

Police and Crime Plan 2025-29

**Safe, resilient,
connected communities**
where everyone plays their part



Your voice in policing



PCC
Office of the Police
and Crime Commissioner
Devon and Cornwall

My priorities

A crime-fighting police force that tackles...

**antisocial
behaviour**

**drugs and
alcohol**

violence

theft

...in our **towns**
and **city centres**,
countryside
and **coastal**
communities,
homes,
neighbourhoods,
and **on our roads**

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My vision

.....

Safe, resilient, connected communities where everyone plays their part

Foreword from the Commissioner

We all deserve police and criminal justice services that you can trust and have confidence in.

The Chief Constable needs to deliver a service that is consistently assessed as good – by both national inspection standards and by the people we serve in Devon and Cornwall. To address this the Chief Constable will need to deliver a consistently high standard of crime investigation which supports victims, and lead a police force which demonstrates the highest level of police conduct and professional standards in everything it does.

This plan sets out how I intend to achieve this, and the priorities I have set for policing, based on data and public consultation.

Changing the behaviours of offenders is key to keeping our communities safe. As chair of the Local Criminal Justice Board and South West Reducing Reoffending Board, I will continue to work with partners in the criminal justice system and more broadly to rehabilitate offenders back into society effectively.



But most importantly, I know that while Devon and Cornwall is one of the safest places in the country, you need the police to focus on the issues that matter to you. My commitment is to tackle the key things that blight our towns, neighbourhoods and communities, and build safe, resilient, connected communities where everyone plays their part.

Alison Hernandez

Your voice in policing

My overarching priority:

Improving your policing and crime services

	Antisocial behaviour	Drugs and alcohol	Violence	Theft
 In our towns and city centres	Every available tool is used to reset behaviours on our streets	No more drug dealing and alcohol or drug related disorder in our towns	An end to violence against women and girls in our night-time economies	Less theft and shoplifting on our high streets
 In our countryside and coastal areas	An end to criminal damage of our countryside and coast	Drugs networks are deterred from coming through our countryside and coasts	Organised criminals are prevented from operating in our countryside	Rural theft is prevented, reported and investigated
 On our roads	Communities are not disrupted by antisocial vehicles and road use	Zero tolerance to drink and drug driving	No deaths or serious injuries on our roads	Organised crime groups who target motor vehicles are disrupted
 In our homes and neighbourhoods	Young people are prevented from being drawn into antisocial behaviour and violence	Supply of and demand for illegal substances are disrupted	Radical prevention of domestic and child sexual abuse	Every residential burglary is attended by police

Your voice in policing

Our area



Devon and Cornwall is a large police force in south west England. It has a resident population of 1.82 million and has the largest road network of any force, at 13,600 miles.

The force area is one of the country's most popular holiday destinations, attracting 39.2 million domestic tourist visits a year. It hosts the largest number of domestic overnight stays of all forces in England (excluding London's).

The geography of Devon and Cornwall is diverse, creating complexities for policing.

It comprises both rural and urban areas, with three cities, two national parks and 730 miles of coastline. The area is also on the edge of a peninsula, which limits opportunities for support from other forces.

Devon and Cornwall has more people aged over 65 than most places in the UK, and has a higher proportion of people living with disabilities. There are pockets of deprivation across both counties, particularly in towns and cities such as Exeter, Torquay and Plymouth.

Your voice in policing

Your **police force**

.....

Devon & Cornwall Police

in a day*



323 crimes



615 incidents



100 arrests



775 non-emergency
101 calls



859 emergency
999 calls



219 online contacts
received

* Average for 12 months to June 2024

Your Police and Crime Commissioner

The Commissioner...

Sets the police and crime objectives through a Police and Crime Plan

Appoints a Chief Constable and holds them to account for running an efficient and effective police force

Works with partners to secure funding to invest in reducing crime and keeping people safe

Sets the force budget and determines the policing element of council tax (the precept)

Owns and manages the police estate of more than 130 buildings

Appoints and assigns independent panel members to police misconduct proceedings

Convenes criminal justice partners through scrutiny panels which review police practice, identify areas for improvement and good practice

The Commissioner's activities include...

