

Wiltshire Police and Crime Panel

27 June 2024

Item 7 – Public Participation

From Mr Paul Howlett

(Q24-01)

To the Chair: The PCC holds the Chief Constable to account for operational delivery and performance. On her appointment, the current Chief Constable prioritised domestic burglary, violent crime, and safer public spaces. The PCC seems to have set no targets for reducing and detecting crime. No information regarding performance is provided on his website.

The Wiltshire Police and Crime Panel reviews the PCC's progress in achieving the priorities set out in the Policing Plan. The information the PCC presents to the Panel regarding the incidence of crime is limited in scope. For example, the report he presented to the Panel's March 2024 meeting does not provide any meaningful information regarding the incidence of domestic burglary. This lack of data makes it difficult to ascertain whether crime in general is on the decline or on the rise; the latest ONS crime statistics indicate a reduction in some crime types.

It is equally challenging to establish Wiltshire Police's performance in detecting crime. For example, my impression is that less than 5% of domestic burglaries are detected, which is a cause for concern.

Why is the PCC not providing easily understood information to the public on his website and to the Panel regarding the reduction and detection of crime. A simple slide covering the crime types prioritised in the Policing Plan and by the Chief Constable would suffice. This information will have a direct bearing on public confidence in policing and enable the Panel to take a broader view regarding the delivery of value for money.

Thank you,

Response: Thank you very much for your question. We agree that it is important that the information received by the Panel is easily accessible for the public. The Panel has been making efforts to improve the way that it communicates with the public, so we value the feedback that you have provided. At the Panel's previous meeting the PCC spoke about the importance of reducing the use of acronyms and making the reports accessible.

To help the Panel review the progress that the PCC is making towards the objectives in their Crime Plan, the Panel receives quarterly updates, as well as an annual report. As highlight reports, although they show trends, they do not include statistical information about all types of crime. Whilst the highlight report that the Panel received in March contained relatively few statistics relating to burglary, the previous quarterly update in December did provide detailed figures. The Panel will continue to take a keen interest in monitoring how the PCC is holding the Chief Constable to

account in tackling this issue, including the difference made by re-establishing the dedicated Burglary Team in July 2023.

Statistical information about the frequency of certain types of crime is available from a range of sources, including the ONS and links via Wiltshire Police's website. The Chief Constable is responsible for setting operational targets for policing. The Panel will continue to press the PCC to secure clear and simple data from the Chief Constable to assist in our understanding of the overall direction of travel.