



22nd February 2023

The police response to burglary, robbery and other acquisitive crime

On the 11th August 2022, His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services published a report into how effectively police respond to burglary and other acquisitive crime.

The report states '*Serious acquisitive crime (SAC) strikes at the heart of people's feelings of safety in their homes and communities. It isn't just a 'volume crime'. It affects people on a daily basis. And failing to target it damages public confidence in policing.*'

Cheshire Constabulary was mentioned in the report for its notable practice in tackling SAC. It was praised for using facial recognition technology on the Police National Database to identify suspects and employing ultraviolet forensic marking solutions such as SelectaDNA and SmartWater to deter burglary and theft in hotspot areas.

The report also praised the collaborative working with Lancashire Constabulary during an investigation into theft offences involving keyless cars which led to the sentencing of five people for more than 23 years in total. The relevant organised crime group is thought to have been responsible for 162 theft and burglary offences.

The report makes recommendations to all forces to make improvements in how it conducts the supervision of investigations, its crime scene management and support and advice to victims.

In response, the Constabulary has refreshed its guidance for call handling staff and crime scene investigators. Weekly crime governance meetings are held to ensure that force policy is adhered to and authorised professional practice.

A burglary governance meeting has been established to ensure that investigations are effectively supervised and carried out to the highest possible standard. Compulsory Victim's Code of Practice training has been delivered to all officers.

Burglary and other SAC has been given significant focus in my Police and Crime Plan, and since being re-elected in 2021, I am pleased to report that Cheshire has one of the highest charge rates for burglary in England and Wales, with incidents being attended to more swiftly than ever.

As an additional layer of assurance, I have tasked my Call Management Auditors, who are volunteers to independently verify that the recommendations in the report have been effectively implemented.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Dwyer'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'J' and a distinct 'D'.

John Dwyer
Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire