

**Oversight and Governance**

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LICENSING COMMITTEE

Friday 2 May 2025

10.00 am

Council House

Members:

Councillor Hendy, Chair

Councillor Stephens, Vice Chair

Councillors Allen, Dingle, Holloway, Krizanac, Lawson, Ricketts, Simpson, M.Smith, Tippetts, Tofan and Ms Watkin.

Members are invited to attend the above meeting to consider the items of business overleaf. For further information on attending Council meetings and how to engage in the democratic process please follow this link - [Get Involved](#)

Tracey Lee

Chief Executive

Licensing Committee

1. **Apologies**

To receive apologies for non-attendance submitted by Committee Members.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

Members will be asked to make any declarations of interest in respect of items on this agenda.

3. **Minutes** **(Pages 1 - 2)**

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 19 February 2025.

4. **Chair's Urgent Business**

To receive reports on business which, in the opinion of the Chair, should be brought forward for urgent consideration.

5. **The use of the Animal Penalties Act 2022:** **(Verbal Report)**

6. **Licensing Activity Report (April 2023 to March 2025):** **(Pages 3 - 42)**

Licensing Committee

Wednesday 19 February 2025

PRESENT:

Councillor Hendy, in the Chair.

Councillor Stephens, Vice Chair.

Councillors Allen, Dingle, Holloway, Krizanac, Lawson, Simpson, M.Smith, Tippetts, Tofan and Ms Watkin.

Apologies for absence: Councillor Ricketts.

Also in attendance: Rosie Brookshaw (Democratic Advisor), Jamie Davies (Environmental Health/Trading Standards Officer), Nicola Horne (Head of Environmental Protection and Taxis) and, Cathy Morley (Lawyer).

The meeting started at 10.00 am and finished at 10.16 am.

Note: At a future meeting, the committee will consider the accuracy of these draft minutes, so they may be subject to change. Please check the minutes of that meeting to confirm whether these minutes have been amended.

11. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

12. **Minutes**

The Committee agreed the minutes of the Licensing Committee meeting held on 02 December 2024 as a true and accurate record.

The Committee agreed the minutes of the Licensing Sub Committee meeting held on 11 November 2024, 19 November 2024 and 11 December 2024.

13. **Chair's Urgent Business**

There were no items of Chair's urgent business.

14. **Approval of Animal Licensing Policy**

Nicola Horne (Head of Environmental Protection and Taxis) introduced the item and highlighted the following points:

- a) The report was brought to the Committee in October 2024 for approval to go out to consultation, and subsequently the draft Animal Licensing Policy went out to public consultation in November 2024 and December 2024;

- b) Changes in the policy provided clarity and transparency with regards to Plymouth City Council's decision making processes;
- c) There had only been nine responses to the public consultation and only six were licence holders. All 60 licence holders were given the opportunity to respond;
- d) The policy was consistent with other Local Authorities and if it was accepted, would be implemented from the 01 April 2025.

In response to questions it was explained:

- e) Cambridgeshire County Council had a similar policy in place and more Local Authorities were implementing similar policies;
- f) The Animal Welfare Act was first implemented in 2006 and licensing regulations were updated in 2018.

The Committee agreed to approve the implementation of the proposed Animal Licensing Policy following the public consultation.

15. **Confidential Minutes**

The confidential minutes from the meeting held 19 November 2024 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

Licensing Committee

Licensing Activity Report 2025



Date of meeting:	02 May 2025
Title of Report:	Licensing Activity Report (April 2023 to March 2025)
Lead Member:	Councillor Sally Haydon (Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Libraries, Events, Cemeteries & Crematoria)
Lead Strategic Director:	Professor Steve Maddern (Director of Public Health)
Author:	Graham Hooper
Contact Email:	graham.hooper@plymouth.gov.uk
Your Reference:	GHO/LIC/LAR24/25
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

This report provides a comprehensive overview of the Licensing Service for the last two financial years. It outlines the various regimes and applications managed by the Licensing Service, team performance, notable trends, and high-profile applications. Additionally, it offers a summary of the work carried out by the agencies involved in regulating the licensing regime within the scope of the Committee's responsibilities and includes the details on the Police review of the Cumulative Impact Policy

Recommendations and Reasons

Members are asked to consider this report and note the contents. It is intended to inform Members of the enforcement activities carried out by the Licensing Enforcement Officers during the 2023-24 and 2024-25 financial year periods.

Alternative options considered and rejected

None identified

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

This report aligns with the delivery of the Council's priorities, particularly in the following areas:

1. Working with the Police to Tackle Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour:
The activities of the Licensing Team contribute to the framework through which the Licensing Authority and the Police collaborate to promote and ensure the achievement of the licensing objectives, with a focus on reducing alcohol-related crime. The licensing objectives are as follows:
 - Prevention of Crime and Disorder
 - Promotion of Public Safety
 - Prevention of Nuisance
 - Protection of Children from Harm
2. Keeping Children, Adults, and Communities Safe:

The work of the Licensing Team supports the regulatory framework governing the sale of alcohol, the provision of certain entertainment, and late-night refreshment. This ensures that Plymouth remains a friendly and welcoming city, where individuals feel safe. It also plays a crucial role in protecting children, young people, and adults from harm.

Implications for the Medium-Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

Compliance with statutory duties as part of the licensing function is delivered within existing budgets. Licence fees and charges are reviewed annually with the Licensing Service and are set in line with national guidance. The council aims to recover all costs associated with criminal investigations and successfully defended appeals in the Magistrates' Court.

Financial Risks

None

Legal Implications

(Provided by IW)

No legal implications identified

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

None identified

Other Implications: e.g. Health and Safety, Risk Management, Child Poverty:

** When considering these proposals members have a responsibility to ensure they give due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act and those who do not.*

[Click here to enter text.](#)

Appendices

**Add rows as required to box below*

Ref.	Title of Appendix	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	Enforcement Activity Report							
B	Equalities Impact Assessment (Not applicable)							
C	Climate Impact Assessment (Not applicable)							

Background papers:

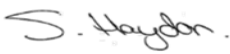
**Add rows as required to box below*

Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are unpublished works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based.

Title of any background paper(s)	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

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Sign off:

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Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Katharine O’Conner Head of Food Safety and Misc Licensing katharine.o'connor@plymouth.gov.uk											
Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes Professor Steve Maddern Director Of Public Health Office of the Director of Public Health Steve.Maddern@plymouth.gov.uk Date agreed: 23/04/2025											
Cabinet Member approval:  Councillor Sally Haydon Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Libraries, Events, Cemeteries & Crematoria) approved by email Date approved: 23/04/2025											

Appendix A

Enforcement Activity Report

1.0 Introduction

1.1 This report has been prepared to give Members of the Licensing Committee a comprehensive update on the activities conducted by agencies tasked with regulating licensable activities. Particular emphasis is placed on the management of the Evening and Night-Time Economy (ENTE). Additionally, this report will outline the specific work of the licensing team for the periods from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 and from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.

1.2 From April 2023 to March 2024, 1818 applications were received. From April 2024 to March 2025, 1708 applications were received.

1.3 Applications received cover the following areas:

- Alcohol and entertainment
- Gambling
- Sex Establishments
- Petroleum
- Explosives
- Animal welfare
- Charitable collections
- Scrap metal
- Caravan licensing
- Body and Beauty Art

2.0 Licensing Act 2003

2.1 Licensing Officers, with administrative support, undertake all aspects of the licensing function covered by the Licensing Act 2003. The number of applications processed by Officers during 2023 to 2025 financial years are shown in Table 1 below:

Licence Type	Financial Year					
	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25
Applications, Transfers, Variations and Suspensions etc.	578 (+ 214 suspensions)	339 (+ 301 suspensions)	613 (+ 204 suspensions)	523 (+ 244 suspensions)	691 (+ 166 suspensions)	636 (+ 121 suspensions)
New Personal licences	159 + 139 Change of address apps	103 + 80 Change of address apps	145 + 111 Change of address apps	154 + 91 Change of address apps	79 + 99 Change of address apps	85 + 82 Change of address apps
TEN's	462	91	217	398	444	355

Table 1: Application Numbers by Years

- 2.2 Responsible authorities continue to submit formal representations regarding licensing applications. In most instances, the applicant concurs with the advice provided, facilitating the mediation process. Committee Members receive updates on all mediated applications through an annual Committee report.
- 2.3 The number of premises inspections made over the last two financial years are shown in Table 2 below.

Financial Year	Premises Inspections
2022/2023	42
2023/2024	56
2024/2025	74

- 2.4 Table 3 below shows the number of applications, variations or reviews that went before Licensing Sub-Committee.

	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25
Apps or Variations	7	8	5	2	8	3	7	4
Premise Licence Review	4	0	2	3	0	1	1	3
Expedited Reviews	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0

3.0 Licensing Act Policy

- 3.1 The Licensing Act 2003 requires that we must prepare and publish a statement of licensing policy every 5 years. The published policy then provides the framework for all decisions on applications relating to the Licensing Act 2003 and the way we carry out our functions in relation to the legislation. The policy is also intended to provide advice and guidance to anyone that may be involved in the licensing application process, from applicants and licence holders to responsible authorities and members of the public who wish to make a representation about an application.
- 3.2 The policy was adopted by Full Council on 29 January 2024, following public consultation and is effective from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2029 and can be viewed at the following link:
[Licensing Policy](#)

3.3 Cumulative Impact Areas

Cumulative Impact Assessments (CIA) were introduced into legislation by the Policing and Crime Act 2017, coming into effect on 6th April 2018. Councils are mandated to conduct a CIA to evaluate whether certain areas within the City, characterised by a significant number of licensed premises, adversely affect one or more licensing objectives. A CIA is a specialised policy consideration and must be incorporated into the Council's Licensing Policy.

3.4 Review of the Cumulative Impact Assessment

The CIA is subject to review every three years, with the latest review conducted in December 2024. No changes are proposed to the CIA areas at this time; however, current evidence does not support the long-term inclusion of Stoke as a CIA area. Following consultation with the Police and statutory stakeholders, it has been agreed to maintain this CIA area and to revoke it during the next review if evidence continues to support this course of action.

3.5 The review carried out by the Police can be seen attached to this report as **Appendix B**.

4.0 Public Safety and Public Nuisance

4.1 The number of noise complaints received against licensed premises decreased from 150 in 2022/2023 to 130 in 2023/2024 with a further decrease to 89 in 2024/2025. The decrease in noise complaints against pubs and clubs in Plymouth, mirrors the trend across the UK and can be attributed to several factors:

- **Improved Soundproofing and Noise Management:** Many venues have invested in better soundproofing and noise management systems to minimise disturbances to nearby residents
- **Community Engagement:** Pubs and clubs are increasingly engaging with local communities to address concerns proactively, often resolving issues before they escalate to formal complaints
- **Legislative Changes:** There have been adjustments in local regulations and licensing conditions that encourage venues to adopt quieter practices and manage noise more effectively, for example policy requirement for total sound containment in premises after 11pm
- **Economic Factors:** The financial pressures on venues, especially post-pandemic, have led to a reduction in live music events and other activities that typically generate noise complaints
- **Urban Planning:** Some areas have seen changes in urban planning, with new residential developments incorporating better noise mitigation measures

These combined efforts have contributed to a noticeable decline in noise complaints against pubs and clubs across the UK.

4.2 Where noise complaints are received, Environmental Health Officers continue to follow an escalation process, engaging with the responsible individual at the earliest opportunity to allow for prompt resolution without the need for formal action. In most cases, the complaint is resolved through an action plan or minor variation, with the agreement of the licensee.

4.3 Officers coordinate out-of-hours visits as necessary to address any noise or public nuisance originating from licensed premises, ensuring prompt resolution.

4.4 Officers collaborate with licensed premises to implement action plans aimed at minimizing the impact on local residents. This remains a critical focus, two years after reopening following Covid-19, particularly given the increased use of outdoor areas, with many businesses taking the opportunity to expand these spaces and continue applying for pavement licences.

One premises licence was reviewed for public nuisance (Frontfield Stores) during the 2023/2024 financial year. Two premises licences (Club Inferno and Fleet Street) were reviewed in the 2024-2025 financial year due to public safety and public nuisance.

Both premises had their Premise Licences revoked - Club Inferno have appealed the decision and the hearing has been listed before Magistrates in July and August 2025. Club Inferno had their licence revoked.

5.0 Protection of Children from harm

- 5.1 The Police, Trading Standards, and the Licensing Team continue to collaborate in efforts to reduce young people's access to alcohol, both from on-licences and off-licences, through neighbourhood interventions and providing guidance to retailers.
- 5.2 The Licensing Team and Police Licensing regularly meet with Devon Trading Standards to coordinate test purchases, based on intelligence and complaints received.
- 5.3 Businesses are supported in minimising the potential for underage sales and are encouraged to adopt a Challenge 25 policy. All licensed premises in Plymouth are provided with free access to the regional underage sales web-based toolkit, "No Proof of Age No Sale (NPOANS)," for staff training, and all are regularly reminded of this valuable resource.

6.0 Crime and Disorder

Please see the police report 2023-2025 attached as **Appendix C**, compiled by the Police Alcohol Licensing Team which provides details and information relating to the Crime and Disorder licensing objective over the last 2 financial years.

The Officer has been invited to present information to the Committee at this meeting and answer any questions that may arise.

7.0 Gambling Policy

- 7.1 Licensing Officers, supported by administrative staff, are responsible for regulating establishments such as casinos, betting shops, adult gaming centres, and bingo halls in accordance with the Gambling Act 2005. Comprehensive inspections of these gambling premises are conducted annually to ensure full compliance with relevant regulations.
- 7.2 The Gambling Act mandates that the Council's [gambling policy](#) be reviewed every three years. The new policy should cover the period from January 2025 to January 2028. However, in 2023, the Gambling Commission (GC) and HM Government initiated public consultations on proposed amendments to UK gambling regulations. Some of these changes may significantly impact local authority gambling regulations. The GC has indicated that it is still considering feedback from these consultations and will not update the Statutory Guidance to Local Authorities before the review deadline for the current Statement of Gambling Policy.
- 7.3 Consequently, a review of the Council's existing Statement of Policy was conducted, establishing that the current policy includes all requirements and recommendations under existing guidance. As no significant changes were necessary, it was agreed, with the approval of the GC and at the January Full Council meeting, that the existing Statement of Policy will remain in force from January 2025. The policy will be reviewed again once the new statutory guidance is released.

8.0 Sex Establishments

- 8.1 Currently, Plymouth City Council licenses one lap dancing club and one sex shop. During the forthcoming year the Licensing Team will review, consult and update the Council's [Sex Establishments Licensing Policy](#) which prescribes the Authorities controls on the legitimate operation of sex establishments and that such businesses that are a legitimate part of the retail and leisure industry.

9.0 Partnership Working

- 9.1 The Licensing Team is actively involved in several multi-agency groups that support the promotion of the licensing objectives. By working in partnership with various stakeholders, the team aims to achieve these objectives. These groups include:

9.2 Responsible Authorities Meetings

The responsible authorities convene regularly to discuss enforcement options and develop strategies for addressing 'problem premises.' Establishments operating within the Evening and Night-Time Economy (ENTE) continue to receive proactive guidance from enforcement agencies, including Licensing, Environmental Health, Fire Service, Trading Standards, and the Police, with the aim of fostering a responsible ENTE.

Interventions involve both unannounced and scheduled visits to evaluate licensed premises' adherence to licensing conditions and other relevant workplace regulations. Officers from all enforcement agencies conduct joint inspections, where appropriate, to ensure a coordinated approach to enforcement is maintained. This collaborative effort demonstrates to licensees and designated premises supervisors that the agencies work together. Additionally, enforcement agencies carry out night-time inspections to assess the compliance of licensed premises with their regulatory obligations.

9.3 Multi-Agency Groups

The Licensing Team is an active member of Safer Plymouth, as well as the Evening and Night-Time Economy Group (ENTE), the Alcohol Harm Reduction Subgroup, the Predatory Males in the ENTE Group and the Destination Plymouth Group.

9.4 Plymouth Pubwatch

The Licensing Team and the Police continue to support the Plymouth Pubwatch scheme. Pubwatch schemes are local, independent groups composed of individuals working in licensed premises, with the primary objectives of tackling and preventing anti-social behaviour and criminal activity, promoting a safe drinking environment for customers, ensuring secure working conditions for staff, and enhancing communication and information-sharing among licensees. Plymouth's Pub watch scheme is highly active, organising various safety and awareness campaigns and supporting initiatives aimed at improving safety within licensed premises. Pubwatch meets monthly, with ongoing support from the Licensing Team, which provides updates and advice.

9.5 Purple Flag

The Licensing Team actively supports the Purple Flag award, which recognises excellence in safety, partnership, and diversity within the night-time economy. This prestigious award offers significant

benefits to various Council services and the broader community. In 2024, Plymouth successfully renewed its application, maintaining the award for the ninth consecutive year.

Plymouth was evaluated on several key factors that contribute to making the city a safe place to visit and live, including emergency help points, the safe bus service, ongoing efforts to address Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), and the night bus service that operated last year.

Areas awarded the Purple Flag are recognised for offering a vibrant and diverse mix of entertainment and culture, while prioritising the safety and wellbeing of both visitors and residents.

A wide range of organisations collaborate to make Plymouth a welcoming and successful destination. These include the Council, Devon and Cornwall Police, local pubs, restaurants, sports and entertainment venues, retail and transport operators, as well as dedicated street pastors and taxi marshals.

9.6 Devon Licensing Officers Group (DLOG)

Plymouth Licensing Officers attend and actively participate in Licensing Forum Groups, which aim to promote consistency and best practices in licensing across Devon and Cornwall.

9.7 Safety Advisory Groups

The Council collaborates with event organisers to maintain reasonable standards of public safety at events and to promote the wellbeing of the public, officials, event organisers, and performers. The Plymouth Sports Advisory Group (SAG) and the Plymouth Event Safety Advisory Group (PESAG) serve as platforms for organisers to share their event plans and receive feedback from relevant agencies. The Licensing Team currently chairs the PESAG.

9.8 Institute of Licensing

The professional body for licensing matters has played a crucial role in providing access to case law, legislative updates, training, and facilitating information sharing. The Licensing Team is a member of the Institute of Licensing (IOL) and participates in regular training sessions and legislative updates, offering a local authority perspective on several key legislative changes.

9.9 Community Alcohol Partnership

The Licensing Authority supports the alcohol industry in demonstrating its commitment to promoting responsible drinking by ensuring that the sector does not encourage young people to consume alcohol.

A Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP) is a Community Interest Company (CiC) that brings together and supports local partnerships, including councils, police, retailers, schools, health providers, and community groups, with the aim of reducing alcohol-related harm among young people, improving their health and wellbeing, and enhancing their communities.

As a member of the Plymouth CAP, the Licensing Authority actively supports the vital work of preventing underage drinking and mitigating alcohol-related harm to young people.

Further information on C.A.P initiatives can be found at: [Community Alcohol Partnerships](#)

9.10 Miscellaneous Groups

The Licensing Team continues to engage in multi-agency collaboration on safeguarding initiatives, as well as projects addressing:

- Modern slavery
- Child sexual exploitation,
- Organised Crime
- Hate Crime
- Predatory Behaviour in the ENTE

10.0 Work Initiatives for 2025-2026

10.1 The responsible authorities will continue to support licensed premises to ensure that they are best placed to contribute towards providing a positive and well-managed ENTE.

10.2 All agencies will continue to meet to discuss enforcement strategies, best practice and on-going operations to ensure that resources are best targeted at those premises that contribute significantly to undermining the licensing objectives.

10.3 We intend to:

- 10.3.1 Continue our joint working with all agencies involved in the ENTE
- 10.3.2 Chair the Event Safety Advisory Group
- 10.3.3 Review the Sex Establishments Licensing Policy
- 10.3.4 Monitor progress regarding Gambling Commission updates and their impact on our policy
- 10.3.5 Review our Charitable Collections Policy
- 10.3.6 Review our Caravan Licensing activities
- 10.3.7 Support Plymouth to retain the Purple Flag Award for the City
- 10.3.8 Support Best Bar None, Pub watch and the Community Alcohol Partnership
- 10.3.9 Work with partner agencies and with licensed businesses throughout the implementation of the Protect Duty (Martyn's Law, see 9.4 below)
- 10.3.10 Undertake a programme of alcohol and gambling test purchasing operations
- 10.3.11 Continue our joint working to detect, deter and disrupt modern slavery child sexual exploitation and organized crime

10.4 Protect Duty – Martyn's Law

The Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025, also known as Martyn's Law, received Royal Assent on Thursday 3 April 2025.

Martyn's Law aims to enhance national security and reduce the public's risk from terrorism by improving the protection of public venues. It will require those responsible for certain locations to assess the threat of terrorism and implement appropriate and proportionate mitigation measures.

The legislation will ensure that organisations are prepared, capable of responding effectively, and clear on the actions to take in the event of an attack. Enhanced protection will be achieved through improved security systems, staff training, and more transparent processes.

The Licensing Team will collaborate with partner agencies and engage with licensed businesses throughout the implementation of this process.

11.0 Conclusion

- 11.1 This report enables Committee Members to be informed and to aid decision making in the future by seeking to provide an insight into the range of work initiatives and enforcement operations undertaken by the Licensing Team and the Police Alcohol Licensing Team regulating the evening and nighttime economy throughout 2023/24 and 2024/25.
- 11.2 In addition, the report provides information on work initiatives planned for the coming year and how partner agencies will continue to interact to ensure that limited resources are targeted effectively.

Appendix B CIA Report 2021-2024

Appendix C Police Report 2023-2025

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CUMULATIVE IMPACT POLICY REVIEW 2024-2025

PLYMOUTH

SUMMARY

Plymouth City Council Licensing Cumulative impact Policy Review 24/25.

Plymouth has the largest Evening and Nighttime Economy (ENTE) within Devon and Cornwall.

Devon and Cornwall Police support the continued development of Plymouth's ENTE and recognises the social and economic benefits it provides through employment, leisure activities and entertainment.

