

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. 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 11th February 2026, and the meetings agenda, can be found below.

Alison HERNANDEZ

Police & Crime Commissioner

Commissioner's Accountability Board



Date & venue: Wednesday 11th February 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 Devon and Cornwall Police's performance for the purposes of assurance. These included:

- Increases in repeat victimisation
- Priority Based Budgeting arrangements

No.	Title	Rationale	Current performance	Plans
1	Increases in repeat victimisation	<p>In the 12 months to September 2025, 24,042 repeat victims were identified by Devon and Cornwall Police. This is a 10.8% increase on the previous year (+2,337).</p> <p>The Commissioner was part assured of Devon and Cornwall Police's performance in this area. It was noted that increases in repeat victimisation could, in part, be due to improved crime recording and that victims of domestic abuse, stalking, and shoplifting were more likely to be repeatedly victimised. It was however evident that additional work was needed to strengthen the police's understanding of repeat victimisation, particularly with regard to location and other characteristics.</p> <p>The Commissioner was part-assured by Devon and Cornwall Police's plans in this area. Plans were in place to create a data-led strategic profile to improve insight on repeat victimisation, and to produce a digital app to more easily identify those at risk of repeat harm. However, it was recognised that more work was needed to strengthen the police's use of protective orders and the domestic violence disclosure scheme.</p>	<p>Part Assured</p> 	<p>Part Assured</p> 
2	Priority Based Budgeting	<p>Devon and Cornwall Police are in the second-phase of a Priority Based Budgeting (PBB) exercise; an evidence-led and data-driven project which aims to more closely align spending with community priorities.</p> <p>The Commissioner was assured of Devon and Cornwall Police's plans to deliver PBB. It was noted that work had already commenced and that revised governance structures were in place to monitor delivery.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Assured</p> 

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, February 11, 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	<p>Chief Constable's update report (paper x 1) [FOIA: Various]</p> <p>To include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Force performance against the Police & Crime plan ▪ Force budget & financial performance ▪ HMICFRS/PPOG matters ▪ Recent homicides or serious crimes the Commissioner should know about <p><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></p>	Jim COLWELL	2.15pm
4	<p>Chief Executive's update report (paper x1) [FOIA: Various]</p> <p>To include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Delivery against the Police and Crime Plan ▪ Work to hold the police to account ▪ Key engagement and partnership activities ▪ Transparency obligations <p><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></p>	Fran HUGHES	2.40pm

5	<p>Policing Reform and White Paper (Standing Item) (presentation x 1)</p> <p><i>A standing item for matters relating to police reform.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A presentation containing a summary of the Policing Reform White Paper 2025 	Fran HUGHES	3.05pm
6	<p>Routine crime and incidents (papers x4) [FOIA: various]</p> <p><i>To inform the Commissioner of ongoing activity in relation to routine crime and incidents</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Part A: Force Report – Ongoing activity ▪ Part B: OPCC Report - Scrutiny Terms of Reference (TOR) 	Glen MAYHEW Jon BACK	3.20pm
	<i>BREAK</i>		3.40pm
7	<p>Repeat Victimisation (papers x3) [FOIA: various] <i>Assurance report by Devon and Cornwall Police on increases in repeat victimisation</i></p>	Dave THORNE	3.50pm
8	<p>Medium-term financial strategy (MTFS) (verbal update)</p> <p><i>The OPCC's Treasurer to appraise members of the MTFS.</i></p> <p>Note: this item was deferred</p>	Nicky ALLEN	4.10pm
9	<p>Update on Priority Based Budgeting (PBB) (paper x1) [FOIA: open]</p> <p><i>Update from the Deputy Chief Constable on matters relating to PBB.</i></p>	Jim COLWELL	4:25pm
10	Assurance statement summary	Chair	4.50pm
11	AOB	Chair	4:55pm
12	Date & time of next meeting – Wednesday 11 th March, 2-5pm	Chair	4:55pm
13	Meeting close	Chair	5:00pm

Attendance

Role	Name	Attended
OPCC		
Police & Crime Commissioner	Alison HERNANDEZ	Y
Chief Executive Officer	Fran HUGHES	Y
Head of Performance & Scrutiny	Jon BACK	Y
Performance & Scrutiny Officer	Chloe HOWARD	Y
Executive Staff Officer	Seg ZULHAYIR	Y
DCP		
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

Apologies

Chief Constable, D&CP	James VAUGHAN
Treasurer (OPCC)	Nicky ALLEN
Staff Officer, D&CP	Zoe PARNELL
Non-Executive Director, D&CP	Dinah COX