

AVON AND SOMERSET POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

4 FEBRUARY 2025

COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE REPORT

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide assurance to the Police and Crime Panel on how the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and her Office (OPCC) have discharged their statutory duties since the last meeting.

- **Police and Crime Plan 2024-29:** update on development of the Implementation Plan
- **Strengthening Neighbourhood Policing:** ASB Hotspot update; Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee funding announcement; OPCC engagement activity update.
- **Reducing Violent Crime: Male Violence Against Women and Girls:** Safer Streets 'Train the Trainer' training, future funding secured for DRIVE; **Serious Youth Violence:** evaluation update, Mayoral Combined Authority initiative, national policy development workshops.
- **Preventing Crime:** National APCC Portfolio for Prevention; prevention mapping work completed; Reducing Reoffending strategy development.
- **Supporting Victims of Crime:** funding update, Ministry of Justice visit, timescales for implementation of Duty to Cooperate and Victims Code of Practice compliance.
- **Improving Standards of Policing:** update on PCC-led independent scrutiny panels, Custody Visiting Scheme and the Tackling Disproportionality Programme and Independent Scrutiny Board.
- **Governance and Accountability:** new format Governance and Scrutiny Board; latest Police Question Time; inspections update; key decisions summary; Local Criminal Justice Board update.
- **Additional Issues for Oversight:** standing update on police recruitment figures.
- **National Updates:** summary of government announcements on policing and criminal justice since the last meeting.

Police and Crime Plan 2024-29 and development of an Implementation Plan

The Police and Crime Plan was published in December 2024 and is available on the PCC's website: <https://www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/AS-Police-Crime-Plan-2024-2029-09DEC24-1.pdf>.

A Communications Plan has been developed, setting out three phases of activity to share feedback from the consultation, outline next steps and long term activity to share how the PCC is measuring delivery.

Development of the Implementation Plan is being coordinated through a cross-directorate steering group chaired by the PCC, overseeing three workstreams each with OPCC senior leads:

- Police led actions – Sally Fox
- OPCC led actions – Alice Ripley
- Partner led actions – Marc Hole and Natalie Lavis

As part of this development process, all the ideas from the consultation have been allocated to one of the three workstreams and are being categorised as:

- Already being done

- Part of current planning
- To be considered for future development
- Not feasible

The Constabulary leads for this work are: Chief Superintendent Chief of Staff, Superintendent Head of Performance & Assurance and Chief Superintendent Head of Neighbourhood & Partnerships. The ideas have been sent to them for early sight prior to the above categorisation.

Partnership ideas will initially be discussed through existing meeting structures throughout January – March.

OPCC actions will form the basis for the new OPCC strategic plan. Strategy development sessions with the PCC and senior team took place during autumn and are scheduled through to March.

<p>Priority 1 – Strengthen Neighbourhood Policing to provide a visible police presence, engage with communities, and tackle anti-social behaviour</p>

Government Announcements to Strengthen Neighbourhood Policing

New funding has been announced to support recruitment to Neighbourhood Policing Teams, following the Home Secretary’s announcement of a Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee. Avon and Somerset is one of 11 pilot forces participating in a new accredited programme to provide a formal qualification for careers in neighbourhood policing to support this pledge. The programme comprises of six modules, the first three of which are part of the pilot:

- Pilot Modules: Engaging Communities; Problem Solving; Anti Social Behaviour
- Additional Modules (not part of the pilot): Working in partnership to prevent and reduce crime; Protecting communities from serious and organised crime; Neighbourhood management.

Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) Hotspots Project

Work continues to deliver the Home Office funded ASB Hotspots project. Quarter 3 returns are currently being collated for submission on 14 January. The project is on target to deliver the hours of patrol activity within hotspots across the Force area in line with the Home Office specifications. The University of Portsmouth has been commissioned to carry out a piece of work looking at the methodology to identify hotspots in A&S. This will support policing hotspot identification more broadly and provide a more robust mechanism to carry out future work. Confirmation on funding beyond March 2025 is awaited from the Home Office.

OPCC Engagement Activity

A Community & Stakeholder Engagement App has been developed to map and manage PCC engagement. It is now live and starting to be used to plan and analyse engagement visits. The PCC Engagement programme and dates covering January - May 2025 is in place. Priority has been given to commissioned services and outstanding PCC visit requests since elected.

Plans for the remainder of the year are in development and will include regular Public Forum events. Dates are as follows: 25 April, 21 May, 24 June, 5 July. Venues will be confirmed as soon as possible. Analysis of the survey seeking feedback on Public Forums carried out during the police and crime plan consultation is currently underway and will help shape planning the new forums going forward.

The longer-term strategic engagement programme will be aligned to the new Police and Crime Plan priorities and any identify need or pressing policing issues facing communities. This will also include an internal Avon and Somerset Police engagement plan pulled together by the new Staff Officer.

Priority 2 – Reduce Violent Crime, with a specific focus on male violence against women and girls and serious youth violence

Male Violence Against Women & Girls (MVAWG)

Safer Streets

Through the Home Office funded Safer Streets 5 initiative, the OPCC is focussed on delivering bystander intervention training to reduce Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) in the nighttime economy. Over 110 nighttime workers have been trained as of the last reporting period in October. There are five more in person sessions and two online sessions happening over the coming months. The target audience has been broadened to include hotels, gyms, transport and other hospitality services to increase engagement and awareness from the sector. An extended train the trainer session is taking place on 18 February, to upskill colleagues to deliver bystander intervention to their colleagues and communities. Participants include ASP licensing and mental health trainers.

The Women's Safety Group continues to meet every three weeks to work through the issues of Women's Safety Charter implementation in each local authority area. The next report is due at the end of January.

DRIVE

Confirmation has been received from the Home Office that the grant funding for the high-risk Domestic Abuse Perpetrator scheme, DRIVE will be extended for the financial year 2025/26. The OPCC is in the process of preparing the necessary paperwork and liaising with partners and co-funders to agree delivery for the one-year extension. Independent evaluation is currently being carried out, with the report expected by the end of March 2025.

Project Bright Light (Previously known as Domestic Abuse Soteria)

In 2021, Avon & Somerset pioneered Project Bluestone to radically improve its response to rape and serious sexual offences (RASSO). This police-academic collaboration gave rise to Operation Soteria Bluestone and the National Operation Model (NOM) for RASSO. One of the lessons learned has been that the response to domestic abuse is beset with similar issues, and a project is now under way to apply the Soteria approach to these crimes. Working again with academics, this project holds the potential to transform the response to domestic abuse within ASP. The PCC is fully supportive of this project and has agreed to underwrite the funding while an application is being made for external funding. In January the project was highlighted in a national media interview with the Chief Constable.

Serious Youth Violence

The Local VRPs, supported by the ASVRP Hub, are continuing to deliver a range of projects to identify young people engaged in or at risk of serious violence and divert them away from criminality, funded by the Home Office grants for Violence Reduction Units and the Serious Violence Duty. Each of the Local VRPs has developed their own programme of activity for 2024/25 based on local need with over 5,500 young people engaged with over the first two quarters of 2024/25. The services delivered over the period range from targeted one to one or group activities such as mentoring and

violence prevention lessons to sports programmes, school workshops, pop up advice events and knife crime awareness sessions.

The VRP Director is continuing work to enhance the effectiveness of the ASVRP, with a continued focus on core products and evaluation. An updated Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA) for the partnership has been prepared and will be finalised by the Executive Board at its meeting in late January 2025. The VRP Director has also been exploring opportunities to secure more evaluation of local initiatives to ensure we are able to understand the impact that interventions are having and is working with the University of Bristol to take this forward. In January a new Senior Projects, Insight and Evaluation Manager joined the team in the ASVRP Hub and will take forward additional work in these key areas.

The financial landscape for collaborative work to reduce serious violence remains uncertain at this time. The Provisional Police Funding Settlement in December 2024 included a commitment of funding for 2025/26 for the continuation of Violence Reduction Units. This is a welcome announcement but further details are awaited from Home Office on the overall funding being provided to Avon and Somerset and any new requirements related to that funding. In addition decisions around whether there will be continued funding for hotspot patrols is awaited at this time. Work is commencing within government to prepare for CSR 2 and the Commissioner will be supporting collective work across policing and with wider partners to build the case for continued investment in tackling serious youth violence.

Opportunities for investment by the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority (MCA) to support action to address the issues of serious youth violence across Bristol, South Gloucestershire and Bath & North East Somerset are continuing to be explored. These discussions, which are being led by MCA, involve representatives of the three unitary authorities for the MCA region and Stephen Bashford the Director of Employment and Skills at the MCA attended the ASVRP Executive Board meeting in December 2024 as part of this work.

Government's Knife Crime Action Plan

Following its election in July 2024 the government has affirmed its commitment to focusing on knife crime as part of their Safer Streets Mission and their intention to halve knife crime within 10 years. The Home Office are running a series of workshops to inform the development of future policy proposals. The VRP Director is engaging in these processes on behalf of the Board and will support and advise the Commissioner and the ASVRP Executive Board as this progresses.

Priority 3 – Prevent Crime by working together with other organisations and the public to build safer communities

National Portfolio

Work continues to develop the Commissioner's national portfolio. The purpose of the prevention portfolio is as follows:

- National: Represent APCC members to influence legislation, policy, and funding decisions concerning prevention and the well-being of children and young people, while also collaborating with national partners on their behalf.
- Local: Support APCC members in providing local leadership and implementing evidence-based practices on issues related to prevention and the needs of children and young people.

In the coming months the portfolio plan includes:

- Plan and deliver a session to introduce and promote public health approaches within policing;
- Plan and deliver CYP Toolkit/Checklist for PCCs (this will be informed by conversations with Home Office);
- Plan and deliver a bespoke session on Partnerships and Prevention at the APCC NPCC Summit (held in November).

Local Activity

The Partnership, Policy and Commissioning team alongside the Violence Reduction Partnership have undertaken a mapping exercise in support of the development of the implementation plan for the Police and Crime Plan relating to Prevention, MVAWG and children and young people. This mapping exercise identified current policing and OPCC activity in partnership, commissioning, strategy, and policy locally, regionally and nationally. It also identified some gaps and ideas for solutions. This is in addition to the ideas generated through the consultation feedback. This will help inform activity to include in the implementation plan.

Reducing Reoffending

The development of an Avon and Somerset Reducing Reoffending Strategy and action plan is progressing. Following consultation of the draft strategy, it was identified the need to be clearer on the role of the Community Safety Partnerships and the work to support reducing reoffending at a Local Authority level and at an Avon and Somerset level. A development workshop is planned for Wednesday 26 February to progress this further.

A&S Advice Support Custody and Court Service – Re-commissioning with NHS England (NHSE)

The NHSE / OPCC co-commissioned service Advice Support Custody and Courts (ASCC) which is the local delivery for the NHSE led [liaison and diversion scheme](#), has undergone a re-commissioning process as part of a wider system re-modelling for non-custodial services across the South West. The new model is a change to the way that existing services are delivered, bringing together separately contracted services under a single contract for each Police force area. The service has is now moving into mobilisation. Further information can be found in the [decision notice](#).

Priority 4 – Support Victims to ensure they get the help they need when they need it

Ministry of Justice Funding

On 2 December the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) wrote to the PCC setting out their grant for victim services in Avon and Somerset outlining the pressures on departmental spend and the impact of this upon PCC 'core' funding:

As you will no doubt be aware, the criminal justice system is facing considerable demand pressures and this Government is facing a challenging fiscal environment. Across Government, this means that we will have to take difficult decisions. The Lord Chancellor and I have had to make our own, hard choices to ensure that the department can continue to deliver its commitments to strengthening the justice system, so that victims can receive swift access to justice.

*To keep within our departmental settlement, I have made the decision to **reduce by 4.2%** the 'core' funding allocation for 25/26, which forms part of PCC funding from MOJ. I know that this will be difficult news coming alongside other pressures your commissioned services are facing, and increased demand for services.*

This amounts to a **£83,776.78 reduction** to the core formula-based grant for victim services in Avon and Somerset. The government has protected other PCC funding streams ringfenced for domestic and sexual abuse services (inc. IDVAs and ISVAs) as part of their commitment to halving male violence against women and girls in the next decade.

Recipients of protected grants (DA/SV/ISVA/IDVA) locally were notified of their 25/26 allocation before the end of the year in an effort to provide stability in services. At the time of writing, the PCC is working through the final decision based on impact for services funded by the core grant.

Beyond this, the OPCC is working with MOJ colleagues to help inform the proposed multi-year settlement for victim services from 26/27.

Victim Services

At the time of writing, the OPCC is moving towards the signing of contracts for the following three services which are due to commence in April 2025. Members will be notified of the outcome of this procurement at the earliest opportunity. Alongside this, the team is working to mobilise services with successful tenderers ahead of April 2025. Further information about the recommissioning process to-date can be found [here](#).

