



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 business crime.
Date:	14 March 2025.
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 provided to business crime and provides a summary of the activity that has been undertaken in this area.

1.2 The report also provides an outline of the Sussex Police response to business crime and the measures that have been taken by the PCC to hold the Chief Constable to account for ensuring that the police response remains efficient, effective and responsive to the needs of the public.

2.0 Scale, threat and challenges of business crime

2.1 Business crime is defined by the National Business Crime Centre (NBCC) as "*any criminal offence where a business, or person in the course of their employment, is the victim*". Sussex Police use a 'business crime' marker to record any offences that take place either in a business or retail setting and/or are committed against an individual whilst undertaking their employment.

District	2021	2022	2023	2024	No. Difference 2023 .v. 2024	% Difference 2023 .v. 2024
Adur & Worthing	2,092	3,321	4,577	3,578	- 999	- 22%
Arun	1,407	1,472	1,730	2,213	+ 483	+ 28%
Brighton & Hove	2,859	3,766	5,238	6,062	+ 824	+ 16%
Chichester	766	1,087	1,142	1,254	+ 112	+ 10%
Crawley	1,324	1,431	1,995	2,363	+ 368	+ 18%
Eastbourne	997	1,132	2,386	2,794	+ 408	+ 17%
Gatwick	69	157	326	310	- 16	- 5%
Hastings	949	1,083	1,056	1,345	+ 289	+ 27%
Horsham	760	881	1,461	1,188	- 273	- 19%
Lewes	401	623	661	991	+ 330	+ 50%
Mid Sussex	649	790	1,200	1,198	- 2	+/- 0%
Rother	354	428	581	1,042	+ 461	+ 79%
Wealden	598	779	799	814	+ 15	+ 2%
Unknown	17	43	144	207	+ 63	+ 44%
Out of Force	26	13	20	38	+ 18	+ 90%
Total	13,268	17,006	23,316	25,397	+ 2,081	+ 9%

- 2.2 As highlighted in the table on the previous page, business crime increased by 9% in Sussex during 2024, in comparison to the calendar year of 2023. This equated to an additional 2,081 business crimes recorded.
- 2.3 Brighton & Hove recorded the greatest increase in the number of business crimes recorded with an additional 824 offences recorded [+16%] during the calendar year, in comparison to 2023. The largest percentage increases were attributed to Rother, Lewes and Arun districts which increased by 79%, 50% and 28%, respectively, [and an additional 461, 330 and 483 offences] in 2024.
- 2.4 Adur & Worthing district recorded a 22% reduction in business crime which was equivalent to 999 fewer business crimes recorded. Small reductions were also apparent for Gatwick [16 fewer offences] and Mid Sussex [two fewer offences] districts across the calendar year.
- 2.5 There were 25,397 business crimes reported to Sussex Police during 2024, of which 'theft' [from a shop] contributed to 20,642 and [81%] of all recorded crimes. There were noticeable increases recorded for 'robbery' and 'public order' offences relating to business crime with an additional 71 [+69%] and 140 [+11%] offences recorded, respectively.
- 2.6 Locally, there has also been an increase in violence against the person directed towards those who work in the retail industry, with a 9% increase in offences recorded in 2024 [+146 offences], in comparison to last year. These increased threat levels recorded in Sussex are recognised to reflect an increasing national trend in this area throughout England and Wales.

Crime Type	2021	2022	2023	2024	No. Difference 2023 .v. 2024	% Difference 2023 .v. 2024
Arson and criminal damage	486	557	575	448	- 127	- 22%
Burglary	316	477	555	527	- 28	- 5%
Drug offences	31	23	34	46	+ 12	+ 35%
Miscellaneous crimes against society	71	104	72	95	+ 23	+ 32%
Possession of weapons	40	43	54	68	+ 14	+ 26%
Public order	1,281	1,454	1,287	1,427	+ 140	+ 11%
Robbery	38	57	103	174	+ 71	+ 69%
Sexual offences	52	50	69	77	+ 8	+ 12%
Theft	9,717	12,757	18,842	20,642	+ 1,800	+ 10%
Vehicle offences	112	130	74	96	+ 22	+ 30%
Violence against the person	1,124	1,354	1,651	1,797	+ 146	+ 9%
Total	13,268	17,006	23,316	25,397	+ 2,081	+ 9%

- 2.7 It is recognised that business crime continues to remain under-reported nationally and that the figures reported on the previous pages of this report may not be reflective of the actual levels of offending in Sussex. However, reporting in Sussex is likely to be much higher than in comparable force areas because of the extensive work by Sussex Police and the Office of the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner to encourage businesses to report, alongside the improvements made to reporting platforms and processes.

- 2.8 This under-reporting is further compounded by many businesses and retailers having insufficient staff and/or time available to submit reports of crime to the police service, with the supporting CCTV images available too often inadequate and lacking in quality to assist the police with identifying the individual offenders involved.
- 2.9 The ability of the police service to target those who commit business crime would be enhanced if more crimes and incidents were reported. This increased reporting would enable Sussex Police to develop better intelligence regarding repeat offenders, times and locations which can be used to plan, target and deploy police resources.
- 2.10 Many retailers have become disillusioned by the punitive sentences handed out at court so have been less inclined to report crimes to the police and support prosecutions for smaller value thefts. However, the new Crime and Policing Bill will introduce stricter penalties for shoplifting items under £200 which the PCC strongly welcomes.
- 2.11 Sussex Police is continuing to explore new ways for businesses and retailers to report crimes and incidents and/or share information and intelligence to try and remove some of the barriers that businesses have in terms of reporting individual offences and incidents of multiple offending behaviour. The Force is also exploring ways to improve police officer and staff understanding about the scale and impact of business and retail crimes.
- 2.12 The Force remains supportive of the guidance and crime prevention advice that has been made available by the National Business Crime Centre which represents police forces in England and Wales to work in partnership with the business community to tackle crimes against businesses. Further information can be viewed through the following link: <https://nbcc.police.uk/>

3.0 Sussex PCC and Sussex Police response to business crime

- 3.1 The Sussex PCC recognises that tackling business and retail crime remains fundamental to encourage inward investment which supports employment and economic prosperity. The PCC has sought to ensure that consistent levels of support, access to information and approaches to engagement are demonstrated by Sussex Police to all businesses and retailers experiencing crime and anti-social behaviour across Sussex.
- 3.2 Sussex Police has developed a Business Crime Strategy and Operational Delivery Plan to drive activity across the thematic areas identified within the national Retail Crime Action Plan. This approach will provide a specific focus on commercial robbery, violence against shop workers and theft from shops.
- 3.3 Safer Sussex Business Partnership
- 3.3.1 The PCC has continued to build on the initial success of the Safer Sussex Business Partnership (SSBP) since it was established in February 2020. The SSBP brings together the police, retailers and representatives from the business sector to:
- ✓ examine and enable easier and better quality reporting to Sussex Police.
 - ✓ improve intelligence and evidence sharing to support a greater focus on prolific offenders.

- ✓ improve the overall police response to incidents reported by businesses.
- ✓ identify an increased range of disposal outcomes and opportunities for diversionary activities.

3.3.2 The Partnership provides a forum to recognise better the impact of crime on businesses and the wider community; to share knowledge, information and intelligence; to provide advice and guidance on measures to prevent businesses from becoming victims of crime and to cut crime, stop repeat offences and catch and detain those responsible. Membership of the SSBP includes local and national businesses and retailers who have all been impacted by crime.

3.3.3 These sessions have obtained valuable feedback from the business community about the reporting of retail crimes and incidents to Sussex Police and ongoing crime investigations and policing activity, alongside a greater understanding of the scale of violence against retail staff working for local businesses.

3.4 Business Crime Team

3.4.1 In November 2021 and in support of the PCC drive to tackle business crime, Sussex Police launched a Business Crime Team (BCT) to tackle business and retail crime, identify prolific offenders and provide support to business communities in Sussex.

3.4.2 The team supports the business community by working closely with partners, businesses and customers to generate better intelligence and ensure that a more focused police response is provided to reports of business crime. The BCT comprises one police inspector, three supervisors and 12 specialist investigators (SPOCS) dedicated to responding to crime across three specific areas [Brighton & Hove and Crawley, East Sussex and West Sussex]. This approach means that the SPOCS can quickly identify any repeat and/or prolific offenders and patterns of criminality.

3.4.3 The SPOCS have effective working relationships with local businesses and Business Crime Reduction Partnerships (BCRPs) in Sussex and are responsible for investigating circa. 55% of all business and retail crime reported to Sussex Police. Operation Apprentice also brings together the BCT, districts and BCRPs to ensure that the most prolific retail crime offenders are targeted for investigation, enforcement and civil orders.

3.4.4 In October 2024, the BCT was integrated within the Initial Investigations Team (IIT) [formerly known as the Incident Resolution Centre] to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Sussex Police investigation of and response to reports of business crime. This revised approach seeks to use modern technology to work smarter and engage with and support victims of crime during the initial stages of their reports [via remote applications]. This will include the greater use of facial recognition and piloting more efficient reporting processes and technology which allows digital evidence, such as CCTV footage, to be shared with the Force directly for immediate access to evidence. This process will also enable business and retail staff to continue serving customers, rather than waiting to make reports to the police.

- 3.4.5 Since April 2024, Sussex Police has used Microsoft Power BI [an interactive data visualisation tool] to identify 'hotspot' locations for anti-social behaviour across the county from the business crime and intelligence recorded by the Force. This proactive activity has resulted in the identification of 29 'hotspot' locations throughout Sussex, with each hotspot having identified the business and retail locations where crime repeatedly occurs.
- 3.4.6 These locations and businesses are visited on a regular basis by the 'hotspot' policing team to engage with the business owners, provide reassurance to the local community and increase public confidence in the Sussex Police response to business crime. The team has made almost 4,700 visits to these locations and businesses across Sussex, with more than 90,000 engagements recorded with members of the public within these hotspots. This 'hotspot' patrol activity has also contributed to nearly 300 arrests having been made and more than 300 stop searches undertaken for a variety of different items, including stolen property.
- 3.4.7 Sussex Police established Operation Apprentice to focus on the prolific and high harm offenders of business and retail crime and the 'hotspot' locations identified across Sussex. The data collated by the Force is used to support a regular meeting cycle between the Sussex Police lead for business crime, BCT, individual policing districts and BCRPs to proactively target the repeat offenders and locations identified. This includes undertaking enforcement activity and the issuing of civil orders, alongside problem-solving activity in the 'hotspot' locations within local communities.
- 3.5 One Touch Reporting
- 3.5.1 Sussex Police has continued to lead on One Touch Reporting – a unique time-saving initiative that the PCC originally piloted with 24 Co-op stores and National Business Crime Solution (NBCS) to make the reporting of business crime more efficient and effective.
- 3.5.2 The One Touch Reporting platform takes incident reports straight from the 'My Safety' system [used by the Co-op] using a bespoke application programme interface directly into Niche – the police records management system used by Sussex Police. This automation reduces the time to report down from 30 minutes to around 90 seconds per crime. These reports are passed to the BCT for investigation leading to an increase in prolific offenders being identified and arrested.
- 3.5.3 Following its introduction, One Touch Reporting has directly contributed towards an increase in the volume of shoplifting offences reported to Sussex Police, a greater collation of evidence and an enhanced identification of prolific offenders and 'hotspot' locations which has contributed to improved arrest, charge and conviction rates.
- 3.5.4 The successful outcome rate recorded for the offences specifically handled by the BCT increased from 11% in 2021/22, to 14% in 2022/23 and to 15% in 2023/24. These successful outcome rates are anticipated to increase further still across the remainder of 2024/25, with work ongoing to scale up the use of this platform across the rest of Sussex, alongside national interest too.

