

POLICE AND CRIME PANEL
PANEL HEDDLU A THROSEDD



North Wales Police and Crime Panel

Monday, 2 June 2014 at 2.00 pm
Bodlondeb, Conwy

ITEMS TO FOLLOW

- a) **Update report for the Police and Crime Panel** (Pages 1 - 16)
- b) **Annual Report from the Police and Crime Commissioner**
(Pages 17 - 34)
- d) **Developing a Scrutiny Forward Work Programme**
(Pages 35 - 40)

Update for the Police and Crime Panel 2nd of June 2014

Winston Roddick CB QC, Police and Crime Commissioner, North Wales

This is my report to the panel for the period between my last appearance before you on the 17th March 2014 and the 23rd May 2014. It is not concerned with the specific statutory reporting requirements with regard to the precept, appointments to my office, the revisions to my police and crime plan, or my annual report. It is concerned primarily with the panel's broader function under section 28 (6) of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (the Act) to review or scrutinise decisions made or other actions taken by me as the police and crime commissioner (the commissioner) for north Wales and to make reports and recommendations to me as commissioner in that regard. Also, pursuant to section 13 (1) of the Act, it provides the panel with the information which the panel reasonably requires of the commissioner for carrying out its functions (the specific requests).

At my last appearance before the panel, I presented my proposed revisions to my police and crime plan. Following that appearance, the panel expressed its approval of the revisions and I then made the plan public. That is the plan to which I refer in this report.

Section One: My scrutiny of North Wales Police

This section focuses on my scrutiny of the force's performance against the police and crime objectives (the objectives) of the plan.

As I need to provide this report to the panel before the chief constable is able to serve on me his first quarterly report which sets out how he proposes to achieve the strategic objectives of my police and crime plan, I am not able in this report to address the chief constable's first quarterly report. This report will not cover the first quarter which the chief constable's report will cover. I will address cover it in my next report to the panel.

As I explained in my previous report to the panel and in my plan, it is against the measures described in the plan that I assess and scrutinise the force's performance of the four objectives of my plan. The panel will also be aware that the principal medium through which I scrutinise the force's performance is the strategic executive board (SEB) which I chair and on which the chief constable and his senior officers sit. To assist me in scrutinising performance, prior to each meeting of SEB the chief constable provides me with crime statistics and other information including graphs, tables and charts (of the kind shown below) and it is by reference to these statistics and the trends they might reveal and the measures I mentioned earlier that I scrutinise the performance. For obvious reason, I would be more concerned if the trend were bad rather

than good but I do also scrutinise good trends because it is from these that we can learn what accounts for the improvements.

Police and Crime Objective 1: Prevent crime

There are four measures by which the performance of this objective is measured. They are the level of total crime, the level of victim based crime, the level of resolved crime by type and the level of anti-social behaviour (ASB). The measures are not intended to be seen as performance targets. Their purpose is to assist me in my questioning of the performance figures and to make plain the principal matters I will take into account in making that assessment.

The chart below, which was produced by the chief constable above for the May meeting of SEB shows the number of victim based crimes recorded by North Wales Police each week. It shows that overall victim based crime has fallen by 2.6%.

The chart includes control limits which enable the identification of trends i.e. significant changes in crime figures either within a short time period or over a longer period.

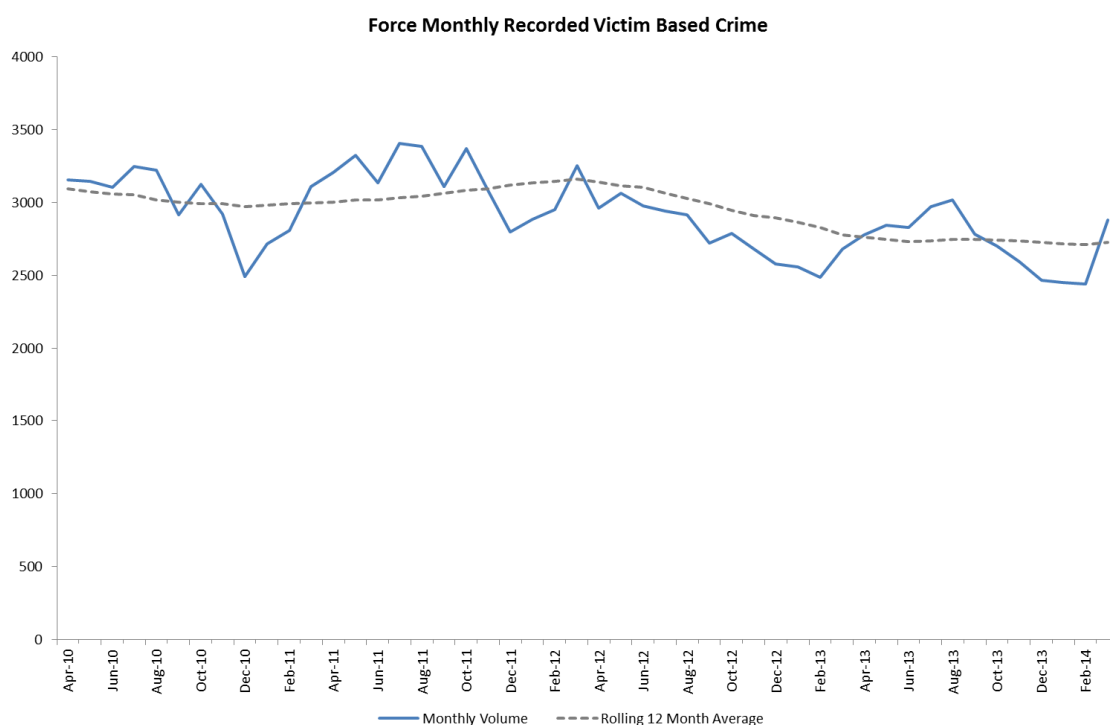


Figure 1: Monthly recorded victim based crime (source: North Wales Police)

Force Monthly Recorded All Crime (Excl. Fraud)

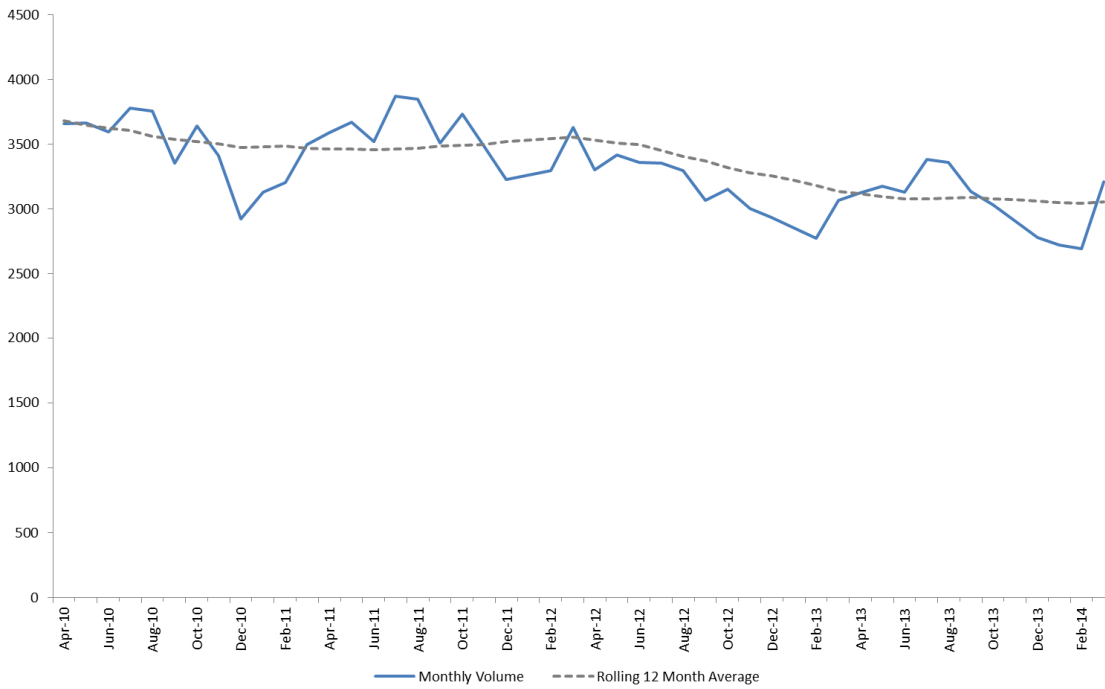


Figure 2: Monthly Recorded Crime (source: North Wales Police)

Force Monthly ASB Incidents

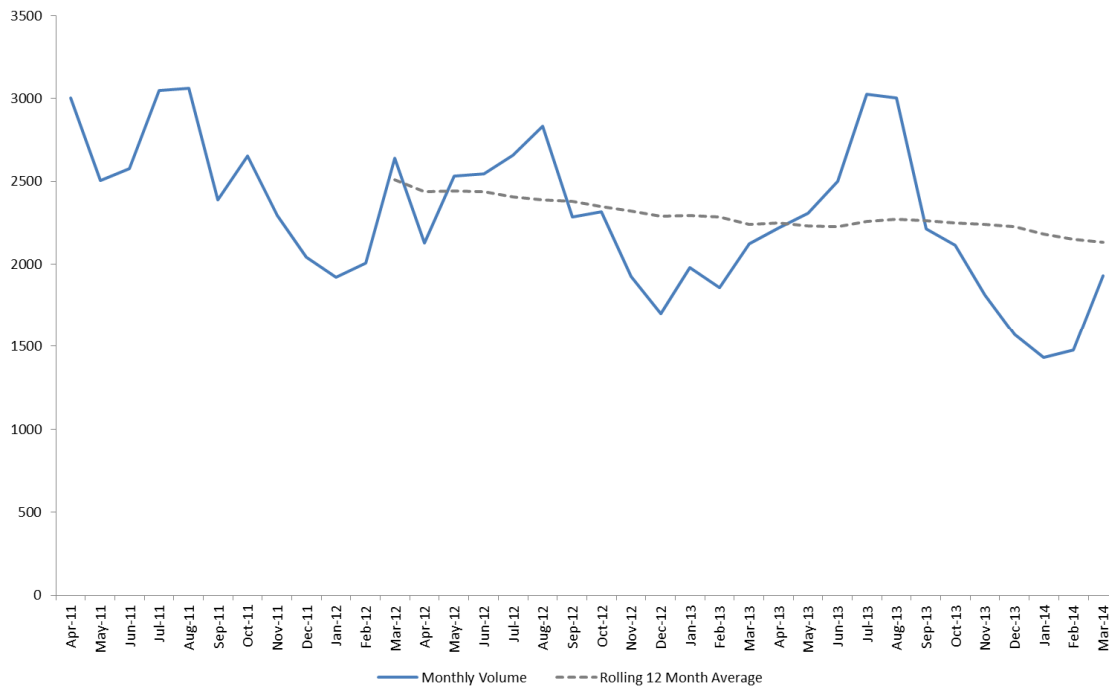


Figure 3: Monthly recorded Anti-social behaviour Incidents (source: North Wales Police)

The force is now working to the new national crime recording requirements introduced very recently by the Home Office. Previously, the outcome of a crime was recorded according to whether it was “detected” or “undetected”. Those were the only two categories. All resolutions or outcomes had to fall into one or other of those two. As from the 1st April this year, under the new recording requirement, there are 18 categories of outcomes which provide a much more precise description of the outcome. The full list is available on the [Home Office website](#).

The most recent figures provided by the force showed detection rate at 28.4%, which is 0.2 percentage points above last year's detection rate (28.1%). I have compared our performance to that of the national average and it is in line with it, and in light of the change in the recording standards I will undertake further scrutiny work once the outcome data becomes more comprehensive.

The latest available national statistics cover the year ending in December 2013. The figures for north Wales showed that out of 21 crime categories, 16 showed a reduction and five showed an increase. These are:

- Violence Without Injury 1% increase
- Sexual Offences 17% increase
- Domestic Burglary 8% increase
- Shoplifting 2% increase
- Drugs 13% increase.

The purpose of the amethyst investigation team which was introduced through the first police and crime plan is to provide a team dedicated to the investigation of serious sexual offences and rape. As a consequence of the reporting of well-publicised national enquiries, there has been an increase in the reporting rate of these crimes and for that same reason a number of the reports are of 'historical' cases. The increase in the reporting of this kind of crime is to be welcomed for it indicates a greater willingness on the part of victims to come forward. I am delighted with the work of the amethyst team, and through my preparatory work on commissioning support services for the victims I am looking at how to improve the support by the provision, for example, of counselling and other support services.

I am monitoring this type of crime in detail and I will report to the panel in the future with further progress reports and scrutiny activities I have carried out in relation to it.

More information is provided about the burglary rate and an increase in shoplifting in section three. I am informed by the force that it is carrying out an examination of the figures and the causes of the increase and that a 'dedicated' superintendent has been looking at operational solutions to tackle this increase. The table below shows the number of domestic burglaries in our Most Similar Group:

Area	Number of domestic burglaries (2013)
North Wales	1717
Devon and Cornwall	3154
Norfolk	1316
North Yorkshire	1603
Suffolk	1621
Warwickshire	1799
West Mercia	2493
Wiltshire	1168

Table 1: Number of domestic burglary by MSG Forces (source: ONS crime statistics to December 2013)

The force has refreshed its crime and anti-social behaviour reduction plan. This is an internal document which provides intelligence and assessments of risk across north Wales and solutions

to addressing those issues. It was provided by the force for the May meeting of SEB. Its purpose is to provide strategic direction by the chief officers to reduce crime across the police area.

Police and Crime Objective 2: Deliver an effective response

I am addressing this in this report because both members of the public and of the panel have asked me about response times

The three measures of this objective as set out in my plan are: the average response times of attendance at police emergencies; the amount of non-emergency calls classified as ‘abandoned’ calls; feedback received through victims’ surveys.

The records show that the average emergency response time for 2013/14 is currently 14.8 minutes. The chart below provides an overview of the average response times. A number of system changes have been undertaken to improve the accuracy of this information, the system provides an automated log of the response time. Overall, the response times are currently stable.

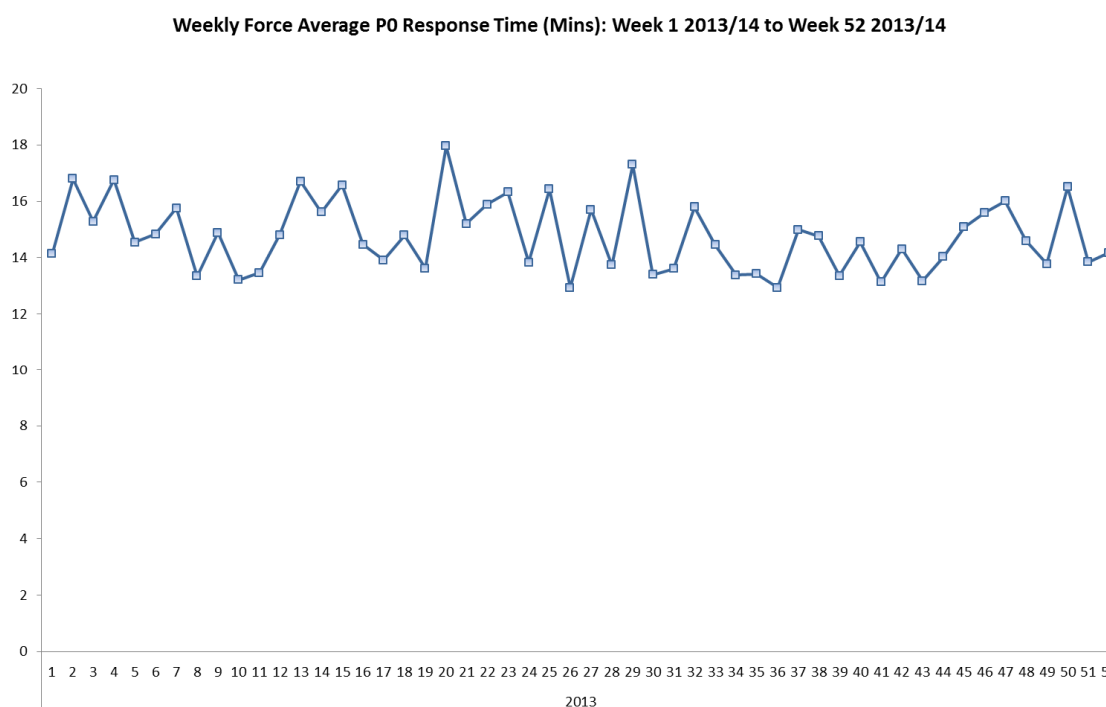


Figure 4: Weekly average emergency response time (source: North Wales Police)

The abandonment rate for non-emergency calls, which also falls to be measured under this crime objective, has also been the subject of enquiry of me and the force.

The chart below shows the rate of abandonment of non-emergency calls. What it purports to show is the % of calls made to the non-emergency lines (this includes “101” and 0300 330 0101) which do not reach a designated call handler. There may be a number of reasons why the caller decides not to continue with the call but the monitoring of this figure provides an insight into the ease of contact with the service. It is evident from the chart that there has been a reduction in the % of abandoned calls. I am informed by the force that this is the result of changes introduced at the communication centre. The force has provided examples, such as the severe weather earlier this year which resulted in an increased % of abandonment rate, to highlight the

known reasons that have had an impact on the demand. The current abandonment rate stands at around 2% of all Non- Emergency Calls.