Investing £9.6m in services for victims

Supporting communities to tackle crime with a £200k grants scheme

Providing restorative justice services to more than 300 victims of crime

Supporting 36,000 victims via her Devon and Cornwall Victim Care Network

Reviewing more than 100 police complaints

Handling more than 1,500 phone calls, letters and emails

Delivering more than 250 hours of community engagement events

Considering more than 3,000 responses to surveys about policing priorities and budget

**Figures based on 2023-24 activity*



Your voice in policing

Overarching priority: **Improving your policing and crime services**

The Commissioner's pledge to residents of Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly...

My commitments

I will continue to hold the Chief Constable to account for...

- ▶ Delivering a clear, commonsense approach to tackle crime and disorder
- ▶ Improving Devon & Cornwall Police so that no services are graded as inadequate
- ▶ Improving call waiting times, incident attendance times and confidence in reporting
- ▶ Ensuring Police Enquiry Offices are open and our communities have options to access the police how and when they need them
- ▶ Creating a policing culture which upholds the highest standards of competence and professional behaviour
- ▶ Ensuring that everyone who comes into contact with the police is treated fairly and with respect

I will bring partners together and influence the system to...

- ▶ Ensure all partners take account of and play their part in the delivery of the Police and Crime Plan

I want a police service that...

- ▶ **Is relentless in its fight against crime and the pursuit of justice**
- ▶ **Supports victims to obtain justice**
- ▶ **Is accessible and enables the public to report crime and antisocial behaviour**
- ▶ **All our communities can continue to trust and have confidence in**

- ▶ Deliver coordinated and targeted support for victims of crime and antisocial behaviour
- ▶ Deliver services for children and young people who are victims or who are at risk of being drawn into crime and antisocial behaviour
- ▶ Ensure victims of crime get appropriate access to justice
- ▶ Reduce reoffending through behaviour change, prevention and diversion activities
- ▶ Celebrate community cohesion and promote personal social responsibility

Your voice in policing

In our towns and cities



My commitments

I will...

- ▶ Support proactive, visible hotspot patrols in our town and city centres
- ▶ Encourage maximum use of disruption and enforcement powers to respond to antisocial behaviour and support the expansion of the Community Safety Accreditation Scheme
- ▶ Work with partners to identify problem drinkers and drug users and ensure support is in place to support their stabilisation and rehabilitation
- ▶ Work with partners to prioritise the prevention of violence against women and girls
- ▶ Continue to invest in prevention and diversion activity to deter young people from

What do we want to achieve?

- ▶ Every available tool is used to reset behaviours on our streets
- ▶ No more drug dealing and alcohol or drug related disorder in our towns
- ▶ An end to violence against women and girls in our night-time economies
- ▶ Less theft and shoplifting on our high streets

being drawn into crime and antisocial behaviour, with a focus on knife crime

- ▶ Support local traders and communities to develop local approaches to reducing crime and disorder and improve the economy

Case study

Street Focus: Torquay

Castle Circus residents and businesses have long been affected by antisocial behaviour and serious violence, with residents and traders feeling unsafe, the area looking rundown, many vacant shop premises and not able to attract new businesses.

Street Focus Torquay was launched after Police and Crime Commissioner Alison Hernandez secured £1 million from the Home Office to fund hotspot policing in multiple locations across Devon and Cornwall, including Castle Circus in Torquay. The funding sees additional police and



uniformed community patrols in the town centre. The patrols provide a reassuring presence to help people feel safe while also proactively disrupting crime and acting as a deterrent.

This multi-agency approach is a collective vision for a safer town centre where the community can thrive with OPCC working in partnership with Devon & Cornwall Police, Torbay Council and SWISCo.

The project provides an opportunity to try and test new things to improve the environment, increase public confidence, reduce antisocial behaviour and local crime rates and aims to bring real, long-term change to the area.

Your voice in policing

In our countryside and coastal communities



My commitments

I will...

- ▶ Support our dedicated rural crime teams, Tri Service Safety Officers and rural crime prevention groups to tackle crime and antisocial behaviour in our countryside and on our coasts
- ▶ Work with the police and local authorities to deter and disrupt unauthorised encampments and antisocial events like illegal raves
- ▶ Work regionally to gather intelligence to enhance the 'ring of steel' and stop drugs networks coming through our countryside and coasts
- ▶ Work regionally to gather intelligence and stop organised crime in rural communities
- ▶ Work with communities to help secure rural businesses, prevent theft and increase

What do we want to achieve?

