



SUSSEX POLICE & CRIME PANEL

The Role of the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner in Holding Sussex Police to Account for Improving the Response Provided to Victims of Rape and Serious Sexual Offences

27 September 2024

Report by The Clerk to Sussex Police and Crime Panel

Focus for Scrutiny

The Panel may wish to consider:

- The impediments to improving conviction rates
- Whether a different approach could yield better outcomes
- Whether more focus should be placed on education and prevention

1. Background

- 1.1 The item was requested by the Panel following a request from a member at the June 2024 meeting.

2. Focus for Scrutiny

- 2.1 The Panel may wish to consider:

- The impediments to improving conviction rates
- Whether a different approach could yield better outcomes
- Whether more focus should be placed on education and prevention

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Appendices:

Appendix 1 - The Role of the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner in Holding Sussex Police to Account for Improving the Response Provided to Victims of Rape and Serious Sexual Offences.



Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner

To:	The Sussex Police & Crime Panel.
From:	The Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner.
Subject:	The role of the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner in holding Sussex Police to account for improving the response provided to victims of rape and serious sexual offences.
Date:	27 September 2024.
Recommendation:	That the Sussex Police & Crime Panel note the report.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This report sets out the role of the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) in holding Sussex Police to account for improving the response and outcomes provided for victims of rape and serious sexual offences (RASSO).
- 1.2 The report summarises the work undertaken by Sussex Police and partners to increase the number of recorded offences, volume of cases charged and the, subsequent, number of referrals made to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), alongside the measures used by the PCC to hold the Chief Constable to account for performance in this area.
- 1.3 Further information is also included in the report about the level of investment that has been made by the PCC and Sussex Police to support improved conviction rates and the funding that has been made available to local support services to help victims.

2.0 Scale, threat and challenges of rape and serious sexual offences

- 2.1 Rape and serious sexual offences are devastating crimes which can have a long-lasting and detrimental personal impact on individuals.
- 2.2 These crimes are committed primarily by men against women and girls but can also be perpetrated against men and boys. They occur in all communities and involve offenders and victims with different protected characteristics, from a range of socio-economic backgrounds.
- 2.3 The victims of RASSO are all too often targeted by offenders because of one or more protected characteristics or other form of vulnerability. These factors may provide ease of access or opportunity for the offender, who may also hope that a vulnerable victim will be less likely to report the crime, and less likely to be believed if they do.
- 2.4 There is no official definition of RASSO. Instead, this includes the individual offences of rape, sexual assault and sexual activity [comprising a range of different offences] as defined by the Home Office and the crime recording rules for frontline police officers and staff to ensure that all crimes are recorded accurately and consistently. A full list of each of these individual offences can be viewed in Appendix A.

2.5 The following RASSO were recorded by Sussex Police in each of the past three years – 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24 – as follows:

Offence	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Rape	1,837	1,793	1,953
Other serious sexual offences	2,503	2,678	2,596
All RASSO	4,340	4,471	4,549

2.6 There have been year-on-year increases in the total number of RASSO offences recorded in Sussex. This increased by +131 offences [+3%] between 2021/22 and 2022/23 and +78 offences [+2%] between 2022/23 and 2023/24. There were also increases in the number of rape offences [+116 offences and +6%] and other serious sexual offences [+93 offences and +4%] between 2021/22 and 2023/24. These increases are reflective of the increased reporting which has been demonstrated for all RASSO offences nationally across the same period.

2.7 Last year, all police forces in England and Wales signed up to Operation Soteria – a transformational change programme to tackle rape and serious sexual offences – following an initial pilot with a four pathfinder forces and five expansion forces. Further information about Operation Soteria can be viewed in section 5.0 Sussex Police response to rape and serious sexual offences.

3.0 Role of the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner

3.1 The PCC has sought to make additional funding and resources available to the Chief Constable to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the Sussex Police response to RASSO through increases to the police precept.

3.2 Now that this investment has been realised, the PCC will hold the Chief Constable to account for its delivery. This will include an expectation that Sussex Police demonstrate improved conviction rates for victims of rape and serious sexual offences.

3.3 It is a statutory responsibility for the PCC to hold the Chief Constable to account for delivering efficient and effective policing in Sussex that is responsive to the needs of the public. The PCC has continued to use her monthly webcast Performance & Accountability Meetings (PAMs) to provide oversight and to challenge the Chief Constable about the Sussex Police response to victims and improving the conviction rates for RASSO.

