

**NOTES OF THE SCRUTINY BOARD HELD ON 14 NOVEMBER 2018 IN CR7,
CHESHIRE CONSTABULARY HEADQUARTERS, CLEMONDS HEY, WINSFORD, CW7
2UA.**

Present: D Keane, Police & Crime Commissioner
J McCormick, Acting Chief Constable

Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner

P Astley, Chief of Staff
C Hodgson, Head of Finance, Operations & Governance
M Walton, Governance Officer
C Tozer, Communications Officer
E Allison, Performance Analyst

Cheshire Constabulary

D Martland, Acting Deputy Chief Constable
P Woods, Head of Planning & Performance
R Rees, Superintendent (Partnerships)

Five members of the public were also present to observe the meeting.

The Commissioner welcomed the five members of the public present and explained that he wished to discuss with the Acting Chief Constable a number of issues, some of which had been raised at the recent Police and Crime Panel, with others raised via social media as well as meetings with local town and parish councils. This approach would ensure that concerns direct from the public were discussed with the Acting Chief Constable and answers provided.

1. NOTES FROM 08 AUGUST 2018 MEETING

1.1 The notes from the meeting on 08 August 2018 were noted and approved.

2. OPERATION TREACLE: VERBAL UPDATE

2.1 Superintendent Rees explained that the objectives of Operation Treacle 2018 were: i) to ensure that people feel safe in their homes and communities; ii) to engage with the public (especially young people), listen to their ideas and concerns and reflect this in the operational policing response; iii) work with partners to deliver an efficient and effective response, particularly focused around prevention; iv) to provide a visible police presence to reassure the public and reduce crime and anti-social behaviour; and v) to seek feedback from the public on the policing operation.

2.2 Superintendent Rees provided a verbal update in relation to Operation Treacle including:

- Overview of the early intervention with local schools across all LPUs spreading a consistent but proportionate message;
- Partnership approach with Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service and local authorities (eg. removal of rubbish from streets);
- Engagement with cohesion groups, local businesses, ward walks, PCC Youth Advisory Group, diversionary activities across key locations and use of social media to highlight 'are your children safe';
- Style and tone of the policing operation and command structure within each LPU; and
- Positive feedback from the PCC Youth Advisory Group.

- 2.3 The Acting Chief Constable explained that there had been massive demand during mischief night and bonfire night but early intervention, visibility and planning was key to ensuring a successful operation. The Commissioner was pleased to hear the positive comments from the Youth Advisory Group and stated that such positive feedback mirrored the feedback received from local parish and town councils.
- 2.4 The Commissioner expressed concerns in relation to damage of police cars and the sale of fireworks, particularly to those underage, although acknowledged this is a national issue and not isolated to Cheshire. Given the misuse of fireworks, the Commissioner enquired whether the Constabulary is able to work with partners and trading standards to review the sale of fireworks within Cheshire, or whether this will require changes to legislation.
- 2.5 The Chief of Staff stated he would welcome a review of the sale of fireworks as depending on the day of 05 November, there is potential for a period of 3-5 days of fireworks. There is a strong evidence base and anecdotal evidence of inappropriate sales of fireworks that could be discussed with local authorities and PCCs at a national level.
- 2.6 The Commissioner thanked Superintendent Rees for the update and thanked him for the tremendous amount of work completed in relation to Operation Treacle across Cheshire.