The police also recognise that the impact which alcohol within the ENTE has on crime, disorder, and anti-social behaviour, especially where operators within the ENTE do not work to the highest standards.

Devon and Cornwall Police fully supports Plymouth City Council's licensing policy and feels that through ongoing consultation it is effective in aspiring to the highest possible standards for those working and visiting Plymouth's Evening and Nighttime Economy.

Plymouth has yet again been recognised for its multi-agency working by attaining the Purple Flag for the fifth consecutive year. The city continues to strive to become a vibrant waterfront city, and the development of the ENTE and Licensed venues is instrumental in this.

The following report will analyse police data linked to the six cumulative areas within the city of Plymouth and will assess the effect the Cumulative Impact Policy has on these areas.

DATA PARAMETERS

- Data has been collected to cover a three-year period, from **1st April 2021 to 31st March 2024**. The information has been categorized into two distinct timeframes: the daytime economy, spanning from 0600 to 1759hrs, and ENTE covering 1800 to 05:59hrs.
- Incidents and crime with domestic violence and mental health tags have been excluded from the dataset to ensure focus on trends that are more relevant to the CIA policy.
- It is important to acknowledge potential limitations in the data. Data is input manually onto police systems, as such we can expect a degree of human error. Where there appear to be inconsistencies in the data, this should be considered.
- Data regarding Police Incidents give an overall indication of the impact that licensed premises have on policing demand. However, it is important to note that this is not always a sign of poor practice by venues, as many calls will be proactive in nature e.g. finding drugs on a patron because of a proactive search regime. Equally, some of the included data will be unrelated to licensed premises, however it is not possible to manually review every entry to assess its suitability to be included in this report. Data has been interpreted as an overview of dynamics within the area – hypothesis regarding the impact of licensed premises on this data have been drawn where appropriate only.
- Data collected covers incidents and logs reported to have occurred within five CIA locations – some boundary errors are likely to appear in the data due to the method of recording location information, though efforts have been made to ensure accuracy. Data included incidents and crimes which have occurred within the following locations:

Zone 1 – Barbican

Batter Street
 Bilbury Street
 Bretonside
 Buckwell Street
 Castle Street
 Citadel Road East
 Fish Quay
 Friars Lane
 Hicks Lane
 Hoe Approach
 Hoegate Stret
 How Street
 Lambhay Street
 Looe Street
 Lower Street
 North Quay
 North Street
 Palace Street
 Parade
 Southside Street
 Stillman Street
 Sutton Harbour
 The Barbican
 Vauxhaul Street

Zone 2 – City Centre

Buckwell Street
 Charles Street
 Cornwall Street
 Courtnay Street
 Exeter Street
 Market Avenue
 Mayflower Street
 New George Street
 Old Town Street
 Princess Street
 Royal Parade
 St Andrews Cross
 Whimble Street

Zone 3 – Mutley

Alexandra Road
Chester Place
College Ave
College Lane
Ermington Terrace
Finsbury Lane
Ford Park Lane
Houndiscombe Road
Hyde Park Road
Mannamead Road
Moor View Terrace
Mutley Plain
Mutley Plain Lane
Napier Terrace
Seaton Avenue

Zone 5 – Stoke

Bromley Place
Church Street
Devonport Road
Masterman Road
Packington Street
Somerset Place
York Place

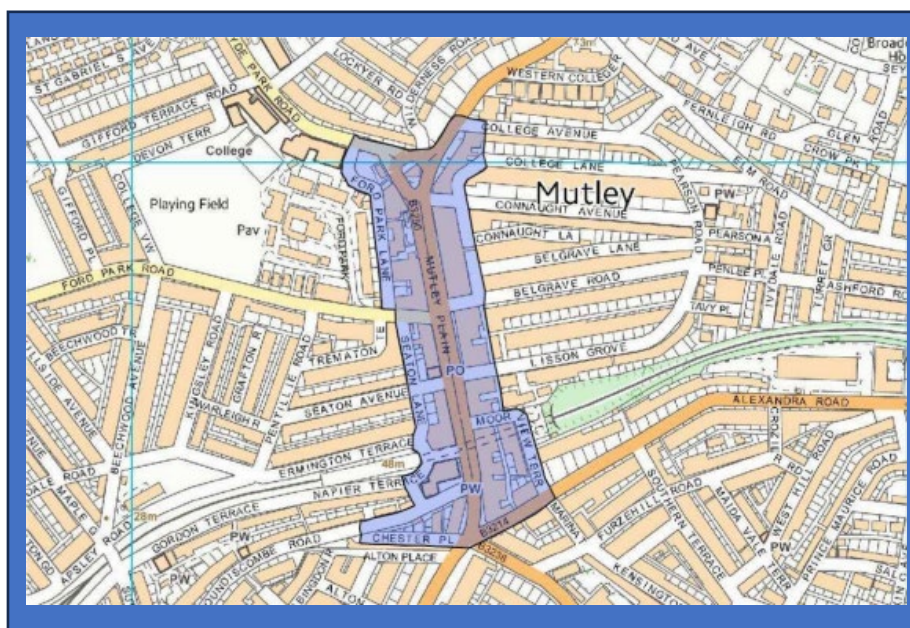
Zone 4 – North Hill

Addison Road
Alton Place
Alton Road
Armada Street
Bedford Park
Chapel Street
Clifton Place
Drake Circus
Gibbon Lane
Glanville Street
Headland Park
Hill Park Crescent
North Hill
Skardon Place
Tavistock Place

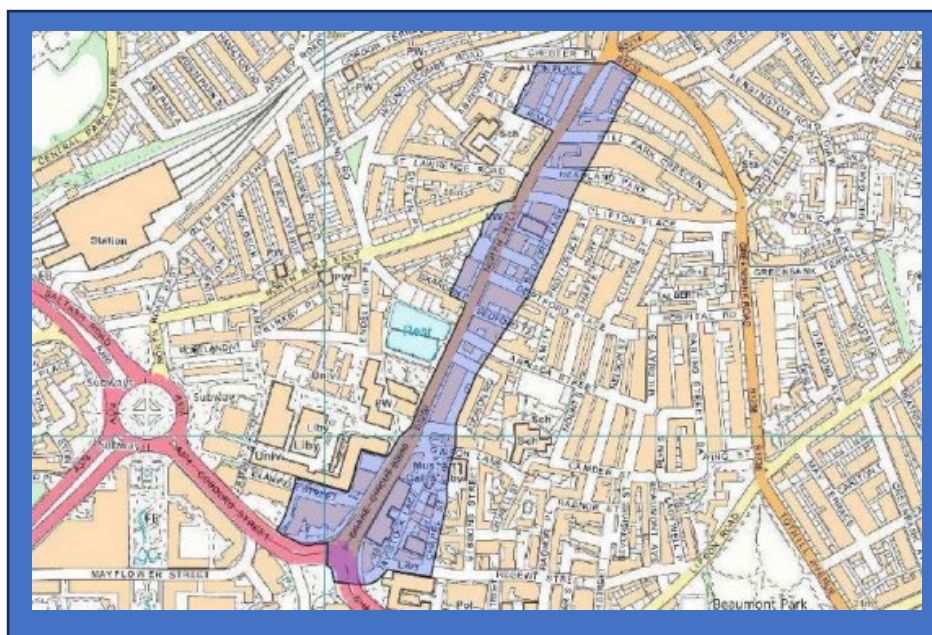
Zone 6 – Union Street

Bath Lane
Colin Campbell Car Park
Derrys Cross
Derrys Cross Car Park
East Street
Flora Street
George Place
Manor Gardens
Market Street
Martin Street
Peel Street
Phoenix Street
Sawrey Street
Stonehouse Street
The Crescent
Union Place
Union Street
Western Approach