- 3.5.5 Sussex Police recorded 1,739 shoplifting offences from the 24 Co-op stores through One Touch Reporting across the rolling year period to 31 January 2025. This comprised 9% of the total number of shoplifting offences recorded by the Force across the same period which highlights the volume of these offences currently going unreported by other businesses and retailers.
- 3.5.6 This also represented a 54% reduction in the number of shoplifting offences recorded through One Touch Reporting [in comparison to the rolling year period to 31 January 2024] and is directly attributed to the introduction of improved triage processes for One Touch Reporting in April 2024. These enhanced processes have improved the quality of the reports received by the Force because these reports now only include those with either a named and/or suspected prolific offender based on positive identification and available CCTV.
- 3.5.7 This revised approach to crime recording has contributed to reductions in the offences recorded previously no longer meeting the new threshold for recording. This position is supported by the Co-op and NBCS who want Sussex Police to focus on the most prolific offenders because they are recognised to cause the most harm.
- 3.5.8 The next phase for One Touch Reporting in Sussex is for the Force to improve the Application Programme Interface (API) used to transfer the data across from the Co-op stores to Sussex Police, including the use of artificial intelligence within reporting processes to facilitate and support the use of larger data sets.

3.6 DISC System

- 3.6.1 DISC is an established online crime reporting platform that empowers communities to share information about low-level crimes, incidents and offenders, alongside sharing any best practice that may be identified around making improvements to security.
- 3.6.2 The platform has already been rolled out to towns, villages and rural areas across Sussex, via Business Improvement Districts (BIDs), and enables better engagement between policing teams, businesses and local authorities to support messaging, identification of suspects and awareness raising of the civil orders available to influence changes in offender behaviour, whilst improving the confidence of local communities in the policing response to business crime.
- 3.6.3 DISC is used in Sussex to facilitate the identification of unknown offenders by enabling the BCT to share images of these offenders with DISC users. A pilot is also underway in Brighton & Hove and Eastbourne to enable the education sector to have access to this system to identify any children and young people coming to notice for crime and anti-social behavior for early intervention, diversion and safeguarding activity.
- 3.6.4 During 2024, access to DISC was expanded to include Lewes and Rother districts and contributed to 281,205 logins to the platform [+50% compared to 187,551 in 2023]; 7,668 crimes reported to Sussex Police [+34% compared to 5,702 in 2023] and 1,642 news alerts published [+7% compared to 1,536 in 2023].
- 3.6.5 There are also plans to expand the use of DISC further still in Sussex across 2025/26, including greater use of the reporting platform across Arun and Chichester districts.

3.7 Pegasus Partnership

- 3.7.1 The Sussex PCC took the lead nationally to persuade retailers and police to combine industry knowledge with law enforcement activity to tackle serious and organised retail crime across England and Wales.
- 3.7.2 In 2023, with the support and endorsement of the [previous] Minister of State for Crime, Policing and Fire and the Home Office, the PCC convened a business and police partnership called Pegasus to scope organised retail crime and create intelligence packages for individual police forces to act on.
- 3.7.3 The Pegasus Partnership initiative represents a radically improved way for retailers to share intelligence with policing, to better understand the tactics used by organised retail crime gangs and identify more offenders.
- 3.7.4 Financial contributions worth almost £1million were received from 15 of the country's biggest national retailers – via a secretariat co-ordinated by security provider Mitie – to build a new capability of analysts and intelligence officers within OPAL – the existing specialist national crime unit for serious acquisitive crime. The dedicated team has built a comprehensive intelligence picture of the organised crime gangs that are responsible for many shoplifting incidents across the country to help target and dismantle them, including an increased number of offences against the horticultural sector [via garden centres].
- 3.7.5 Following the change in Government in May 2024, the PCC continued to lobby the new Minister of State for Crime, Policing and Fire for further support to maintain the team of specialist police officers and analysts to work within OPAL. In December 2024, the Government committed a further £5million in funding over the next three-years to support the continued delivery of the partnership initiative and to maintain the progress made in this area to support the fight back against organised retail crime gangs.