- ▶ An end to criminal damage of our countryside and coasts
- ▶ Drugs networks are deterred from coming through our countryside and coasts
- ▶ Organised criminals are prevented from operating in our countryside
- ▶ Rural theft is prevented, reported and investigated

reporting when crimes occur

- ▶ Stop the unacceptable delays in licence renewals experienced by people whose livelihoods rely on the use of authorised firearms

Rural crime is an issue for large areas of the country, but it tends to go unreported. It can impact on insurance premiums, food prices and damage local communities. Rural crime tends to fall into one of four categories:



Agricultural: crime linked to working farms, machinery, buildings and smallholdings. Offences include theft of equipment or fuel, damage to property and livestock worrying.



Equine: crime linked to stables and equestrian centres including offences like tack theft and livestock worrying



Wildlife: Wildlife crime includes hare coursing, poaching and interfering with protected species.



Heritage: includes offences like lead theft from churches, damage to ancient monuments and illegal metal detecting.

DID YOU KNOW?

Your voice in policing



On our roads



My commitments

I will...

- ▶ Continue to lead the Vision Zero South West Partnership with a focus on changing the 'fatal five' behaviours to reduce road deaths and serious injuries
- ▶ Work with partners to tackle and deter antisocial parking, vehicle modifications and noise nuisance from vehicles
- ▶ Make roads policing everyone's business, and promote road safety initiatives
- ▶ Promote increased public responsibility for road safety compliance and responsible vehicle ownership
- ▶ Work with police and partners to change behaviours to deter drink and drug driving

What do we want to achieve?

- ▶ Communities are not disrupted by antisocial vehicles and road use
- ▶ Zero tolerance to drink and drug driving
- ▶ No deaths or serious injuries on our roads
- ▶ Organised crime groups who target motor vehicles are disrupted
- ▶ Maximise the value of Automatic Numberplate Recognition (ANPR) and other innovations to pursue criminals using our roads

Vision Zero's ambition is to cut road deaths and serious injuries to zero by 2040. Will you sign up to the Vision Zero Pledge?

I will:



Ensure I am **alert, considerate** and **careful** when I use the roads, giving plenty of space for **horses, cyclists, pedestrians** and **motorcyclists**



Always drive/ride **within the speed limit** and at an **appropriate speed** for the road and conditions



Never use my **mobile phone** while driving and avoid other **distractions**



Always **wear my seatbelt** and make sure my **passengers** do the same



Never drive or ride while under the influence of **alcohol or drugs**



Your voice in policing

In our homes and neighbourhoods



My commitments

I will...

- ▶ Prioritise the investigation of young victims and witnesses of crime and specialist support services, recognising that children are victims in their own right
- ▶ Work with schools and other partners to educate children and young people about healthy relationships, community respect and the risks of exploitation and violence
- ▶ Ensure that offenders and repeat perpetrators who cause the most harm are identified and managed effectively, working with partners to address the links to drugs and alcohol
- ▶ Improve the reporting, investigation and prosecution of domestic abuse and rape

What do we want to achieve?

- ▶ Young people are prevented from being drawn into antisocial behaviour and violence
- ▶ Supply of and demand for illegal substances are disrupted
- ▶ Radical prevention of domestic violence and child sexual abuse
- ▶ Every residential burglary is attended by police
- ▶ Increase resilience to fraud and cybercrime
- ▶ Hold the Chief Constable to account for robustly investigating residential burglary

What is Sarah's law?

Sarah's Law came into being through the dedication and perseverance of the parents of Sarah Payne, who was brutally murdered in 2000.

Sarah was killed by someone who was known to be violent and known to be threat to children. At the time of her death, the law did not allow people to know of the existence of such threats in their communities.

The tragedy of Sarah's death led to the start of the Child Sex Disclosure Scheme, its aim being to protect children from such horrific attacks in the future.



Today, because of Sarah and the work of her parents, all parents, carers and guardians can ask the police if someone has a relevant criminal record.

What is Claire's Law?

After the murder of his daughter Claire in 2009, her father Michael fought for the right for people to know if their current or ex-partner has a history of previous violence or abuse.

As a result of Michael's tireless campaigning, Claire's Law – formally known as the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme – was rolled out across the UK in 2014.

Your voice in policing

How will this be **measured**?