3.4 Operation Soteria was raised most recently as a theme at the PAM on 13 September 2024 when the HMICFRS report around the progress made to introduce a national operating model for rape and other serious sexual offences investigations was discussed.

3.5 This area of policing was also raised at the PAMs on 19 January 2024 [Operation Soteria Bluestone] and 21 July 2023 [Domestic abuse – including Operation Soteria] previously. Each of these sessions is archived and can be viewed on the PCC’s website through the following link:

www.sussex-pcc.gov.uk/get-involved/webcasting/

- 3.6 The PCC has continued to chair the Sussex Criminal Justice Board (SCJB) which includes a standing agenda item to consider the progress made against Operation Soteria – the transformational change programme to tackle rape and serious sexual offences in England and Wales – and the joint plan that exists locally between Sussex Police and the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS). The SCJB took place most recently on 31 July 2024 where the police and partner response to RASSO was discussed.
- 3.7 Sussex Police has sought to make several changes to working practices to improve working relationships between the Force and the CPS, both at a tactical and operational level. This has included establishing a South East regional RASSO Joint Operational Improvement Meeting (JOIM); collaboratively redesigning and implementing an early advice with purpose scheme, and proactively sharing police officer shift patterns, schedules and contact details with the CPS to improve communication channels and reduce the creation of unnecessary action plans, alongside the introduction of informal coffee meetings between solicitors and investigators to improve these relationships further still.

4.0 Supporting victims of rape and serious sexual offences

- 4.1 The PCC has a statutory responsibility to commission services for victims of crime in Sussex. This includes determining how best to commission and fund support organisations which help victims of rape and serious sexual offences, and ensure that individuals in Sussex have access to the best and most appropriate support services available, alongside the ongoing management of these contracts.
- 4.2 The PCC recognises the importance of providing an efficient and effective policing response to prevent, tackle and solve these offences because of the detrimental personal impact these offences can have on individuals and the mental and physical scars that are created through this offending behaviour.
- 4.3 The Office of the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner (OSPCC) has commissioned 11 different organisations to provide 25 separate support services for victims of rape, serious sexual offences and sexual abuse across Sussex during 2024/25. This equates to commissioned services to the value of £1,642,250 across the financial year, with the total grant value of these commissioned services recognised to be £4,855,820 over the duration of the contracts.
- 4.4 The other grants are commissioned to provide a wide range of additional support including Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVAs); counselling services; specialist advice and guidance; support provisions for children and young people; outreach and group support for victims of sexual violence and abuse; peer support and recovery groups, and training for frontline staff and professionals.
- 4.5 The main contract to provide these services in Sussex is delivered by Survivors' Network who were awarded a five-year contract in April 2021 which is set to run until March 2026, with an option to extend this contract by up to a further two years.

- 4.6 Survivors' Network are contracted to provide a Pan-Sussex service of specialist advice, support and counselling for victims of rape, serious sexual offences and sexual abuse. The OSPCC is responsible for leading on this contract which is co-commissioned with partners at from Brighton & Hove City Council, East Sussex County Council and West Sussex County Council.
- 4.7 A full list of each of the organisations that have received funding from the OSPCC to support victims of RASSO in 2024/25 can be viewed in Appendix B.

5.0 Sussex Police response to rape and serious sexual offences

- 5.1 In July 2023, the [previous] Home Secretary announced that all 43 police forces in England and Wales had signed up to Operation Soteria – a transformational change programme to tackle rape and serious sexual offences.
- 5.2 Sussex Police has sought to embed the National Operating Model (NOM) developed by the programme which is underpinned by a six-pillar framework to assist all police forces to deliver the transformational change required to improve the response to rape and serious sexual offences.
- 5.3 The aims of Operation Soteria are to deliver the following activity:
- ✓ Suspect-focused investigations.
 - ✓ Disruption of repeat suspects.
 - ✓ A procedural justice approach to engaging with victims.
 - ✓ Learning, development and wellbeing of officers.
 - ✓ Strategic use of police data.
 - ✓ Digital forensics.
- 5.4 It was highlighted that the previous working practices and investigative approaches used in forces across England and Wales did not hold enough offenders accountable for their actions nor were enough criminal justice outcomes delivered for victims. The NOM seeks to provide all forces with the materials required to improve local policing responses and introduce positive changes to investigative practices that are more evidence-based.
- 5.5 In response to this, the Force has established governance structures that are aligned to the six pillars, with lead officers [selected for their experience and strategic expertise] responsible for the delivery of each of these. This is further supported by Forcewide oversight and scrutiny through existing operational and strategic boards.
- 5.6 Sussex Police has adapted the policies, practices and procedures used for rape and serious sexual offence (RASSO) investigations to ensure that these are victim-centred, suspect-focused and context-led [i.e. there is no standard approach to investigative actions]. Alongside this, new suspect interview plans and intelligence development plans have been developed for investigators that focus on bad character material and the identification of offending behaviours/negative attitudes towards women by suspects respectively.

