

***‘An inspection of the south-west regional response to serious and organised crime’ published by HMICFRS on 12 June 2025***  
**Avon & Somerset PCC response dated 7 August 2025**

Serious and organised crime (SOC) is not something that ‘happens elsewhere’, or exists in isolation. SOC causes a significant amount of harm in our communities and touches on all priorities within my Police and Crime Plan. SOC is well recognised as being the backbone of the illegal drugs market, but it also exploits people and causes violence in our communities. It is connected to shoplifting and rural crime, and people involved in SOC also use our roads, causing harm there as well. Tackling SOC plays a big role in making our communities safer.

The South West Regional Organised Crime Unit (SWROCU) plays a vital role, alongside local policing (and the National Crime Agency) in tackling this pervasive threat.

It should be noted that I have a legal duty to respond to inspection reports within eight weeks of their publication. However, the Constabulary have longer to address these recommendations. Below I set out the recommendations applicable to Chief Constables and the initial response to each of these.

Area for improvement 1

The South West Regional Organised Crime Unit and its constituent forces should improve how they assess threats.

Response

The SWROCU are the lead agency for this recommendation and at the time of writing they are still formulating how they respond to this recommendation.

Area for improvement 2

The South West Regional Organised Crime Unit and its constituent forces should improve how they work together to tackle serious and organised crime (SOC).

Response

The SWROCU are the lead agency for this recommendation and at the time of writing they are still formulating how they respond to this recommendation.

#### Area for improvement 4

Avon and Somerset Constabulary should make sure it identifies and assesses all serious and organised crime threats (OCGs).

#### Response

There is a formal process for the 'mapping' of OCGs which is completed by the Regional Organised Crime Threat Assessment (ROCTA) team on submission from local forces. The Constabulary have been working with the ROCTA team to ensure they are submitting the correct information, in the correct format in order to ensure this process is efficient and effective. The Constabulary have also started increasing the number of submissions. The Constabulary's Intelligence department plays a significant part in this process and some work has been undertaken within these teams to help improve consistency in the SOC recording and mapping. This will be monitored through a SOC performance meeting on an ongoing basis.

#### Area for improvement 5

Avon and Somerset Constabulary should allocate enough of its resources to tackle serious and organised crime.

#### Response

In order to respond to this, the Constabulary are taking a number of actions in the short-term:

- increasing the SOC resource in the Intelligence department
- filled vacancies in the surveillance team
- filling vacancies in the SOC team
- returning resource to the Topaz team (that focus on Child Sexual Exploitation)
- identifying a dedicated team to respond to Child Criminal Exploitation

In the medium-term the Constabulary have started a review of their Operating Model. This will be looking at all aspects of policing, and the resource needed to provide the required level of service. This review will, of course, include consideration of how SOC is responded to and resourced.

This response is published on the OPCC website <https://www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk/reports-publications/hmicfrs-reports/>