

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 9th September 2026, and the meetings agenda, can be found below.

Alison HERNANDEZ

Police & Crime Commissioner

Commissioner's Accountability Board



Date & venue: Wednesday 9th September 2026, Andy Hocking House, Middlemoor, Exeter

Chair: Alison HERNANDEZ, Police and 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:

- Priority Based Budgeting (phase 2)
- Knife Crime Concentration Fund

No.	Title	Rationale	Current performance	Plans
1	Priority Based Budgeting (phase 2)	Devon and Cornwall Police are concluding 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. The Commissioner was assured of Devon and Cornwall Police's performance in this area, noting the project had identified opportunities for substantial savings and reinvestment. This is notwithstanding a request from the Commissioner to have a follow-up briefing regarding one budget area. The Commissioner did not make a statement of assurance on the force's plans to deliver the savings and investments, noting they remained in development and were soon to be finalised.	Assured	N/A
2	Knife Crime Concentration Fund	The Commissioner was assured by Devon and Cornwall Police's management of the Knife Crime Concentration Fund and that delivery was compliant with Home Office criteria and deadlines. The Commissioner did not make a statement of assurance on the force's plans to deliver the fund, noting problem-solving plans had not yet been finalised and the deadline for submission to the Home Office was the following week.	Assured	N/A

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, September 9th, 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	Chief Constable's Update Report (paper x1) [FOIA: various] To include: - Force performance against the Police and Crime plan. - Force budget & financial performance - HMICFRS/PPOG matters - Recent homicides serious crimes the Commissioner should know about <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 & success.</i>	James VAUGHAN	2.10pm
4	Chief Executive's Update Report (paper x1) [FOIA: various] To include: - Delivery against the Police and Crime Plan - Work to hold the police to account - Key engagement and partnership activities - Transparency obligations <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>	Fran HUGHES	2.30pm

5	Priority Based Budgeting: Phase 2 (paper x3) [FOIA: S.43] <i>The aim of this item is to inform the Commissioner on findings and agreed outcomes of Priority Based Budgeting phase 2.</i>	David WILKIN	2.50pm
6	Knife Crime Concentration Fund (paper x1) [FOIA: Open] <i>The aim of this item is to inform the Commissioner of the force's delivery of the Knife Crime Concentration Fund.</i>	Glen MAYHEW	3:15pm
	Break		3:40pm
7	Changes to Victim Care (paper x2) [FOIA: Closed] <i>The aim of this item is to provide assurance to the Commissioner of the force's plans to deliver proposed changes to victim care.</i> Nb. item deferred in the meeting	Matt LONGMAN	3:45pm
8	Op. Bridger and Op. Ford (paper x1) [FOIA: S.23] <i>The aim of this item is to provide assurance to the Commissioner of the force's plans to deliver Op. Bridger and Op Ford.</i> To include: ▪ The delivery strategy in place ▪ The service councillors and elected persons can expect to receive ▪ How risk is currently graded	Graham THOMAS	4.10pm
9	Complaint handling performance (standing item) (paper / presentation x1) <i>An update to the Commissioner on complaint handling performance.</i>	Jim COLWELL Lesley BULLEY	4.30pm
10	Policing Reform (standing item) (verbal) A standing item for matters relating to police reform.	Fran HUGHES	4.45pm
11	AOB	Chair	4:55pm
12	Date & time of next meeting – Wednesday 14th October, 2-5pm (informal)	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
Treasurer	Nicky ALLEN	Y
Head of Performance & Scrutiny	Jon BACK	Y
Accountability and Standards Officer	Chloe HOWARD	Y
Policy Adviser	Lisa VANGO	Y
Staff Officer	Yvan CLARKE	Y
DCP		
Chief Constable	James VAUGHAN	Y
Deputy Chief Constable	Jim COLWELL	Y
Assistant Chief Constable, Vulnerability and Crime	Matt LONGMAN	Y
Assistant Chief Constable, Local Policing and Partnerships	Glen MAYHEW	Y
Assistant Chief Officer, People	Alexis POOLE	Y
Director of Finance & Resources	David WILKIN	Y
Non-Executive Director	Dinah COX	Y
Staff Officer to Deputy Chief Constable	Segil ZULHAYIR	Y

Guests

Superintendent, Professional Standards Department	Lesley BULLEY
Superintendent, Ops Planning	Graham THOMAS
Detective Inspector, Plymouth	Kevin MORLEY

Apologies

Director of Legal Services	Mike STAMP
Head of Communications & Public Affairs	Ben WOOLVIN
Assistant Chief Constable, Contact and Specialist Operations	Nikki LEAPER
Staff Officer to Chief Constable	Zoe PARNELL