Lot	Service
Lot 1	Children and Young Victims of Crime & ASB Support Service
Lot 2	Adult Victims of Crime and ASB Support Service
Lot 3	All Age Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) Service

Victim and Prisoner Act Duties

The team understands that the Government is working to the following implementation timetable:

V&P Act Duties	2025				2026		
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
Duty to Collaborate	Consultation		Guidance			Live	
Code Compliance	Engagement			Consultation	Guidance		Live

Victims Code of Practice Compliance

The Code Compliance Framework that is set out in the Victims and Prisoners Act (2024) includes the duty placed on agencies to collect information on Code Compliance, with PCCs to oversee agencies compliance. The APCC are coordinating a working group to determine what the detail of the framework will look like and sought volunteers across the country, A&S have offered to contribute to this work. Part of the remit is to seek solutions to collecting data which has previously been challenging in terms of manual recording.

Visit from MOJ and APCC Colleagues

On 9 January 2025 the OPCC and PCC hosted colleagues from the MOJ and APCC to discuss victim services including:

- Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) Service mobilisation
- Victim services communication/PR approach
- Criminal Justice and VCOP
- Victim Services Recommissioning
- Sexual Violence Therapy Services and the Duty to Collaborate

This was a helpful opportunity to showcase local work and influence national policy.

Self-Swab Kits

In November the OPCC worked with a range of local partners to develop and publish a joint statement on the use of self-swabs after sexual Assault. This is available on the OPCC's website: [Joint Advice on Help After Rape and Sexual Assault and the Use of Self-Swab Kits – OPCC for Avon and Somerset](#)

Priority 5 – Improve Standards of Policing

Independent Scrutiny of the use of Police Powers Panel (ISOPPP):

The Panel met in mid-December to review 14 cases ranging from vehicle stop & search to use of force involving a Taser, Baton & PAVA spray. Discussion was held between Panel members and the police about improving the process and having improved channels for feedback. A sub-group has been set up and work is ongoing with ASP to create a more streamlined process for feedback between the Panel and police. Use of Body Worn Camera remains a topic of discussion. Constructive conversations took place regarding case reviews and requests for updates on certain cases will be brought to the next meeting in March 2025. Reports are published [here](#).

Independent Scrutiny of Police Complaints Panel (ISPCP):

The panel met in December to scrutinise complaints relating to Discrimination. 24 complaints were reviewed and discussed in detail with leads from A&S Professional Standards Department (PSD). The panel welcomed Supt Larisa Hunt, new Head of PSD. The Panel continue to scrutinise the Constabulary handling of police complaints, making observations regarding inaccuracies in complaint recording, the quality of the final letters written to complainants and issues in timeliness in complaint handling. ASP continue to share the panel's views directly to complaint handlers, through a new feedback system and this appears to be working well. The panel received an update from Esther Wride, ASC Outreach Team and Inclusion and Diversity Lead regarding the work the team are doing to shape and promote the employment offerings of ASC and to improve the diversity of applicants. The ISPCP reports can be read [here](#).

Out of Court Resolutions Scrutiny Panel

The December meeting scrutinised the use of financial compensation in Conditional Caution cases, with a focus on criminal damage cases. The Panel reviewed 12 cases on this theme, and 4 Community Resolution for sexual offences cases. The Panel considered 10 cases appropriate, 5 appropriate with observations, and 1 inappropriate. Feedback in inappropriate cases is provided to individual decision makers and their supervisors to inform future decision making. The Panel report and response to organisational learning will be published [here](#).

Independent Custody Visiting Scheme

The ICV Scheme is made up of 27 volunteers that make weekly unannounced visits across the 3 custody suites (Patchway, Bridgwater and Keynsham) to ensure that detainees are being treated well and

afforded their rights and entitlements. ICV Panel meetings were held across all suites in November. Meetings are used to deliver bitesize training, discuss issues that have been observed by the ICVs (both positive and areas for improvement) and to receive updates from ASP custody leads. The focus of the training was Neurodiversity and how to communicate effectively with detainees with a neurodiverse condition. Discussions were also held around the resource challenges in custody and the impact this can have on the treatment of detainees, ensuring effective provision of health care professionals, the need to offer female hygiene packs and menopause packs routinely to detainees, the introduction of custody tablets and how this could assist with communicating with detainees where English is not their first language and the possible introduction of new technology in the form of a new screening device.

