

This matter is being dealt with by:

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W [www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/thecouncil/democracy/partnerships/police-and-crime-panel](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/thecouncil/democracy/partnerships/police-and-crime-panel)

Police and Crime Commissioner Caroline Henry  
Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner  
Arnot Hill House  
Arnot Hill Park  
Arnold  
NG5 6LU

24 November 2021

Dear Commissioner Henry

Thank you for attending last Monday's Police and Crime Panel meeting and giving us an early indication of the priorities and actions that will be included in your Police and Crime Plan.

While we appreciate you will present the final version to the Panel in February 2022 for formal consideration and comment, I thought it may be helpful to capture some of the initial feedback given by Panel members at this stage.

The Panel was supportive of the work being undertaken to tackle Violence and Women and Girls and suggested that the work you're doing could be further enhanced by beginning to re-promote that Nottinghamshire recognises misogyny as a hate crime. We think this will support your strategy of helping women and girls feel confident in coming forward to report incidents to the police. There are, however, some concerns about linking hate crime with anti-social behaviour as there is a risk of understating the impact and importance of hate crime (including misogyny).

One Panel member highlighted that some of the wording in the material you presented felt like it had an urban bias, referring to cities and towns. It was therefore suggested that reference might be made to villages and country roads. We appreciate that residents across the city and county are entitled to similar levels of protection from crime and anti-social behaviour, however the Panel expects that any proposals to move resources are evidence-based and reflect an assessment of risk, threat and harm.

While your comments regarding appropriate methods to tackle rural crime were acknowledged and noting the appointment of a dedicated Chief Inspector and increases in the number of wildlife officers, there was some concern about a lack of confidence amongst rural communities to report crimes. Councillors who represent rural areas highlighted the perception of rural communities that nothing would happen if they did report an incident.

Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Panel, c/o County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 7QP

Panel Members were pleased to hear that you have reflected on the engagement sessions you've held to date, learned what worked well and what didn't, and adapted your methodology accordingly. The Panel recognises the need for engagement and the need for the Police and Crime Plan to represent the concerns of the diverse communities of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. The work you have done engaging with local partners in identifying their priorities and concerns has been noted.

An ongoing matter of concern for the Panel has been the impact of the Court backlogs on victims, those accused of crimes and the support services that wrap around them. The Panel notes your intention to create a Criminal Justice Assurance Board for Nottinghamshire and the progress you have made on this to date. The Panel would welcome regular updates on the work that the Board is doing and the progress it is making.

One member highlighted a matter of concern that was raised at a number of community engagement events, which was dealing with illegal encampments and asked about whether the response to that would be captured within your Plan.

An area about which the Panel felt strongly was the setting of targets. There was a keenness for any agreed targets to be numerical, rather than a general target to improve. Members were keen to ensure that there would continue to be data against which performance could be compared while recognising that consideration would need to be given to the baseline figure so that it was not skewed by the impact of COVID-19. It would be helpful if you would share your draft performance indicators with Panel members informally in advance of the Panel receiving your final plan for consideration and comment in February.

A key strand of work in the opinion of Panel members was ensuring the trust and confidence of local communities, so that people felt safe, and, in the event that they needed to, they felt confident in reporting crime. A further part of this strand was ensuring that any member of the public who did make a report received some kind of acknowledgement to say that the information had been received and was being investigated.

I trust that this feedback will be helpful for you and we will look forward to receiving your final Plan next February.

Yours sincerely,

Christine Goldstraw OBE  
Chair of the Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Panel