3.8 Reporting and Investigation

- 3.8.1 The BCT [now positioned within the IIT] assesses, investigates and responds to approximately 55% of all business crimes reported to Sussex Police, including most of the 'theft from shop' and 'violence and threats of violence' offences directed towards those who work in the retail industry. This team also acts as a central point of contact for any of the BCRPs, BIDs and the Security Operations Centres (SOCs) that may require assistance from the police service.
- 3.8.2 This approach provides better communication and continuity for businesses, many of whom are reporting hundreds of crimes and incidents each year. These resources are recognised to have contributed towards improvements in the efficiency and effectiveness of the police response in terms of the interventions, outcomes and number of individuals identified as prolific and repeat offenders.
- 3.8.3 The other 45% of business crimes are investigated by either the Response, Prevention or Investigation teams on each of the individual policing districts. This approach facilitates increased local engagement and the development of bespoke business crime action plans to address specific threats to local areas; identify high-risk or prolific offenders and establish problem-solving approaches in line with Forcewide neighbourhood policing guidance.

3.9 Partnership Working and Data Sharing

- 3.9.1 Sussex Police work closely with the seven BCRPs and eight BIDs in Sussex. The BCRPs are subscription-based and business-led action groups that work with police and the local authorities to tackle and reduce crime and disorder affecting businesses. The BCRPs are located across Sussex as follows: Arun; Brighton & Hove; Chichester; Crawley; Eastbourne; Hastings and Worthing.
- 3.9.2 The BIDs are business-led and levy-funded partnerships formed to represent and improve defined commercial areas. The BIDs directly involve local businesses in local activities and allow the business communities and local authorities to work together to improve the local trading and working environments, with the BCRPs providing a crime prevention strand and capability remit that is far wider than tackling business crime. Six of the BCRPs have a BID co-located in their area – Brighton & Hove; Bognor Regis; Chichester; Eastbourne; Hastings and Worthing – with two standalone BIDs located at Manor Royal Business Park [in Crawley] and Lancing Business Park.
- 3.9.3 The funding of the BCRPs in Sussex is recognised to be mixed, with most of the partnerships funded by membership fees from local business. Further funding from local councils and BIDs is also received by some of the BCRPs, although this position is not consistent throughout Sussex which means that some of the partnerships are better resourced than others.
- 3.9.4 Sussex Police also work in partnership with business wardens and private security officers – some of which are accredited, through the Community Safety Accreditation Scheme, with powers to support the police and local authorities. These individuals are allied to the BCRPs and BIDs and link into local policing teams through regular engagement and attendance at intelligence briefings.
- 3.9.5 Each of the BCRPs and BIDs in Sussex operate to core principles, accredited to national standards. This includes the use of one platform, DISC, for sharing information and intelligence at a local and countywide level. Sussex Police has also developed an online reporting capability, through the same platform, which enables businesses to report crimes and incidents directly to the Force. This approach represents a channel-shift in police contact from the telephone to online reporting.
- 3.9.6 This capability was enhanced further in 2020 with the adoption of the Digital Evidence Management System (DEMS) which enables individuals and businesses to upload digital evidence directly to Sussex Police. This digital evidence, including CCTV footage, can be accessed by police officers immediately and has enabled the Force to respond to offences in significantly reduced and improved timescales, in comparison to the previously adopted approach where evidence had to be physically collected or posted.
- 3.9.7 Sussex Police operates its own police-specific version of DISC which provides the capability to research all BCRP information, intelligence and image galleries, together with the ability to send out secure notifications to all members regarding crime prevention advice, alerts and images of persons of interest.
- 3.9.8 The same DISC platform is also used by Sussex Police to support the existing Country Watch schemes and the Rural Crime Team by facilitating the sharing of information, development of communication networks and partnership working to reduce rural crime.

- 3.9.9 The Force has established 'Information Sharing Agreements' (ISAs) with each of the BCRPs, BIDs and local authorities who employ community safety accreditation scheme (CSAS) accredited staff. This approach supports effective data sharing between the police, crime reduction agencies and businesses, whilst demonstrating compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and other data protection legislation.
- 3.9.10 Sussex Police has created several crime prevention initiatives aimed at tackling crime against businesses, including Police and Security; Pubwatch; Shopwatch, and a shared radio scheme. Further information about the Sussex Police response to business crime can be viewed through the following link:
<https://www.sussex.police.uk/police-forces/sussex-police/areas/campaigns/campaigns/business-crime/>

4.0 Successful outcomes for business crimes

- 4.1 As a result of the collective activity by the PCC, Sussex Police and partners and the enhancements made to operational processes and procedures listed above, Sussex Police has made significant improvements to the quality of its business crime investigations.
- 4.2 This is now contributing towards positive increases in the levels of recorded crime, additional referrals being made by the police to the Crown Prosecution Service for charging decisions, and greater volumes of cases being charged and/or receiving successful outcome disposals.
- 4.3 The term successful outcome is used by the police service when a suspect is charged with an offence(s), is issued with a caution and/or is given a community resolution or diversionary, educational or intervention activity.
- 4.4 Sussex Police achieved a successful outcome for 3,975 of the business crimes recorded during 2024 which equated to 15.9% of all offences. This represented an additional 1,482 offences receiving a successful outcome [+59%] in comparison to the 2,493 business crimes successfully disposed of across the calendar year of 2023 [11.3%].
- 4.5 The Force has also recorded year-on-year increases in the number of business crimes achieving a successful outcome since 2021, with these increases in the number of offences solved, cautioned and/or given a community resolution apparent across each of the individual policing districts throughout Sussex during the calendar year, in comparison to 2023.
- 4.6 Crawley recorded the greatest successful outcome rate for business crimes amongst the other policing districts in 2024 at 21.4%, followed closely by Hastings [17.7%], Adur & Worthing and Chichester [both 16.5%]. Wealden and Mid Sussex districts were the only two districts to record single digit successful outcome rates for business crime across the year, although both demonstrated continued improvements in performance compared to the previous year.

- 4.7 Crawley district also recorded the largest increase in the number of business crimes receiving a successful outcome during the calendar year with an additional 303 offences disposed of [488], in comparison to the 185 offences recorded in 2023 [+164%]. Aside from this, the largest percentage increases were attributed to Rother, Eastbourne and Mid Sussex districts which increased by 230%, 169% and 111% in 2024 [and by an additional 99, 278 and 61 successful outcomes, respectively]. A full breakdown of the successful outcomes recorded for business crime by district can be viewed in Appendix A.
- 4.8 The PCC will continue to seek further improvements in the successful outcomes demonstrated by Sussex Police for business crimes across 2025/26 to build on the extensive work and forward momentum generated by BCT and through the crime prevention initiatives that have already been established and delivered in this area throughout Sussex.
- 4.9 The PCC has successfully lobbied the previous Government and the current administration to take retail crime more seriously. This has included driving forward changes to legislation which now makes assault of a shopworker a standalone offence and further consideration around the use of electronic tagging for persistent shoplifters which we hope to be piloting in Sussex shortly.

5.0 Supporting victims of business crime

- 5.1 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 to cope and recover from the crimes they have been subjected to and ensure that individuals in Sussex have access to the most appropriate support services available.
- 5.2 Victim Support hold the contract for providing multi-crime support to individuals throughout Sussex, including help and assistance for any individuals who have been a victim of business or retail crime whilst undertaking their employment.
- 5.3 Sussex Police also work closely with businesses and retailers to support them to make improvements to their overall security and reduce the chances of them becoming a victim of crime. This includes the provision of information and advice around enhancements that could be made to the outside appearance of businesses, product placement and reviewing the security arrangements in place and discussing different physical protective measures that could be introduced.
- 5.4 The PCC continues to publish and promote the victim support services available to businesses and retailers to ensure that their staff and employees can access these provisions as required.

