

Public and Panel Questions to the Commissioner

14 March 2025

Report by the Clerk to the Police and Crime Panel

Below is a schedule of the questions received prior to this meeting and where possible responses have been included. Responses will be tabled at the meeting that were not available at the time of despatch. Written questions must be received two weeks before a meeting of the Panel and the Commissioner or Panel Chairman is invited to provide a response by noon of the day before the meeting.

Questions relating to operational matters of Sussex Police are passed to a relevant officer at Sussex Police for a response, with a brief summary of such questions provided below. For the current meeting, two questions have been received from two correspondents for response from the Commissioner.

1. Written question from D. Williams of St Leonards.

How does the Police and Crime Commissioner (or anyone else) evaluate the effectiveness of Sussex Police when they do not hold the following basic information in a reportable format?

1. How many assaults were recorded by Sussex Police in 2023/24?
2. How many investigations took place for assault?
3. How many people were invited in for interview when investigating assaults?
4. How many people were interviewed under caution when investigating assaults?
5. How many investigation reports were put forward to the CPS for prosecution?
6. How many criminal prosecutions took place as a result of a Sussex Police investigation?

Thank you for your question.

Firstly, each of the 43 police force areas in England and Wales have a statutory duty to provide statistical data to the Home Office as part of the Annual Data Requirement (ADR). A wide range of crime and policing data is collected through the ADR as part of the Home Secretary's statutory powers, including information relating to crime, arrests and stop and searches recorded in accordance with the Home Office Crime Recording Rules. Further information about the ADR can be viewed from [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

Secondly, Sussex Police must maintain reliable and accurate data to comply with the ADR and, as such, holds detailed information about all recorded crimes in the force area, including information about the number of assaults recorded and, subsequently, investigation in Sussex. It is also worth emphasising that the recording, processes and analysing of this information remains fundamental to the operational planning of the Force.

Thirdly, the information sought in the six questions posed above relates to operational policing and is not held by the Office of the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner. Having spoken with Sussex Police about these questions, I understand that the Force could provide you with answers to each of these questions posed, although this would require research and the collation of information which is not a requirement for public authorities under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. However, Sussex Police have confirmed that a similar dataset could be produced to address these specific questions if the question set was refined.

If you have requested this information from the Force previously and remain dissatisfied with the response you have received, you may apply directly to the Information Access Team to request an internal review. On receipt of this request, the team may need to contact you to clarify and/or refine the questions raised to maximise the value of any information that may be disclosed under the Act. Please submit this request for an internal review to the following email address: foi@sussex.police.uk

Finally, I would like to provide you with some reassurance about the scrutiny arrangements that exist around the performance of Sussex Police.

I use publicly webcast monthly Performance & Accountability Meetings (PAMs) to hold the Chief Constable to account for the performance of Sussex Police on behalf of members of the public. The PAMs provide scrutiny and transparency over a broad range of policing functions, decisions and operational activity, alongside any inspection reports published by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS).

I also use the PAMs for ongoing monitoring and measurement of the progress made by the Force against the three public priorities and associated policing and crime objectives contained within my Sussex Police & Crime Plan. Further information about the PAMs can be viewed on my website [Sussex PCP](#).

Further information relating to crime and policing is also gathered by office from a range of data sources, both open and closed, to understand better the areas of policing where Sussex Police is performing well, alongside the areas where further improvements are required to raise overall standards. This includes access to a range of performance dashboards, partnership information, government reports, internal audits and public satisfaction surveys.

I am determined to ensure that the policing in Sussex is efficient, effective and responsive to the needs of the public and will continue to hold the Chief Constable to account for the delivery of this operational policing.

I hope the above information is useful to you.