Tackling Disproportionality

The February SteerCo meeting will consider the draft Anti-Racism Strategy and thematic objectives for 2025/6, developed by Pillar Working Groups following the October workshop. The meeting will also review progress in securing partnership commitment to the programme, including signing the Memorandum of Understanding to enable publication of quarterly data to measure progress. The OPCC continues to provide secretariat support to the Independent Scrutiny Board. Desmond Brown has now stepped down as Interim Chair, with Peninah A-Kindberg appointed as his replacement. Desmond will continue to serve on the Board, and was awarded an MBE in the New Years Honours list in recognition of his service in work to tackle disproportionality and promote independent scrutiny on behalf of the community. Desmond and Peninah will be presenting a Lightening Talk at the NPCC/APCC/College of Policing Culture and Inclusion Conference on 30-31 January to talk about best practice in community-led independent scrutiny.

An overview of the Tackling Disproportionality programme and OPCC scrutiny and assurance arrangements was presented to the PCP Public Confidence Sub-Committee meeting on 2 December. An update on the Tackling Disproportionality Programme is scheduled for the March PCP meeting.

Governance, Performance & Accountability

Governance and Scrutiny Board (GSB)

The new GSB process is now live with the first of the new format GSB meetings taking place in February – this will bring together scrutiny from the month of January. The overall nature of the meeting remains the same in that it is a closed meeting for the PCC and Chief Constable (and members of their teams) and is the formal monthly governance and holding to account Board.

The standing agenda will be:

- Decisions
- Finance
- Estates
- Transformational Programme Oversight
- Chief Constable Update
- Monthly PEEL Question focus

The following items will continue to be covered on an annual basis:

- Force Management Statement
- Strategic Policing Requirement
- Strategic Threat Assessment
- Control Strategy
- PCC Annual Complaint Report and Professional Standards

Police Question Time (PQT)

PQT was launched in July – replacing the former Performance and Accountability Board. It is a monthly meeting of approximately 30 minutes where the PCC puts questions to the Chief Constable. Prior to each PQT the public are asked to submit questions on the agreed themes. PQT is livestreamed via Facebook and LinkedIn.

It should be noted that December's PQT was a special edition. It focussed on Male Violence Against Women and Girls and took the format of a longer panel discussion including expertise from guests Laura Bates and Sarah O'Leary.

Further information, including recordings of previous sessions, can be found here: [Police Question Time | OPCC for Avon and Somerset](#)

HMICFRS

[PCC responses published](#)

- The policing response to antisocial behaviour: PEEL spotlight report
- Multi-agency responses to serious youth violence: working together to support and protect children

HMICFRS reports published (awaiting PCC response)

- [An inspection of the police response to the public disorder in July and August 2024: Tranche 1](#)

Upcoming inspections / reports

- [PEEL 2023-25](#) – The draft report was received for fact checking. This is embargoed so the findings cannot be discussed until the final is published: which is due in February 2025.
- The Constabulary are being inspected as part of the [police integrity inspection programme](#) in February 2025.

PEEL 2021/22 Areas for Improvement (AFIs)

Twelve AFIs are pending closure:

- AFI 1 – The constabulary needs to improve the accuracy of recording rape crimes and incidents of rape
- AFI 2 – The constabulary needs to improve its recording of crimes which involve vulnerable victims
- AFI 3 – The constabulary needs to improve how it records crime when antisocial behaviour is reported
- AFI 4 – The constabulary needs to improve how it records equality data
- AFI 5 – The constabulary should consistently evaluate and share effective problem-solving practice
- AFI 6 – The constabulary needs to ensure that neighbourhood policing officers have access to structured training
- AFI 8 – The constabulary should reduce the number of abandoned 101 calls
- AFI 9 – The constabulary should make sure that repeat and vulnerable callers are routinely identified
- AFI 10 – The constabulary should introduce effective processes for timely allocation of crimes of rape and other serious sexual offences to reduce the backlog

- 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 evidence-led prosecution is considered in all such cases
- AFI 12 – The constabulary needs to improve the quality assurance and supervision of investigations
- AFI 16 – The constabulary should ensure its enforcement action against offenders accessing indecent images of children is robust and conducted in a timely manner

Five AFIs are still being worked on:

- 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
- AFI 13 – The constabulary should ensure that risk assessments are effectively supervised, quality assured, and checked for compliance
- AFI 14 – The constabulary should reduce the backlog of applications waiting to be processed
- AFI 15 – The constabulary should reduce the time taken to conduct visits and risk assessments on registered sex offenders
- 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

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 Constabulary. The team also identifies trends and themes from contacts as well as the PCC engagement visits to assist the PCC in holding the Chief Constable to account through Police Question Time and governance regime.