3. THEMATIC: PREVENT CRIME & ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

- 3.1 The Commissioner welcomed the inclusion of the thematic report and explained that given the size of the agenda, he wished to focus on exceptions within the report.
- 3.2 The Commissioner noted the 20.4% increase in crimes recorded during the 12 months to the end of September 2018 and enquired whether the increase in crimes recorded was starting to level off. The Acting Chief Constable stated that the increase in crimes had started to roll off every quarter and had plateaued at approximately 90,000 crimes per annum. Following improvements to crime recording standards, the incident to crime conversion rate provides quality assurance but this remains a challenge given current resources available. The Acting Chief Constable explained that increases in crime and improvements to crime recording standards continue to impact solved rates. The Commissioner acknowledged current resource levels but urged the Force Leadership Team to be creative with the current resources available.
- 3.3 The Commissioner applauded the 21.2% reduction in ASB incidents during the 12 months to the end of September 2018 and the continued efforts of PCSOs within local communities across Cheshire. Nevertheless, the Commissioner questioned whether the decrease in ASB incidents can be attributed to an increase in public order offences during the same period. The Acting Chief Constable explained that previously, all such incidents were recorded as ASB, although improvements to crime recording standards has meant that the Constabulary is now recording crimes more accurately.
- 3.4 The Acting Chief Constable discussed the seasonal nature of ASB, with evidence indicating peak times such as bonfire night and Halloween. PCSOs continue to deliver diversionary activities working with partners to problem solve, although the Acting Chief Constable acknowledged that there is still work to do to ensure early intervention and encouraged local communities to support PCSOs where possible. The Acting Chief Constable stated that this remains a complex picture and although there is no direct correlation between ASB and public order, it was highlighted that public confidence remains above the national average. The Commissioner applauded the ongoing work and energy of the Constabulary, stating that the increased visibility and engagement of PCSOs within local communities is also retaining public confidence within Cheshire. The Commissioner applauded examples of PCSOs supporting parish and town councils investing in community events to aid crime prevention and ensure safer communities.
- 3.5 The Commissioner expressed concerns in relation to the increase in acquisitive crime types, in particular theft of vehicles (increase of 6.1%) and residential burglary (increase of 27.4%). The Commissioner questioned what the Constabulary was doing in relation to prevention and whether residents are provided with adequate crime prevention information. The Acting Chief Constable

explained that the increase in residential burglaries is linked to car and key burglaries and a large increase in heritage gold burglaries, the latter of which was subject to a successful policing operation. High value items (e.g. heritage gold) remain the focus of residential burglaries and although high performance vehicles are the focus of car and key burglaries, there has been an increase in older vehicles being targeted due to the increased value of parts. The Acting Chief Constable stressed that comparison based on per 1000 population, levels of vehicle crime and residential burglary remain low compared to the MSG and national figures. The Acting Chief Constable explained that Selecta DNA (Operation Shield) continues to be utilised in high crime areas and crime prevention advice continues to be circulated to residents via Cheshire Alert to encourage residents to take personal responsibility to secure property.

- 3.6 The Commissioner applauded the ongoing work of the Constabulary in relation to crime prevention but urged the Constabulary to ensure such advice is available to all residents in a variety of formats via working with partners across the County. The Commissioner discussed the importance of neighbourhood watch schemes and requested a briefing on current locations as this could influence future support from the Constabulary. The Acting Chief Constable explained that there is currently a national pilot scheme with Nottingham Trent University in relation to locations of neighbourhood watch schemes but suggested that 'a one size fits all' approach may not be beneficial to all communities within Cheshire. The Commissioner agreed and reiterated his desire for PCSOs within the 122 communities across Cheshire to provide community support and encourage the introduction (or continuation) of neighbourhood watch schemes.
- 3.7 The Commissioner applauded the 9.7% increase in the proportion of offences where a suspect has been identified (59.5% compared to 40.5% nationally) but questioned why 'named suspect identified - no victim support' is almost twice the national average (29.2% compared to 15.4% nationally). The Acting Chief Constable explained that this is due to improvements to crime recording standards and stressed that criminal justice outcomes are not always appropriate with out of court disposals an alternative option. The Commissioner enquired whether there is likely to be a national increase based on the ongoing HMICFRS rolling programme of CDI inspections and the Acting Chief Constable suggested there is potential for a national increase, although this would depend on the percentage of crimes reported.
- 3.8 The Commissioner acknowledged that criminal justice outcomes are not always appropriate but expressed concerns and challenged the Acting Chief Constable whether the Constabulary is utilising powers in relation to evidence led prosecutions. The Acting Chief Constable provided assurance to the Commissioner that evidence led prosecutions are utilised where appropriate and the introduction of body worn video is assisting evidence capture. The Constabulary is currently reviewing evidence led prosecutions and the Acting Chief Constable confirmed a briefing will be provided to the Commissioner upon completion to provide additional reassurance.
- 3.9 The Commissioner acknowledged the ongoing work of the Constabulary in relation to 'fatal four' enforcement and the TISPOL speed campaign in August 2018, applauding the ongoing commitment to ensuring road safety across Cheshire. The Commissioner also applauded PCSO activities in relation to road safety and reiterated his desire to change the culture within Cheshire in relation to speeding. The Commissioner highlighted the table in paragraph 42 detailing 1,095 hours of PCSO speed enforcement during the previous six months. Although pleasing to see an improvement, the Commissioner questioned the figure given the commitment of 1 hour per week per PCSO. The Acting Chief Constable stated that the Constabulary continues to work towards this figure but there has been a significant improvement of late. The Commissioner stated that his expectation of 1 hour per week per PCSO is not too much to ask and challenged the Acting Chief Constable whether sufficient equipment is available for PCSOs to meet this expectation. The Commissioner also passed on feedback from various local representatives that PCSO speed enforcement is sometimes conducted at the wrong time of day. The Acting Chief Constable welcomed such feedback and stated this would be discussed with LPU Commanders.
- 3.10 The Commissioner raised the recent increase in fatal RTCs across Cheshire, highlighting the impact upon both families and officers after such events and offered his sympathies to all involved. The Commissioner enquired whether there were any reasons, patterns or trends relating to the recent increase in fatal RTCs. The Acting Chief Constable confirmed that eight

fatal collisions had unfortunately resulted in 11 deaths, although there were no common locations and none initially linked to drink/drugs. The Acting Chief Constable commended the professionalism of the Roads Policing Unit and LPU officers who attended scenes and provided the Commissioner with assurance that de-brief frameworks are available to all officers following such traumatic incidents. The Commissioner reiterated that his thoughts are with such officers and families and requested that the Constabulary reviews its collaboration principles to ensure welfare support is available to all emergency services. The Acting Chief Constable confirmed that the Constabulary will recommission the employee services next year and ensure intensive support continues to be provided to family liaison officers. The Commissioner wished to thank all officers for their continued work and professionalism during difficult circumstances.

ACTIONS:

- 2018/32: The Commissioner is to be provided with a briefing detailing the current locations of neighbourhood watch schemes, overlaid by indices of multiple deprivation.
- 2018/33: The Commissioner is to be provided with a briefing in relation to crimes closed via outcome 16 and evidence led prosecutions following the Constabulary review.

4. POLICE & CRIME PLAN: PERFORMANCE REPORT

- 4.1 The Commissioner expressed his disappointment in relation to visibility data given the previous assurances from the Acting Chief Constable that data in relation to PCSO time within the community would be available and included in the performance report. The Commissioner highlighted that there was also previous assurance that the old performance measure (PCSO time outside of the station) would continue, although data included within the report pack was for the period ending February 2018.
- 4.2 The Commissioner stated that he was starting to lose confidence and that it was simply not good enough that he is unable to fulfil a statutory function of his role in scrutinising performance and holding the Acting Chief Constable to account. The Commissioner acknowledged the work undertaken by the Constabulary in rolling out the PCSO per community offer, but without scrutiny, he is unable to determine the effectiveness and benefit to local communities. The Acting Chief Constable stated that data in relation to PCSO time within the community continues to be collected and that this can be shown visually. Nevertheless, there continues to be difficulties in converting this to an accurate percentage that incorporates both annual leave and training.
- 4.3 The Commissioner stressed the importance of the new measure in ensuring public confidence, particularly given the focus of the 122 communities commitment. The Commissioner explained that this performance measure is not a target but a community orientated priority and requested that the old measure (PCSO time outside of the station) is provided until PCSO time within the community can be articulated. The Commissioner reiterated the importance of the Constabulary providing data for scrutiny and the extent to which PCSO visibility within local communities underpins the PCSO model within Cheshire.
- 4.4 The Commissioner noted the decrease in response times for both grade one and grade two calls. The Acting Chief Constable acknowledged the decrease in response times but suggested that the introduction of the initial investigation team had skewed the data in relation to grade two calls and that grade one calls continued to be affected in larger geographical areas. The Commissioner stated the decrease was not a major concern as performance was still strong but this was an area in which he continues to watch with interest. The Commissioner suggested it was probably time for another in depth review of response times to understand the various complexities. The Acting Chief Constable offered reassurance in that on average, grade one calls continue to be attended within 11 minutes across Cheshire. The Commissioner acknowledged the reality that there are, in times of austerity, times where demand will outstrip supply but urged the Constabulary to continue to provide the best service possible to local residents. As such, it is imperative that public expectation is managed and the Constabulary must communicate with residents to ensure a clear and consistent message is portrayed.