- 5.7 Revised guidance has been issued to investigators about the appropriate use of language when providing updates about investigations, which is further supported by new letter templates created for victims which provide a clear explanation regarding why the police may have been unable to reach the evidential threshold required to charge a suspect and the options available to them should an appeal be requested.
- 5.8 In addition, there is an ongoing requirement for Sussex Police to undertake continuous self-assessments regarding the local delivery of the NOM, with regular feedback provided by the Joint Soteria Unit. It was also emphasised that the significant amount of material required to deliver these changes means that the Force will continue to deliver and embed the NOM further still across 2024.
- 5.9 Sussex Police is currently reviewing and restructuring its Public Protection Unit to ensure that dedicated specialist officers are available to investigate RASSOs, in line with the preferred operating model highlighted by Operation Soteria. At present, officers have a blended approach in Sussex and currently investigate all public protection offences that are handled by the unit. It is anticipated that the Force will be able to start the restructuring process in January 2025, once the necessary review has been completed.
- 5.10 It is also worth emphasising that Sussex Police, in partnership with the National Health Service (NHS), co-commissions the two sexual assault referral centres (SARCs) across Sussex [Adult SARC in Crawley and Child SARC in Brighton]. These are specialised facilities designed to provide immediate medical, practical, and emotional support to victims who have recently experienced rape or sexual assault, regardless of whether the victim chooses to report the incident to the police.

6.0 Project Fides

- 6.1 In 2023/24, the PCC successfully secured £813,449 of extra funding from the Home Office through Round 5 of the Safer Streets Fund to provide interventions aimed at reducing neighbourhood crime [domestic burglary, robbery, theft from person and vehicle crime], tackling anti-social behaviour and reducing violence against women and girls (VAWG) in public spaces. This funding was split over two years as follows: £461,945.85 in 2023/24 and £351,503 in 2024/25.
- 6.2 The PCC used some of this funding, alongside match funding from the OSPCC, to establish a ground-breaking unit – called Project Fides – to support victims of rape and sexual assault during police investigations and prosecutions, whilst enabling investigators to focus on ongoing investigations [*N.B. In ancient Roman religion, Fides was recognised to be the goddess of trust and faithfulness*].
- 6.3 Project Fides has included investment in 8 new victim co-ordinator posts to engage with and act as the single point of contact for female victims of rape in a public place. These individuals have sought to build rapport with victims of these crimes, secure best evidence and to gain a better understanding of the barriers that may have stopped them from supporting a prosecution previously, including specific support for almost 130 cases during 2023/24.

6.4 The victim co-ordinators also contacted nearly 250 victims across the year who had previously disengaged from the criminal justice system process and proactively sought to ensure that the right support services have been offered to meet the needs of the victims, alongside the provision of regular updates as the investigations progress.

7.0 Improvements to solved rates for rape and serious sexual offences

7.1 As a result of the collection of improvement activities listed above, Sussex Police has made significant improvements to the quality of its RASSO investigations which is contributing towards increases in recorded crime, greater volumes of cases charged and successful disposals, and more referrals made [by the police] to the CPS.

7.2 It is worth emphasising that the term solved is used by the police service when a suspect is charged with an offence(s), alongside the term conviction which is used when a suspect is given a criminal justice outcome.

7.3 Rape – There was a 180% increase in the volume of rape cases charged between 30 September 2022 and 30 June 2024, with charges brought for 123 cases [6.7%] compared to 44 charges [3.5%] previously – this equated to an additional 79 charges. The number of referrals made to the CPS also increased by 25% from 170 referrals across the rolling year period to 30 September 2022 to 213 referrals across the rolling year period to 30 June 2024 [+43 referrals].

7.4 Serious Sexual Offences – There was a 55% increase in the volume of serious sexual offence cases charged between 30 September 2022 and 30 June 2024, with charges brought for 177 cases [6.9%] compared to 114 charges [5.7%] previously – this equated to an additional 63 charges. The volume of successful disposals also increased by 46% across the same period – from 140 disposals to 205 disposals [+65 disposals], alongside a 30% increase in the number of referrals made to the CPS which increased from 176 referrals to 229 referrals [+53 referrals] across the rolling year period to 30 June 2024.

7.5 RASSO – There was a 90% increase in the volume of RASSO cases charged between 30 September 2022 and 30 June 2024, with charges brought for 300 cases [6.8%] compared to 158 charges [4.8%] previously – this equated to an additional 142 charges. The volume of successful disposals also increased by 78% across the same period – from 184 disposals to 327 disposals [+143 disposals], alongside a 28% increase in the number of referrals made to the CPS which increased from 346 referrals to 442 referrals [+96 referrals] across the same rolling year period.

7.6 It is also acknowledged that there has been a 37% increase in the volume of victim withdrawals for all rape and serious sexual offences across the same period which means that not all RASSO victims are currently supporting pre-charge investigations. Sussex Police has also seen a 44% increase in the average number of days taken to charge an offender which is set to continue in the short-term as the Force seeks to finalise its outstanding investigations and reduce the backlogs which have been created because of increased reporting.

- 7.7 Sussex Police have proactively undertaken a small number of telephone interview surveys with victims of rape and serious sexual offences each month since February 2022. The Force is also recognised by the Home Office to be one of only a small number of police force areas in England and Wales who conduct these surveys with victims of these crimes as a matter of routine.
- 7.8 Of the 126 victim surveys completed between February 2022 and June 2023, 61% of victims [77] were satisfied to some extent with the whole experience, 24% of victims were dissatisfied [30] and 15% of victims were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied with the whole experience [19]. A further 59% of victims [74] also agreed that they had confidence in Sussex Police, with 24% of victims [30] disagreeing and a further 18% of victims [22] neither agreeing nor disagreeing.
- 7.9 It is recognised that it is difficult to compare the satisfaction rates between different types of offences because the impact and experience of victims can vary so considerably. It is also worth emphasising that whilst the victim satisfaction rates reported for other surveys is higher, including domestic abuse at circa. 80%, the satisfaction rates recorded for RASSO compare favourably to these and are not recognised to represent an outlier.
- 7.10 Sussex Police will continue to monitor victim satisfaction and confidence levels across a range of different crime types to understand better where improvements in the policing response are required.
- 7.11 Further information about the performance of Sussex Police for all rape and serious sexual offences can be viewed in Appendix C.

Mark Streater
Chief Executive & Monitoring Officer
Office of the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner

Appendix A – List of all rape and serious sexual offences by Home Office code

All rape and serious sexual offences

Home Office Code	Offence
17A	Sexual assault on a male aged 13 and over
17B	Sexual assault on a male aged 13 and under
19C	Rape of a female aged 16 and over
19D	Rape of a female child under 16
19E	Rape of a female child under 13
19F	Rape of a male aged 16 and over
19G	Rape of a male child under 16
19H	Rape of a male child under 13
19J	Rape of a female – multiple undefined offenders
19K	Rape of a male – multiple undefined offenders
20A	Sexual assault on a female aged 13 or over
20B	Sexual assault on a female child under 13
21	Sexual activity involving a child under 13
22A	Causing sexual activity without consent
70	Sexual activity etc. with a person with a mental disorder
71	Abuse of children through prostitution and pornography

All rape offences

Home Office Code	Offence
19C	Rape of a female aged 16 and over
19D	Rape of a female child under 16
19E	Rape of a female child under 13
19F	Rape of a male aged 16 and over
19G	Rape of a male child under 16
19H	Rape of a male child under 13
19J	Rape of a female – multiple undefined offenders
19K	Rape of a male – multiple undefined offenders

All serious sexual offences

Home Office Code	Offence
17A	Sexual assault on a male aged 13 and over
17B	Sexual assault on a male aged 13 and under
20A	Sexual assault on a female aged 13 or over
20B	Sexual assault on a female child under 13
21	Sexual activity involving a child under 13
22A	Causing sexual activity without consent
70	Sexual activity etc. with a person with a mental disorder
71	Abuse of children through prostitution and pornography

Appendix B – OSPCC grant funding for organisations who support victims of rape and sexual offences in 2024/25

Provider	Overview of service	Local authority area	Grant value	Length of grant	Total value
Barnardo's	Providing support for child victims of sexual exploitation through Project SOLAH (Safer OnLine At Home), working alongside the police online investigation team (POLIT) within Sussex Police.	West Sussex	£65,471	Two years	£130,942
Brighton Women's Centre	Provision of therapeutic support for women referred with experience of domestic violence and sexual violence.	East Sussex	£40,000	Two years	£80,000
Brighton Women's Centre	Provision of therapeutic support for women referred with experience of domestic violence and sexual violence.	Brighton & Hove	£52,079	Three years	£156,239
Counselling Plus Community	Domestic abuse and sexual violence counselling.	East Sussex	£20,032	Three years	£60,096
Friends, Families & Travellers	Group worker for victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence.	Pan Sussex	£10,000	One year	£10,000
Friends, Families & Travellers	Supporting the members of the gypsy and traveller community to cope and recover from domestic abuse and sexual violence through access to specialist services, 1:1 outreach work and group work.	Pan Sussex	£22,857	Three years	£68,571
Lifecentre	Journey to Recovery – a trauma informed recovery programme for victims and survivors of sexual violence.	Pan Sussex	£125,498	Three years	£376,494
Lifecentre	Sexual violence service and staff wellbeing training.	West Sussex	£19,000	One year	£19,000
ManKind	Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) for males and counselling support in partnership with Survivors' Network.	Pan Sussex	£45,740	Three years	£241,200
ManKind	Counselling and recovery programme.	Pan Sussex	£106,896	Three years	£320,688
ManKind	Support for male victims of sexual violence.	Pan Sussex	£23,000	Two years	£46,000
ManKind	Support for male victims of sexual violence.	Pan Sussex	£20,000	One year	£20,000
Rise	Regroup – a recovery and empowerment group for those who are no longer in an abusive relationship – and counselling sessions for victims of domestic abuse.	Brighton & Hove	£10,000	One year	£10,000
Streetlight UK	Frontline support and outreach service for those involved in the sex industry.	East Sussex and West Sussex	£26,882	Three years	£80,646
Streetlight UK	Volunteer coordinator and police training.	East Sussex and West Sussex	£20,000	One year	£20,000

Provider	Overview of service	Local authority area	Grant value	Length of grant	Total value
Survivors' Network	ISVA to support children and young people who are victims/survivors of sexual abuse.	Pan Sussex	£69,070	Two years	£138,140
Survivors' Network	Provision of counselling and specialist advice and support for victims of rape and sexual assault.	Pan Sussex	£424,576	Five years	£1,962,986
Survivors' Network	Provision of outreach service and group support for survivors of sexual violence.	Pan Sussex	£107,520	Three years	£322,560
Survivors' Network	ISVAs for adults and children and young people.	Pan Sussex	£148,158	Two years	£296,316
Survivors' Network	ISVA support for individuals who experience racism.	Pan Sussex	£135,000	Two years	£270,000
Survivors' Network	Training and engagement provision for service users.	Pan Sussex	£35,000	One year	£35,000
Yada	The Esther Project – practical, emotional and specialist support for those individuals working in the sex industry.	West Sussex	£10,000	Two years	£20,000
Yada	Provision of an outreach worker.	West Sussex	£20,000	One year	£20,000
YMCA DownsLink Group	Trainer to provide sessions on child sexual exploitation.	Brighton & Hove and East Sussex	£20,000	One year	£20,000
YMCA DownsLink Group	Providing support for child victims of sexual exploitation through Project SOLAH, working alongside POLIT within Sussex Police.	Brighton & Hove and East Sussex	£65,471	Two years	£130,942
2024/25 total			£1,642,250	Grant total	£4,855,820

Appendix C – RASSO performance information

All rape and serious sexual offences – quarterly data

	2022		2023				2024	
	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Qtr 1	Qtr 2
Recorded offences	1,146	1,063	1,156	1,082	1,202	1,167	1,094	1,187
Volume of cases charged	36	79	85	57	47	77	81	94
% of cases charged	6.2%	6.2%	6.3%	5.6%	5.3%	7.3%	6.7%	7.7%
Volume of successful disposals	42	92	93	59	52	89	84	102
% of successful disposals	7.2%	7.2%	6.9%	5.8%	5.9%	8.4%	6.9%	8.3%
Volume of victim withdrawal outcomes	281	696	984	511	427	556	651	650
% of victim withdrawal outcomes	48.0%	54.4%	51.8%	50.4%	48.2%	52.6%	53.7%	52.9%
Referrals to Crown Prosecution Service	66	128	141	83	74	104	131	132
Average days taken for police to charge an offender	380	551	420	477	445	568	612	727

