

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 March 2026, and the meetings agenda, can be found below.

Alison HERNANDEZ

Police & Crime Commissioner

Commissioner's Accountability Board



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

- Delivery of recommendations from the OPCC's scrutiny inquiry into file quality and timeliness
- Delivery of the Police and Crime Plan drugs and alcohol priority
- Delivery of activity to disrupt Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

For transparency, the Commissioner also assessed the OPCCs performance where relevant.

No.	Title	Rationale	Current performance	Plans
1	Delivery of recommendations from the OPCC's scrutiny inquiry into file quality and timeliness	OPCC Upon finalisation of the OPCC's file quality scrutiny inquiry in August 2024, 7 recommendations were made to the OPCC. The Commissioner was assured by the OPCCs performance in this area, noting that all 7 recommendations had since been delivered.	Assured 	N/A
		Devon and Cornwall Police 18 recommendations were made for Devon and Cornwall Police as a result of the scrutiny inquiry. The Commissioner was assured by the polices completion of activity in this area, pending clarity on 5 specific queries. The Commissioner noted that improvements had been made to the police's file quality since the inception of the scrutiny inquiry in 2023, with recent data showing that compliance was now in line with the national file quality target of 70%.	Assured 	N/A
2	Delivery of the Police and Crime Plan - Drugs and alcohol priority	Devon and Cornwall Police The Commissioner was part assured by Devon and Cornwall Police's delivery of the Police and Crime Plan priority of drugs and alcohol. Whilst the Commissioner recognised that varied activity was ongoing - including the Drugs Intel Desk, Op. Scorpion, and dedicated work from the police's Licensing Team – it was recognised that strategic leadership and direction in this area could be strengthened.	Part Assured 	N/A

3	Activity to disrupt Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)	<p>OPCC</p> <p>The Commissioner was assured of the OPCC's plans to disrupt VAWG. This includes dedicated partnership activity through 4 work streams:</p> <p>Stream 1- Pilot of a male allyship programme Stream 2- VAWG training for businesses and community groups Stream 3- Scrutiny activity through the OPCC's scrutiny programme Stream 4- Support to existing VAWG services and interventions</p>	N/A	Assured 
		<p>Devon and Cornwall Police</p> <p>The Commissioner was assured of Devon and Cornwall Police's ongoing plans to disrupt VAWG. It was noted that whilst details were still being consolidated, the police had plans to support a number of policing and community projects to reduce VAWG.</p>	N/A	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, March 11, 2026, 2pm–5pm
Fowey Room, Andy Hocking House, Middlemoor

Agenda

Item no.	Title	Lead	Time
0	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>	James VAUGHAN	2.15pm
4	<p>Policing Reform (standing item) (verbal)</p> <p><i>A standing item for matters relating to police reform</i></p>	Fran HUGHES	2.40pm
5	<p>OPCC File Quality Recommendations (papers x 4) [FOIA: various]</p> <p>To assure the PCC on progress to deliver the recommendations ahead of the quarterly LCJB meeting on 31st March 2026.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Part A: OPCC recommendations ▪ Part B: Force recommendations ▪ Part C: LCJB recommendations 	James VAUGHAN Chloe HOWARD	3.00pm

6	<p>Delivery of the Police and Crime Plan: Drugs and Alcohol priority (papers x1) [FOIA - s.31]</p> <p>To provide assurance to the PCC of the Force's delivery of the Police and Crime Plan priority on drugs and alcohol.</p>	James VAUGHAN	3.30pm
7	<p>Disruptive VAWG (papers x1) [FOIA: Closed S.22]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Part A: OPCC report on delivery of disruptive VAWG. ▪ Part B: Force verbal update on activity to disrupt VAWG. 	Fran HUGHES Zoe PARNELL	4:00pm
8	Assurance statement summary	Chair	4.30pm
9	AOB	Chair	4:35pm
10	Date & time of next meeting – Wednesday 15 th April, 2 - 3:30pm	Chair	4:35pm
11	Meeting close	Chair	4:40pm

Attendance

Role	Name	Attended
OPCC		
Police & Crime Commissioner	Alison HERNANDEZ	Y
Chief Executive Officer	Fran HUGHES	Y
Head of Communications & Public Affairs	Ben WOOLVIN	Y
Accountability and Standards Officer (Team Manager)	Chloe HOWARD	Y
DCP		
Chief Constable	James VAUGHAN	Y
Deputy Chief Constable	Jim COLWELL	Y
Assistant Chief Constable (Local Policing)	Glen MAYHEW	Y
Director of Legal, Reputation & Risk	Mike STAMP	Y
Director of Finance & Resources	David WILKIN	Y
Executive Staff Officer	Zoe PARNELL	Y

Apologies

Treasurer (OPCC)	Nicky ALLEN
Head of Performance & Scrutiny (OPCC)	Jon BACK
Assistant Chief Constable (Contact & Strategic Planning)	Nikki LEAPER
Assistant Chief Constable (Crime, Justice & Vulnerability)	Dave THORNE
Assistant Chief Officer (People)	Alexis POOLE
Non-Executive Director, D&CP	Dinah COX