- 4.5 The Commissioner raised concerns in relation to stop search data presented, in particular 'outcome not collected'. The Commissioner urged the Constabulary to reduce this figure to zero and stressed that stop search records must be accountable to ensure equality within local communities. The Acting Chief Constable explained that a data collection issue within the PIPS application accounted for a number of 'outcome not collected' records. Nevertheless, the issue has since been resolved and the Constabulary is reviewing 16 stop search records to provide assurance. The Commissioner requested a private briefing and assurance from the Constabulary in relation to stop search compliance and that national comparative data in relation to stop search is added to future performance reports.
- 4.6 Although recognising the low numbers and rate per 1,000 population, the Commissioner noted the rate of CSA within Runcorn displayed as red (two or more per 1,000 population) and sought assurance that there was no significant threat within the area. The Acting Chief Constable reassured the Commissioner that there is nothing specific and the increase was linked to improved crime recording standards. The Acting Deputy Chief Constable confirmed that the data included one report of 12 historic offences, all of which were linked to one offender.
- 4.7 The Commissioner noted the high density of hate crime within Chester and expressed concern at the prevalence of anti-Jewish, anti-Christian and anti-Muslim offences. The Acting Chief Constable explained that hate crime continues to be under recorded and the Constabulary continues to work with partners across Cheshire to increase confidence to report hate crimes. There continues to be an unacceptable tolerance towards hate crime and the Constabulary remains committed to working with local communities. The Constabulary is awaiting the national response to the HMICFRS hate crime review and additional training will be provided to frontline officers. The Chief of Staff raised the impact of Brexit and suggested it may be useful to discuss at a future meeting.

ACTIONS:

- 2018/34: The Commissioner is to be provided with an updated briefing in relation to current response times.
- 2018/35: National comparative data in relation to stop search is to be added to the performance report.
- 2018/36: The Commissioner is to be provided with a private briefing and assurance from the Constabulary in relation to stop search compliance.

5. ANGIOLINI REVIEW: DEATHS AND SERIOUS INCIDENTS IN POLICE CUSTODY

- 5.1 The purpose of the report was to provide the Commissioner with an update on the recommendations made in the independent review of deaths and serious incidents in police custody. The report was published in January 2017 and included 110 recommendations, 44 of which needed to be considered by the police.
- 5.2 The Commissioner noted recommendation 53 that *'Police & Crime Commissioners should report annually on deaths and serious incidents in police custody in their jurisdictions'*. The Commissioner welcomed the report and stated that he agreed with the recommendation and colleagues on the Police and Crime Panel that it is important to publish an annual report.
- 5.3 The Commissioner highlighted that within Cheshire, there had been no deaths in police custody during the review period. This was applauded by the Commissioner who stressed the welfare of detainees should continue to be a priority.
- 5.4 The Commissioner discussed the recent 2018 HMICFRS unannounced inspection visit to police custody suites in Cheshire and noted that there remains a number of outstanding recommendations from the 2013 inspection. The Commissioner stated that he fully expects the Acting Chief Constable will implement recommendations provided by HMICFRS but explained that if some recommendations may be considered disproportionate, the Constabulary must provide an rationale as to why the recommendations would not be implemented.