All rape and serious sexual offences – rolling year data

	2022		2023				2024	
	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Qtr 1	Qtr 2
Recorded offences	4,456	4,417	4,471	4,449	4,505	4,605	4,549	4,652
Volume of cases charged	158	194	239	256	268	266	266	300
% of cases charged	4.8%	5.4%	6.1%	6.1%	5.9%	6.2%	6.3%	6.8%
Volume of successful disposals	184	228	273	286	296	293	284	327
% of successful disposals	5.6%	6.4%	7.0%	6.8%	6.6%	6.8%	6.8%	7.5%
Volume of victim withdrawal outcomes	1,658	1,847	2,036	2,184	2,332	2,188	2,153	2,279
% of victim withdrawal outcomes	50.6%	51.9%	52.2%	51.8%	51.5%	50.9%	51.2%	52.0%
Referrals to Crown Prosecution Service	346	384	413	417	426	402	401	442
Average days taken for police to charge an offender	423	459	451	467	475	479	540	611

Rape offences – quarterly data

	2022		2023				2024	
	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Qtr 1	Qtr 2
Recorded offences	456	453	439	440	519	487	507	510
Volume of cases charged	8	17	21	19	19	26	35	42
% of cases charged	3.8%	3.6%	3.8%	4.5%	5.6%	6.4%	6.4%	7.7%
Volume of successful disposals	8	17	21	19	19	26	35	42
% of successful disposals	3.8%	3.6%	3.8%	4.5%	5.6%	6.4%	6.4%	7.7%
Volume of victim withdrawal outcomes	121	340	357	272	199	263	331	352
% of victim withdrawal outcomes	57.9%	71.7%	64.4%	64.0%	58.4%	65.1%	60.7%	64.1%
Referrals to Crown Prosecution Service	33	49	60	44	35	49	58	70
Average days taken for police to charge an offender	628	539	641	605	520	548	675	1,029

Rape offences – rolling year data

	2022		2023				2024	
	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Qtr 1	Qtr 2
Recorded offences	1,826	1,834	1,793	1,787	1,853	1,882	1,953	2,024
Volume of cases charged	44	48	54	64	76	85	101	123
% of cases charged	3.5%	3.5%	3.6%	3.9%	4.2%	4.9%	5.8%	6.7%
Volume of successful disposals	44	48	54	64	76	85	101	123
% of successful disposals	3.5%	3.5%	3.6%	3.9%	4.2%	4.9%	5.8%	6.7%
Volume of victim withdrawal outcomes	808	909	1,009	1,091	1,169	1,091	1,069	1,139
% of victim withdrawal outcomes	64.0%	66.8%	66.8%	65.6%	65.1%	63.3%	61.7%	62.1%
Referrals to Crown Prosecution Service	170	171	172	185	188	188	193	213
Average days taken for police to charge an offender	546	557	627	602	579	577	598	746

Other serious sexual offences – quarterly data

	2022		2023				2024	
	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Qtr 1	Qtr 2
Recorded offences	690	610	717	642	683	680	587	680
Volume of cases charged	28	62	64	38	28	51	46	52
% of cases charged	7.4%	7.7%	8.1%	6.5%	5.1%	7.8%	6.9%	7.7%
Volume of successful disposals	34	75	72	40	33	63	49	60
% of successful disposals	9.0%	9.3%	9.1%	6.8%	6.1%	9.6%	7.3%	8.8%
Volume of victim withdrawal outcomes	160	356	337	239	228	293	320	298
% of victim withdrawal outcomes	42.6%	44.2%	42.8%	40.6%	41.8%	44.9%	48.0%	44.0%
Referrals to Crown Prosecution Service	33	79	81	39	39	55	73	62
Average days taken for police to charge an offender	310	554	347	413	395	578	564	483

Other serious sexual offences – rolling year

	2022		2023				2024	
	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Qtr 1	Qtr 2
Recorded offences	2,630	2,583	2,678	2,662	2,652	2,723	2,596	2,631
Volume of cases charged	114	146	185	192	192	181	165	177
% of cases charged	5.7%	6.6%	7.8%	7.5%	7.0%	7.0%	6.7%	6.9%
Volume of successful disposals	140	180	217	221	220	208	185	205
% of successful disposals	7.0%	8.2%	9.0%	8.6%	8.1%	8.2%	7.5%	8.1%
Volume of victim withdrawal outcomes	850	938	1,027	1,093	1,163	1,097	1,084	1,140
% of victim withdrawal outcomes	42.%	42.6%	43.0%	42.8%	42.6%	42.6%	43.9%	44.7%
Referrals to Crown Prosecution Service	176	213	241	232	238	214	208	229
Average days taken for police to charge an offender	375	427	398	422	434	433	504	518