Overarching aim/objective: Improving your policing and crime services		
I want a police service that...	How I will measure this:	My targets will be:
Is relentless in its fight against crime and its pursuit of justice	HMICFRS* PEEL judgements	• No service areas judged as inadequate by HMICFRS • Devon & Cornwall Police removed from the 'engage' status of enhanced monitoring
Provides a good quality service to victims	Contacting the police	• 90% of 999 calls answered within 10 seconds • 90% of 101 calls answered within 10 minutes • Police enquiry offices to be open 100% of planned operating hours
Is accessible and enables the public to report crime and antisocial behaviour when needed	Crime	• Recorded crime rate • Increase % of crimes with a positive outcome • Antisocial behaviour incident rate
All our communities can continue to trust and have confidence in	Public confidence	• Increase % that agree that the police treat you with respect • Increase % that agree the police would treat you fairly • Increase overall % in confidence in police • Reduction in % of complaints upheld (ONS CSEW measures)

*His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabularies and Fire & Rescue Services

Your voice in policing

Roles, responsibilities and reporting

Police and Crime Commissioner

Elected by the public to represent their views on policing and crime locally

Holds the Chief Constable to account for delivering an effective and efficient police service

Appoints the Chief Constable

Publishes the Police and Crime Plan after consulting with local people

Sets the police budget and decides how much people will pay towards policing from their council tax

Commissions dedicated local victim support services

Funds crime prevention services to help keep communities safe

Works with criminal justice partners to reduce crime

Role of the PCC
<https://bit.ly/3ZAuy0T>



Chief Constable

Overall responsibility for leading the force, creating a vision and setting direction and culture that builds public and organisational confidence and trust and enables the delivery of a professional, effective and efficient policing service

Direct accountability for the operational delivery of policing services

Responsible for influencing the development of regional and national policing

Responsible for fulfilling all statutory and legal obligations of the office of Chief Constable and complying with any schemes of governance or consent that exist, which determine force governance arrangements



Role of the Chief Constable
<https://bit.ly/47BysbK>



Your voice in policing

Roles, responsibilities and reporting

Police and Crime Panel

Supports and challenges the Police and Crime Commissioner

Has the power to request reports and call the Commissioner to attend its meetings

Reviews the Police and Crime Plan and annual report

Scrutinises (with an option to veto) the Commissioner's proposed council tax precept for policing

Confirms the proposed appointments of Chief Constable and Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner statutory officers

Scrutinises the actions and decisions of the Commissioner

Considers complaints of a non-criminal nature against the Commissioner

The Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Police and Crime Panel is hosted by Plymouth City Council

Read more

<https://bit.ly/3MUeL5x>



Local authorities and Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs)

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires the responsible authorities in a local government area to work together in formulating and implementing strategies to tackle local crime and disorder in the area

CSPs must have regard to the police and crime objectives in the Police and Crime Plan

The Commissioner and CSPs must act in co-operation with each other in exercising their respective functions

County-level CSPs must send a copy of their community safety agreement to the Commissioner for their relevant police area

District-level CSPs must send a copy of their partnership plan to the Commissioner for their relevant police force area

Read more

<https://bit.ly/3BgQJio>



Your voice in policing

Leadership, transparency and integrity

The Commissioner holds the Chief Constable to account for all elements of policing. The Commissioner has a range of mechanisms and processes in place to support this duty. The Commissioner has sworn a public oath of office and observes the seven standards of those in public office also known as the Nolan principles.

Oath of office

The oath says that a Commissioner will:

- ▶ Serve the people of Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly
- ▶ Act with integrity and diligence
- ▶ Give a voice to the public
- ▶ Ensure transparency of their decisions
- ▶ Not interfere with the operational independence of police officers

Transparency is the cornerstone of public confidence. The Commissioner will continue to publish decisions and ensure that Devon and Cornwall Police does the same so that public confidence can be maintained. The OPCC is already a recipient of the CoPaCC Transparency Award and this is a position we intend to maintain.

Strategic Policing Requirement

The Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR) is where the Home Secretary has identified six national threats that all police force areas must demonstrate they have the plans and capability to respond to, in addition to regular policing requirements.



The threats have been assessed and selected from the National Security Risk Assessment on the basis that they either affect multiple police force areas or may require action from multiple forces, resulting in a national response.