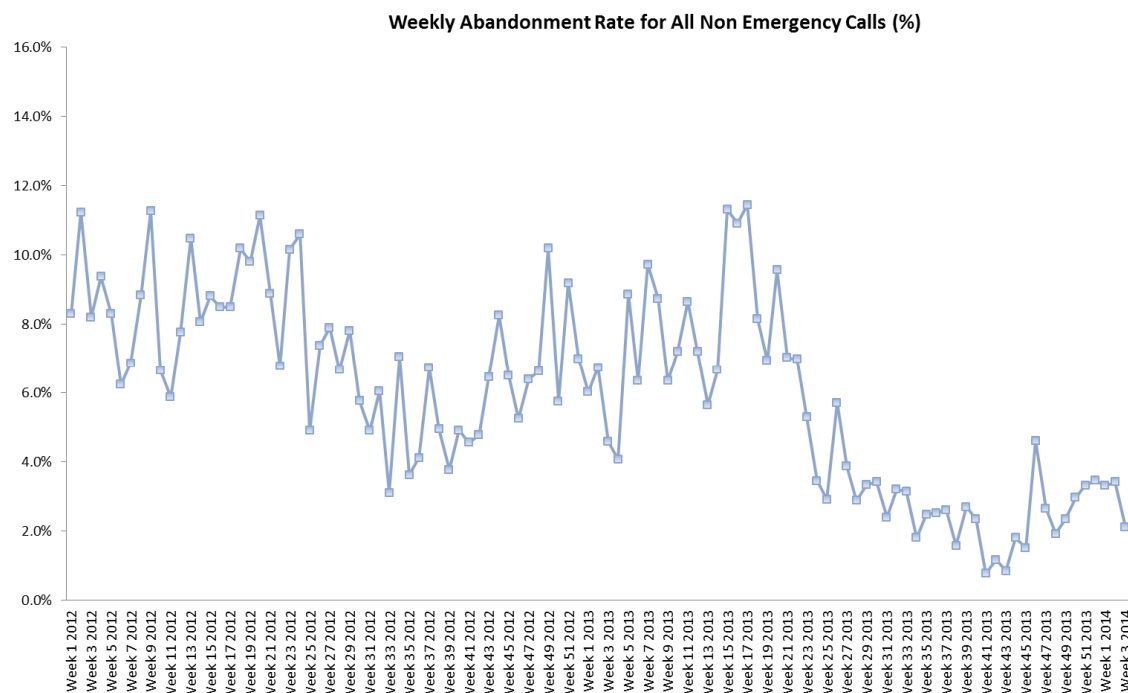


Figure 5: Weekly non-emergency call-abandonment rate (source: North Wales Police)

As commissioner, I am particularly interested in what the public thinks of its police force. It is helpful therefore to receive from the force on a quarterly basis the results of victim satisfaction surveys. The table below provides the results of the surveys of victims asked about their satisfaction with the overall experience. As can be seen, the satisfaction rate has remained relatively stable since 2006/07 but with some deterioration towards the end of the survey period. With the coming into effect of the new victims’ code and the new practices which stem from it, I anticipate that the response of victims to satisfaction surveys will show increased satisfaction and I shall be looking at the survey results to see if this materialises or not. Work is being carried out by the force as part of the chief constable’s action plan to explore learning from the ‘systems thinking’ work.

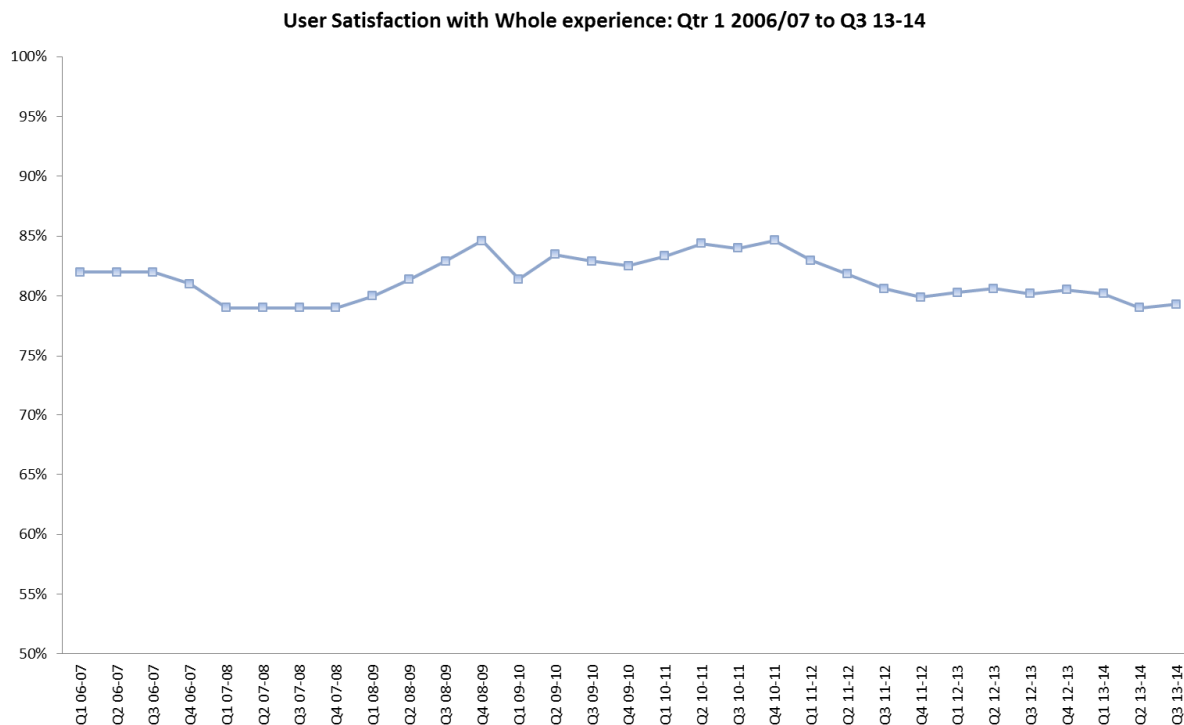


Figure 6: Overall satisfaction (source: North Wales Police)

I have continued to engage with the communities of north Wales and feedback the information which I am provided with to the chief constable. Further information on my recent activities is included in section two of this update report.

Police and Crime Objective 3: Reduce harm and the risk of harm

My plan has two measures for determining the effectiveness of the force’s performance of this objective. They are: the number of people killed or seriously injured (KSI) in road traffic collisions, and the level of repeat offending.

The number of persons killed or seriously injured in the year to February 2014 was higher than in the previous year (311 compared to 295), a difference of 16 year on year. This does not of itself mean that the force has performed less than effectively but I have asked the chief constable to explain the increase and I will report this to the panel in due course.

February 2014	YTD	Last YTD	% Change
Fatal	24	19	26.3%
Serious	287	276	4.0%
Slight	1556	1672	-6.9%
Total	1867	1967	-5.1%

Figure 7: Number killed, seriously injured and slight injury in road traffic collisions (source: North Wales Police, 1st of May 2014)

Figures in relation to levels of repeat offending are published on a national basis by the [Ministry of Justice](#). The table below shows the crimes generated by repeat offenders over a twelve month period.

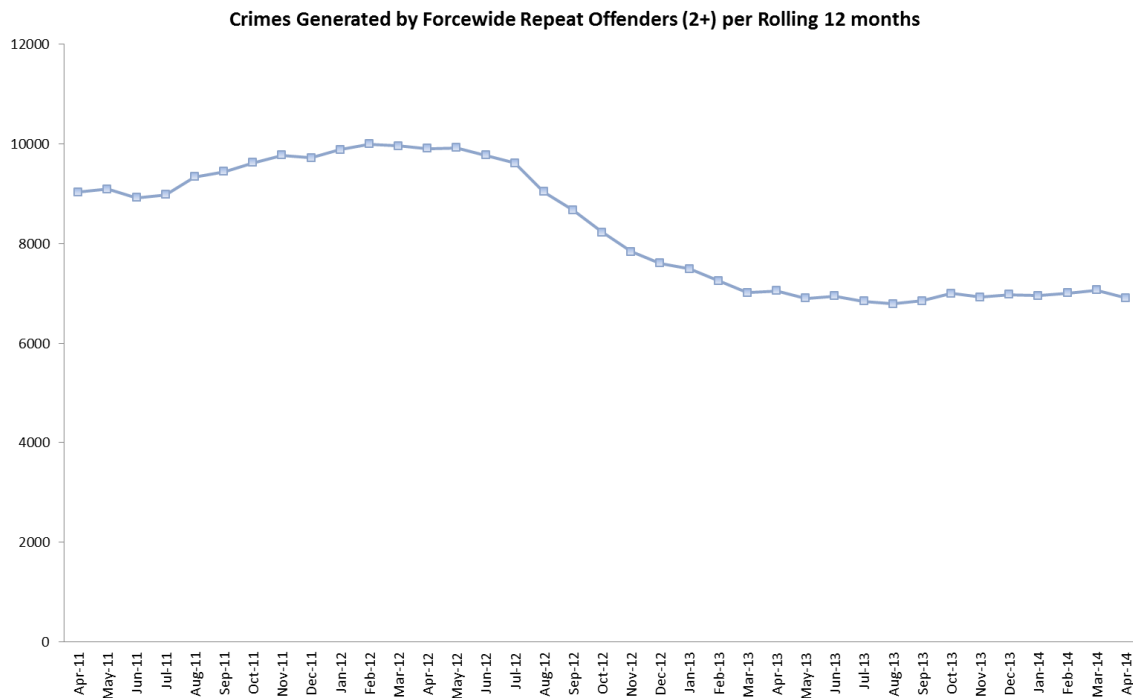


Figure 8: Repeat offending (source: North Wales Police)

Police and Crime Objective 4: Build effective partnerships

This is as important an objective as any of the other three but as it is more one for me than the force and the performance of it is not susceptible to measurement (certainly not statistical measurement), I have not stipulated any measures in the plan for measuring the performance of it. Nevertheless, I intend to include in future periodic reports to the panel information which will enable it to scrutinise my performance of this objective. The formal partnerships of which I am a member or on which my office is represented are the Regional Leadership Board, Safer Communities Board, Area Planning board and Local Criminal Justice Board. I have recently signed a Compact Agreement with the six north Wales voluntary councils.

Crime and Policing in your area

At the last panel meeting it was suggested that it would be helpful if it were possible to publish crime stats on as localised a basis as possible. The home office web site <http://www.police.uk> provides statistical information on crime and anti-social behaviour incidents which is post-code specific.

Section Two: General Updates

In this section I provide the panel with a brief summary of the main things I have been doing since the last meeting of the panel.

Engagement and Communication

Part of my role is to provide information and a means for the community to engage with policing. Since the last meeting of the panel I have refreshed my [engagement plan](#) and undertaken several activities to raise awareness of my role and to provide the communities of north Wales with the opportunity to have their say about crime and policing. The following are a few highlights from recent months:

As part of its 40th anniversary celebrations, North Wales Police held an open day at police headquarters Colwyn Bay. The event was very well attended by members of the public who had an opportunity to see the different elements of police work and to engage directly with officers, staff, volunteers, partner agencies and members of my office. I addressed ex-officers of the force and spoke at the event which traced the development of the commitment of North Wales Police to its bilingual policy. Photographs taken on the day can be seen on the [force website](#).

One of the highlights to date was my participation in the “justice in a day” event. The event organised by the Police and Communities Trust ([PACT](#)) was aimed at school children and aimed to educate them about the criminal justice system and the consequences of crimes by providing an interactive forum which included role play. I also attended the High Sheriff’s awards ceremony which recognized the contributions made by the community and children and young people in reducing and preventing crime.

I attended the Conwy town and community council forum to provide information on my work and to respond to questions, and I was also invited to attend the Maelor High School in Wrexham to address pupils on my work and respond to their questions.

Since the last meeting of the panel, in addition to meeting with community representatives, partners and members of the public, I have undertaken several key media activities. These have included:

[Commissioner's promise to victims of domestic abuse](#)

[New Assistant Chief Constable Appointed](#)

Daily Post article [“Anglesey: CCTV camera cuts would leave people living in fear”](#)

Welsh Icons article [“New Police Team Is Turning Tide Of Rural Crime In North Wales”](#) and [“Flood Disaster is Steep Learning Curve for Police Commissioner”](#)

The Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner

The Panel has asked to be informed about the work of the deputy commissioner. He is fully and very effectively committed on my very demanding work programme. As examples of his activities since the last panel meeting on 17th March, he has provided me with assistance in the

performance of my many statutory and administrative functions including chairing meetings and preparing our response to consultations including the IPCC consultation 'Oversight and confidence - pilot study report findings and draft strategy' and revising the communication and engagement strategy of my office. He has attended many public engagements on my behalf including the 'web-chat' question and answer session; delivering keynote addresses at various public events including the launch of Victim Support's All Wales Hate Crime Reporting and Support Centre (8th May) and the Flintshire Connects event on 16th May attended by the Minister for Local Government and Government Business. He is also heavily committed in developing our commissioning process in connection with victims support and the drug intervention programme (DIP). He has been involved in scrutinising the force on the findings of the HMIC report on domestic abuse. He meets regularly with various office holders within the force including its chief finance officer and estates office. He has met with the chair of the Area Planning Board and T/ACC Simon Shaw regarding Area Planning Board issues and has met with the Interim Substance Misuse Lead Officer. With me, he attended the All Wales Policing Board in Gwent, the Joint Audit Committee meeting on 4th April and a meeting at Wrexham on the 29 April with Councillor Hugh Jones about the business of the Safer Communities Board.

HMIC Inspection Reports

Since the last meeting of the panel I have received two inspection reports from HMIC. I have included a link to my response to that report below:

Everyone's business: Improving the police response to domestic abuse

In September 2013, the Home Secretary commissioned HMIC to inspect the police response to domestic violence and abuse. A national and local report was published by HMIC to outline the key findings. Domestic abuse is simply not acceptable and I would urge anyone who is experiencing domestic abuse to seek help. Domestic abuse is not a way of life – it is a crime. I have published [my response](#) to the inspection report.

Crime recording: A matter of fact – interim report

HMIC intends to carry out an inspection into the way the 43 police forces in England and Wales record crime data. This inspection, carried out between February and August 2014, is the most extensive that HMIC has ever undertaken into crime data integrity. In April HMIC published an interim report on the findings from the 13 forces inspected to date (including north Wales, Gwent, Greater Manchester, and Cheshire).

I was pleased that North Wales Police achieved a 93% score in the reporting of crimes. , Out of 78 cases where a crime should have been recorded, HMIC found that 73 were correctly recorded. This was the best compliance rate by any force included in this part of the inspection report. Likewise, it is positive to note that of the rape offences found not to have been recorded correctly, none were north Wales cases. I have published my response to the interim report [here](#). A full inspection report for North Wales is expected in June.

HMIC Inspection programme

HMIC have recently inspected North Wales Police as part of the valuing the police service part four inspection. Full details of HMICs forward programme can be accessed [here](#).

Joint Audit Committee

The chief constable and I set up this committee in accordance with the Financial Management Code of Practice for the Police Service. Its meetings are held in public and the papers are [available online](#). At the last meeting of the committee the independent members prepared their first annual report. In 2014 and 2015 the meeting dates are:

- 28th May, 30th July, 23rd September, 26th November 2014
- 25th February, 27th May, 29th July, 30th September and 25th November 2015

Correspondence

Correspondence figures 1 January 2014 – 31 March 2014

<i>Category of Correspondence</i>	<i>Number</i>
Specific Feedback regarding the policing service	22
General Feedback regarding the policing service	14
Complaints referred to Professional Standards Department	7
Staffing issues (this may include arrangements for misconduct panels, police appeals tribunals, correspondence from staff associations and other relevant matters)	8
General correspondence	139

Section Three – Update on actions agreed with the Panel

Within this section I intend to address actions which have previously been agreed with the Panel.

Update on Home Office Innovation Fund

In 2013/14 we were successful in two bids to the police innovation fund:

- A solo bid – Raising awareness of child exploitation and improving outcomes for young people at risk - £148,469
- A joint bid with Cheshire Constabulary – joint firearms training and operation - £211,580

We submitted the following bids to the police innovation fund in April 2014:

- **Body Worn Video:** Body worn video has proven successful both in reducing the incidence of violence and anti-social behaviour and in providing evidence when cases are taken to court. It enables swift resolution of unfounded or malicious complaints; can be used to identify training and development needs; and also provide examples of best practice. This is a joint bid with Merseyside Police and the Crown Prosecution Service.
- **Flintshire Troubled Families:** A disproportionate amount of time and resource is used to deal with a relatively small number of troubled families. By identifying these families and intervening early it is possible to reduce demand for reactive emergency response. This bid is in partnership with Flintshire County Council the Wales Probation Service and Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board.
- **Covert Internet Investigation:** It is estimated that around 80% of internet crimes are not reported. This collaborative bid with Cheshire Constabulary will enable us to expand the role of our Hi Tech Crime Unit to investigate proactively cyber-enabled and cyber-dependent crime.
- **Project Bystander:** Working with the Crown Prosecution Service, the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board and a large variety of public sector and private sector organisations, Project Bystander aims to reduce the incidence of sexual assault in north Wales. A similar project was submitted to the police innovation fund in the previous round, which was not successful. Following feedback we have resubmit the bid.

We are also party to a number of bids led by other Police and Crime Commissioners, namely:

- **Demand Reduction:** Led by the Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent, this bid will eventually result in the development of an app designed to signpost the public to the correct service.
- **Digital Evidence Store:** This will enable all forces using NICHE to store evidence such as documents and photographs electronically. Cross-border investigations will be easier; there will be a move from a manual to a computer-based system; and it will be easier and quicker to access evidence for court cases. This bid is led by the Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales.

- Rural Crime: Rural areas suffer different crime from urban areas. By working with colleagues across England and Wales and in the farming community, we will be able to identify trends and share best practice. This bid is being led by the Police and Crime Commissioner for North Yorkshire.
- IOM Cymru, Women's Pathfinder Pan Wales Women's Triage Scheme: Women offenders are disproportionately likely to re-offend when released from prison. This project, led by Gwent Police, will provide interventions designed to reduce the rates of re-offending.
- IOM Cymru, Pan-Wales GPS Tagging Initiative: Led by Dyfed-Powys Police, this project will enhance the management of priority offenders who present the highest levels of risk, threat and harm to the community.

Update on the review of the police funding formula

The funding formula is the mechanism by which the amount of funding through policing grant is provided to each area. The current formula uses a four-block model similar to that for local authorities, using measures believed to be relevant to police services.

When the model was changed from the previous methodology, to avoid causing major disruption, floor damping was introduced to smooth the transition. Due to the ongoing austerity programme, it has not yet been possible to remove the floor damping. A move to a new formula has been deemed an appropriate way forward.

The Home Office have announced that a new funding formula is to be introduced from 2016/17, and at this time we cannot predict exactly what this will mean for North Wales. I have been selected by the Welsh Commissioners to participate in the national working group that will be monitoring this matter. As the funding formula has implications for the budget allocated to policing in north Wales I will update the panel at appropriate intervals in the future.

Statistical information on burglaries (domestic and non-domestic)

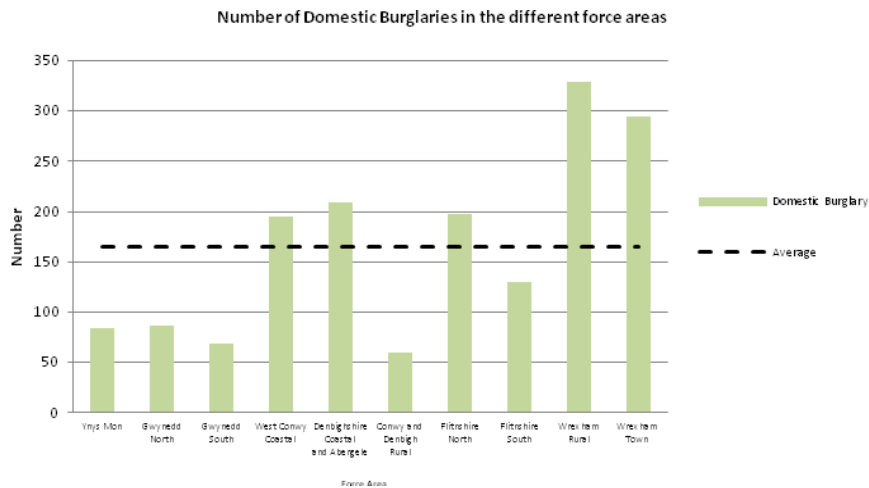
As reported at the Strategic Executive Board meeting on the 25th March 2014 the current operational challenges remain burglary dwellings and shoplifting offences. Following Thematic Reviews in relation to both crime categories, the implementation of a number of crime reduction initiatives continues to be monitored by the Force Operations Committee.

Recorded Domestic Burglary began to escalate in early 2011/12, peaking in December 2011. The system then experienced a positive change during 2012/13 to levels similar to that before the escalation. A negative system change at the beginning of 2012/13 persists as the current normal level.

There have been no system changes since week 1 2013/14 and no signals. Burglary Dwellings were, however, lower at this point last year and this results in a year on year increase of 6.3%.

Week 52	YTD	Last YTD	Change
Reported Crime	1,660	1,562	6.3 %
Detections	307	303	1.3 %
Detection Rate	18.5 %	19.4 %	-0.9

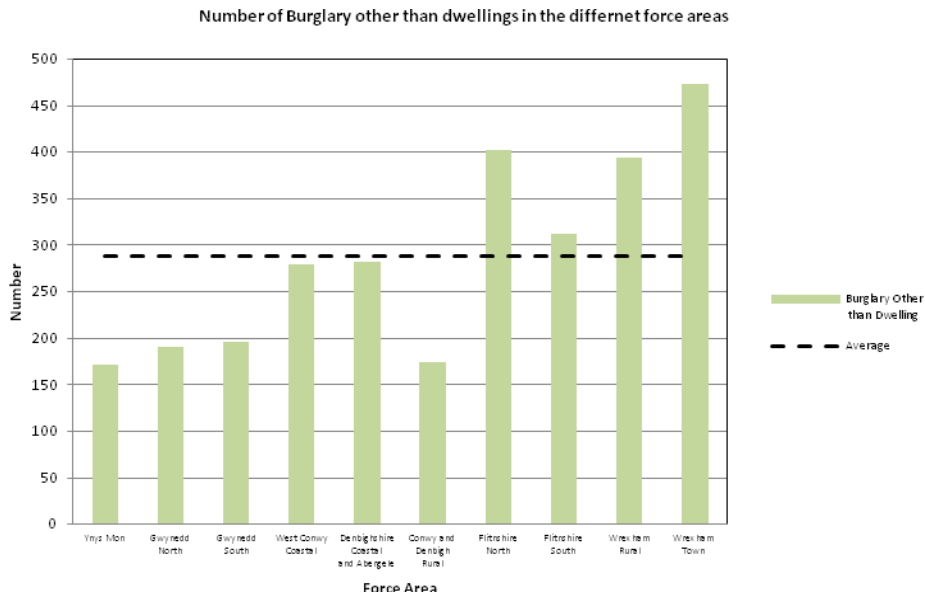
Below is a graph that outlines the number of domestic burglaries in the different force areas during 2013/2014.



Recorded BOTDs (burglaries other than dwellings) have also shown stability throughout the last year and 2013/14 results, with a number of particularly low weeks recently leading to a positive system change in week 44 and a reduction of 3.7% being experienced year on year. The detection rate remains similar to those of 2012/13 with a reduction of just 0.2 percentage point.

Week 52	YTD	Last YTD	Change
Reported Crime	2,880	2,991	-3.7 %
Detections	241	256	-5.9 %
Detection Rate	8.4 %	8.6 %	-0.2

Below is a graph that outlines the number of burglary other than dwellings in the different force areas during 2013/2014.



Statistical information on shoplifting

There has been a national increase in relation to shoplifting over the last year.

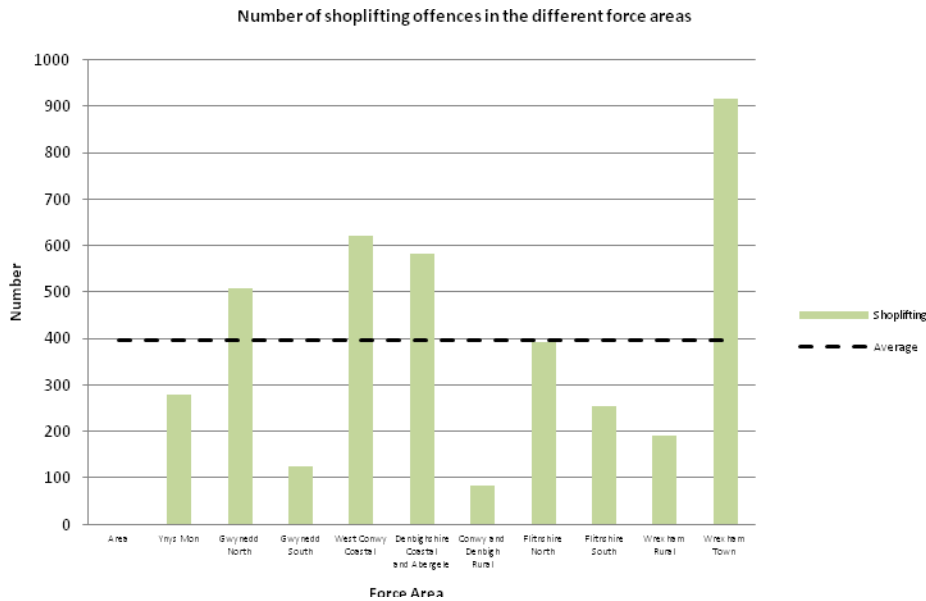
Shoplifting is one of the force's main priorities and NWP are monitoring trends to develop appropriate responses. The number of repeat offenders shoplifting is also considered within this priority.

Recorded Shoplifting is continuing with the seasonal trend being higher during the summer returning to the norm for the rest of the winter. Recorded Shoplifting in North Wales is currently showing a 9.4% increase year on year.

In 2013/14, there has been a small reduction of 1.7 percentage points in the detection rate.

Week 52	YTD	Last YTD	Change
Reported Crime	3,951	3,611	9.4 %
Detections	2,739	2,564	6.8 %
Detection Rate	69.3 %	71.0 %	-1.7

Below is a graph that outlines the number of shoplifting offences in the different force areas during 2013/2014.



Number of Police Officers

Members of the panel will have received a letter showing full details of the increase in the establishment by 51 officers from 1 April 2013. These posts were identified, and officers appointed. Recruitment during the year was maintained to ensure that these posts represent real additionally to enable greater options to focus on reducing crime through preventative measures and reducing harm to communities. The actual strength has remained above the establishment throughout the year, demonstrating that not only have we increased the budget in order to fund this, we have been able to deliver this additionally throughout the year. It is also worth the Panel noting that these posts remain in the establishment for 2014/15. A copy of the letter drafted by the commissioner in this regard has also been included on the meeting's agenda.

ANNUAL REPORT

2013/14



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OFFICE OF THE POLICE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER NORTH WALES

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Introduction

I was elected in November 2012 as the first ever Police and Crime Commissioner for North Wales. The role, which has replaced the North Wales Police Authority, places upon me the duty to deliver an efficient and effective police force which demonstrates value for money and, above all, cuts crime.

This is my second annual report issued under section 12 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (the Act). This is the first report covering a full year of activity and will focus on matters undertaken during 2013/14.

Since publishing my last annual report I believe I have made significant progress in setting the strategic direction for north Wales Police on behalf of the public. I have worked to enhance engagement with the public and in delivering value for money for the public.

I have been pleased to learn the results of my first public survey, which are included within this report. Over 87.5% of people responded that they felt safe in north Wales, and only 6% of people responded that they don't see a police officer as part of their normal weekly routine.

Crime in north Wales has continued to fall, with a reduction of 2.6% which builds on last years reduction of 11.6%. I was disappointed to learn through the results of the survey I commissioned with the force that people don't fully see the reduction in crime, however a continued reduction in crime is welcome and I will continue to raise awareness of this achievement.

In this past year I have also appointed north Wales first Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner. Julian Sandham was appointed through a transparent appointment process which involved elected representatives from four of the local authorities. I would like to thank him for the work that he has done to date, and I would also like to thank the rest of my team.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the chief constable and his team for their continued efforts to keep north Wales safe, and I look forward to building on this progress in the coming year.



Winston Roddick CB QC
North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner



Section One: The Police and Crime Plan

As the Police and Crime Commissioner, I have the statutory responsibility for the strategic direction of policing in north Wales and the chief constable remains responsible for operational matters.

That strategic direction is set out in the Police and Crime Plan, the first version was published in March 2013 and the revised Plan was finalised in March 2014 following consultation with the public and the Panel. The focus of this report will be reporting on progress against the first Police and Crime Plan.

The 2013/14 Police and Crime Plan had four key objectives which provide a framework for developing and improving the police force in a way that will cut crime and ensure security in the home and safety in public places.

The Police and Crime Objectives within the 2013/14 Plan were as follows:

1. To reduce crime and anti-social behaviour
2. To protect people and reduce harm
3. To deliver a quality service that meets the needs of our communities
4. To promote a well led, organised and skilled workforce

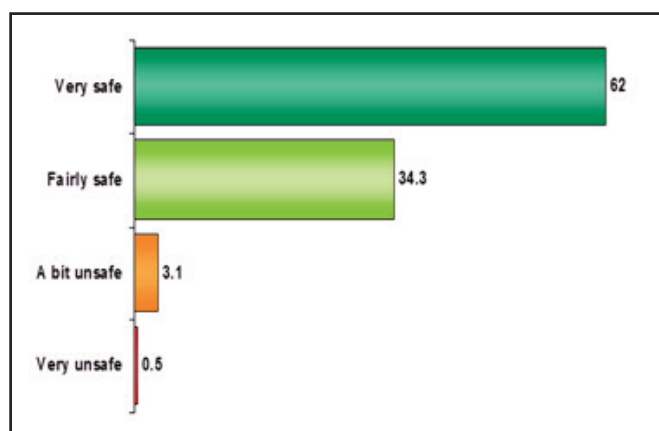
I also established three strategic outcomes within the first police and crime plan, these were: Security in the Home; Safety in Public Places; Visible and Accessible Policing

The Strategic Outcomes

Within the Police and Crime Plan I stated the outcomes I wish to deliver for north Wales, and I also committed to commissioning an independent survey to assess progress against delivering those outcomes. The first survey has been undertaken and the full results can be viewed on my website. As this is the first survey to be undertaken, no comparison is available at present, and I intend to carry out a further survey in the next financial year to benchmark against the first survey.

Feelings of safety

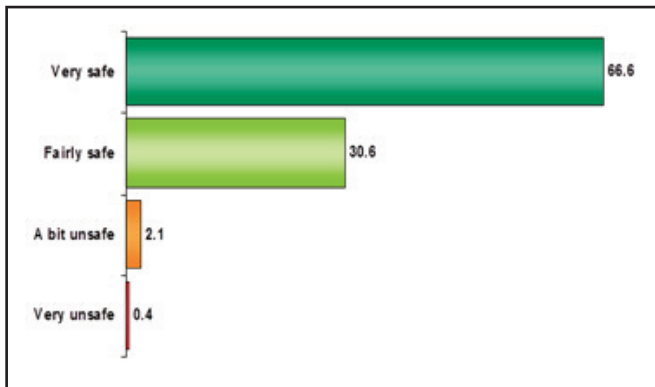
Respondents were asked about **how safe they felt in their own homes**. 96.3% of respondents said they felt very safe or fairly safe, while 3.6% stated that they felt unsafe



Only 3.6% of respondents stated that they felt a bit or very unsafe in their own home, the main reasons for this are:-

- **Poor previous experience** 30%
- **Poor area / unsafe area** 19%
- **Personal reasons (disability etc)** 15%
- **Fear of being burgled/broken into** 15%
- **Due to mixture of cultures/people** 13%
- **Due to young generation** 10%
- **Poor Police service** 10%

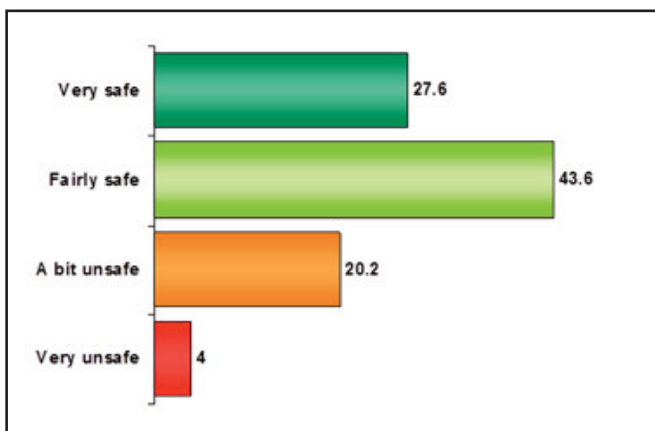
Respondents were asked about **how safe they felt in their local areas** during the **day** and during the **night**. 97.2% of respondents stated that they felt very safe or fairly safe during the day, while 2.5% stated that they felt unsafe. 0.9% lower than those who stated they felt unsafe in their own homes.



Only 2.5% of respondents stated that they felt a bit or very unsafe in their area during the day, the main reasons for this are:-

- **Due to mixture of cultures/people** 29%
- **Poor area / unsafe area** 22%
- **Poor previous experience** 21%
- **Due to young generation** 20%
- **Substance abuse** 13%

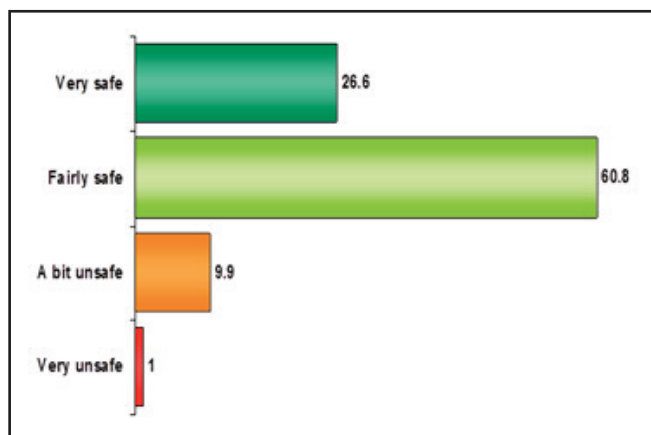
71.1% of respondents stated that they felt very safe or fairly safe in their area during the **night**, while 24.2% stated that they felt unsafe.



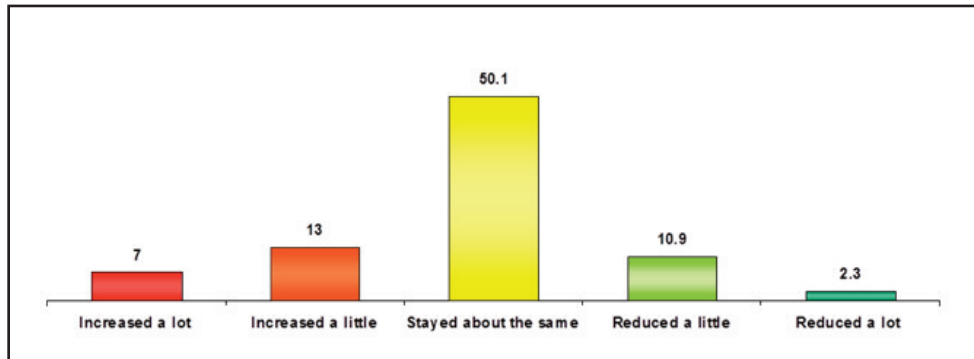
Nearly a quarter (24%) of respondents stated that they felt a bit or very unsafe in their local area on the street at night, the main reasons for this are:-

- **Due to groups hanging around area** 42%
- **Generally feel unsafe** 25%
- **Fear of mugging/physical attack** 17%
- **Lack of street lighting** 15%
- **Fear of the dark/night** 15%
- **Fear of going out alone** 14%
- **General crime/disorder in the local area** 13%

Respondents were also asked about their general **feeling of safety in north Wales**. 87.5% stated that they either felt very safe or fairly safe, with 10.8% responding that they felt unsafe.

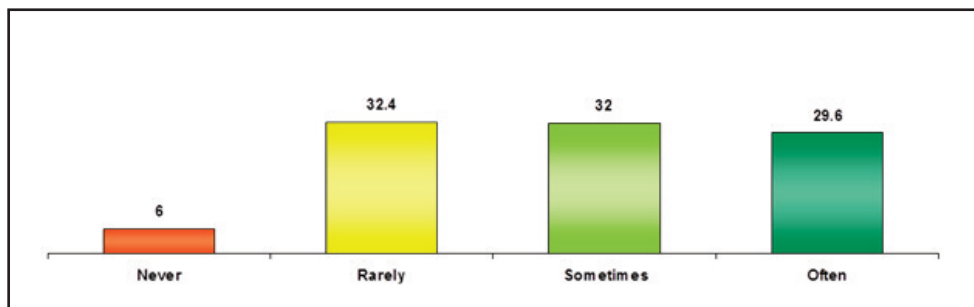


Respondents were asked about their perception of crime in north Wales. The majority of respondents perceived crime to have 'stayed about the same', with 16.4% stating that they didn't know.

