



Date: 26/10/2022

Ms Donna Jones
Police and Crime Commissioner for
Hampshire
(by email)

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Dear Donna,

Police and Crime Commissioner's Annual Report

At the 21 October meeting, Members of the Hampshire Police and Crime Panel reviewed the draft of your Annual Report for 2022.

The Panel were pleased to note recruitment of over 600 additional police officers for Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary, as pledged within the Police and Crime Plan, was on track to be completed by Spring 2023. In response to questions raised, it was assuring to hear that, through both uplift funding and precept contributions from residents, the necessary funds were secured within the policing budget to meet ongoing costs for these new officers. Whilst it was positive to hear of the efforts taken to enhance the diversity profile of new recruits, the Panel observed that more needs to be done to enable the force to be fully representative of the communities they serve, and the Panel welcomes the Commissioner's call for more black officers in British policing.

The report recognises concerns by residents about accessibility and engagement with victims through the 101 service. Members raised a number of questions regarding this and recognise the support offered by the Commissioner to the Chief Constable to deliver improvements in the service, including enhancing the recruitment for new call handling staff, the development of online reporting and new victims' hub. The Panel would welcome ongoing updates on how these approaches have improved public confidence in the service and thank the Commissioner for her invitation to visit the call handling centre in the near future.

At the meeting the Panel raised questions relating to the Commissioner's engagement with criminal justice partners and were pleased to note a significant improvement in charge rates for rape and serious sexual offences. The Panel would recommend that the Commissioner highlights this within the annual report. The Panel also welcomed the Commissioner's commitment to open dialogue in response to concerns raised regarding delays in sentencing for first time youth offenders.

Members of the Panel commented upon the improved engagement by the Commissioner's team with Community Safety Partnerships when reviewing bids for

commissioned funding, and would encourage the Commissioner to reference this within the annual report

In reviewing the annual report Members observed that the 2021/22 financial performance figures do not differentiate the costs for the running of the Commissioner's office, from those required to maintain and develop the policing estate. The Panel therefore recommends that these figures be noted separately in the report, for transparency and fairer representation of the costs of the office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. The Panel would also recommend that page numbers are included in the report, to allow for ease of reference.

The Panel would like to place on record its thanks to the Commissioner for sharing the draft annual report for comment and commend the Commissioner on the report which provides an informative, accessible and comprehensive update on activity over the past 18 months.

We look forward to receiving, in due course, your response to the recommendations outlined above.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Simon Bound". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Councillor Simon Bound
Chairman, Hampshire Police and Crime Panel