The PCC has received contact around antisocial behaviour, road safety matters (notably the use of private e-scooters and e-bikes) and complaints against ASP. The OPCC project to replace the current Case Management System, Iken, with a new system called iCASE to manage public contact is ongoing and expected to go live in the coming months.

The team are supporting an audit carried out by SWAP internal audit services and are meeting to discuss and improve ways of working whilst providing ongoing support to the OPCC scrutiny volunteers and supporting the PCC statutory requirements of the Police Misconduct Regime.

Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB)

The LCJB held its last board in December, with strong representation, including from the Judiciary. This allowed for an informed conversation about the impact of court cancellations on victims, witnesses and staff on the ground supporting these individuals. The Board was assured there would be no further delays and solutions to bring forward delayed cases were being looked at. It is recognised that A&S have been impacted more so than colleagues nationally due to the proactive work to drive up rape reports and deliver justice through court.

The board agreed to hold a one-off meeting to run through the actions of the Identifying Disproportionality working group to ensure buy in and strategic support to drive forward and deliver recommendations. A new national group to look at women in the justice system has been set up and A&S have committed to begin looking at what data metrics are in place. Areas of focus include:

Intervene early, Reduced decline of community sentences, Alternatives to custody, Babies in custody, Young Women within justice.

The new criminal justice manager took up post on 13 January.

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. 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)

Key decisions published since the last meeting are as follows:

Date	Summary of Decision	Link to Decision Notice
13/1/25	<p>HQ Operations Heating and Cooling System Replacement</p> <p>Approval of Option 4 of the Technical Final Business Case to procure a replacement of the heating and cooling system in the HQ Operations building.</p>	<p>HQ Operations Heating and Cooling System Replacement</p>

Additional Items for Oversight as Requested by the Panel

Police Officer Leavers

Leavers (headcount)	Month of Dec-24	Year ending Dec-24 (Monthly average)
All officer leavers	13	20
Reasons for leaving (% of all leavers)	Month of Dec-24	Year ending Dec-24 (Monthly average)
Resignation	31	38
Retirement	69	47
Other	0	15

National Updates

Government announcements in relation to policing and criminal justice made since the last meeting include:

The Home Secretary wrote to all PCCs and Chief Constables about the Plan for a Neighbourhood Policing Performance Framework. The OPCC provided feedback on the draft framework.

[Billion pound funding boost for police to keep streets safe - GOV.UK](#) – including Police Core Grant funding, funding to deliver the Neighbourhood Policing Pledge, and Violence Reduction Partnership funding

[Government outlines new action to tackle radicalisation - GOV.UK](#) – including reforms to strengthen Prevent and the introduction of Youth Diversion Orders

[Tackling child sexual abuse - GOV.UK](#) – action on key recommendations of the Jay Review including mandatory reporting of child sexual abuse, making grooming an aggravating factor in sentencing of child sexual offences, introducing a single core data set on child abuse, exploitation and protection, continuing to support local independent inquiries with victims at the heart of the process, and action to tackle online grooming and AI-facilitated child sexual abuse.

[More support for victims of antisocial behaviour - GOV.UK](#) – review of ASB case reviews to make them more accessible to and effective for those victims who need it.

[Top bosses join forces to get thousands of offenders into work - GOV.UK](#) – new Employment Councils to bring together probation, prisons and local businesses to get more offenders into work and break the cycle of reoffending.

[2,000 extra sitting days to help address courts crisis - GOV.UK](#) – additional funding and sitting days to address the immediate crisis ahead of a major review by Sir Brian Leveson (see below).

[Courts reform to see quicker justice for victims and keeps streets safe - GOV.UK](#) – review to address the Crown Court backlog and free up capacity to consider more complex, serious crimes: will consider further extending Magistrates sentencing powers, and the case for new ‘intermediate courts’ where cases too serious for Magistrates Court.

Contact:

Alice Ripley, Chief of Staff

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Avon and Somerset