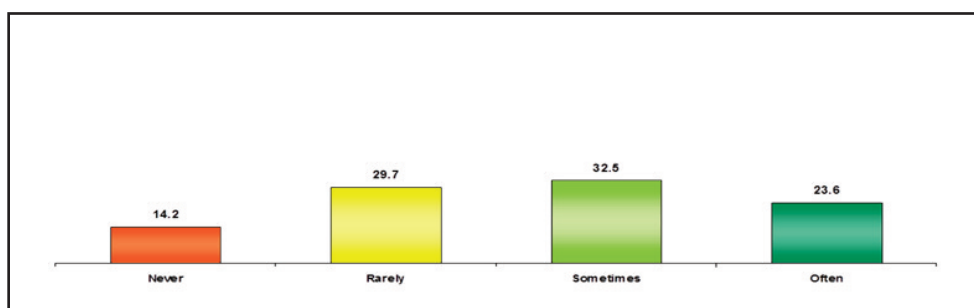


Police visibility and accessibility

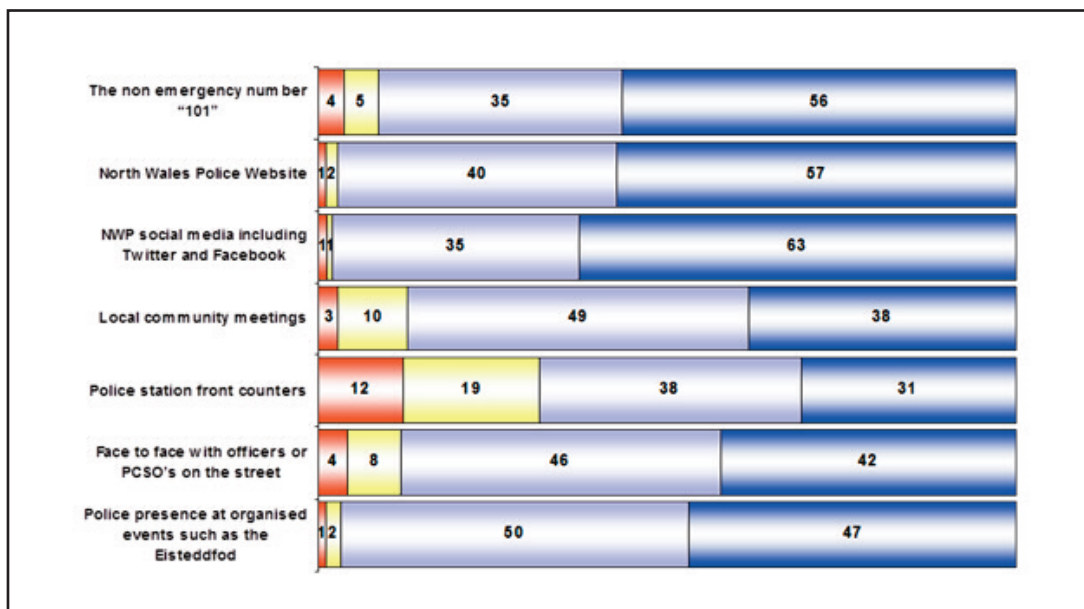
Respondents to the survey were also asked about their views on police visibility. They were asked how often they felt that they saw police officers as part of their normal week. Over half of respondents remember seeing **police officers** in the course of a normal week, either sometimes or often. Only 6% of respondents stated that they never see police officers as part of their normal week.



Respondents were also asked about their views on the visibility of **PCSOs**. Over half of respondents remember seeing PCSO's in the course of a normal week, either sometimes or often. While 14.2% stated that they never see a PCSO as part of their normal week.



Respondents were also asked about the **accessibility** of the police through various methods (including the non-emergency line and other developments such as through social media). Overall the police services are seen as very/fairly accessible.



Reducing victim based crime

The performance for the 2013/14 showed that there were decreases in most crime types, with 874 (reduction of 2.6%) fewer victims. Although the reduction is lower than that in the previous financial year I am still pleased with the overall performance of the force and the continued reduction in crime. This year's reduction builds on last year's (2012/13 there were 4,381 fewer victims of victim-based crime a reduction of 11.6%)

The chief constable and force have worked tirelessly to reduce crime during 2013/14, through delivering the crime and ASB reduction plan. I hope that the chief constable builds on this further during the next year.

- Victim-based crime decreased by 2.6%, with 874 fewer crimes
- Violence with injury decreased by 6.0%, with 254 fewer crimes
- Violence without injury increased by 4.6%, with 189 more crimes
- Rape Offences increased by 12.3%, with 37 more crimes
- Sexual Offences increased by 0.4%, 2 more crimes
- Burglary Dwelling increased by 6.0%, 93 more crimes
- Burglary other than dwelling decreased by 3.8%, 113 fewer crimes
- Robbery decreased by 12.8%, 19 fewer crimes
- Vehicle crime decreased by 8.6%, 223 fewer crimes
- Shoplifting increased by 9.5%, 342 more crimes
- Other acquisitive crime decreased by 6.3%, 371 fewer crimes
- Criminal Damage and Arson decreased by 7.5%, 558 fewer crimes
- Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) decreased by 4.7%, 1,276 fewer incidents

Reduce crime and Anti-social behaviour

The chief constable has continued to implement the force's crime and anti-social behaviour reduction programme. The reduction of 2.6% builds on a 11.6% reduction in 2012/13. 2013/14 saw an increase in the rate of domestic burglary in north Wales. In response to this trend the chief constable has provided a detective superintendent dedicated to coordinate the work of the group established in force to reduce burglary. I am satisfied that he is giving this trend appropriate resources.

The force is also enhancing the development of evidence-based policing to ensure that activities are focused and initiatives that reduce crime effectively are recognised and rolled out further. Activities during 2013/14 included the review of operation Tricep. Operation Tricep was set up back in November 2012; using analysis, the police force identified areas in Rhyl west that were busier and also at what times of the day. As a result targeted policing responses were developed including by deploying police officers and community support officers on high visibility patrols at the locations. The aim was to deter crime such as anti-social behaviour while also providing reassurance for the public. Crime hotspots in Rhyl West have decreased from seven to four with the number of calls to police reduced by more than 18% in six months. The learning from this pilot has been incorporated into the force crime reduction and anti-social behaviour plan for 2014/15.

Work with partners in jointly addressing crime and anti-social behaviour matters has progressed during 2013/14. The north Wales Safer Communities Board have developed a draft North Wales Community Safety Plan, which will give further strategic direction to support partnership working in this area.

Protect people and reduce harm

The Amethyst Team, a dedicated rape and serious sexual offences investigation team, is now fully embedded within the force structure. This development has in no doubt aided in enhancing the service that victims of these crimes receive.

The work to establish a multi-agency safeguarding hub (MASH) has created strong foundations for the future. The original intention was to establish the MASH hub in Wrexham, but we are delighted that this has been extended to include Flintshire. I have visited the new hub and was impressed by the work being developed there and see it has strong potential for being the future for best practice in working together to reduce harm.

The force has established a sound method of assessing compliance against the Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR).

I have continued to provide financial support for a programme to provide support for offenders who have substance misuse problems which contribute to their offending behaviour. The work covers the 'test on arrest programme' and arrest referral procedure for those with substance misuse problems.

Deliver a quality service that meets the needs of our communities

Listening to the views of the people of north Wales enables me to represent those views in policing matters. I have continued to engage with communities across north Wales, and used feedback to develop appropriate services such as the rural crime team.

As part of the survey to measure perceptions and feelings of safety, I also included a question about the awareness of my role. I have no local baseline to compare the results with, however in consideration of the limited time Police Commissioners have been in place this is a relatively positive start and provides a clear focus for my continued engagement and communication work with the public.

	Total
	(n=3026)
	%
Aware	44.5
Unaware	55.5

Rural Crime

The rural crime team was launched in 2012/13, following extensive discussions with stakeholders. The team includes police officers, police community support officers and special constables. The team has worked to build stronger relations with the rural communities to assist in the reduction of crime.

The new team has taken a fresh approach to the issue of rural crime and has worked on initiatives to educate and prevent these unique types of crime by liaising closely with our farming unions and being a visible presence at farmers’ markets and rural shows. They have also gathered detailed daily statistics on the types of rural crimes and locations enabling them to analyse patterns and times of crimes and work smarter, with proactive operations and prevention activities.

Provide a well led, organised, skilled workforce

The chief constable has introduced the 51 new police officer posts and appointments have been made to them:

- Eastern area - 23 officers (9 North Flintshire, 2 South Flintshire, 2 Wrexham rural, 9 Wrexham Town, 1 Youth Offending Team).
- Central area - 6 officers (2 officers West Conwy Coastal District, 2 Conwy and Denbigh rural District, 2 Denbighshire Coastal and Abergele District).
- Western area - 8 officers (2 Anglesey, 2 Gwynedd North, 4 Gwynedd South).
- Amethyst Team - 6 Detective Constables.
- Rural Crime Liaison Officers - 3 officers.
- Uniform and plain clothes domestic abuse - 3 officers.
- Intelligence-led proactive work to prevent and detect crime - 2 uniform officers.