6.0 Role of the Sussex PCC

- 6.1 The Sussex PCC has sought to make additional funding and resources available to the Chief Constable to increase the capacity and capability of Sussex Police to tackle business crime and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the response provided to business crime in Sussex.

- 6.2 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 continue to demonstrate an enhanced response to business crime and the management of prolific offenders to prevent further harm and to protect businesses and the local economy in Sussex.
- 6.3 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 scrutinise and challenge the Chief Constable about the Sussex Police response to business crime on behalf of members of the public.
- 6.4 Business crime was raised most recently as a theme at the PAM on 18 October 2024 [Neighbourhood Policing – Operation Apprentice]. This area has also been raised at the PAMs on 21 April 2023 [Business Crime – Shoplifting] and November 2022 [Business Crime Team] in recent years. Each of these sessions is archived and can be viewed on the PCC's website through the following link: <https://www.sussex-pcc.gov.uk/about/how-we-work/watch-live/>
- 6.5 The PCC was appointed the Association of Police & Crime Commissioners (APCC) National Lead for Business and Retail Crime in November 2021. In recognition of the extensive work undertaken to improve the police and partner response to business and retail crime locally, regionally and nationally the PCC continues to occupy this lead role on behalf of the APCC.
- 6.6 The PCC is continuing to work closely with Sussex Police, business owners, business crime experts and PCC colleagues in England and Wales to improve performance in this important area. Her ongoing commitment to the national lead role will provide the PCC with further opportunities to work with the Minister of State for Crime, Policing and Fire and other key representatives in the sector who remain focused on tackling business crime.

Mark Streater
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Office of the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner

Appendix A – Successful Outcomes for Business Crimes by Policing District

Policing District	2021		2022		2023		2024		No. Difference 2023 .v. 2024	% Difference 2023 .v. 2024
	No. Disposed	Successful Outcome Rate	No. Disposed	Successful Outcome Rate	No. Disposed	Successful Outcome Rate	No. Disposed	Successful Outcome Rate		
Adur & Worthing	239	11.5%	246	7.7%	390	8.9%	569	16.5%	+ 179	+ 46%
Arun	149	10.9%	127	9.1%	297	18.1%	347	15.6%	+ 50	+ 17%
Brighton & Hove	231	8.3%	352	9.8%	624	12.5%	883	14.8%	+ 259	+ 42%
Chichester	80	11.0%	132	12.4%	157	14.1%	202	16.5%	+ 45	+ 29%
Crawley	138	10.8%	114	8.0%	185	10.1%	488	21.4%	+ 303	+ 164%
Eastbourne	165	16.5%	147	13.2%	165	7.5%	443	16.3%	+ 278	+ 169%
Gatwick	43	49.4%	57	40.7%	130	46.1%	142	44.5%	+ 12	+ 9%
Hastings	101	10.8%	99	9.3%	143	14.1%	228	17.7%	+ 85	+ 59%
Horsham	62	8.2%	102	11.7%	105	7.7%	141	11.8%	+ 36	+ 34%
Lewes	22	5.4%	41	7.3%	88	12.9%	115	12.1%	+ 27	+ 31%
Mid Sussex	49	7.6%	53	7.0%	55	4.9%	116	9.7%	+ 61	+ 111%
Rother	40	10.3%	33	8.2%	43	8.1%	142	14.1%	+ 99	+ 230%
Wealden	40	6.6%	46	6.1%	61	7.9%	78	9.5%	+ 17	+ 28%
Unknown	6	31.6%	10	23.8%	47	41.6%	72	33.8%	+ 25	+ 53%
Out of Force	1	3.6%	2	18.2%	3	21.4%	9	26.5%	+ 6	+ 200%
Total	1,366	10.4%	1,561	9.5%	2,493	11.3%	3,975	15.9%	+ 1,482	+ 59%