

The role of the Police and Crime Commissioner explained



OPENNESS



PARTNERSHIP



COMPASSION



COURAGE

1. How is a Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) appointed?

A PCC is appointed via local election. Anyone over the age of 18 can run for the position, however, candidates need to gather support from registered voters in the form of nominations. The nomination process is an essential step in the election process and helps ensure that candidates have some level of public backing before officially running for the position.

On election day, anybody who is registered to vote can vote for whom they want to be their PCC.

The elected term of the PCC is four years. The last election was postponed a year due to the pandemic and took place in May 2021. The next election will be May 2024.

2. What is the role of the PCC?

The role of the PCC is to be the voice of local people in policing and to hold the Chief Constable to account. The aim of all PCCs is to ensure the delivery of an effective and efficient police service within their force area.

For more information about the role of the PCC, [click here](#).

3. How many PCCs are there in England?

There are currently 38 PCCs covering England (August 2023).

4. Why do we need a PCC?

The role of the PCC was created by the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 to replace police authorities in England and Wales (with the exception of Greater London and the City of London).

We need a PCC to help strengthen local accountability and responsiveness of the police service.

5. How is the PCC different from the police?

The PCC is different from the police and they are two separate organisations. Although PCCs must appoint and can dismiss the Chief Constable, the PCC is not the Chief Constable's employer.

The PCC is responsible for setting strategic priorities, managing the budget and representing the public's interests in policing matters. The Chief Constable, on the other hand, is the senior operational officer responsible for executing the PCC's priorities, managing day-to-day police activities, and ensuring the effective functioning of the police force.

6. What does the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) do?

The OPCC is run by a dedicated team who supports the PCC.

The team supports:

- Strategic financial policy
- Performance, monitoring and scrutiny
- Governance and compliance
- Commissioning, grant funding and partnerships
- Communications and engagement
- Audit and general administrative duties.

The OPCC is led by a Chief of Staff whose responsibility is to manage the staff and provide a monitoring role to ensure standards remain high.

The team also includes a Chief Finance Officer to advise the PCC on financial matters and the impact on any decisions regarding the budget, spending and commissioning.

7. What areas of crime and policing does the PCC oversee?

Avon and Somerset PCC Mark Shelford's four police and crime priorities in his Police and Crime Plan are:

Preventing and fighting crime

Areas of focus (in alphabetical order):

- Drug crime and serious violence
- Fraud and cybercrime
- Male violence against women and girls specifically domestic abuse, sexual offences, stalking and harassment
- Neighbourhood crime and anti-social behaviour specifically burglary car crime, robbery, theft, hate crime and rural crime
- Road safety
- Vulnerable children and adults

Engaging, supporting, and working with communities, victims, and partner organisations

Areas of focus (in alphabetical order):

- Collaboration and partnership working
- Public engagement – particularly with underrepresented groups
- Reducing reoffending
- Special Constables and citizens in policing
- Supporting victims of crime and anti-social behaviour
- The Criminal Justice System.

Leading the police to be efficient and effective

Areas of focus (in alphabetical order):

- Capability including training, wellbeing, leadership, equipment, estate, data and technology
- Crime recording and response to calls for service
- Demand management to increase visible policing and time to fight crime
- Environmental impact
- Recruiting officers
- The Strategic Policing Requirement: terrorism; serious and organised crime; a national cyber security incident; threats to public order or public safety; civil emergencies; and child sexual abuse.

Increasing the legitimacy of, and public confidence in, the police and Criminal Justice System

Areas of focus (in alphabetical order):

- Complaints
- Data and information
- Inequality and disproportionality
- Representative workforce
- Scrutiny, performance, and learning
- Use of police powers.

Read the [Police and Crime Plan here](#).

8. Why would I need to get in touch with the OPCC or the PCC?

There are a number of different reasons as to why you would need to get in touch with the OPCC or PCC. If you are a charity or organisation, you may want to apply for a grant such as the Police and Crime Commissioner's Crime Prevention Fund. You can view what grants are available [here](#).

If you are concerned that a policing issue in your area is not being dealt with or recognised by your Neighbourhood Policing Team, you can contact the PCC to raise your concern.

Your local police service handles complaints that are made, but if you have made a complaint and you are unsatisfied with the outcome, you are entitled to request a review into the process, conducted by the OPCC.

If you are a local community organisation or business, you can request a visit from your PCC. PCC Mark Shelford regularly visits organisations around Avon and Somerset.

If you have a query that relates to any of the above in relation to Avon and Somerset, please contact the [OPCC here](#).

For all general enquiries for Avon and Somerset Police, please call their main switchboard on 101 or use their [online form](#).

9. How do I contact the PCC?

You can contact the Avon and Somerset OPCC:

- Online – by using our [general enquiry form](#)
- By post – Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner,
Avon and Somerset Police Headquarters, Valley Road, Portishead, Bristol, BS20 8JJ
- On the phone – 01278 646188
(Calls to the OPCC may be recorded for training and quality assurance purposes)

10. How can I get involved with or work for the OPCC?

You can get involved with the OPCC by becoming one of our volunteers.

Working with various panels of volunteers helps to improve policing standards for all. The volunteers provide public accountability, transparency and different perspective to those within policing. To find out more about the volunteer roles available in Avon and Somerset, [click here](#).

The OPCC is a great place to work. We focus on employing people who align with the ethos and culture of our team and who will embrace our values of Openness, Partnership, Compassion and Courage. Current vacancies are on [our website](#).