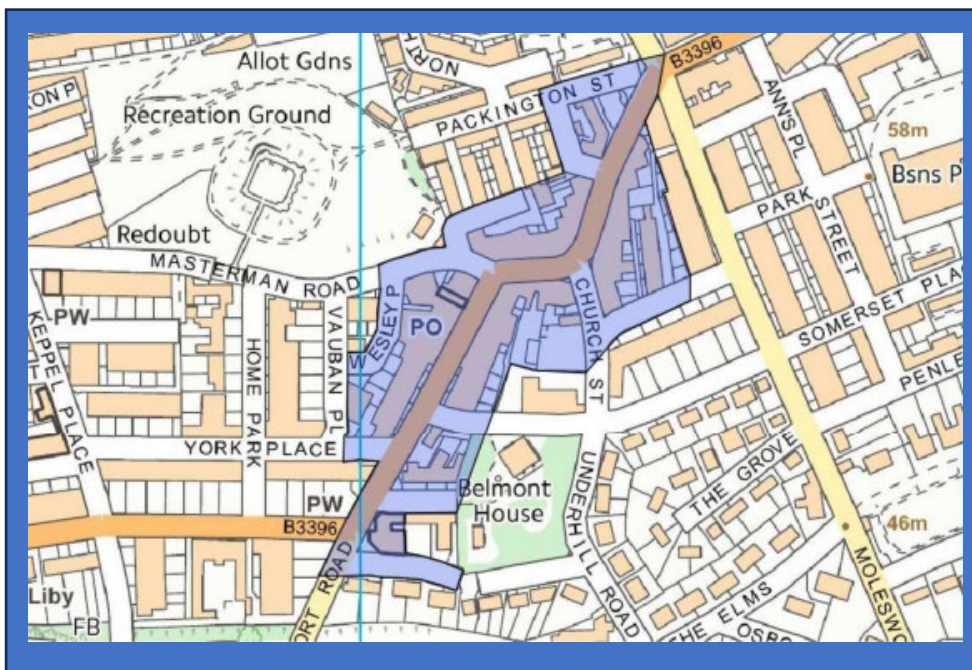
LOCATION 1 - MUTLEY



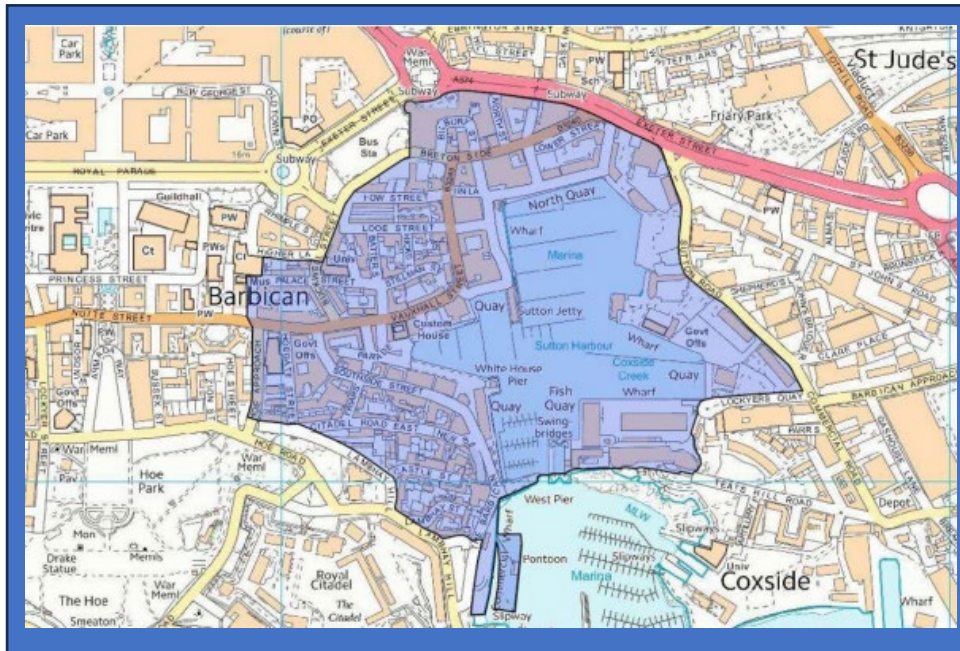
LOCATION 2 – NORTH HILL



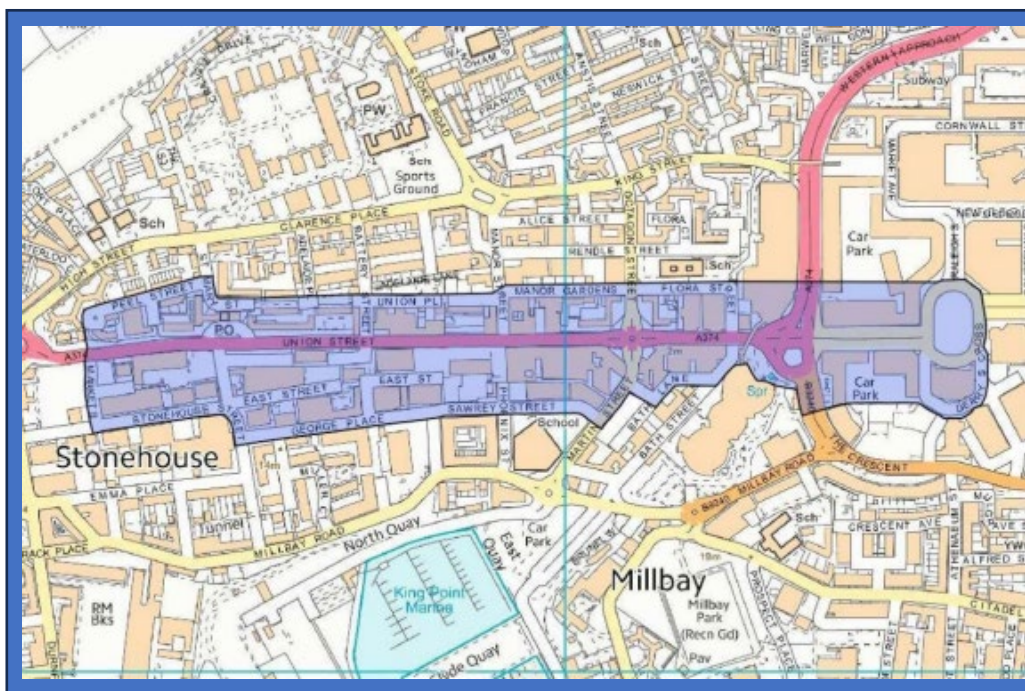
LOCATION 3 - STOKE



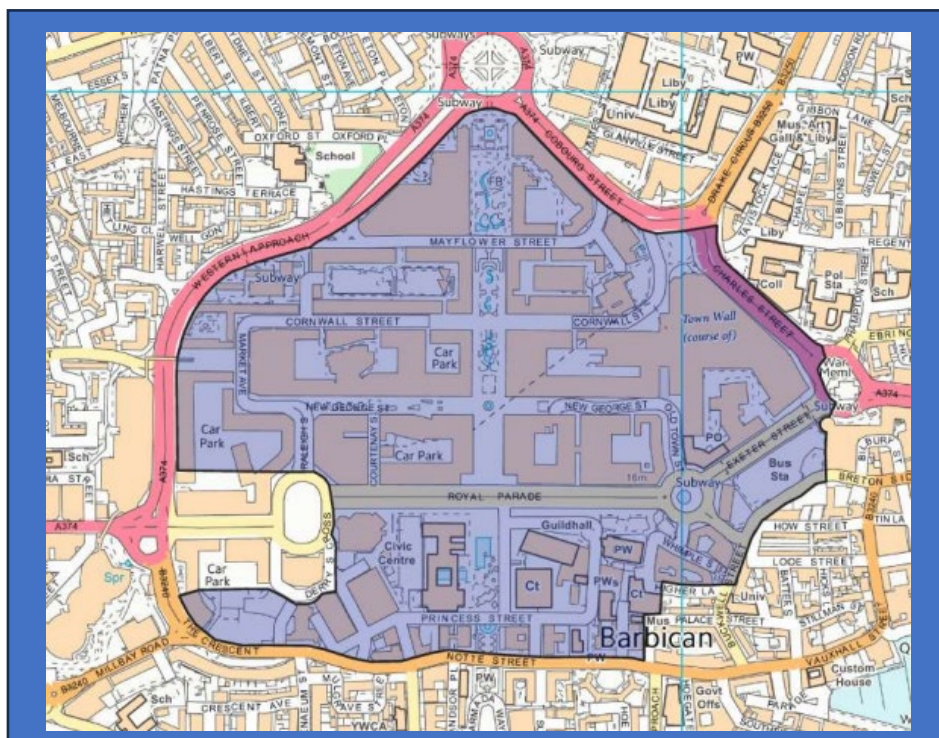
LOCATION 4 – BARBICAN



LOCATION 5 – UNION STREET



LOCATION 6 – CITY CENTRE



LOGS/INCIDENTS

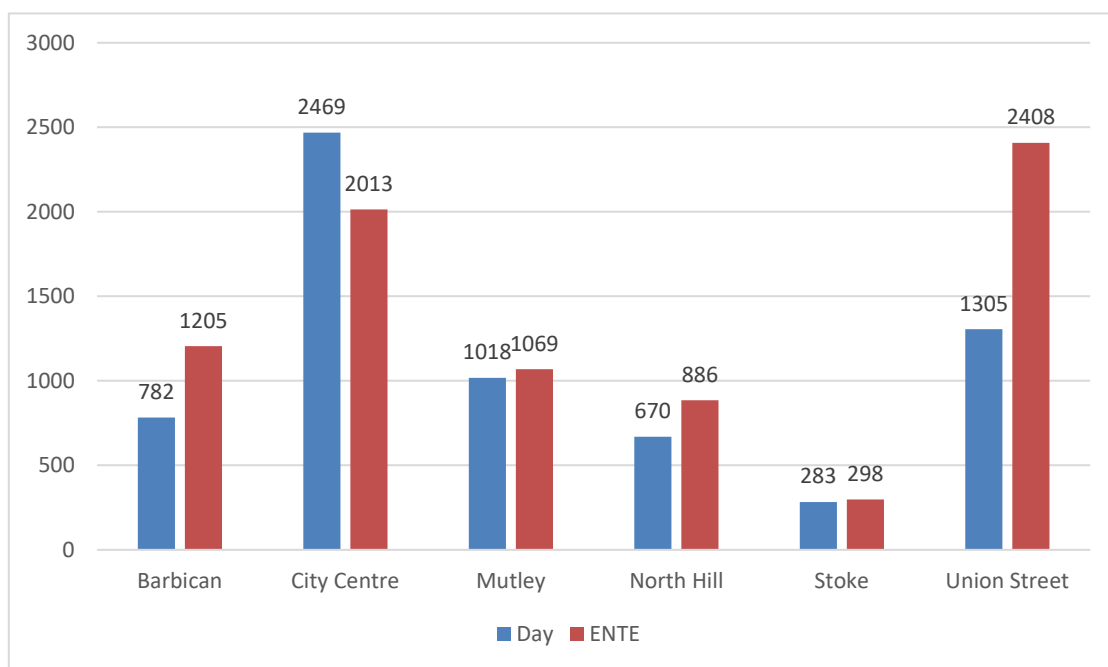
Data within this section focuses on Police Incidents within the allocated time frame. Incidents are generated by 999 calls and 101 contact, as well as Police Generated Logs where officers may come across an incident in progress whilst on patrol. Logs or incidents are the term used for when initial police contact is required.

Table 1 shows the total incidents occurring within each CIA as a percentage of the incidents occurring across Plymouth. The City Centre attracts the highest percentage which is expected as it has highest density of retail premises which makes it the most populated area during day time hours. Union Street also attracts a higher percentage of incidents, which could be attributed to a higher density of licensed premises. By contrast, Stoke has a consistently lower percentage of incidents which could be a reflection of the area being well managed as well as it being a comparatively smaller area.

Table 1: Total Number of Incidents Within Each CIA as a Percentage of All Incidents in Plymouth

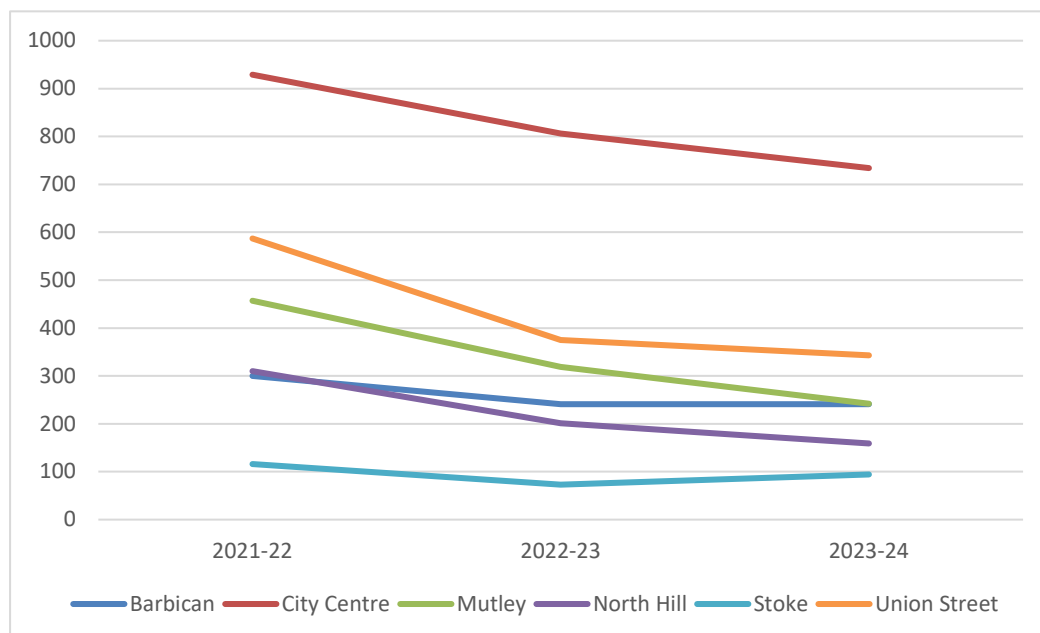
	Year	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	Total
% of Total Plymouth BCU	Barbican	2.0%	2.2%	2.4%	2.2%
	City Centre	4.3%	5.4%	5.4%	4.9%
	Mutley	2.4%	2.4%	2.0%	2.3%
	North Hill	1.7%	1.8%	1.6%	1.7%
	Stoke	0.6%	0.6%	0.7%	0.6%
	Union Street	3.9%	4.3%	4.0%	4.1%
	Plymouth BCU	39760	26664	24969	91393

Graph 1 displays a breakdown of incidents within each CIA by Daytime and ENTE hours. All areas bar the City Centre attract higher levels of incidents during ENTE hours, which is consistent with areas that are densely populated with Licensed Premises. The City Centre is linked to a high number of incidents overnight, however daytime incidents supersede this, likely on account of the retail demographics of the area.

