



Protecting Communities  
Fighting Crime



# POLICE AND CRIME PANEL MEETING

<b>REPORT TITLE</b>	<b>MEMBER QUESTIONS TO THE COMMISSIONER</b>
<b>REPORT OF</b>	<b>POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR DERBYSHIRE</b>
<b>DATE</b>	<b>7 NOVEMBER 2024</b>

## 1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To provide a written response to questions submitted by Police and Crime Panel members.

## 2. MEMBER QUESTIONS TO THE COMMISSIONER

### Question 1: From Cllr J Wright

**What progress has the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) made in setting a workable strategy to deal with the unlawful use of e-scooters on our streets?**

### Response

E-scooters remain a frequent source of complaints for Derbyshire residents and have been raised as a key issue at many engagement events attended by the Commissioner in her first six months in office. Given its prominence as a community concern, the PCC is actively working with the Chief Constable to address this ongoing issue across Derbyshire's county and city areas.

The Commissioner is now implementing a targeted, **three-fold plan** focused on enhancing awareness, strengthening enforcement, and advocating for similar improvements at a national level. This plan is designed to deliver tangible safety improvements for residents, specifically aiming to reduce the number of e-scooters on public roads and footpaths to improve road safety countywide.

#### 1. **Awareness Campaigns to Clarify Legal Boundaries**

To address any public uncertainty about e-scooter use, the Commissioner's Office, in collaboration with Derbyshire Constabulary's Communications Team, has launched a dedicated awareness campaign. This initiative aims to inform residents when e-scooter use constitutes an offense and highlights the potential consequences. By educating the public, the campaign encourages informed decision-making, particularly important as the festive period approaches and e-scooter purchases increase.

#### 2. **Strengthened Enforcement Measures**

In partnership with the Chief Constable, the Commissioner has advocated for a stronger enforcement approach. This has resulted in a significant policy shift: beginning **November 1st**, Derbyshire Constabulary will seize illegal e-scooters on the first interaction, sending them for disposal rather than issuing a warning as previously practiced. Offenders may also face prosecution for driving without insurance, tax, or a license, and parents could, in certain cases, be held criminally liable if their children are found using e-scooters unlawfully. Additionally, the Chief Constable will soon delegate the authority under Section 165A of the Road Traffic Act 1988 to Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) after appropriate training. This added capacity for PCSOs to seize illegal e-scooters broadens enforcement reach and strengthens efforts to address this issue.

### **3. Advocacy for National Improvements**

The Commissioner is championing these positive changes on a broader scale, actively engaging national leaders to ensure a united and consistent approach. She has written to the Home and Transport Secretary, requesting the Government take a leading role in implementing national improvements to manage e-scooter use. The PCC is also collaborating with the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners to develop a cohesive campaign that supports these enforcement and awareness efforts across the country.

Through this three-fold strategy, the Commissioner is committed to increasing public safety by both informing communities and enhancing enforcement practices to better regulate e-scooter use. These efforts are set to foster safer streets in Derbyshire, while the Commissioner continues to drive support for national progress on this important issue.

#### **Question 2: from Cllr J Wright**

**Report: Progress report on the PCC's Retail Crime Strategy (action against delivery plan & crime performance data)**

#### **Response**

The Business Crime Reduction Partnership (BCRP) have been commissioned by the PCC since 2019. We're currently looking at ways to further develop and build on this arrangement moving forward. Nationally, the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) launched a retail crime strategy in October 2023, and Derbyshire Constabulary launched a local strategy in March 2024 which shows focus and positive steps taken by the Force which is helping to progress this agenda forward in the right direction. Further to this, the Force have established a new dedicated Retail Crime Team which launched in March 2024. Since the team commenced, detection rates have increased from 12% to 30% which is extremely positive.

While Derbyshire Constabulary continues to see an increase in reported shop thefts, this increase is slowing, and the current reporting levels are expected to remain higher than those before 2023. This shift reflects an increase in reporting due to prior under-reporting, recognised nationally. Despite the rise in reported cases, Derbyshire Constabulary has maintained a high rate of positive outcomes in addressing these crimes. The Constabulary's "Four P Plan" has made strong progress across all priority areas, as outlined below.

**1. Prevent Offending:**

*Maximising efforts to prevent retail crime and address the root causes of reoffending.*

Regular collaboration between DCI Curtis and Mrs. Roberts of the BCRP is essential to tackling retail crime. They meet monthly to review crime patterns, share best practices, and identify areas for improvement. Their work focuses on merging police and BCRP data, providing a comprehensive view of business crime trends to guide quarterly working group meetings with relevant partners. This data-sharing initiative has already begun to shape better-targeted actions and operational planning.

**2. Prepare Our People:**

*Enhancing staff knowledge and equipping them to respond effectively to retail crime in partnership with the business community.*

Training and support programs around recording stolen property and using the Business Crime National Incident Category List (NICL) qualifier have seen notable progress, with a nearly 350% increase in NICL usage. This improvement enables the Constabulary to identify other business crimes, such as criminal damage and public order offenses. Additionally, refreshed retail crime packs and ongoing workshops on "Safer Business Action Days" have streamlined information and evidence collection, making processes more efficient for all involved.

**3. Protect Businesses:**

*Increasing awareness, engagement, and resilience within the business community.*

Safer Neighbourhood officers are utilising retail crime prevention surveys with repeat business victims to assess current security and recommend improvements. The Constabulary's active engagement in local and countywide partner initiatives, including two recent "Safer Business Action Days" during the national week of action, reflects their commitment to building resilience within the retail community. Results from this engagement, alongside ongoing problem management plans in high-volume areas, aim to reduce retail crime and associated anti-social behaviour. Currently, two such plans are in effect, focusing on areas with elevated retail crime rates.