The policing requirement to counter the threats is set out in the SPR and forces are required to evidence preparedness against five areas: capacity and contribution, capability, consistency and connectivity.

The Chief Constable and the Commissioner must have “due regard” to the SPR and ensure that the police force is in a state of readiness to deal with the threats in addition to business as usual.

SPR priorities

Violence against women and girls
Terrorism
Serious and organised crime
A national cyber incident
Child sexual abuse
Public disorder
Civil emergencies

Your voice in policing

Financial resources

On February 2, 2024, the Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Panel supported unanimously the Commissioner's budget proposals for 2024/25.

This included a net revenue budget of **£406.5 million** and an increase of £12.94 (4.95%) taking the charge for a Band D property to £274.50 per annum for policing.

The Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) covering 2024-25 to 2027-28 was also presented (link below).

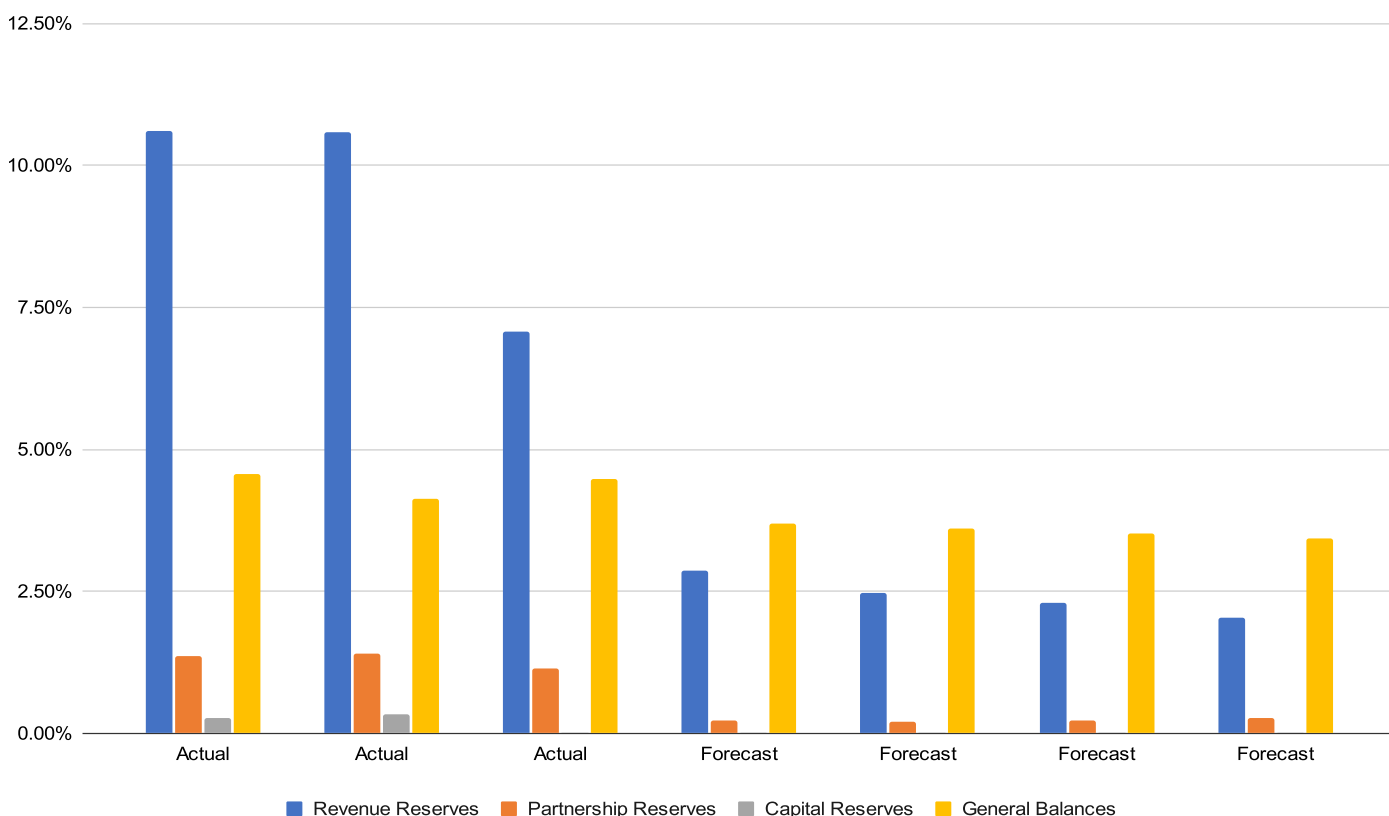
The money available across the MTFS is reviewed annually and used to support the Police and Crime Plan.