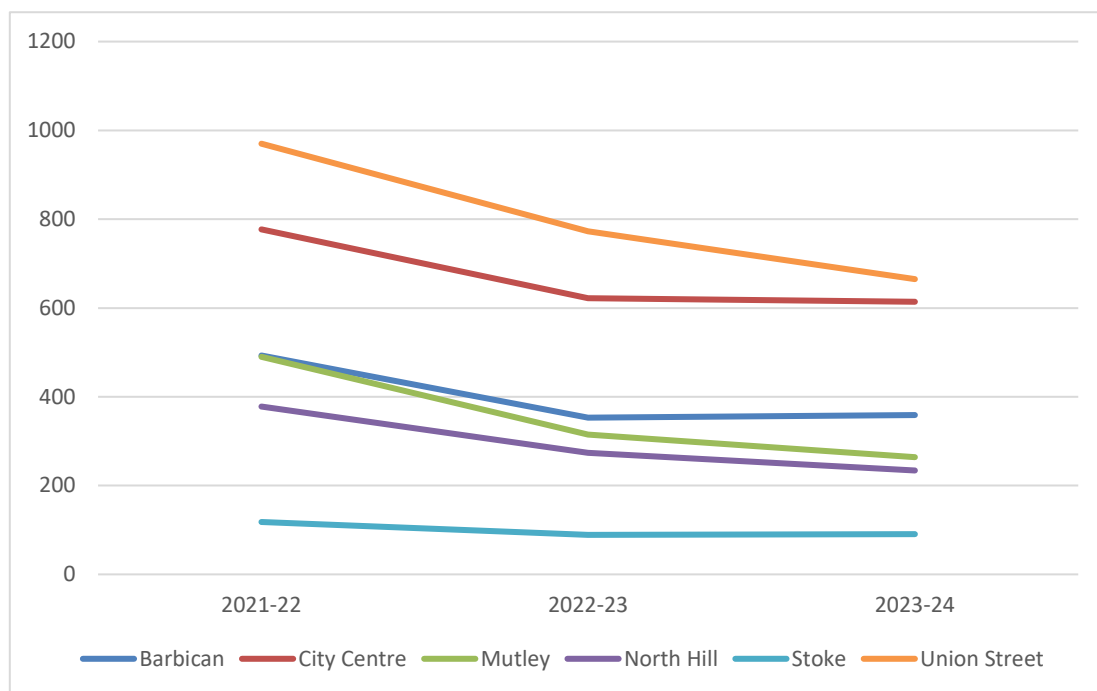


Graph 1: Bar Graph Showing Police Incidents for Each CIA by Daytime/ENTE Hours

Graphs 2 and 3 highlight the pattern of incidents across the three-year period of focus, finding that overall incidents in all six CIAs have reduced slightly. This can be attributed to the success of the CIA and to proactive police operations. Incidents within the Union Street and Barbican areas see the most significant elevation between Day and ENTE hours. Both areas have higher numbers of vertical drinking establishments which may contribute to this shift.



Graph 2: Line Graph Showing the Total Number of Incidents in all CIAs Between 2021-2024 (Daytime)



Graph 3: Line Graph Showing the Total Number of Incidents in all CIAs Between 2021-2024 (ENTE)

Table 2: Type of Incidents Occurring within the Barbican CIA (Opening Secondary Qualifier)

Barbican	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	Total
Criminal Damage	15	16	10	41
Drugs	8	10	10	28
Emergency Incident Create	0	0	1	1
Environmental Asb	5	5	4	14
Harassment/Stalking	2	3	2	7
Hate Incident	9	1	0	10
Nuisance Asb	137	97	78	312
Other Crime	7	5	1	13
Personal Asb	44	28	19	91
Police Generated Resource Activity	14	5	7	26
Public Safety & Welfare	129	104	109	342
Robbery	1	3	1	5
Sexual Offences	10	13	8	31
Sus Circs/Insecure Prem/Veh	68	1	0	69
Suspicious Incident	0	33	95	128
Suspicious Package / Object	1	3	0	4
Violence Less Serious	152	105	89	346
Violence More Serious	0	4	5	9
Total	602	436	439	1477

Table 3: Type of Incidents Occurring within the City Centre CIA (Opening Secondary Qualifier)

City Centre	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	Total
Criminal Damage	14	25	16	55
Drugs	12	12	7	31
Emergency Incident Create	2	0	1	3
Environmental Asb	6	11	3	20
Harassment/Stalking	3	5	6	14
Hate Incident	20	2	0	22
Nuisance Asb	260	210	199	669
Other Crime	9	18	8	35
Personal Asb	87	71	49	207
Police Generated Resource Activity	48	23	11	82
Public Safety & Welfare	313	268	237	818
Robbery	8	4	0	12
Sexual Offences	27	22	19	68
Sus Circs/Insecure Prem/Veh	159	0	0	159
Suspicious Incident	0	111	209	320
Suspicious Package / Object	7	7	4	18
Violence Less Serious	252	207	185	644
Violence More Serious	0	12	1	13
Total	1227	1008	955	3190

Table 4: Type of Incidents Occurring within the Mutley CIA (Opening Secondary Qualifier)

Mutley	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	Total
Criminal Damage	16	8	6	30
Drugs	11	11	3	25
Emergency Incident Create	0	0	1	1
Environmental Asb	5	2	2	9
Harassment/Stalking	5	2	4	11
Hate Incident	7	0	0	7
Nuisance Asb	81	62	43	186
Other Crime	3	11	7	21
Personal Asb	44	28	18	90
Police Generated Resource Activity	24	8	4	36
Public Safety & Welfare	188	119	87	394
Robbery	11	7	3	21
Sexual Offences	16	16	12	44
Sus Circs/Insecure Prem/Veh	85	0	0	85
Suspicious Incident	0	51	83	134
Suspicious Package / Object	0	0	1	1
Violence Less Serious	111	69	56	236
Violence More Serious	0	7	3	10
Total	607	401	333	1341

Table 5: Type of Incidents Occurring within the North Hill CIA (Opening Secondary Qualifier)

North Hill	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	Total
Criminal Damage	6	6	2	14
Drugs	9	5	2	16
Environmental Asb	3	1	2	6
Harassment/Stalking	2	1	5	8
Hate Incident	8	0	0	8
Licensing	1	1	0	2
Nuisance Asb	85	50	51	186
Other Crime	5	4	4	13
Personal Asb	27	19	14	60
Police Generated Resource Activity	23	13	5	41
Public Safety & Welfare	131	86	60	277
Robbery	3	6	1	10
Sexual Offences	23	8	6	37
Sus Circs/Insecure Prem/Veh	73	0	0	73
Suspicious Incident	0	56	69	125
Suspicious Package / Object	1	0	1	2
Violence Less Serious	128	86	50	264
Violence More Serious	0	2	4	6
Total	528	344	276	1148

Table 6: Type of Incidents Occurring within the Stoke CIA (Opening Secondary Qualifier)

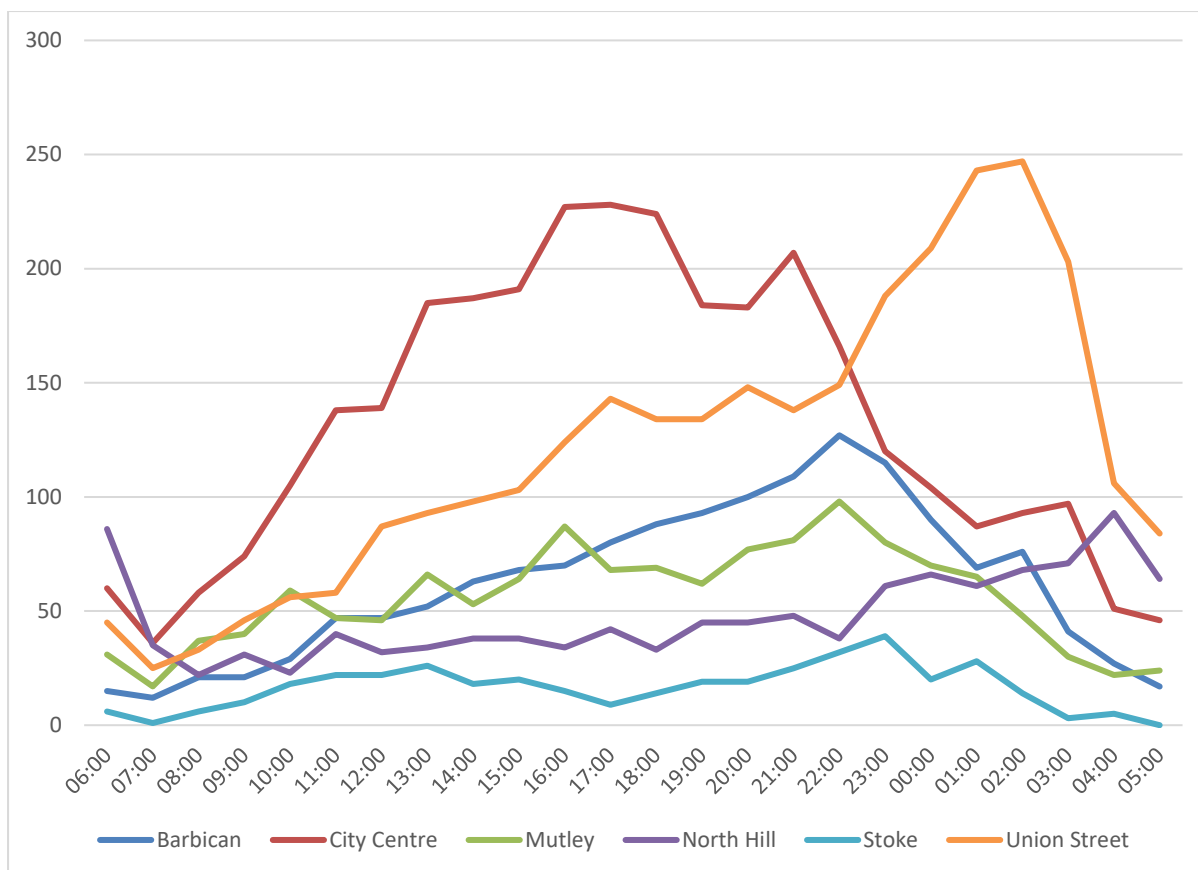
Stoke	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	Total
Criminal Damage	1	2	3	6
Drugs	1	1	0	2
Harassment/Stalking	1	2	1	4
Hate Incident	4	1	0	5
Licensing	0	1	0	1
Nuisance Asb	18	7	15	40
Other Crime	2	6	1	9
Personal Asb	11	12	11	34
Police Generated Resource Activity	3	0	1	4
Public Safety & Welfare	44	27	34	105
Sexual Offences	12	7	7	26
Sus Circs/Insecure Prem/Veh	18	0	0	18
Suspicious Incident	0	10	26	36
Violence Less Serious	49	27	21	97
Violence More Serious	0	2	2	4
Total	164	105	122	391

