

Cllr Roger Croad
Chair, Police and Crime Panel
c/o Plymouth City Council
Civic Centre
Plymouth
PL1 2AA

Roger.croad@devon.gov.uk

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Dear Roger

Thank you for your letter dated 31 October 2014 following the Police and Crime Panel's (PCP) review of my Annual Report for 2013-2014. I write to respond formally to the recommendations in your letter.

Panel recommendation 1

As part of the strategic alliance negotiations with Dorset, the PCC should give consideration to opportunities for collaboration with organisations within the force area.

PCC response

The Strategic Alliance scoping exercise represents a substantial programme of work which the Chief Constable and I believe holds great promise. We need to find ways to ensure that local policing is protected as far as possible and this will only be possible by reducing costs in other areas of the business and sharing resources and expertise.

Whilst the Strategic Alliance presents opportunities for a major step forward in sustaining local policing for years to come, it is of course entirely right that we continue to look at all prospects for improving policing efficiency by working with others.

Collaboration, wider partnerships, co-location and shared facilities are subject areas I have been pushing over the last couple of years. I hold regular discussions with Council Leaders and my staff explore opportunities with senior officers in organisations across the area. We have made some good progress but need to maintain momentum as more often than not such developments have long lead-in times.

Panel recommendation 2

That the PCC forms closer links/liases more closely and regularly with Licensing Committees across the force area to hear about what they are doing, and to share what the PCC is doing to tackle alcohol harm.

PCC response

The issue of alcohol licensing is an important topic and one which is fundamental to both my Police and Crime Plan and the new national Action Plan on alcohol that I am leading for PCCs as chair of the APCC Working Group on alcohol. If we are to make progress in tackling alcohol related crime and harm we need to make sure that we have the right legal regime in place and we must also ensure we use those rules as effectively as possible. I am keen to work closely with licensing colleagues on both of these issues. My team and I regularly meet with local authority leaders, Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards, Community Safety Partnerships and industry to consider alcohol related issues in their areas and to identify ways in which we can work together. We are now starting to work with local authorities and other partners and are lobbying for improvements to be made to national legislation – including an improved focus on health matters via licensing, which I recently discussed with the Minister for Crime Prevention, Lynne Featherstone MP.

I will shortly be writing to the Chairs of Licensing Committees to seek their views on the licensing regime and to start to explore ways we can work together to improve the efficacy of the regime and in particular on tackling the issue of serving drunks.

Panel recommendation 3

That the PCC considers more regular appearances on, for example, Radio Cornwall as a means to promoting his work.

PCC response

From the New Year, I will take part in a regular lunchtime phone-in session on the Laurence Reed programme on BBC Radio Cornwall, following on from a lunchtime phone-in session in November. I will also be continuing regular sessions with BBC Radio Devon. I welcome every opportunity to speak with the public and answer their questions on the considerable and wide ranging work my team and I undertake. I frequently take part in radio and TV interviews and in November made an appearance on the BBC Sunday Politics programme. Early in the month, I took part in a BBC Radio Devon live broadcast from Hatherleigh on the subject of rural affairs. Incidentally, at this event my team received an award from CoPaCC (the independent police governance monitor) in recognition of its achievements in community engagement.

In terms of promoting the work of the office in addition to our work with print, media and broadcasting we have a growing presence on social media. My office has issued over 120 tweets since October and by encouraging conversations with our communities in this way the office increased its number of Twitter followers to over 3,670. We will continue to grow this presence and are also working to enhance our website functionality and impact, with an improved website due for launch in the first few months of 2015.

Panel recommendation 4

That the PCC considers in the future who, between himself and the Chief Executive, is more responsible and appropriate for covering both positive and more controversial issues in the media.

PCC response

I accept this point but it must be stressed that the dynamic nature of today's press and broadcast media mean that we receive regular calls on my office for comments, quotes and interviews. My work commitments are such that I am regularly in meetings, travelling or unavailable to pass comment and on such occasions others within the office may need to provide public comment on my behalf.

Panel recommendation 5

That the PCC considers providing to the PCP a 'forward plan' of public communications in respect of, and appended to, his regular performance reports to the PCP.

PCC response


I have asked my Chief Executive to consider the best way of informing the Police and Crime Panel about forthcoming public communications. We will provide an update of this nature to the Panel for its next meeting in February 2015.

Panel recommendation 6

That 'child sexual exploitation' and 'cybercrime' is given more emphasis and prioritisation in the PCC's next Police and Crime Plan.

PCC response

We are currently working on our review of the Police and Crime Plan and will be issuing a consultation letter to partners shortly setting out areas where I intend to adjust the Police and Crime Plan for 2015/16. In addition we will be carrying out wider public consultation via an online survey. Both of the issues raised by the Police and Crime Panel are firmly on my agenda and I will be proposing that they are reflected in the Police and Crime Plan. A paper on the review of the Police and Crime Plan will be submitted to the Panel for its meeting in February 2015.

I  hope you find this response to the Panel's recommendations helpful. Of course, I am more than happy to discuss the contents of this letter with you or provide further information should you wish.

Tony Hogg

Police and Crime Commissioner

cc sarah.hopkins@plymouth.gov.uk