The cost of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner is £2.5 million, which represents 0.6%. Unless additional responsibilities are given, the Commissioner will keep the cost of the office proportionate to that of the force.

Medium Term Financial Strategy
<https://bit.ly/47AkVRL>



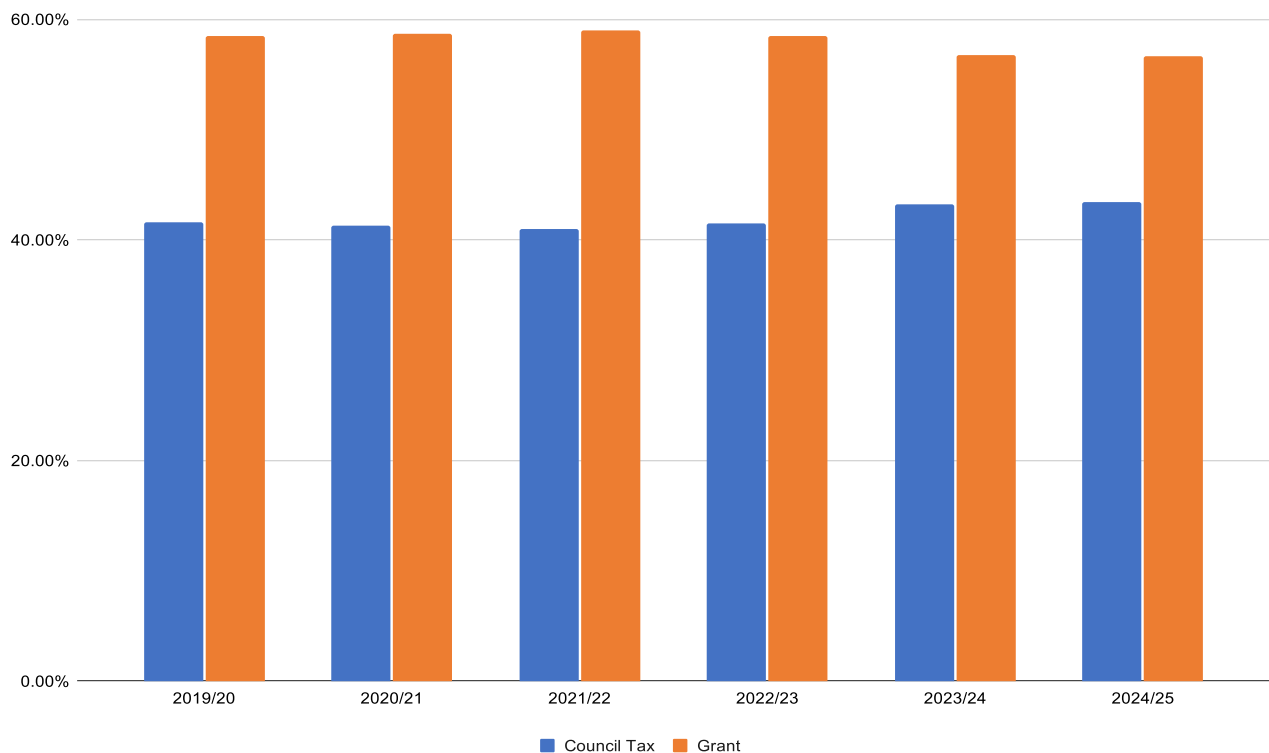
Reserves as a Proportion of Net Revenue Budget



