

State of Policing: The Annual Assessment of Policing in England and Wales 2023 (June 2024)

Report: [State of Policing: The Annual Assessment of Policing in England and Wales 2023](#)

Response from: Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Hampshire and Isle of Wight

In the Annual Assessment of Policing for 2023, restoring public trust and confidence remains a key priority. While perceptions of police effectiveness have remained largely static over the past year, recent surveys suggest that the downward trend in public opinion may have halted. Targeted initiatives, such as implementing the NPCC Police Race Action Plan are crucial in addressing these disparities. Additionally, HMICFRS endorses the 16 recommendations from the Angiolini Inquiry and urges their immediate implementation to strengthen the integrity of policing. My Chief Constable and his team are addressing these recommendations.

Efforts to enhance police accountability have seen significant developments, including changes to disciplinary and vetting processes announced in August 2023, and reforms to misconduct panels effective from May 2024. Regular screening of police personnel will now be facilitated by an innovative ICT solution, ensuring continuous oversight. However, public confidence in fair complaint handling is at its lowest since 2017, emphasising the importance of the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) review, which made 93 recommendations aimed at improving the complaints system.

Despite a 17% reduction in total crime compared to pre-pandemic levels, shoplifting offences have risen by 32% over the last year. The National Police Chiefs' Council has responded with the 'Retail Crime Action Plan' to combat this issue. Locally I recognise the impact shoplifting and retail crime is having on business owners and their employees and I am working with my Chief Constable to target those offenders and help support local retailers. We have also seen that inspections have revealed inadequacies in the oversight of public protection units and delays in processing Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme requests. Furthermore, the Crime Survey for England and Wales estimates that 2.1 million adults nationally experienced domestic abuse in the year ending March 2023. Protecting victims of crime is and will always be a priority for me, and I continue to invest in services to protect those most vulnerable in our communities.

Victims' experiences reveal significant dissatisfaction with the police response and the investigation of crimes. Inadequate data recording on attendance times and declining justice rates for serious offences remain serious concerns, and fraud is now the crime with the highest level of victimisation. According to national reporting, 1 in 17 adults were a victim of fraud in 2023/24, prompting calls for a radical rethink in its investigation approach which I welcome.

Finally, the current system of police funding is both outdated and unfair. While council tax contributions toward police funding have increased, the funding formula remains unchanged, leading to disproportionate allocation that doesn't reflect current needs. Many forces are compelled to scale back capital investments, not due to lack of necessity but due to insufficient funds. Government must conclude its review of the police funding formula and provide multi-year funding settlements, ensuring equitable distribution according to community needs and a substantial increase in capital funding for police forces. This approach is crucial to maintain the effectiveness and efficiency of policing services in the UK. Here in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, as recognised

by HMICFRS, we continue to be under-funded as a force area, and I welcome the introduction of a fairer funding formula to ensure my force can deliver the best public service to our communities.

Donna Jones
Police and Crime Commissioner

Recommendations:

No force level or PCC level recommendations were made.