



OPCC Record of Decision

Criminal Justice Court Reporting scheme – 9-month extension to pilot:

Following an initial 3-month pilot which started on 1st December 2025 and finished on 28 February 2026) the Commissioner agreed to extend the pilot for a further 9 months for the period 1st March to 30 November 2026 to ensure proof of concept for the Criminal Justice Court Reporting scheme.

Decision Record prepared by

Name:	Amanda Wells
Role:	Commissioning and Partnerships officer
Date of Decision:	27.02.2026

1. Aim of pilot:

1. This pilot aims to increase public visibility of the criminal justice system in Devon & Cornwall by paying for a dedicated court reporter to cover cases at Exeter Magistrates Court – and other Magistrates Courts in the region wherever possible. By enabling court proceedings to be seen more openly, it is hoped this will increase confidence and awareness of the criminal justice system and potentially act as a deterrent to any would-be offenders.

2. The £23,940 is funding a 9-month grant extension to be used to:
 - Provide a full-time journalist or full-time equivalent to report on court proceedings in Magistrates' courts in Devon and Cornwall for a period of nine calendar months.
 - To increase public visibility of the criminal justice system in Devon & Cornwall by paying for a dedicated court reporter to cover cases at Exeter Magistrates Court – and other Magistrates Courts in the region wherever possible. By enabling court proceedings to be seen more openly, to increase confidence and awareness of the criminal justice system and act as a deterrent to any would-be offenders.

2. Decision Record

- 2.1 To issue a 9-month grant extension from 1st March 2026 - 30 November 2026 to continue the CJ Court Reporting scheme pilot with a total grant value of £23,940.

3. Consultation, Engagement and Communication

- 3.1 This is a Local Criminal Justice Board project and there has been support for this approach over a protracted period of time.



3. OPCC Monitoring Officer advice

4.1 Legal, Management, Equality and GDPR Implications – Current and Future

- The PCC's Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer has advised that the arrangements set out in the proposal meet the requirements of the relevant legislation and the needs of the organisation.
- The PCC's CEO and Monitoring Officer have advised that this decision is within the powers of those making it and that, from the information provided, there would not appear to be any adverse legal, managerial, equality or GDPR implications arising from the proposal.
- EDHR obligations have been considered when taking this decision and, on this occasion, it is not necessary to complete an Equality Impact Assessment. The decision will not impact on human resources, equality or diversity obligations.

4.2 Financial and Commercial – Current and Future

- The PCC's Chief Finance Officer and S151 Officer has advised that the arrangements are consistent with good governance and ensuring value for money.

5. Supporting documents:

3.1. None

6. Official approval

- 6.1 Following the appropriate approval, this decision sheet will be published, subject to FOIA classification, on the OPCC website.



For OPCC office use:

If FOI Closed at the current date under Section 22, please provide details of the future date by which this decision can be reconsidered for publication:	[DD/MM/YY] [insert date]
Is there a publication schedule that lists the documents relating to this decision that will also be published at a later date in the future? If yes, please attach a copy with this decision.	no

The Recommendation for Decision as outlined in this report is formally approved and subject to Freedom of Information Classification will be published on the OPCC website:

Police and Crime Commissioner

**Governance Signature by
Monitoring Officer**

Signed
Print: Alison Hernandez
Date: 08/04/2026

Signed
Print: Frances Hughes
Date: 08/04/2026

Equality Impact Assessment attached [Tick if completed]	
Data Protection Impact Assessment attached [Tick if completed]	
Decision logged in register? [Tick if completed]	
Decision published on OPCC website?	✓