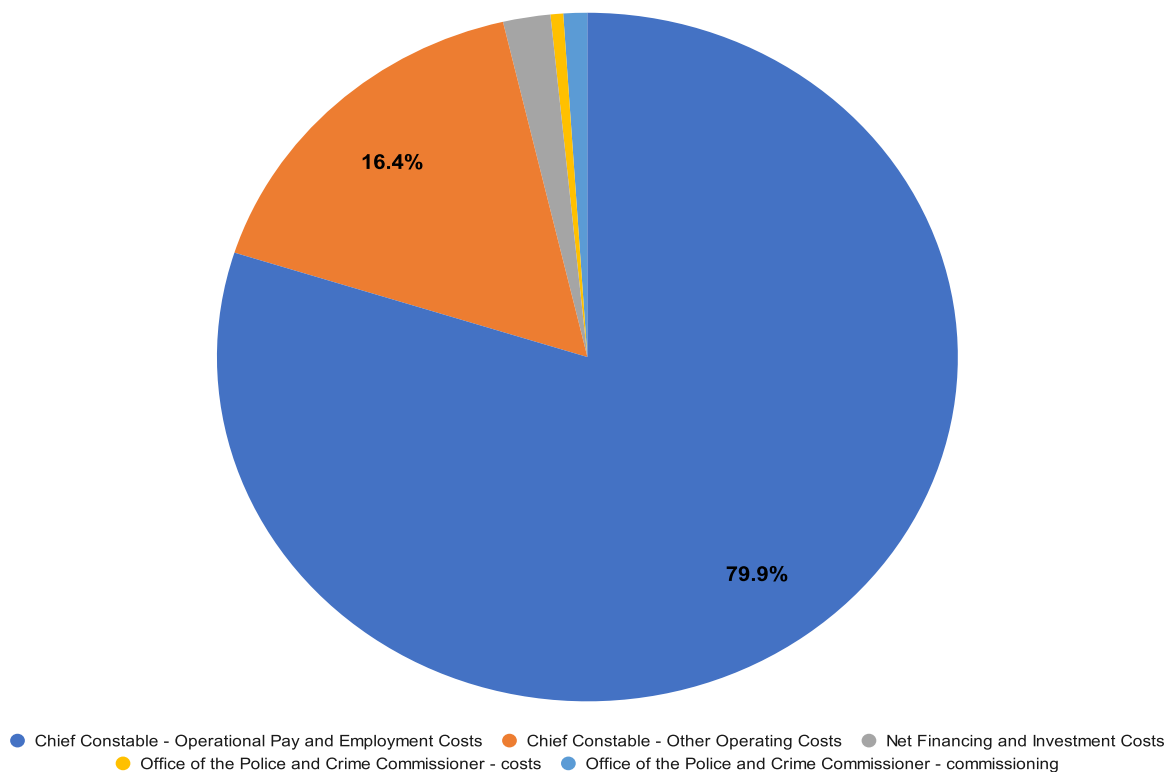
Your voice in policing

Financial resources

Split between Government Grant and Council Tax



Expenditure analysis 2024-25



Your voice in policing

Financial resources

Commissioning

The Police and Crime Commissioner will produce an annual Commissioning Intentions Plan which details spending plans for commissioned services for the following financial year. All decisions are evidence based, taking on board the voice of the public and align to the priorities in the police and crime plan.

The Police and Crime Commissioner has the power to commission services and to award grants to organisations or bodies to assist them in delivering the priorities in their Police and Crime Plan.

The Commissioner does this to:

- ▶ Reduce crime and disorder
- ▶ Support victims and witnesses as well as other people affected by criminal offences or anti-social behaviour
- ▶ Improve community safety

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) works in partnership with other agencies, to enhance, commission or co-commission projects and services which support the criminal justice system.

Each year the OPCC writes a commissioning intentions plan which sets out the Commissioner's approach for making decisions about which interventions will be commissioned, how existing services will be updated and what new services will be created.

This is to ensure that funding is allocated fairly and proportionately, with due regard to the competing demands on available funding. The plan is presented to the Police and Crime Panel each year as part of the budget setting process.



Police and Crime Commissioners have a responsibility to ensure support services are available for victims of crime.

The Commissioner appoints a network of services that provide support to victims across Devon and Cornwall, at a total contract value of around £6 million per year.

Last year, 36,085 victims were supported by the Commissioner's network of support services. The OPCC also commissions services to prevent offending and for those convicted of both domestic abuse and sexual abuse.

The Commissioner and the OPCC regularly manage these contracts to ensure services offer value for money and impact positively on anyone impacted by the effects of crime.

Additional grant funding

The Commissioner and office help to bring in extra funding for Devon and Cornwall by influencing government and by completing bid work. In 2023-24, the OPCC helped to achieve an additional £2.44 million in funding for Devon and Cornwall.

Your voice in policing

Working together



Your voice in policing