

AVON AND SOMERSET POLICE AND CRIME PANEL
27 JUNE 2024

COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE REPORT

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide the Police and Crime Panel with a summary of key activities undertaken by the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and her Office (OPCC) since the last meeting in order to discharge statutory duties and support delivery of the Police and Crime Plan. This report will be refreshed in future to take account of new priorities and ways of working following the election of Clare Moody as PCC for Avon and Somerset.

Development of new Police and Crime Plan

The PCC's Police and Crime Plan will be based on the priorities on which she campaigned and was elected. As discussed with the Chair of the Panel, development of the Plan will be informed by engagement with communities, partners and stakeholders across Avon and Somerset. Alongside this, an advisory board will be established to inform development of the Plan, with ASP and Panel representation. A timeline is in development, with a view to presenting the final draft to the Panel in December.

Delivery Against the current Police and Crime Plan

Priority 1

- **Male Violence Against Women and Girls (MVAWG):** Bystander training to launch at the end of June. Night Time Economy Solutions delivering this training across the night time economy network in A&S. Development of a Women's Safety Charter being scoped with local authority partners, police and licensing to run alongside the training.
- **Serious Violence:** 24/25 Delivery Plan finalised and funding allocated, workshop in September to discuss future funding, further incidents of knife crime with pressure on partner organisations to manage this remaining high.
- **Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)/Neighbourhood:** update on ASB / Serious Violence Hot Spot delivery, POP funding and Immediate Justice funding.
- **Fraud & Cyber Crime:** reflecting on impact of national lead on Economic and Cyber Crime as portfolio role draws to a close.

Priority 2

- **Engagement:** overview of the first 100 days in office community engagement programme to inform development of the Draft Police and Crime Plan.
- **Victims:** update on recommissioning process, funding update, government consultation on PCC role in Domestic Homicide Reviews and Duty to Collaborate in victims commissioning.
- **Reducing Reoffending:** consultation with Local Authorities on draft strategy; new Chair being sought.
- **Criminal Justice:** June LCJB meeting focus on ASP Criminal Justice review, prison capacity, probation reset, Youth justice timeliness and RASSO demand. LCJB Manager vacancy to be filled.

Priority 3

- **Recruitment:** summary police officer recruitment and leaver figures.
- **Estates:** update on key decisions – Minehead and Chard.

Priority 4

- **Inequality & Disproportionality:** Annual Report to mark 1 year since Institutional Racism declaration; Bristol Race in the City 3 event.

- **PCC Scrutiny Panels:** Police Powers Panel scrutiny of Stop & Search for smell of cannabis; Complaints Panel review of Violence Against Women and Girls complaints; Out of Court Resolutions Panel scrutiny of disproportionality – youth knife possession and assault cases;
- **Independent Custody Visiting Scheme:** impact, HMICFRS Custody Inspection.
- **Complaints & Contacts:** current contacts themes including retail crime, knife crime and road safety, update on ICase development.

Governance & Accountability: overview of PCC oversight boards and links to recent minutes; notification of upcoming inspections and links to recent HM Inspectorate of Constabulary, Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) inspection reports and PCC responses; overview of progress against PEEL Areas for Improvement.

Key Decisions: Five since the last meeting – see summary table and decision notice links for detail.

National Updates: impact of General Election announcement on legislation and national developments.

Delivery Against the Current Police and Crime Plan

Performance data on Police and Crime Plan delivery can be found in the PCC Quarterly Performance Report, which is presented to the Police and Crime Panel and published on the OPCC website.