Table 7: Type of Incidents Occurring within the Union Street CIA (Opening Secondary Qualifier)

Union Street	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	Total
Criminal Damage	19	14	10	43
Drugs	24	28	15	67
Emergency Incident Create	3	0	3	6
Environmental Asb	9	3	10	22
Harassment/Stalking	7	5	2	14
Hate Incident	9	1	0	10
Licensing	1	0	0	1
Nuisance Asb	195	129	136	460
Other Crime	10	10	5	25
Personal Asb	66	59	33	158
Police Generated Resource Activity	51	35	20	106
Public Safety & Welfare	265	202	188	655
Robbery	5	4	6	15
Sexual Offences	29	31	21	81
Sus Circs/Insecure Prem/Veh	137	5	0	142
Suspicious Incident	0	82	155	237
Suspicious Package / Object	0	0	1	1
Violence Less Serious	397	253	180	830
Violence More Serious	0	17	4	21
Total	1227	878	789	2894

Tables 2-7 show the category of logs/incidents linked to each CIA. Several categories have been omitted from these tables where it was assessed that they were not relevant the themes covered in this report e.g. abandoned calls/RTCs. Across all CIAs the most prominent categories are Violence, Nuisance ASB and Public Safety & Welfare. This is consistent with data analysed for other CIAs within Devon & Cornwall and appears to reflect areas of human behaviour impacted by alcohol and other intoxicants. This highlights the importance of the CIA policy in managing the impact of Licensed Premises in our communities and ensuring that there are appropriate controls in place where new premises are concerned.

Graph 4 shows the pattern of incidents within each CIA by hour of the day. Each area has different demographics in terms of the types of licensed, residential and commercial premises, which likely has an impact upon when the peaks in incidents occur. Most notably, peaks between 2100-0400hrs are aligned with closing hours of licensed premises in these areas, again highlighting the importance of the Cumulative Impact Policy in managing the impact of alcohol sales on our communities.



Graph 4: Line Graph Showing the Pattern of Incidents Across All CIAs by Hour

CRIMES

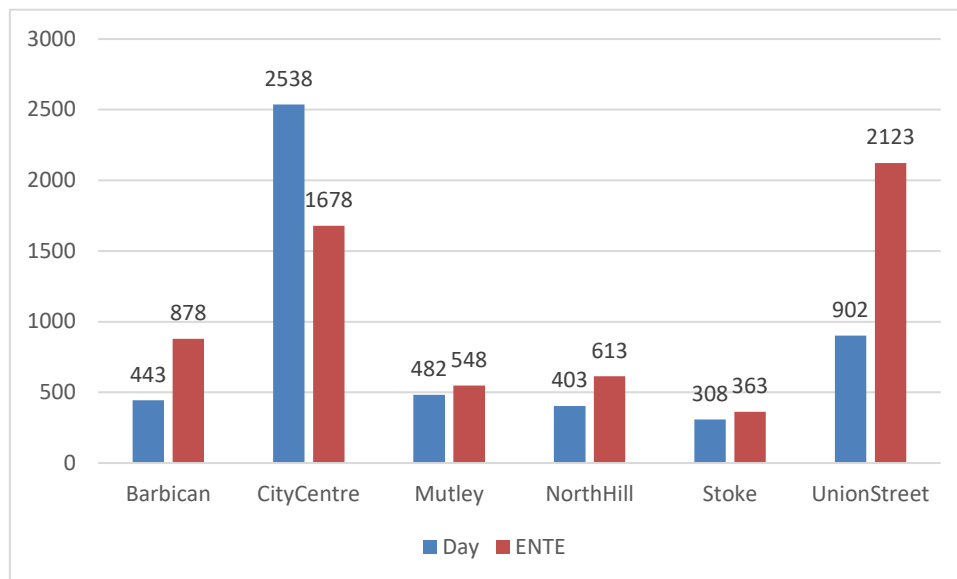
This section focusses on Recorded Crime data for each CIA. It is generally accepted that there will be some disparity between Logs and Crimes as not all incidents will lead to the discovery of offences, equally some incidents will attract multiple offences.

Table 8 shows total incidents within each CIA as a percentage of the total number of incidents across Plymouth. Similarly to logs/incidents, the City Centre and Union Street attract the highest percentages. Stoke has the lowest level of crime, though there is marginal increase in comparison to logs.

Table 8: Total Number of Incidents Within Each CIA as a Percentage of All Incidents in Plymouth

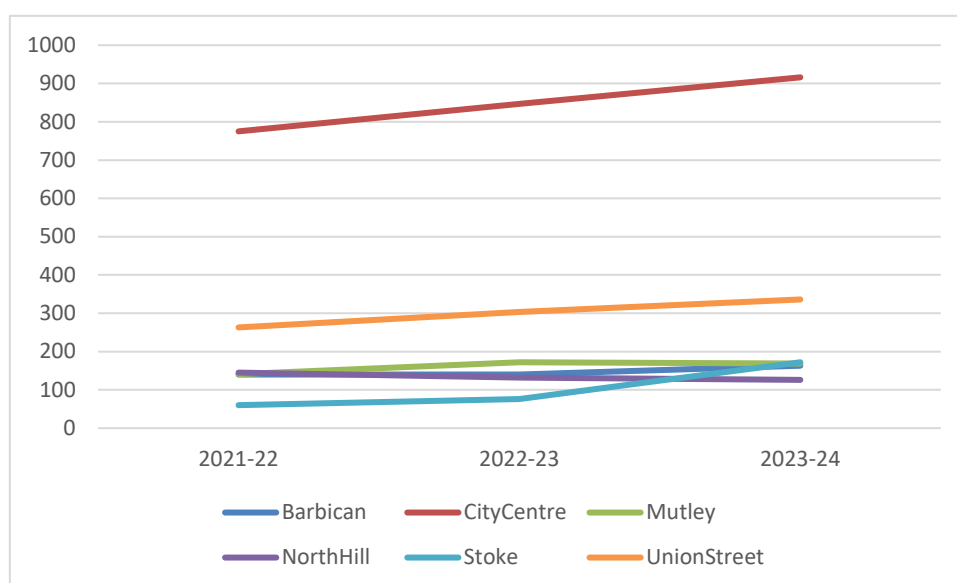
	Year	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	Total
% of Total Plymouth BCU	Barbican	3.7%	3.7%	4.1%	3.9%
	City Centre	12.0%	12.9%	12.2%	12.4%
	Mutley	2.8%	3.4%	2.8%	3.0%
	North Hill	3.6%	2.9%	2.5%	3.0%
	Stoke	1.4%	1.6%	2.9%	2.0%
	Union Street	9.3%	9.0%	8.3%	8.9%
	Plymouth BCU	11028	11076	12003	34107

Graph 5 shows a comparison of total crimes between daytime and ENTE hours, again mirroring a similar pattern to logs/incidents.

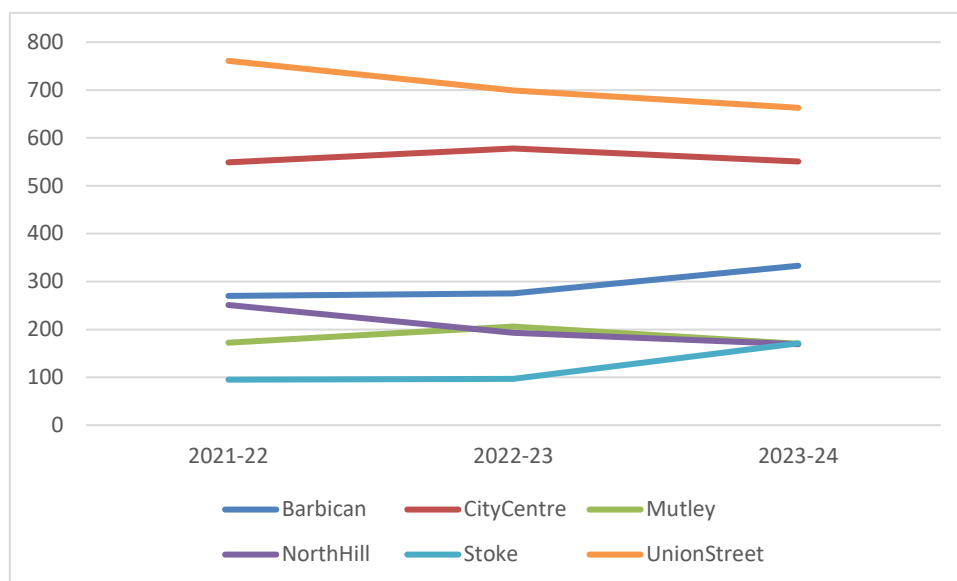


Graph 5: Bar Graph Showing Recorded Crimes for Each CIA by Daytime/ENTE Hours

Graphs 6 and 7 show the pattern of crime across the three-year period of focus, comparing daytime and ENTE hours. Both times of day show a slight increase in recorded crime, though this is comparatively low to the number of logs/incidents overall. The most significant difference between these graphs, again, relate to the City Centre and Barbican areas. This is a likely reflection on the number of late-night licensed venues in these areas.



Graph 6: Line Graph Showing Total Recorded Crime Across All CIAs by Year (Daytime)



Graph 7: Line Graph Showing Total Recorded Crime Across All CIAs by Year (ENTE)

Tables 9-14 show the type of crimes occurring within the CIA areas. Consistent themes include violence, possession offences, public order and criminal damage offences. These themes are consistent with other cumulative impact areas in Devon & Cornwall and highlight the need to maintain the CIA policy.