**4. Pursue Offenders:**

*Enhancing efforts to disrupt and prosecute individuals involved in retail crime, particularly repeat offenders.*

Within the Crime Management Department, a dedicated team focuses exclusively on shop theft. This team reviews reports, seeks potential leads, and gathers crucial evidence through retail crime packs and footage from businesses. They have received advanced training in using the Police National Database, allowing them to track offenders across

regions. Repeat offenders are closely monitored and considered for integrated offender management. Additionally, the Constabulary is exploring more efficient approaches, including out-of-court disposals for persistent offenders and seeking civil orders when appropriate. They are also working to promote more time-efficient methods, such as reporting for summons without interviews.

### **Operations and Initiatives Since the Last Report**

From October 14th to 20th, 2024, Derbyshire Constabulary participated in the national week of action, including two major "Safer Business Action Days" in Derby City and Chesterfield Town, alongside smaller events in the High Peak and Derbyshire Dales. Key activities included identifying and pursuing known offenders, conducting targeted patrols, recovering stolen property, and offering crime prevention advice. The Constabulary also worked with retailers to enhance personal safety measures, guide them in reporting intelligence and crime, and provide workshops on completing evidence packs for effective police action.

Through these initiatives, Derbyshire Constabulary has made considerable progress in fostering a safer retail environment, enhancing collaboration, and targeting repeat offenders effectively. The ongoing strategies reflect a committed, multi-faceted approach to reducing retail crime across Derbyshire.

**Question 3: From Cllr S Wain**

**Priority 1: Strong Local Policing.** It is noted that as part of the uplift program, Derbyshire Police had a full-time equivalent of 2,078 officers at the time of writing the report, which is 3% above establishment. What is the current figure, and what percentage of officers leave the force within their first one and two years of service?

**Response**

As of September 30, 2024, Derbyshire Police has a full-time equivalent of **2,136 officers**, which is just one officer (0.05%) below the current establishment level.

In terms of officer retention, the figures for 2023/24 are as follows:

- **First-Year Leavers:** 7.2% of officers left the force within their first year, a figure lower than the national average of 8.9%. This represents a 5.3% improvement from the previous year.
- **Second-Year Leavers:** 15.2% of officers left in their second year, compared to the national average of 9.9%. This marks an increase of 5.2% from the previous year.

Over the past 12 months, retention figures have shown improvement:

- **First-Year Leavers** have increased to 8.6%, now much closer to the national average.
- **Second-Year Leavers** have reduced by 2.3%, bringing the rate down to 12.9%.

Combined, the trend in retention rates for first and second-year officers is improving, showing a 0.9% reduction in departures compared to the end of the 2023/24 financial year. To continue this progress and benchmark performance, the Constabulary will update these figures in March 2025, allowing for a new comparison against the national average.

**Question 4: from Cllr S Wain**

***Priority 2, Neighbourhood Crime and ASB. Sub point 1 shows that 3000 additional patrol hours were conducted in hotspot areas across the Districts and Boroughs. I presume the 225 immediate justice referrals did not emanate from these 3000 hours of patrol?***

**Response** Derbyshire Constabulary have confirmed that from the hotspot ward areas, out of a total of **716 Immediate Justice referrals** received between July 2023 to the end of September 2024, **355** have come from police activity in hotspots ward areas, **358** from police activity outside of the ward areas, **1** from a housing association and **2** from secondary schools.

**Question 5: From Cllr S Wain**

**What outcomes were produced by officers engaged in Operation Shango? Please include details on arrests, cautions, stop searches conducted, and the impact on community safety and incidents of antisocial behaviour in the targeted areas.**

**Response**

Between **July 2023 and September 2024**, Derbyshire Constabulary's Operation Shango has yielded significant results in addressing antisocial behaviour (ASB) and crime in targeted areas. Here are the key outcomes:

- **Arrests and Searches:** Officers conducted 159 arrests and 194 stop searches during the operation.
- **Dispersals and Reports:** Operation Shango's patrols led to 714 dispersals, 405 crime/incident reports, and 438 intelligence submissions, effectively enhancing community safety and intelligence gathering.
- **Weapons Seized and ASB Interventions:** Eight weapons were seized, while additional powers were exercised 290 times, including issuing ASB warnings, Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs), Community Protection Notices (CPNs), and confiscating alcohol.

### **Community Engagement and Visibility**

Operation Shango officers engaged with the public 40,088 times, dedicating a total of 11,084 hours to high-visibility patrols. This extensive engagement has fostered trust and provided a reassuring police presence in the community.

### **Impact on Antisocial Behaviour and Crime Rates**

Targeted hotspot policing under Operation Shango has led to measurable reductions in ASB and related crime:

- **Reduction in ASB:** A 6% reduction in ASB incidents was recorded over a five-month average, with an 11% reduction when comparing July 2023 to September 2024.
- **Decrease in Crime in Hotspot Areas:** Crime types in hotspot areas decreased by 13%, compared to a 2% reduction force-wide, highlighting the effectiveness of focused patrols.
- **76% of people who have completed reparative work** as part of the Immediate Justice Scheme haven't reoffended.

Op shango has helped mitigate seasonal spikes in crime, reducing both the frequency and duration of high ASB periods. Importantly, there is no evidence of crime displacement,

indicating that crimes are not simply shifting to other areas. This suggests that the positive impact of policing in hotspot areas extend beyond targeted locations, contributing to a safer environment across the wider community.

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