An update on OPCC activity to support delivery of the existing Police and Crime Plan is set out below:

Priority 1 – Preventing and Fighting Crime

Male Violence Against Women & Girls

The Safer Streets 5 VAWG project aims to prevent violence against women and girls and challenge misogyny occurring in public space and the night time economy (NTE). The core component to this project is Bystander training, which will be implemented by [Night Time](#) Economy Solutions, who were successful in a recent tender to deliver this. B&NES NTE network will be the first area to receive this at the end of June/early July. Communication and awareness raising will take place prior to launch to ensure full take up of the sessions across the Force area. Enhancing this work will be the development of a Women’s Safety Charter, which will provide legacy and sustainability to this agenda. The charter will endeavour to provide principles, toolkits and resources for the NTE sector and other relevant stakeholders to sign up to and deliver in being VAWG ‘champions’. The approach and timeline is being developed in consultation with partners, following an initial workshop on 5 June. The OPCC is working closely with Bristol Nights (a partnership project from Bristol CC) who have already taken steps in delivering a [charter](#) and will continue to deliver bespoke training to embed a zero-tolerance approach to harassment in nightlife spaces.

Serious Violence

- There continue to be incidents of serious violence, specifically knife crime involving children and the pressure on partner organisations to manage this remains high.
- Since taking up post in January, the Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP) Director has identified areas of improvement needed and these have been agreed by the partnership. All VRP activity has been captured on a VRP Response plan and work is under way. The VRP Communication and Engagement plan and the VRP Risk Register have been completed and approved by the partners.
- The last Serious Violence Reduction Partnership Board (SVRPB) meeting was held on 5 June and partners were made aware of the risks surrounding uncertainty over future funding. It was agreed that this will be discussed by way of a workshop at the next meeting in September.

- VRU funding and Serious Violence Duty funding for 2024-25 has been confirmed, partners informed of their allocation and the 2024/2025 Delivery Plan finalised and approved by Home Office.
- Our new PCC Clare Moody was welcomed and will be chairing the SVRPB from September.

Further information can be found at: www.asvrp.co.uk

Neighbourhood Crime & ASB

Anti-Social Behaviour / Serious Violence Hotspot Funding

- Two hotspot lists have been defined for ASB (37) and Serious Violence (34). These span the Force area covering all local authority areas apart from South Gloucestershire. This is due to the level of ASB/SV incidents not meeting the Home Office recorded thresholds.
- Patrol activity is being supported through officer overtime, currently uptake is at 86% for June for ASB and around 90% for Serious Violence.
- ASB hotspot patrols went live in May and have so far resulted in 18 arrests, 9 positive stop search and 108 ASB interventions.
- SV hotspots, have been running for 2 years prior, in May they have achieved 7 arrests and first on the scene to a robbery and first on the scene of the stabbing in Bristol, carrying out initial scene management.
- Other options for uniformed patrol activity are being explored though local authority support, however this is challenging due to hotspot times and shift pattern of the patrol activity to meet Home Office criteria. Local authority engagement will still be considered on ad hoc occasions to enable a blended approach of patrol engagement with the community.
- Problem Oriented Policing (POP) funding is being rolled out across different initiatives in A&S, with both direct awards to the local authority and police, and opportunities to bid for money through the Community Foundation and Crime Prevention through Sport Funds (these will be available for all local authority area initiatives to bid into, including in the South Gloucestershire area). These will cover detached youth work, mentoring, CCTV, focused deterrence car, drugs bus, knife crime specific initiatives, school education, sports and non-sport activities for youths.
- A second funding stream is available to roll out Immediate Justice in A&S. The Immediate Justice scheme will see offenders paying back to the community through unpaid work and repairing damage and harm they may have caused. The Home Office are offering £500,000 for a 6 month period from October 2024 to March 2025, this has already been viewed as challenging due to the short time frame to stand up and deliver service provision. Potential options are being explored locally, and learning from other areas nationally including pilot areas is being explored as well as regional collaborative approaches.

Fraud & Cybercrime

The previous PCC Mark Shelford held the national APCC portfolio lead for Economic and Cyber Crime (ECC), and the OPCC has been taking stock of the local, regional and national impact and legacy of work done to build partnerships and raise awareness amongst OPCCs, Forces and the public, in collaboration with the APCC and City of London Police.

At a national level, the previous PCC with the support of the Office worked to ensure PCC views were heard in shaping national strategy, policy and legislation, using local experience and knowledge to feed into national lobbying and consultation opportunities via the PCC and portfolio group. Policy and legislation consultation included: Online Safety Bill; lobbying for the removal of paid for advertising on social media, and success in raising the national priority of Fraud through its inclusion of Fraud in the Strategic Policing Requirement. The Knowledge Hub was reinvigorated to ensure an

accessible portal where leaders in the sector can share documents, ideas and information to protect from and prevent fraud and cyber threats within their communities.

At a local level, in addition to joining forces with the South West Cyber Resilience Forum, a Multi Agency Fraud Forum was established, bringing together partners from across the public and private sectors, sharing knowledge and best practice. A significant focus on local prevention awareness activity included distribution of clear, concise guidance of how individuals could protect themselves from fraud; fraud protection advice translated into Chinese distributed amongst University students; and a joined up policy and communications calendar to deliver continuous national fraud protection messaging to communities.

Priority 2 – Engaging, Supporting and Working with Communities, Victims and Partner Organisations

Engagement

New PCC Clare Moody, is keen to be public facing, visible and proactively engaged with communities, in order to meet her statutory requirement to be the voice of local people in policing. To support this the Communications and Engagement team is delivering the first 100 days in office community engagement programme.

The 100-day mark is in the third week of August and although the initial engagement rotation around the entire Avon and Somerset Police area will not be fully complete by that point, it is imperative to the new PCC to:

- a) be out and about and meet people face -to-face across our communities in order to build on her learning and understanding of their policing concerns and issues
- b) meet with our key partners and stakeholders in each local authority area
- c) ensure that through those meetings the team captures the information and views that come out of those engagements in a practical way, so that they can be fed into informing and shaping her Police and Crime Plan.

As well as a geographic rotation, focus for the engagement will concentrate on key policy issues, including:

- Serious violence with a focus on:
 - Knife Crime and young people
 - Male Violence Against Women and Children
- Local neighbourhood policing, visibility and strengthening relationships with communities
- Prevention of crime and anti-social behaviour
- Supporting victims

The PCC is particularly keen to capture feedback and input from people from groups who may be under-represented or lack confidence in policing including:

- Victims
- Young People
- Women
- Black and minoritised communities
- Socio-economically deprived communities

The initial programme over the next 10 weeks will include community engagement days that cover visits to each of the five Local Authority areas in Avon and Somerset, as well as “Meet your new PCC” public forum events.

The first rotation will also include internal police engagement days visiting and meeting key departments and leads in the Constabulary across the Force area.

The PCC would like to mark the 100-day point by highlighting some key activities and achievements that indicate progress towards achieving the above.

Some initial engagement days and meetings that have already taken place as part of the programme include:

- Bridgwater – PCC ride-along on Operation Harmony (Precept-funded hotspot tackling ASB operations)
- Bristol - Rose Green Community Centre Avon and Somerset Police Workforce Representation engagement event (Annual diverse community engagement in Bristol East)
- Bristol serious youth violence and knife crime policy engagement day with 3 x round tables with local stakeholders.

Supporting victims of crime and ASB

Recommissioning of core victim services

The tender for victim services has run across the following three Lots:

- Children and Young Victims of Crime and ASB Support Service
- Adult Victims of Crime and ASB Support Service
- All Age Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) Service

Service(s) will offer a range of interventions delivered by a suitably broad range of provision/organisations/staff who can efficiently and effectively meet the diverse needs of victims of crime and ASB across Avon and Somerset. This diversity may be in the form of protected characteristic, vulnerability, geography or crime type. As a matter of principle the service will actively seek feedback and input from its service users and in turn benefit from being a truly co-produced service. Where possible, providers both within this contract and beyond will seek to do things once rather than many times to enable efficient and effective use of resources while at all times having the experience of the service user at the heart of the design of any processes or functions.