Table 9: Type of Crimes Occurring within the Barbican CIA (Offence Group)

Barbican	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	Total
Arson	1	2	0	3
Bicycle Theft	2	10	2	14
Burglary - Business and Community	7	3	5	15
Burglary - Residential	2	10	14	26
Criminal Damage	43	49	64	156
Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society	5	10	7	22
Other Sexual Offences	14	14	9	37
Other Theft	27	31	41	99
Possession of Drugs	17	16	28	61
Possession of Weapons	5	7	6	18
Public Order Offences	36	38	42	116
Rape	2	2	4	8
Robbery	2	2	4	8
Shoplifting	7	9	15	31
Stalking and Harassment	41	22	36	99
Theft from the Person	3	6	5	14
Trafficking of Drugs	5	1	2	8
Vehicle Offences	5	4	5	14
Violence with Injury	82	89	106	277
Violence without Injury	104	90	101	295
Total	410	415	496	1321

Table 10: Type of Crimes Occurring within the City Centre CIA (Offence Group)

City Centre	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	Total
Arson	1	1	1	3
Bicycle Theft	10	20	10	40
Burglary	21	14	22	57
Criminal Damage	113	122	132	367
Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society	22	18	28	68
Other Sexual Offences	17	30	33	80
Other Theft	68	83	100	251
Possession of Drugs	121	110	103	334
Possession of Weapons	31	38	36	105
Public Order Offences	158	158	122	438
Rape	6	14	11	31
Robbery	21	16	12	49
Shoplifting	235	311	343	889
Stalking and Harassment	36	40	52	128
Theft from the Person	19	23	30	72
Trafficking of Drugs	19	13	6	38
Vehicle Offences	3	6	8	17
Violence with Injury	150	159	156	465
Violence without Injury	273	249	262	784
Total	1324	1425	1467	4216

Table 11: Type of Crimes Occurring within the Mutley CIA (Offence Group)

Mutley	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	Total
Arson	1	1	1	3
Bicycle Theft	2	5	2	9
Burglary	12	5	9	26
Criminal Damage	31	51	24	106
Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society	7	3	1	11
Other Sexual Offences	5	10	7	22
Other Theft	19	25	21	65
Possession of Drugs	17	18	15	50
Possession of Weapons	7	11	3	21
Public Order Offences	37	44	26	107
Rape	3	0	4	7
Robbery	10	14	9	33
Shoplifting	24	36	53	113
Stalking and Harassment	24	23	23	70
Theft from the Person	11	8	6	25
Trafficking of Drugs	2	5	2	9
Vehicle Offences	6	13	13	32
Violence with Injury	49	47	42	138
Violence without Injury	46	59	78	183
Total	313	378	339	1030

Table 12: Type of Crimes Occurring within the North Hill CIA (Offence Group)

North Hill	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	Total
Arson	2	0	2	4
Bicycle Theft	4	14	6	24
Burglary	17	11	16	44
Criminal Damage	31	43	20	94
Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society	8	2	5	15
Other Sexual Offences	18	6	4	28
Other Theft	25	33	34	92
Possession of Drugs	19	13	13	45
Possession of Weapons	1	5	12	18
Public Order Offences	37	18	26	81
Rape	9	7	5	21
Robbery	5	5	3	13
Shoplifting	8	5	6	19
Stalking and Harassment	24	27	13	64
Theft from the Person	2	7	3	12
Trafficking of Drugs	15	2	5	22
Vehicle Offences	8	10	7	25
Violence with Injury	94	54	48	196
Violence without Injury	69	63	67	199
Total	396	325	295	1016

Table 13: Type of Crimes Occurring within the Stoke CIA (Offence Group)

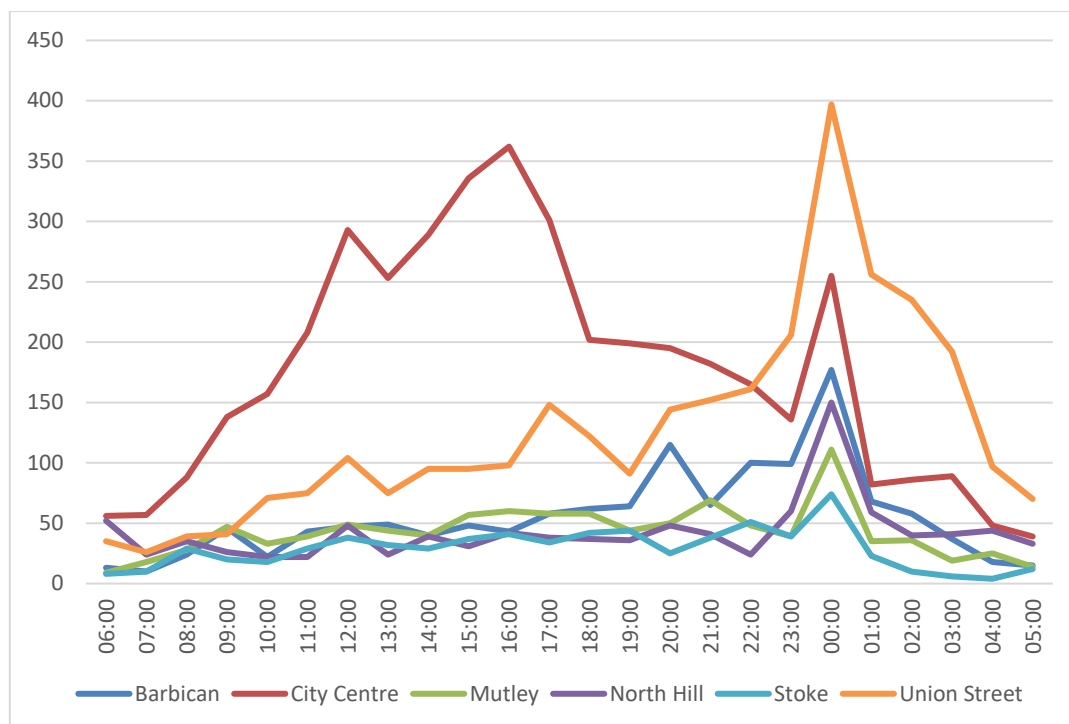
Stoke	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	Total
Bicycle Theft	1	2	1	4
Burglary	2	1	3	6
Criminal Damage	22	12	43	77
Homicide	0	0	1	1
Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society	3	4	6	13
Other Sexual Offences	3	7	6	16
Other Theft	10	7	27	44
Possession of Drugs	6	9	7	22
Possession of Weapons	5	2	4	11
Public Order Offences	8	18	31	57
Rape	1	0	4	5
Robbery	1	2	2	5
Shoplifting	14	6	50	70
Stalking and Harassment	11	17	23	51
Theft from the Person	3	0	2	5
Trafficking of Drugs	1	2	4	7
Vehicle Offences	4	5	10	19
Violence with Injury	32	41	60	133
Violence without Injury	28	38	59	125
Total	155	173	343	671

Table 14: Type of Crimes Occurring within the Union Street CIA (Offence Group)

Union Street	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	Total
Arson	0	4	3	7
Bicycle Theft	5	5	9	19
Burglary	11	13	17	41
Criminal Damage	64	75	83	222
Death or Serious Injury caused by Unlawful Driving	0	0	1	1
Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society	12	8	14	34
Other Sexual Offences	30	41	33	104
Other Theft	75	69	64	208
Possession of Drugs	75	71	58	204
Possession of Weapons	25	22	25	72
Public Order Offences	97	77	61	235
Rape	16	12	12	40
Robbery	11	24	13	48
Shoplifting	23	22	49	94
Stalking and Harassment	33	24	35	92
Theft from the Person	21	22	20	63
Trafficking of Drugs	8	7	9	24
Vehicle Offences	15	14	26	55
Violence with Injury	289	274	233	796
Violence without Injury	214	218	234	666
Total	1024	1002	999	3025

Graph 8 highlights peaks in crime recording for all areas at around midnight. This could reflect when earlier evening licensed premises close, or a product of recording error – when a victim is unable to provide a specific time when initially reporting an incident, it is common for the crime to be recorded as taking place at midnight, and then will be amended once further evidence identifies an accurate time.

Comparison between CIA areas do appear to mirror patterns highlighted by incident data, with the City Centre and Union Street attracting significantly more crimes. The Barbican also sees elevated levels during ENTE hours. It is noted that Stoke village attracts a consistently low number of incidents and crimes, at such a level where it may be considered to remove the CIA policy in this area. Historically, the CIA was utilised here at a time where the area was impacted by football related trade. However, since the birth of the Plymouth Argyle Fan Zone, changes in ownership for some of the venues and a change in how football matches are policed, we are not seeing the same levels of crime and disorder.



Graph 8: Line Graph Showing Recorded Crimes by Hour

CONCLUSION

Devon and Cornwall Police continue to be impressed by the level of multi-agency working which has been taking place within the city of Plymouth, which has been growing from strength to strength. There has been an undertaking from all the interested parties in improving the Evening Nighttime Economy of Plymouth which adds to the vibrancy and safety of the city. These agencies include the Local Authority, Pubwatch, Best Bar None, Licensees, Security companies, SIA, Plymouth Against Retail Crime, NHS, Street Pastors, Student Medical, Royal Navy Service Police and the different departments within the police.

There have been many improvements in relationships and there is no doubt that, overall, there is a better quality of licensee in the trade, with a view to co-operating and promoting the four licensing objectives. However, there are constantly changing social structures and behaviours which mean that the partners involved in the licensing community cannot become complacent with their recent achievements and must continue to strive to make Plymouth a safer and better place. This is most notable in where socialising starts a lot later (towards midnight) which is more notable than 3 years ago, and we are seeing the extension of licensing hours by some premises. This needs careful consideration and mediation.

The use of engagement and co-operative discussions and negotiations with applicants, businesses and licensees around business development and the needs of the community has always been a strength within the city of Plymouth and its authorities. Within Plymouth, the Cumulative Impact Policy has never been used as a punitive method to deny business growth and development, but as a tool used effectively to help the businesses of the city to successfully develop in a way which supports and protects both society and the local community. This leads to a much higher standard of applicant and application. Co-operation and negotiation will always remain the first options whenever licensing

conditions and applications are reviewed, but sometimes the authorities will need the presence of legislation to assist them in their quest for developing the best and safest ENTE.

The Cumulative Impact Policy is an important piece of legislation which Devon and Cornwall Police regard as a necessary tool in order to support those businesses who are working hard to do a good job in promoting the licensing objectives and also to prevent those who the police regard as potentially having a negative impact on those licensing objectives and ultimately the city and its people.

Devon and Cornwall Police continue support the Cumulative Impact Policy with the recommendation to renew 5 areas and a discussion on whether Stoke Village could be removed. Stoke village remains an area where local people prefer to drink, rather than being a destination for nights out with large groups. Previous years have cited that football fans meeting in the area could lead to disorder, the data shows that this is not the case.



APPENDIX C

POLICE LICENSING REPORT 2023- 2025

Sir/Madam,

In response to your request, the Devon and Cornwall Police Alcohol Licensing Department can provide you with the following details regarding our activities over the last twenty four months.

In 2023 – 2024 we dealt with:

- 43 applications to grant Premises Licence and 30 of those negotiated with appropriate conditions being accepted. 3 of these were withdrawn.
- 56 applications to transfer Premises Licences.
- 13 variations of Premises Licences – 1 of these were withdrawn after negotiations.
- 3 minor variations 1 was objected to and re-submitted.
- 0 new club premises certificates
- 143 variations of DPS
- 444 Temporary Event Notices*
- 122 Late Temporary Event Notices, 5 were objected to and did not take place.
- 2 Licensing Committee Reviews

**Please note that these figures are those where the Licensing Officer has needed to become involved. 'Low risk' applications are screened out centrally after they pass a 'logic', for information, across Devon and Cornwall we process circa. 9,000 Temporary Event Notices per year.*

In addition to the above, Plymouth's police licensing officers have made 356 visits to licensed premises, 85 of those relate to an incident where further intervention or clarification was needed during this reporting period.

In 2024 – 2025 we dealt with:

- 36 applications to grant Premises Licence and negotiated appropriate conditions with 27.
- 64 applications to transfer premises licenses.
- 13 variations of Premises Licences – and negotiated appropriate conditions with 5. 2 of these applications were withdrawn after negotiations.
- 38 minor variations received.
- 0 new club premises certificates
- 156 variations of DPS. 2 Withdrawn following engagement.