- 5.5 The Commissioner expressed concerns in relation to the two deaths following police custody highlighted in the report. Whilst the Commissioner acknowledged that the actions of the police officers involved did not amount to misconduct and that no personal or organisational learning was identified, the Commissioner questioned why detainees are not seen by a healthcare practitioner as part of the pre-release risk assessment. The Acting Chief Constable explained that all detainees who are released from custody are risk assessed by the Custody Sergeant and signposted to partner agencies where appropriate. Detainees who are released on bail or under investigation are scrutinised on a weekly basis and the Constabulary has implemented 31 successful interventions during the review period. The Acting Chief Constable explained that the two incidents of suicide following police custody where, unfortunately, as a result of personal circumstances. The Acting Deputy Chief Constable confirmed that all detainees are risk assessed by a healthcare practitioner upon arrival in custody, although all female detainees and children are again seen by a healthcare practitioner as part of the pre-release risk assessment.
- 5.6 The Commissioner explained that he fully supported recommendation 12 which states that *'police forces should include medical input in the risk assessment process at the point of release'*. The Commissioner explained that he has a legal responsibility to respond to HMICFRS reports and it is wholly unacceptable for the Constabulary not to implement recommendations, or provide a rationale as to why a recommendation will not be implemented. The Acting Chief Constable confirmed that an action plan is currently being completed to respond to the latest HMICFRS recommendations. The Commissioner confirmed that a special scrutiny board is to be convened in 2019 (following the publication of the HMICFRS report) to discuss HMICFRS recommendations in relation to custody following the 2013 and 2018 inspections. The Commissioner urged the Constabulary to have a similar approach to that of CDI to ensure a culture change within Cheshire, focusing upon the purpose of such recommendations to prevent deaths and serious incidents in police custody.
- 5.7 The Commissioner thanked the Constabulary for the report and reiterated the importance of publishing such data on an annual basis. The Commissioner noted the attendance of a number of current Independent Custody Visitors and stated his desire for HMICFRS findings to feed into future custody visits.

ACTIONS:

2018/37: A special scrutiny board is to be convened in early 2019 to discuss HMICFRS recommendations in relation to custody following the 2013 and 2018 inspections.

6. CRIME DATA INTEGRITY: UPDATE REPORT

- 6.1 The Acting Deputy Chief Constable provided an overview of the report, highlighting that following a CDI re-inspection in May/June 2018, HMICFRS published its re-inspection report on 02 October 2019. Cheshire Constabulary was graded 'outstanding' and found to be recording 96% of crimes reported. In addition, the Constabulary has completed all recommendations made in the 2017 report that graded the Constabulary 'inadequate'
- 6.2 The Acting Deputy Chief Constable explained that there had been significant improvements to crime recording standards via a cultural shift within the organisation and a training programme with a clear focus on doing the right thing for victims.
- 6.3 The Commissioner thanked both the Acting Chief Constable and the Acting Deputy Chief Constable for the huge amount of work completed in relation to CDI. The Commissioner stated that he was extremely disappointed with the 2017 report, but was astounded with the progress made and highlighted the conclusion on the 2018 report in that *'the Constabulary has made excellent progress in improving its crime-recording process since our 2017 inspection. The leadership shown has resulted in a cultural change regarding the importance of crime recording among officers and staff. This has ensured that more victims receive the service to which they are entitled, and have access to support and safeguarding where required.'*

6.4 The Commissioner offered his congratulations to the Acting Chief Constable, the Acting Deputy Chief Constable and all at the Constabulary for the achievement, stating that this is a clear example that culture change is possible.

7. VOLUNTEER SCHEMES: ANNUAL REPORTS

7.1 The Commissioner expressed his great pride in current volunteers who give up their time to provide independent assurance and again welcomed ICVs who were in attendance.

7.2 Independent Custody Visiting Scheme for Cheshire

7.2.1 The Commissioner explained that Independent Custody Visiting is a statutory requirement of Police and Crime Commissioners and stated that the value of ICVs independently checking the welfare of detainees cannot be overestimated. The Commissioner noted that between 01 April 2017 and 31 March 2018, a total of 150 visits to police custody were completed throughout Cheshire and the Commissioner described this as outstanding given this is a voluntary role.

7.2.2 The Commissioner explained the importance of the OPCC and Constabulary working in partnership to ensure all issues reported by ICVs are resolved at the earliest opportunity. Following the recent 2018 HMICFRS unannounced inspection visit to police custody suites in Cheshire, the Commissioner suggested that there is potential to undertake a review of the ICV role to ensure further scrutiny of the extent to which the Constabulary implements recommendations within custody. The Commissioner explained that the OPCC will soon undergo a restructure that will include a dedicated resource with responsibility for the implementation of all volunteer programmes.

7.2.3 The Commissioner highlighted the success of the recent ICVA campaign to the Home Secretary and Minister for Women and Equalities to take urgent action to protect the dignity of female detainees, in particular menstruating females in police custody. This in part, was a result of ICVs checking stocks of sanitary products during visits and the Acting Chief Constable confirmed that the Constabulary now provides such products at helpdesks throughout Cheshire.