This tender closed on the 20 May 2024. Working with South West Police Procurement Services, Panels made of subject matter experts as well as people with lived experience of crime and ASB are at the time of writing evaluating submissions. The outcome of this evaluation will inform the recommendation for contract award to the PCC at the end of July 2024. The new contracts are due to commence in April 2025. Plans for the OPCC’s Modern Slavery Pathways contribution are being developed and will be published in due course.

See the [OPCC Website](#) for more details including the full Commissioning Plan.

Government Funding

The OPCC was disappointed to be notified by the Ministry of Justice in May that the core uplift of £68,966.84 that was offered in previous years will not be available for 24/25. Providers affected by this reduction have been notified.

Government consultation

The OPCC is engaging with the government on a number of matters:

- MOJ officials have requested feedback from the OPCC to inform future budget setting for victim services. The team are drafting a response based on their work along with feedback from providers and co-commissioners.
- The OPCC will be responding to a Home Office [consultation](#) on the [draft Guidance for Domestic Homicide Reviews](#) which proposes a new oversight role and responsibilities for PCCs in this process. The team have consulted Local Authority leads for DHRs as part of forming the response.
- Alongside Royal Assent for the Victim and Prisoners Act, the government published [draft guidance on the Duty to Collaborate](#). This duty will be on the PCC, Local Authorities and Integrated Care Boards (ICBVs) within a police force area to work together when commissioning community-based victim support services for victims of serious violence, sexual violence and domestic abuse. The OPCC is reviewing the guidance in anticipation of a forthcoming consultation.

Reducing Reoffending

The Reducing Reoffending Strategy for Avon and Somerset is in its final draft stage and is being presented at Local Authority Community Safety Partnership meetings for comment and feedback.

The Reducing Reoffending board sat on 2 May. Following the departure from ASP of the previous chair, discussions are underway to identify the future chair ahead of the next meeting on 5 September.

Criminal Justice

The LCJB took place on 11 June, the first with PCC Clare Moody as chair. Areas of focus included performance spanning the criminal justice journey, strategic updates from each sub group, ASP Criminal Justice review, Prison capacity, Probation reset and Youth Justice and timeliness. A number of actions to progress work between partners have been set and will report into the September board.

Rape and Serious Sexual Offences (RASSO) continues to be a focus of the board, with cases through court continuing to rise through increased trust and confidence to report these offences. However it is causing a strain on the system and impact on the victims wait time and support available through support services due to the increased demand. A separate group will be formed to review all risks and work through contingencies.

A refreshed focus for the board will be Youth Justice. Timeliness of cases going through the justice system is concerning and not clear. A Task and Finish group will be set up to understand the delays and identify the risks.

The LCJB manager post is currently vacant and work is being done to support in this area of business until the role is advertised and recruited. Development of the next LCJB business plan is currently on pause until the LCJB manager is in post to support partners to develop objectives and priorities for the year ahead. However discussions around what the priorities should be have formed part of the conversation at the June board.

Priority 3 – Leading the Police to be Efficient and Effective

Recruiting Officers

	Month of May 2024	(Average) Year ending May 2024
Leavers (headcount)	26	20
Reasons for leaving (% of all leavers)		
Resignation	54%	43%
Retirement	35%	45%
Other	12%	12%

Estates Update

Final Business Cases with respect to Minehead and Chard were approved at GSB in March. Further detail can be found in the Key Decisions section of the report.

Priority 4 – Increasing the Legitimacy of, and Public Confidence in, the Police and Criminal Justice System

Inequality and Disproportionality

The work within the Race Matters portfolio continues to move forward at pace and an annual report is planned to mark a year since Chief Constable Crew made the declaration of Institutional Racism within Avon and Somerset Police. The report sets out multiple workstreams that seek to tackle race discrimination and promote equality, aiming to reengage and restore the trust of communities affected by racial disproportionality and procedural injustice.

Last month, representatives from the Police, OPCC and community leaders came together for the Bristol Race in the City 3 event which focused on education and criminal justice. This was a great opportunity to showcase the recommendations and work undertaken as part of the Police Race Action Plan and the Tackling Disproportionality report as well as the work undertaken by the OPCC volunteer panels to scrutinise the use of police powers and police handling of complaints.

The Steering Committee continues to meet on a 6 weekly basis and Asher Craig has remained as co-chair with the Chief Constable, acting as an independent.

Use of Police Powers – PCC Scrutiny Panels/Independent Custody Visiting Scheme

Independent Scrutiny of Police Powers Panel (ISoPPP)

Preparations are well under way for the next panel meeting on 27 June. The Panel will be looking at themes covering stop search and use of force, including a focus on a stop search that has occurred solely on the basis of a suspicion of the use/smell of cannabis – a recommendation that was highlighted in the Identifying Disproportionality report. The Panel are looking to scrutinise around 60 cases this quarter, accompanied with body-worn video for each case. Reports are published at the following link: [Independent Scrutiny of Police Powers Panel Reports | OPCC for Avon and Somerset \(avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk\)](https://www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk/independent-scrutiny-of-police-powers-panel-reports)

Independent Scrutiny of Police Complaints Panel (ISPCP)

The ISPCP met on 6 June to scrutinise closed police complaints relating to Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG). Supt Jane Wigmore, ASP thematic lead for VAWG delivered a very informative presentation to the panel, detailing the Police's local action plan to tackle this strategic priority. The

panel scrutinised 27 cases. A common theme was a need for improvement in the language/tone and content of the final reports that are being sent to complainants (once a complaint has been finalised). The OPCC is working with the Professional Standards Department (PSD) to record and provide complaint handlers with feedback (negative or positive) thus enabling PSD to put measures in place, such as training, to tackle poor complaint handling. This work will be monitored by the panel at future meetings. The next panel meeting is in September and will focus on complaints relating to mental health.

Quarterly reports relating to both panels can be found at the following link: [Independent Scrutiny of Police Complaints Panel Reports | OPCC for Avon and Somerset \(avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk\)](https://www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk/independent-scrutiny-of-police-complaints-panel-reports)

A&S Out of Court Resolutions Scrutiny Panel

The Out of Court Resolutions Scrutiny Panel will meet on 19 June to scrutinise disproportionality with a focus on youth cases. The Panel will be reviewing progress of work between the police and Youth Justice Services over the last year to improve consistency of policy and practice in youth cases across Force area, and implementation of the national Child Gravity Matrix. The Panel will focus on knife possession and peer-on-peer assault cases. Cases have been selected to ensure an even spread across geographic areas, and include charged cases alongside out of court resolutions to enable comparison. This follows a successful pilot last year in response to a recommendation of the Identifying Disproportionality report.

Impact of the work of the Panel can be seen in the recent launch of the Out of Court Resolution Decision Making App. This has been developed for use by officers on the ground to support robust and consistent decision making in the use of Out of Court Resolutions, and is a direct response to recommendations of the Panel. The App has been launched to coincide with the launch of the 'Chance to Change' Deferred Prosecution scheme in Avon and Somerset, available to 18-25 year olds, developed in response to recommendations of the Identifying Disproportionality report and on the basis of strong evidence from pilots in other Force areas.

Reports are published at the following link: www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk/reports-publications/out-court-disposals-reports/

Independent Custody Visiting Scheme

Independent Custody Visitors (ICVs) have continued to conduct weekly, unannounced paired visits at each of the 3 Custody Units to check on detainees' rights, entitlements and wellbeing. Following a successful recruitment campaign earlier this year, 15 new ICVs are currently being onboarded which will ensure sufficient numbers of volunteers to maintain weekly checks of custody.

In May, ICVs visiting Keynsham Custody, observed that certain meals being offered to detainees were not covered on the allergy chart found on the wall in custody kitchens, with ingredients instead being checked by Detention Officers. ICV feedback was immediately escalated to the meal manufacturers to obtain a comprehensive allergen chart and ensured these were displayed in all custody kitchens. This was an excellent practical example of how ICVs can make a real difference. ICVs continue to monitor and feed back concerns including: reading material and distraction toys not routinely being offered to detainees; and the need for increased consideration to be given around female detainees being reoffered Feminine Hygiene Products where needed.

ICV panel meetings are scheduled to take place in July across all three custody suites. The HMICFRS inspection report following the inspection of A&S Police custody provision in January 2024 is now available to read [here](#).

Additional information about the Scheme can be found at the following link:

[The Independent Custody Visiting Scheme | OPCC for Avon and Somerset \(avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk\)](https://www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk)

Contacts/Complaints Oversight

The OPCC continues to monitor contacts coming in from local residents, and to raise complaints and issues at the most appropriate level within the Police.

New PCC Clare Moody has received significant contact from residents in relation to a variety of topics since taking up office. Themes have included retail crime, knife crime and road safety (namely speeding and e-scooters). The PCC has also been contacted by residents who have previously raised matters with the previous PCC.

ASP Legal Services have now launched the ICase contact management system. The OPCC project is on hold pending successful implementation and bedding in within ASP. IT project manager resource has been confirmed for the OPCC and the project is expected to resume in the coming quarter. Testing and implementation will require further resource from the OPCC.

Governance and Accountability

Oversight Boards

The PCC currently holds two Boards with the aim to:

- Hold the Chief Constable to account for delivery of policing that is efficient and effective;
- Enable the PCC and Chief Constable to openly and publicly demonstrate accountability, transparency and value for money over police functions, decisions and national publications and inspections;
- Demonstrate progress made against the policing and crime objectives set out in the Police and Crime Plan; and
- To further support the requirements of the Specified Information Order by enabling the PCC to openly hold the Chief Constable to account in relation to performance against the National Crime and Policing Measures.

The **Performance and Accountability Board (PAB)** is being refreshed and will relaunch in July with a new format with the aim to be more open, accessible and responsive to questions raised by the local community. It will take place via Facebook Live, with recordings available afterwards at the following link: www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk/reports-publications/oversight-boards/

The **Governance and Scrutiny Board (GSB)** takes place on a monthly basis, and is a forum for formal decision making by the PCC, and for the PCC to scrutinise the performance, key projects and budget of the Force. Minutes of GSB meetings held since the last Panel meeting can be found at the following link: www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk/reports-publications/oversight-boards/

HMICFRS – Inspections and PCC responses

Since last reported, the [PCC response to one HMICFRS report has been published](#):

- Efficiency spotlight report: The impact of recruitment and retention on the criminal justice system

There is currently one report requiring a response:

- [Report on an inspection visit to police custody suites in Avon and Somerset Police](#)

Upcoming inspections

HMICFRS wrote to the PCC in April to confirm that the next PEEL inspection will include a final evidence collection phase this September, with the inspection report having an anticipated publication date of February 2025.

PEEL Areas for Improvement (AFIs)

The following chart shows progress against the Areas for Improvement identified in the most recent Avon and Somerset PEEL Inspection.

