

VAWG 300%  
Op Scorpion Cross Border  
Modern Slavery

## Key messages

### 1. Minehead /Wilton / Dulverton End of Year good News:

- Increase in police visibility with movement of PC to Dulverton to operate permanently out of station.

### 2. Minehead Police station:

- The purchase of the Seahorse Centre at £400k to provide a new Police Station for Minehead.
- Once refurbished this will provide a new police station for Minehead housing the Enquiry Office and Neighbourhood Policing Team.
- As the building is slightly too big for police purposes only, circa 30% of the site will be leased back to Somerset County Council (SCC). This will then enable the marketing and eventual disposal of the existing Minehead Police Station on Townsend Road

### 3. Rural Crime:

- Drone added to rural crime team
- Rural Affairs Unit works to tackle rural crime in a variety of ways:
  - a. including supporting farmers with crime reduction visits
  - b. security marking trailers and equipment
- **Farm Watch** is a group where members receive alerts and updates of rural crime within their area. This not only raises vigilance within the farming community but also allows farmers to feedback intelligence and crucial information concerning such activity  
[www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/apply/farm-watch](http://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/apply/farm-watch)
- **Horse Watch**, which is a group for the equine community  
<https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/apply/horse-watch/>

### 4. Operation Ragwort

- Police and Crime Commissioners across the south west have joined together to lead a new campaign and bring together all police forces in the region to combat the involvement of Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) in rural crime.
- Ragwort will utilise intelligence from our smallest communities through to local policing areas and across to other force areas and national and international borders.
- The National Rural Crime Network has commissioned research into this link between rural crime and organised criminal gangs, and preliminary evidence suggests that rural crime is being used by gangs to fund other criminal activities including links to the international drugs trade.

### 5. Precept

PCCs also hold and set the budget for the police service in their area.  
PCCs also set something called the local policing precept.

Police service funding in the UK comes from different sources.

In Avon and Somerset the police service has an annual budget of roughly 394 million pounds

Around 60% of that comes directly from The Government

The other 40% comes from a local taxation that is paid directly from residents, to contribute to services they receive in their local area including from police, fire service and local authorities, through a scheme called "Council Tax"

Every year my team and I go out to residents and ask them how much they are willing to pay to support their local police service. We currently have a survey live asking people their views on this and on what policing priorities that want to see focused on so please do head over to our website and have your say.