☎ 101 Non-urgent

☎ 999 in an emergency

🌐 www.devon-cornwall.police.uk

✉ 101@dc.police.uk

📘 DevonAndCornwallPolice

🐦 @DC_Police

@ dc_police.999

📺 DCPolice

- 258 Temporary Event Notices*. One Representation made against 1 TEN which was refused at Licensing Sub Committee. 9 withdrawn following representation.
- 76 Late Temporary Event Notices.
- 1 Application for Review to Licensing Sub Committee. One representation made in support of an EHO review application.

In addition to the above, during the reporting period Plymouth's police licensing officers have made 485 visits to licensed premises, 95 of those relate to an incident where further intervention or clarification was needed during this reporting period.

With a great amount of regeneration going on in Plymouth City Centre, it was clear that there needed to be some controls over the types of businesses entering the area of the city centre as it diversified into more of a vibrant culture where empty shops are being redeveloped into cafes, bars, and restaurants, as well as some other licensed entertainment venues. The Cumulative Impact Area has been used as an effective tool to ensure new licences are appropriately controlled. The re-gentrification of the city centre along with its change of use has required a more considered approach to the use of vacant units and in turn support the regeneration.

Also, we still need to have a control on the number of licensed venues retailing high-strength alcohol which directly contributes to the number of street drinking issues. The use of the CIA allows the authorities to insist on new applications to include measures to mitigate the risk of street drinking thereby minimising the impact of related anti-social behaviour. We have found that new businesses opening in these areas rarely need further visits once open as the standard of application is high.

Police have, along with willing participation from the hospitality trade, been able to increase the number of drug safes within venues. We now have 20 venues with a drug safe increasing from 10, 1 year ago.

In conjunction with Best Bar None and Plymouth Pubwatch, we have created a policy for those premises that do not need a drug safe with a clear stepped process for having drugs collected from the venue. This policy protects those venues where a safe is not appropriate and removes these substances from venues in a safe approved manner.

We can submit the drugs we collect for disposal, or for testing should it look out of the ordinary. This has enabled trends to be observed, such as an increase in ketamine and identifying new strains of drugs, such as some oddly coloured pills coming into circulation in the city which was of potentially dangerous strength. We are also able to message those venues and let them know the results. Predominantly though, we are picking up cocaine and ketamine.



☎ 101 Non-urgent

☎ 999 in an emergency

🌐 www.devon-cornwall.police.uk

✉ 101@dc.police.uk

📘 [DevonAndCornwallPolice](https://www.facebook.com/DevonAndCornwallPolice)

🐦 @DC_Police

📞 dc_police.999

📺 DCPolice

Police licensing have a tried and tested method in the collection of drugs along with sharing of information. In this reporting period, 1,352 drug collections have been made with an estimated street value of approx. £45,000 confiscated by Evening Nighttime Economy staff.

Ongoing Welfare and Vulnerability Engagement training continues to be delivered in conjunction with Best Bar None which includes the current picture around drink spiking and Project Nighteye. This is open to venues and door staff (delivered online and in person) and is very well received. At the last training input which was held pre student arrival in early September 2024 the session was very well attended. The aim is to deliver 2 of these sessions per year.

Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls is a priority both nationally and for the force. Devon and Cornwall Police is a large and diverse force geographically and demographically, there is no “one size fits all” response to policing the Evening Nighttime Economy. ENTE patrols offer an opportunity to prevent and detect VAWG related offences and tackle harmful sexualised behaviour in the pre-offending stage.

Project Nighteye is the Police response involving Perpetrator Pursuit. To create safe spaces, the Police want Devon and Cornwall to be a hostile environment for perpetrators. The ENTE in Plymouth is, compared against national standards a safe place to be, there is a lot of good work that goes on through our partnership working and stakeholder engagement.

Within Project Nighteye there is a facility for our partners to submit intelligence, there have been some excellent submissions from venue staff and door staff, that have led to interventions e.g. spotting suspicious vehicles or individuals where predatory behaviour has been seen, allowing police to intervene where necessary.

Police licensing has also been working with the Police's Prevent and Detect Team (PDT), who are a team of plain clothed officers who are specifically trained to observe human behaviors and interactions. There have been several nights when the PDT has worked in the ENTE, both within and outside venues with a view to observe possible predatory behaviors and intercept potential suspects. This partnership work is planned to continue.

Devon and Cornwall Police in conjunction with Best Bar None attended the student fresher's fayres and handed out information regarding staying safe on a night out. This was delivered as a joint approach this year using Devon and Cornwall police website and joint messaging.

Police licensing supported Devon and Cornwall Police “Lift Legend” campaign, and venues have been encouraged via Best Bar None and the Pubwatch scheme to sign up for this campaign which aims to encourage venues to promote free soft drinks to a designated driver.



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There has been a bigger uptake in participation during this reporting period and work continues to explore different approaches that we as police can engage effectively with the hospitality trade.

Significant developments during this report period included the national concern over needle stick spiking incidents throughout the country. Our anti drink spiking policy is well established, having begun in Plymouth in 2019. Devon and Cornwall Police, led by the Alcohol Licensing Department adopted the same working practice and operation throughout the whole force area. Plymouth follows the national trend of less than 4.5% of positive samples.

We have had some positive results proving the policy works and is supported by the hospitality industry. Having this scheme in place put us in a strong position when we suddenly had a high volume of reported needle stick spiking's which appeared largely fueled by national social media reporting.

As Devon and Cornwall Police had the scheme in place, the force licensing teams ran training and supplied written guidance along with testing kits to the larger city venues to test drinks and to advise businesses on our policy to ensure potential needle stick victims got the support and care they required.

The training of venues enabled businesses to show their clientele that they were working hard to support the reduction in spiking and that they wanted to support and keep customers safe.

The fact Devon and Cornwall Police could test reported victims' urine immediately and reassure people they had not been spiked or targeted was a great success and reduce the fear of crime, the scheme has been subject to other Forces looking into how we manage our scheme and the kits we use.

Plymouth's Alcohol Harm Reduction Group continues to meet regularly. This group has some of the major partners and stakeholders included and is centered around the licensing industry. This group can identify trends and take a collaborative approach to think of ways to reduce harm. This group feeds back into the Safer Plymouth group for a wider inclusion of city-wide partners.

Police licensing have dealt with several premises where concerns have been raised and will always try to rectify and through intervention at an early stage. The insistence of a formulated action plan from the Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS) and Premises Licence Holders, means that changes have been made to the venues, which have removed those concerns. This has on occasion required specific visits to premises by the team and required the DPS and/or area managers to attend Charles Cross Police station to discuss those issues.



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We continue to be actively engaged and effectively working in partnership with Plymouth Pubwatch and Best Bar None. Through the different groups meeting on a regular basis, our partnership working with other authorities and agencies has strengthened and widened, making the partnership work much stronger.

Our excellent partnership has been clearly demonstrated through the retaining of the prestigious Purple Flag award for the city. This identified Plymouth as having a safe, vibrant and diverse ENTE and is a great benefit to the city for marketing purposes, demonstrating that Plymouth is a safe city.

We regularly engage with door supervisor companies and have a well-established routine where we visit and check Security Industry Authority (SIA) door staff. Throughout this report timeline the SIA have attended Plymouth twice to check registered door staff. No enforcement by the SIA has been needed this year. It is very important that regular checks are completed to ensure compliance. Over the two visits by the SIA, 160 door staff have been checked at numerous venues across the city.

We continue to regularly review CCTV evidence of interactions with door staff where there has been a complaint made. Most of these incidents show good conflict management and resolution, often in difficult circumstances. We have seen a drop in incidents where inappropriate force has been used and has required intervention by the SIA. Having a good partnership with the SIA has led to an effective working arrangement whereby an early intervention can be used where the involved door supervisor can be educated and receive additional training, with support from their relevant companies.

There are times when this method is not appropriate and we have seen 6 SIA licences revoked during this report timeline, which sends a message that the high standards set by the SIA are always expected. There has been good support and engagement from the door supervisor companies in reviewing these actions.

Throughout the year we have seen a reduction in "glassing" incidents. 5 premises were issued letters, none of the venues required to be escalated further. Adopting a stepped approach is the accepted way of dealing with these incidents and we can report that none of these 5 venues has had further incidents.



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As part of our tools for dealing with premises we can utilise a Section 19 Notice of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001. These are used, where appropriate, when it is found that a premises may not be operating in accordance with the premises licence and once issued gives that premises time to rectify what they were not doing. During this report time 2 notices were issued, and the 2 premises engaged with the process and rectified the issues within the time frame given.

The low number of cases brought before the licensing committee demonstrates the pro-active work which the Police and Local Authority Licensing departments undertake in order to work with venues and licensees in creating a safer and more professional licensing and hospitality community. Guidance and advice were offered through many meetings and visits to venues which resulted in compliance, development of good working practices and higher standards being achieved. There will be occasions when we do have to apply for a review as no other enforcement action can be taken.

Police Licensing, alongside Local Authority and Best Bar None have undertaken training in the areas of vulnerability, Ask for Angela, and anti-drink spiking. This is even more important than ever due to the high turnover of staff in the ENTE venues. This training was well received and is beneficial to making the ENTE staff more effective in protecting the public during their work. This will be a continuing training package throughout the year with the most recent session taking place before Freshers' Week.

A new safe bus was delivered in December 2023 and has been fully kitted out. The NHS continue to support this, and it is now a permanent fixture in Plymouth's ENTE. This includes 6 medical staff and an ambulance, as well as the provision for SIA security and taxi marshals for the nearby taxi rank. This is being supported by a variety of organisations including Victim support, Best Bar None, Street Pastors, and Plymouth Night Patrol team.

The safe bus is a multi-agency supported resource; it offers a safe haven for users of the ENTE. And has had some very positive interventions.

The Safe Bus provision has prevented over 80% of people treated there for minor injuries and welfare issues from needing further medical help, reducing the demand on the ambulance service, emergency departments, and police.

There has been extremely positive feedback from all partners and there has been an increased awareness of the service with customers using Plymouth's ENTE. The bus is in place every Saturday night as well as an extra 15 'red' nights throughout the year including Halloween, Fridays in December, Freshers' Week, and other large events in the city.

The barbican also benefits from taxi marshals who are seen as a vital tool to help with the dispersal from this area, they have been equipped for CSAS powers to assist them in their role.



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Police licensing and Best Bar None have worked effectively with the Plymouth Night Patrol, a society set up within Plymouth University which provides medical first responder and welfare patrols on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday nights during term time. Again, over 80% of people dealt with needed no ongoing support. With the excellent continued work of the street pastors, Plymouth has an extra medical and welfare provision for three nights of the week. The Night Patrol has continued to grow and has gone from a team of 14 at conception to a current team of 74 members.

Our continued involvement with the University of Plymouth and Marjon has benefitted their events and helped to promote Plymouth as a safer city and destination for potential students.

I submit this report for your information and consideration.

David Adams-Leach

Plymouth Licensing Team
Devon and Cornwall Police

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