7.2.4 The Commissioner expressed his thanks to all ICVs for their ongoing commitment throughout the previous year. This was echoed by the Acting Chief Constable.

7.3 Call Management Audit Scheme for Cheshire

7.3.1 The Commissioner stated that the scheme continues to raise key issues and remains a hugely important aspect of scrutiny. The report highlighted that on the whole, positive feedback is received from the call auditors. The Commissioner enquired whether future call audits could also include checks in relation to CDI and requested that the OPCC discuss with the Constabulary at the earliest opportunity.

7.3.2 The Commissioner expressed his thanks to the call auditors for their ongoing commitment throughout the previous year. The Acting Chief Constable stated that feedback received from call auditors is welcomed and where appropriate, interventions are implemented with regard to education and training.

7.4 Cheshire & North Wales Police Dog Welfare Scheme

7.4.1 The Commissioner explained that following the amalgamation of the Cheshire and North Wales Police Dog Units in 2016, forming the Alliance Policing Dog Section, the Police Dog Welfare Scheme is now a joint Cheshire and North Wales Scheme.

7.4.2 The Commissioner explained that impromptu visits not only maintain public confidence, but also safeguard the welfare of all police dogs within Cheshire and North Wales. The

Commissioner also reiterated his full support to Finn's Law, a law that prevents attackers of service animals from claiming self-defence.

7.4.3 The Commissioner highlighted the issues raised by Police Dog Welfare Visitors during the previous year, stating that although some appear to be minor issues, this is great challenge and the value of the role is to raise issues that can then be actioned at the earliest opportunity. The Commissioner expressed his thanks to all Police Dog Welfare Visitors for their ongoing commitment throughout the previous year.

7.5 Front Desk Audit

7.5.1 The Commissioner welcome the continued audit of front desks and stated that face-to-face interaction with residents is of paramount importance. The Commissioner applauded the inclusion of the 'test question' in relation to modern slavery and urged the Constabulary to ensure organisational learning is cascaded throughout Cheshire and that front desk staff continue to ensure that the appearance of front desks is maintained on a weekly basis.

7.5.2 The Commissioner enquired whether the principle of front desk audits could be extended to include the 122 community bases throughout Cheshire and the Acting Chief Constable welcomed a future conversation as this could provide invaluable feedback.

7.5.3 The Commissioner expressed his thanks to all Front Desk Auditors for their ongoing commitment throughout the previous year.

7.6 The Commissioner reiterated his thanks to all volunteers for their continued support and recognised the value of all volunteers. Without volunteers, the Commissioner explained he would require an increased budget to ensure such independent scrutiny and, therefore, this would impact upon the resources available to frontline policing.

8. PEOPLE & HR: PERFORMANCE REPORT

8.1 The Acting Chief Constable provided a brief overview of the report, highlighting workforce capacity, workforce capability, wellbeing and diversity/inclusion. The Acting Chief Constable also discussed the recent in depth review of sickness with members of the Police & Crime Panel.

8.2 The Commissioner sought assurances from Acting Chief Constable in relation to current levels of sickness, requesting a briefing in relation to short term and long term sickness by LPU and also requested sight of localised plans to reduce sickness.

8.3 The Commissioner applauded the ongoing focus with regard to sickness levels and wellbeing but urged the Acting Chief Constable to ensure extra efforts continue to be made in relation to psychological wellbeing. The Commissioner expressed his concern at the levels of long term sickness and sought assurance from the Acting Chief Constable that ongoing support is provided by the Constabulary. The Acting Chief Constable confirmed support is provided to all officers and staff absent from work.

ACTIONS:

2018/38 The Commissioner is to be provided with a briefing in relation to short term and long term sickness by LPU. The Commissioner also requested sight of localised plans to reduce sickness and an assessment of the extent to which sickness is linked to complaints.

2018/39 The Commissioner is to be provided with a briefing in relation to current levels of sickness with a length of absence in excess of 12 months and what support is being provided by the Constabulary.