PEEL Grading	Progress Tracker: HMICFRS PEEL 2021/22 AFIs (All Level 3) February 2024	Business Lead	Not Started	Metrics Identified	Work Ongoing	Improving	Closure pending
Requires Improvement	AFI 1 – The constabulary needs to improve the accuracy of recording rape crimes and incidents of rape	Maya Munden					
Requires Improvement	AFI 2 – The constabulary needs to improve its recording of crimes which involve vulnerable victims	Maya Munden					
Requires Improvement	AFI 3 – The constabulary needs to improve how it records crime when antisocial behaviour is reported	Maya Munden					
Requires Improvement	AFI 4 – The constabulary needs to improve how it records equality data	Ed Yaxley					
Adequate	AFI 5 – The constabulary should consistently evaluate and share effective problem-solving practice	Lisa Simpson					
Adequate	AFI 6 – The constabulary needs to ensure that neighbourhood policing officers have access to structured training	Lisa Simpson					
Requires Improvement	AFI 7 – The constabulary should respond to calls for service within its published time frames based on the prioritisation given to the call. Where delays occur, the rationale should be recorded, and victims should be updated	Becky Tipper					
Requires Improvement	AFI 8 – The constabulary should reduce the number of abandoned 101 calls	Becky Tipper					
Requires Improvement	AFI 9 – The constabulary should make sure that repeat and vulnerable callers are routinely identified	Becky Tipper					
Requires Improvement	AFI 10 – The constabulary should introduce effective processes for timely allocation of crimes of rape and other serious sexual offences to reduce the backlog	Ed Yaxley					
Requires Improvement	AFI 11 – The constabulary should make sure that an auditable record is kept if a victim withdraws their support for an investigation, and whether an evidenced prosecution is considered in all such cases	Ed Yaxley					
Requires Improvement	AFI 12 – The constabulary needs to improve the quality assurance and supervision of investigations	Rachel Shields					
Adequate	AFI 13 – The constabulary should ensure that risk assessments are effectively supervised, quality assured, and checked for compliance	Ed Yaxley					
Adequate	AFI 14 – The constabulary should reduce the backlog of applications waiting to be processed	Victoria Caple					
Requires Improvement	AFI 15 – The constabulary should reduce the time taken to conduct visits and risk assessments on registered sex offenders	James Turner					
Requires Improvement	AFI 16 – The constabulary should ensure its enforcement action against offenders accessing indecent images of children is robust and conducted in a timely manner	James Riccion					
Requires Improvement	AFI 17 – The constabulary should ensure it has the capacity and capability to manage demand in the internet child abuse team (ICAT) and ensure backlogs are subject to a review process	James Riccion					

Key Decisions

The Commissioner is under a statutory obligation under the terms of the Specified Information Order to publish a record of decisions of significant public interest. The Governance and Scrutiny Board (GSB) is the forum for formal decision making by the PCC. Links to minutes can be found in

the Governance and Accountability section above. Decisions are published on the Commissioner’s website at the following link: [Decisions log | OPCC for Avon and Somerset \(avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk\)](https://www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk/decisions-log)

Four key decisions have been published since the last meeting:

Date	Summary of Decision	Link to Decision Notice
14/3/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treasury Management Strategy Approval of Treasury Borrowing and Investment Strategy for 2024-25 	Treasury Management Strategy
14/3/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minehead Final Business Case Option A approved to facilitate appointment of preferred contractor for refurbishment to provide new Police Station. 	Minehead Business Case
14/3/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital Evidence Management (DEMS) Final Business Case Option 1 approved for procurement and implementation of NICE Investigate system. 	DEMS Business Case
14/3/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chard Final Business Case Option 2 approved to enable appointment of preferred contractor for refurbishment of Chard Police Station. 	Chard Business Case

National Updates

The dissolution of Parliament in advance of the General Election scheduled for 4 July has impacted on relevant legislative initiatives as follows:

- **Criminal Justice Bill 2024** – this Bill did not proceed, impacting on a range of developments including proposals to move PCP responsibility for handling complaints about PCC conduct to an independent complaints handler.
- **Victims and Prisoners Act 2024** – this was among the Legislation passed during ‘wash-up’ prior to the dissolution of Parliament. Details can be found in the Victims Update above.

Contact:

Alice Ripley, Chief of Staff

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Avon and Somerset