe in Devon & Cornwall
 - Top issues for young people: intimidation, dangerous driving, drug use.
 - New PCC website launched with 30% more visitors.
 - Victim Care website visits doubled.

In a nutshell...

2024–25 was a year of:

- More visible policing
- Improved safety in towns and rural areas
- New tech and partnerships to fight crime
- Better support for victims
- Stronger contact between communities and police
- Preparation for a new Police & Crime Plan (2025–29)