9. COMPLAINTS, CONDUCT MATTERS, EMPLOYMENT TRIBUNALS AND GRIEVANCES: QUARTERLY REPORT

- 9.1 The Commissioner expressed concern in relation to the 35% increase in 'neglect of duty' allegations. The Acting Deputy Chief Constable confirmed that analysis of the data confirmed that such allegations tend to be low level and in relation to expressions of dissatisfaction from victims who have not been updated on the progress of investigations or a delay in returning property. This was the biggest category of complaints during the previous 12 months and there was a significant spike in August 2018. The Commissioner enquired whether such a spike was linked to the increase in demand on the organisation during the hot weather and World Cup period. The Acting Chief Constable confirmed this was the case and the Commissioner stated that although this provides some context, the Commissioner stressed the importance of communicating with residents and managing public expectations.
- 9.2 The Commissioner welcomed the 17% decrease in incivility allegations but expressed his continued concern that this figure remains above the national average. The Commissioner sought assurance from the Acting Chief Constable that this too is an area of concern for the Constabulary and reiterated the importance of policing by consent. The Acting Chief Constable acknowledged this is an area with work to do but confirmed that legitimacy is a key theme throughout the 'people promise' and expects improvement over the coming months. The Commissioner stated he fully supports this approach and will continue to monitor such performance.
- 9.3 The Commissioner welcomed the introduction of body worn video for all frontline officers and requested an update on the impact this has had in relation to investigations and complaints of incivility.

ACTIONS:

- 2018/40 The Commissioner is to be provided with a briefing in relation to the introduction of body worn video and the impact this has had in relation to investigations and complaints of incivility.

10. AOB

- 10.1 The Commissioner raised the issue that correspondence in relation to an incident at a badger cull that has been forwarded to the Command team but, as yet, no response had been provided. The Acting Chief Constable confirmed she is aware of the issue and the incident is subject to a formal complaint and investigation. The Acting Chief Constable confirmed that police are there to ensure all sides comply with the law and that body worn video footage of the incident is available. The Commissioner suggested whether there is a question of independence given that Defra provide full cost recovery of the policing operation but the Acting Chief Constable reassured the Commissioner that the police will not take sides and are there to simply uphold the law. The Commissioner confirmed he would welcome a future response in a public setting.
- 10.2 The Commissioner explained that he had received the following question from a Cheshire resident via social media: *How will Cheshire Constabulary maintain public safety given the continued cuts to police funding?* The Acting Chief Constable confirmed that the central Government grant will be announced on 06 December 2018 but the Constabulary estimates that it will be required to make an additional £10 million of savings over the next two years in addition to the pension liabilities of approximately £2 million. The Acting Chief Constable stated that if such savings are required, the Constabulary will simply not be able to maintain the current service provided to Cheshire residents and that the future response of frontline policing will, therefore, have to be focus upon threat, harm, risk and vulnerability. Nevertheless, the Acting Chief Constable stated that Cheshire Constabulary cannot just become a responsive force and stressed the importance of crime prevention and neighbourhood policing.

10.3 Despite the savings delivered to date (more than £60 million since 2010) mainly via non-pay budgets and estates, the Commissioner stated that, during the same period, there had been limited impact to front line policing within Cheshire unlike other forces across the country. The Acting Chief Constable stated that during the previous eight years, there has been a 30% reduction in the number of police officers nationally, with a 20-25% reduction within the North West region. Although there has only been a 6% reduction within Cheshire (the equivalent of 135 officers), the Acting Chief Constable expressed concerns for future years. The Commissioner agreed and reiterated his concerns that additional cuts to funding will have a significant impact on the availability of front line resources and on the delivery of operational services to the public of Cheshire.

PART 2 - PRIVATE ITEMS

The following matters were considered in private on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and in accordance with the sections of the Act indicated below:-

<i>Item Section</i>	<i>Section</i>
<i>Action Log</i>	<i>(31) Law Enforcement</i>
<i>Conduct Matters / IOPC Referrals</i>	<i>(40) Personal Information</i>

11. SCRUTINY BOARD ACTION LOG

11.1 The action log was reviewed and updated.

12. CONDUCT MATTERS / IOPC REFERRALS

12.1 The Commissioner considered a report on the number of conduct matters relating to police officers and police staff, and incidents which had been statutorily or voluntarily referred to the Independent Office for Police Conduct. The Commissioner identified that there were no particular trends emerging.

Duration of meeting: The meeting commenced at 10.00 and finished at 13:30.