

FIVE YEARS ON



Dear residents of Dorset,

Over the past five years, it has been a privilege to serve as your Police and Crime Commissioner and to work with Dorset Police, our partners and our communities to make Dorset safer. Thanks to this shared effort, Dorset is now the fourth safest place in the country, arrests are on the rise, and we have seen the largest reduction in crime across all forces - a clear testament to the dedication and professionalism of our officers, staff and volunteers.

Some notable achievements include*:

- Total crime down by 14%
- Anti-social behaviour down by 30%
- Residential burglary down by 32%
- Commercial and business burglary down by 49%
- Most serious violence down by 13%

We have also seen continued progress in tackling serious and organised crime through targeted operations. We have invested in neighbourhood policing, maintained our focus on rural crime and worked hard to stay connected to the communities we serve. All of this has been achieved despite Dorset remaining one of the lowest-funded police forces, and I will continue to press Government for a fairer deal.

We are by no means complacent though and I will continue to work relentlessly to bring down shoplifting offences for our business community, tackle corrosive drug crime and remain fully focused on dealing with violence against women and girls.

Thank you for your continued support. I remain committed to representing your voice and ensuring Dorset stays one of the safest places to live.

DAVID SIDWICK

Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner



To find out more about the work that has been happening over the past 5 years - scan this code

*(between 2020 and 2026)

HOW TO CONTACT DORSET POLICE IN A NON-EMERGENCY

ONLINE

Online contact with the police is dealt with in exactly the same way as non-emergency 101 phone calls.



REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

Click on the 'Report suspicious activity' button on the Dorset Police homepage or go to www.dorset.police.uk/suspiciousactivity



BY PHONE - CALL 101

**IF THERE IS A CRIME IN PROGRESS
OR SOMEONE IS IN DANGER -
CALL 999 IMMEDIATELY**

CRIMESTOPPERS

Crimestoppers allows you to give information anonymously about crimes that affect you and your local community. You can contact them directly online or on **0800 555 111**

CONTACTING YOUR PCC

Police and Crime Commissioners decide the priorities for the local police, set the budget, and commission services for victims of crime. They do not have responsibility over operational matters, nor are they the correct agency for most complaints against the police. For matters dealt with by the Police and Crime Commissioner, please contact the office on the details below.



Office of the Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner

Force Headquarters
Winfrith, Dorchester
Dorset DT2 8DZ

t. 01202 229084
w. dorset.pcc.uk/get-in-touch



FIVE YEARS ON



AFTER FIVE YEARS AS YOUR POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER I WANTED TO UPDATE YOU ON ALL THE WORK THAT HAS BEEN TAKING PLACE TO PROGRESS THE PRIORITIES SET OUT IN MY POLICE AND CRIME PLAN. THESE PRIORITIES WERE SHAPED BY YOUR VIEWS AND CONTINUE TO BE DELIVERED ON YOUR BEHALF.

MY TEAM AND I ARE PROUD TO WORK FOR YOU, AND WE REMAIN COMMITTED TO ACHIEVING OUR AMBITION OF MAKING DORSET THE SAFEST COUNTY.

DAVID SIDWICK

Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner

MAKE EVERY PENNY COUNT

- Dorset is due to welcome a new Chief Constable later this year, with Deputy Chief Constable Rachel Farrell named as the preferred candidate following an interview process.
- Alongside continuing to lobby for a fairer funding formula for Dorset Police that accounts for the seasonality and rurality of our area, the OPCC has welcomed additional funding from Safer Streets and Hotspot Policing, while continuing to evaluate efficiencies and improvements through its Evolve programme to ensure the Force is in a stable financial position.
- Introduction of support initiatives including Dorset Police's Enhanced Video Response (EVR), a digital service allowing victims of crime to speak with officers via secure live video calls rather than waiting for an in-person visit. This approach has not only benefited victims but also helped the Force meet some of its environmental objectives in reducing fuel usage while also making the use of officer time more efficient.

PUT VICTIMS & COMMUNITIES FIRST

- Partly funded by the OPCC, the Victims' Champion is a new role designed to continue the improvements to victims-first policing in Dorset, by overseeing Dorset Police's commitment to the Victims' Code of Practice from the start of the victim's journey and throughout.
- Restorative Justice helps victims of crime find closure and hold offenders accountable by giving victims the chance to safely communicate with the person who harmed them. A new contract will see the service continue for the next four years and include Hate Crime Awareness Courses.
- Commitment to young people continues to be delivered through investment in interventions to divert children and young people at risk from criminality.

FIGHT RURAL CRIME

- Increased the resource and capacity of the Rural Crime Team, resulting in increased positive outcomes against offenders and the team receiving recognition from the National Police Chiefs' Council, winning the award for 'Most Innovative Partnership to Tackle Serious and Organised Acquisitive Crime' in 2024.
- The PCC established the Dorset Partnership Against Rural Crime, working with partners to launch Country Watch, create crime prevention resources and provide theft prevention kits to hundreds of Dorset farmers and rural businesses.
- The PCC oversaw the launch of the award-winning Dorset Rural Mounted Volunteers scheme, improving visibility in remote rural areas and providing additional intelligence and engagement opportunities across Dorset's countryside.



CUT CRIME & ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR (ASB)

- Compared with 2019/2020, reported incidents of anti-social behaviour have reduced by 30% across Dorset (incidents reported April 2025 to March 2026) and are the lowest since 2008. The PCC has supported operations such as Op Track and Op Fireglow and provided more than £210k of funding for community projects tackling ASB.
- Burglary Investigation Teams have been introduced in both BCP and Dorset County command areas and burglary investigations are resulting in more positive outcomes than ever before, with stolen property being returned and perpetrators being rightfully punished.
- Improved road safety across Dorset by helping shape the Dorset Road Safety Strategy, with a long-term vision to reduce deaths and serious injuries on Dorset's roads, supporting high-visibility roads policing operations and rising numbers of Community Speed Watch teams while raising awareness of the consequences of drink and drug driving through victims' stories.

MAKE POLICING MORE VISIBLE & CONNECTED

- The OPCC has worked with Dorset Police to improve customer service and public confidence by supporting faster 999 call answer times and continued investment in 101 and control room performance to ensure the public receive a prompt response when they need police assistance.
- Ensured Dorset residents can contact the police in more ways than ever by overseeing the launch of Community Contact Points, two Mobile Police Stations and the transition to a new online reporting system, improving accessibility and engagement with communities across Dorset.
- The PCC has worked with senior officers to introduce additional hotspot patrols in key locations across the county, delivering 9,000 additional hours of high-visibility foot patrols in 2025 alone. The OPCC also secured £1.6m of Government funding, in 2025, for additional frontline officers and staff to boost patrols and community presence.

FIGHT VIOLENT CRIME & HIGH HARM

- Operation Scorpion, in partnership with the five South West PCCs and respective police forces, remains focused on disrupting organised drug crime, safeguarding vulnerable people and making the region a hostile environment for county lines activity and exploitation.
- The OPCC now has a Violence Reduction and Prevention Team focused on what is needed to respond to serious violence locally, and to identify the gaps in provision. Dorset has the second lowest number of knife-related offences in England, a reduction of 28% since 2020/2021.
- Established a VAWG Improvement Panel to review cases across a range of crime types, including stalking and harassment, domestic abuse, rape and serious sexual offences and child exploitation, to hold Dorset Police to account through constructive discussions and valuable learning focused on victims.

