

Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey's Response to the Panel's Recommendations



[By email]

25th July 2023

Re: Annual Report 2022/23

Dear Councillor Robini,

Thank you for your letter dated 17 July, in which you set out the Police and Crime Panel's views on the content of my draft Annual Report 2022-23, which was presented to members on 29 June.

I felt the discussions at the meeting were very constructive and I appreciate the Panel's input into this important document. I have set out my response to the Panel's recommendations below, the majority of which I support.

1. "The report should include an overall assessment of performance in the introduction to each of the 5 police and crime plan objectives"

When putting together the Annual Report, I am always eager to strike a balance between creating an informative document whilst ensuring the content remains engaging for the public – who are ultimately the intended audience.

The approach we have taken this year is to map specific OPCC activity against the Police and Crime Plan priorities, and then sign-post to the Data Hub if readers wish to dive into greater statistical detail.

One of the reasons for launching a Data Hub for residents was in recognition that there is no single set of metrics that can adequately encapsulate Police or OPCC performance, and I worry that the inclusion of headline statistics in the Annual Report will simply lead to accusations of cherry picking. The Data Hub however allows residents to explore a wide array of data, focussing on their specific areas of interest. It also allows me to ensure residents have access to the latest data throughout the year, as opposed to a one-off 'snapshot'.

The use of the Data Hub also allows us to continually evolve our transparency arrangements. For example, since the last Panel meeting the Hub has been updated to include several new mapping tools, designed to help residents better understand the prevalence of crime, ASB and use of Stop & Search powers in their area.

Whilst I understand the Panel's sentiment, I am comfortable with the hybrid approach we have adopted and feel it provides a very high level of transparency.

2. “The report should include more of an overview of the state of the force, of police performance in the round and of the challenges ahead”

As above, to a great extent the Data Hub provides a very holistic summary of Force performance. However, having reflected on the Panel’s comments, I am inclined to agree that further information could be included in the Annual Report, and I will look to provide additional detail around the 2022/23 HMICFRS PEEL inspection and associated findings. I will also look to provide a summary of perceived challenges for the year ahead, to help residents better understand the headwinds we face.

3. “The report should include progress against Rural Crime objectives”

As discussed at the Panel meeting, I fully support this recommendation and will look to include greater focus on this important area of policing in the final report.

4. “The report should address value for money”

Similarly, I support this recommendation and will look to include more information around Force finances in the final document.

Once again, thank you for your consideration of the draft Annual Report and I will ensure a copy of the final version is shared with you once complete.

Yours sincerely,



Lisa Townsend
Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey