



Councillor Judy Rogers
Chair of the Sussex Police & Crime Panel
County Hall, West Street
Chichester
West Sussex
PO19 1RQ

17 July 2023

Dear Cllr Rogers

Annual Report 2022/23

Thank you for your letter dated 4 July 2023.

Many congratulations again on your confirmed appointment as Chair of the Sussex Police & Crime Panel. I wish you every success in your new role and look forward to working with you in this capacity throughout the remainder of my third term of office and beyond.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Panel for their positive feedback about my Annual Report 2022/23 and the progress demonstrated by my office against the three Public Priorities set out in my Police & Crime Plan 2021/24.

Thank you for your helpful suggestion to include more information about the outcomes and successes demonstrated by the Rural Crime Team in the report. Sussex Police already publish a Rural Crime Team Monthly Update which highlights some of the work undertaken by the team to engage with rural communities, catch criminals and work with partner agencies. Examples of these case studies and the operational policing activity demonstrated in this area will continue to be included within future annual reports as appropriate.

My extensive public engagement and consultation programme – #TalkSussex – was also set out in the report. This included reference to two separate rounds of focus groups held across the county to provide a direct channel for feedback from town and parish councils about contact with Sussex Police and community satisfaction with the policing response provided. The remit of these discussions included the effectiveness and successes of hotspot policing in local areas and will continue to remain an area that I monitor closely during 2023/24.

As highlighted at the Panel meeting, Sussex Police has developed a Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) Workforce Plan to ensure that the current vacancy rate is addressed, and the Force returns to its funded establishment of 292 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) PCSOs before the end of 2023/24. Much of this vacancy has been caused by 116 individuals having left their PCSO positions to become warranted officers in Sussex since 2019 as part of the Police Uplift Programme. This remains an ongoing priority area for the Recruitment Team.

Katy Bourne OBE
Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner

Tel: 01273 481561
Email: pcc@sussex-pcc.gov.uk
www.sussex-pcc.gov.uk

The Office of the
Sussex Police &
Crime Commissioner
Sackville House
Brooks Close, Lewes
East Sussex, BN7 2FZ



**Sussex
Police & Crime
Commissioner**

I welcome the feedback provided regarding the HMICFRS assessment into the Police Effectiveness, Efficiency and Legitimacy (PEEL) of Sussex Police in 2021/22. As highlighted in my covering report, I will continue to use my webcast Performance & Accountability Meetings (PAMs) to address the causes of concern, areas of improvement and recommendations identified within the inspection report.

Finally, I will ensure that the other points raised by the Panel members at the meeting are addressed within the action list.

As always, I look forward to building on our collective achievements during 2023/24 and beyond.

Yours sincerely *and with thanks,*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Katy Bourne', written in a cursive style.

Katy Bourne OBE
Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner