

Summary of the Devon & Cornwall Police and Crime Commissioner's Annual Report (2024–25)

Who is responsible?

Alison Hernandez is the Police and Crime Commissioner, also called the PCC.

She works for people in Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

Her job is to:

- Listen to the public
- Decide what the police should focus on
- Check that the police are doing their job properly
- She is an elected politician, not a police officer

This report explains what the police and partner organisations did during 2024 to 2025.

Police priorities

The PCC has four main priorities.

Priority one. Reducing serious violence.

Priority two. Dealing with antisocial behaviour.

Priority three. Reducing harm from drugs and alcohol.

Priority four. Tackling theft. This is a new priority.

Priority one. Reducing serious violence

Organised crime

Police worked with other police forces across the country.

They focused on gangs linked to drugs, violence and rural crime.

In Plymouth, police tried a new approach.

This removed criminals from neighbourhoods.

It also helped local people feel safer.

Domestic abuse

A new programme helps some lower-risk offenders change their behaviour.

This can be used instead of going straight to court.

The aim is to keep victims safer.

Knife safety

Temporary knife detection arches were used in busy places.

These included town centres, train stations and schools.

This helped raise awareness and stop people carrying weapons.

Support after sexual violence

Support services worked more closely together.

This helped people who do not always find it easy to ask for help.

Priority two. Antisocial behaviour

Antisocial behaviour includes things like noise, damage, and public disorder.

Extra police patrols

Extra funding paid for more police patrols in problem areas.

Thirteen towns took part.

People said they felt safer seeing officers on foot.

Night buses

Late-night buses ran in North Devon and Torbay.

They helped people get home safely.

They reduced antisocial behaviour and drink-driving.

They also helped protect women and girls.

Safe buses

In Plymouth and Torquay, special buses were available on nights out.

They offered first aid and welfare support.

They gave people a safe place to go if they felt unsafe.

Rural and heritage crime

Police continued work to stop dogs chasing farm animals.

They also worked to prevent damage to historic buildings.

Priority three. Drugs and alcohol

Pubs Against Drugs

Police visited pubs and clubs.

Drug detection dogs were used.

Toilets were tested for signs of drug use.

Operation Scorpion

Police across the South West worked together.

The message was that the region is no place for drugs.

This helped disrupt drug dealers and protect vulnerable people.

Training

Frontline workers received specialist training.

This included learning about drugs and gambling harms.

The aim was to help them support people better.

Priority four. Road safety

Police worked to reduce serious injuries and deaths on the roads.

Actions included:

- Testing new cameras to spot drink and drug drivers
- Providing breathalysers in pubs
- Offering free soft drinks to drivers who did not drink alcohol
- Installing new safety cameras on dangerous roads
- In December 2024 alone, police arrested 284 unsafe drivers.

Priority five. Tackling theft

Shoplifting

Shops in Torbay used a new phone app to report shoplifting.

This made reporting faster.

It helped reduce repeat offending.

Rural theft

Theft of farm vehicles and equipment has increased.

Police now use a specialist app to identify stolen machinery quickly.

Police stations and contact

Police front desks

More police enquiry desks reopened in local towns.

People can walk in to ask for help.

Over 90,000 people used these services in under one year.

Phone services

Waiting times for emergency and non-emergency calls improved.

This followed extra investment.

Community projects

Street Focus Torquay

This project aimed to improve safety in Torquay town centre.

It included cleaner streets, more police, support for businesses, and better transport at night.

Tri-Service Safety Officers

These officers combine police, fire and ambulance skills.

They are especially helpful in rural areas.

An event to celebrate the 10th anniversary of this scheme was held in November 2024.

Justice and partnerships

Working together

Police, courts and other services worked as a team.

They focused on better support for victims and witnesses.

A simple online guide called “Criminal Justice and You” was created.

Prisoners Building Homes

Prisoners learned construction skills while building homes.

Less than five percent went on to reoffend.

More than 90 locations were identified for affordable housing.

Money and staffing

The total budget was £406.5 million.

Spending was very close to the plan.

More funding helped reopen police stations.

There are 3,610 police officers.

This is the highest number ever.

Listening to the public

Over 1,600 people shared their views in a safety survey.

A separate survey asked young people:

- 70 percent said they feel safe
- Main concerns were bullying, dangerous driving and drug use

Summary

This year focused on:

- More visible policing
- Safer towns and rural areas
- New technology to fight crime
- Better support for victims
- Listening to communities