The chief constable invited me to participate in the appointment of a new assistant chief constable; Richard Debicki will join the chief officer team in June. Richard will be a valuable asset for delivering policing in north Wales.

The integrity of the police service is not only something that is important to me but rests at the heart of the British policing model. To this end I meet quarterly with the professional standards department and the lead chief officer, the deputy chief constable, to review action taken by the force.

Each year the chief constable commissions a cultural survey to explore the workforce well being and attitudes. As a result of the survey action plans to address any concerns or trends that may need addressing are commissioned. I have been impressed by this process and would encourage other organisations to undertake a similar annual survey.

CRIME COMMISSIONER ONE YEAR OF ENGAGING

● **APRIL 2013**

I attended several events during this month including being the guest speaker at the Un Llais Event for community town councils, meeting with the Welsh Police and Crime Commissioners, meeting with Anglesey and Flintshire county councils.

● **JUNE 2013**

I attended an introductory event with the North Wales Muslim Council and Islamic Society. I also met with the Welsh minister for local government and deputy minister for social services, the north Wales group of labour MPs, and provided evidence as part of the Silk commission.

● **AUGUST 2013**

The summer months gave me the opportunity to attend a number of the annual shows including the Denbigh and Flint Show, Anglesey Agricultural Show and the National Eisteddfod. The rural crime team were in attendance at the agricultural shows.

2013

● **MAY 2013**

I visited the DangerPoint project; this project aims to provide an education facility for young people to aid in the understanding of safety. Since opening in 2005 the project has educated over 50,000 visitors. I was also invited to be a guest speaker at the Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) annual conference.

● **JULY 2013**

I held my first public Surgery in Colwyn Bay, giving members of the public the opportunity to meet with me and discuss any issues or questions that they may have. I was also invited to be guest speaker at the National High Sheriff Conference, and joined Aled Roberts AM to visit Women's Aid.

● **SEPTEMBER 2013**

I was delighted to attend a presentation by a Wrexham PCSO about the recently introduced 'Rural Mapping technology' that assists officers in rural areas. This work was a demonstration of innovation in working with communities and has also been highlighted in the House of Commons. I commenced consultation work on the revised police and crime plan, and attended the National Police Memorial Day remembrance event in Cardiff.

OCTOBER 2013

The Home Secretary addressed the national Police and Commissioners meeting this month, while locally I visited the Youth Justice service to see first-hand the work they are undertaking to reduce offending and reoffending.

DECEMBER 2013

At the beginning of December the coastal town of Rhyl suffered severe flooding causing a number of the town's residents to leave their homes and take shelter at the local high school. On the evening of the floods I attended the high school to show support to the victims.

FEBRUARY 2013

Rhyl College invited me to attend and have a tour around the different facilities available at the college and the opportunities given to their students. I attended a meeting for the third sector to consult on police and crime objectives as part of the on-going work to revise the police and crime plan.

2014

NOVEMBER 2013

I attended a meeting with the farmers union to receive initial feedback on the work of the rural crime team, and was pleased to learn that the team has already begun to make an impact. I was also invited to address the meeting of the police federation representatives.

JANUARY 2013

I attended a long service award evening to recognize the valued contribution that staff and officers have made to making north Wales safe, I have attended many of these evenings as it is important that I take the time to thank people for the work they have done.

MARCH 2013

I was invited to visit the Warehouse Project to witness their work in the local community and in preventing young people from entering the Criminal Justice System. I also addressed student in Ysgol John Bright School about my role. I also hosted a conference looking at the victim's journey in north Wales.

Section Two: Delivering the role of the Police and Crime Commissioner

My core functions are:

- to secure the maintenance of an efficient and effective police force for north Wales
- to hold the chief constable to account for the exercise of his functions
- to bring together community safety and criminal justice partners
- to co-operate with the other Police and Crime Commissioners and to formulate and implement strategies across police force areas

I have endeavoured to perform the first of these by the strategy laid down in my police and crime plan 2013/14 and, in particular, by its four police and crime objectives namely: to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour, protect people and reduce harm, deliver a quality service that meets the needs of our communities and promote a well led, organised and skilled police force. Although an assessment of whether I have yet fulfilled this function would be premature at this stage, there are indications that I am succeeding in doing so. There are a number of ways of measuring effectiveness, I accept, but the substantial reduction crime is probably the best indicator of all.

I participated in the National Audit Office Review of Police Accountability which highlighted the increased public contact made with me through correspondence in comparison to the Police Authority, and I have also participated in a review of my engagement arrangements with the Wales Audit Office, which identified good practice and gave positive feedback for the further development of my activities to engage.

The principal means by which I hold the chief constable to account is through the Strategic Executive Board which I chair and of which the chief constable and his senior officers are members. This meets regularly and I take reports on several aspects of the chief constable's functions including in particular crime statistics for the period immediately preceding the meeting, the performance summary which contains local performance information, results of surveys of the officers and staff, and public satisfaction surveys. My engagement with the chief constable and his senior officers is not limited to the Strategic Executive Board meetings, and I believe we have developed a positive working model.

This overseeing function is reinforced by my regular meetings with Her Majesty's Inspectors of Constabulary and with the Head of the Independent Police Complaints Commission and by their respective reports on the performance of North Wales Police.

I have further developed my partnership working in the past year. I continue to represent Wales on the National Criminal Justice Board in addition to being part of the local and Wales Criminal Justice Boards. My Deputy has become a member of the North Wales Area Planning Board and I continue to work with the North Wales Leadership and Safer Communities Board to identify opportunities to work together and share relevant information.

Co-operating with the other Police and Crime Commissioners and to formulate and implement strategies across police force areas is an important function and contributes towards delivering the Strategic Policing Requirement. This function I have endeavoured to fulfil by regular meetings with my fellow Welsh commissioners and their chief constables to discuss common interests and cross border matters in particular. I meet regularly with the commissioners of the north west of England to discuss cross-border matters and other common interests. The collaboration work between North Wales Police and the police forces of the north west of England is of particular importance to the policing of north Wales, the geographical proximity means that we have shared priorities for tackling serious and organised crime as well as providing operational cooperation for the police service.

Funding and finance

Police budget

I am responsible for setting the finance which will be provided to the chief constable for the delivery of policing in north Wales. A net budget of £141m has been allocated for 2013/14.

Whilst the Central Government Police Grant from the Home Office accounts for 56% of Police Funding, 44% is provided by local taxpayers. The draft final accounts for 2013/14 will be provided for audit in June 2014 and published on my website. The audited accounts will be available by the end of September.

This has been a challenging year financially, as the austerity programme, which has been in place since 2010/11, is set to continue until at least 2017/18. Despite reducing resources, the chief constable has continued to provide an efficient and effective policing service to north Wales, and during 2013/14 made significant progress to ensure that the required savings for 2014/15 can be delivered. Plans to deliver further savings in future years are being developed at the current time.

Delivery of the Estates Strategy

I have overseen significant progress in the delivery of the North Wales Police Estate Strategy 2013-2016. Key highlights during the year include the official opening of Llangefni police station, which will not only enable the police to deliver 21st century policing, it will also provide a new and fresh work place as well as a suitable, professional and appropriate location for those members of the community who may need to attend a police station.

I have also approved the purchase of land at Llay to prepare for the rebuild of the policing facilities in Wrexham. The Llay development will house custody facilities and specialist officers and staff. A town centre police station will also be developed in Wrexham.

In terms of the corporate estate I am currently reviewing the joint communication centre in St Asaph. I do not intend to pre-empt the outcome of this review at this stage, but its core aims are to ensure that we are achieving value for money for the future sustainability of the service which will enable the delivery of the best service.

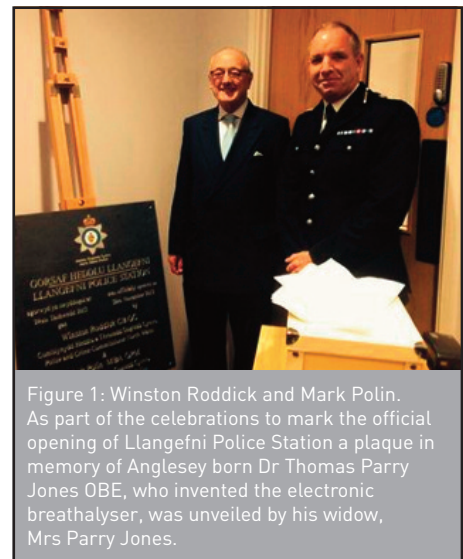


Figure 1: Winston Roddick and Mark Polin. As part of the celebrations to mark the official opening of Llangefni Police Station a plaque in memory of Anglesey born Dr Thomas Parry Jones OBE, who invented the electronic breathalyser, was unveiled by his widow, Mrs Parry Jones.

Commissioner's Fund 2013/14

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 enables me to award grants to partners, public organisations or voluntary groups that can support the objectives and aims identified in the police and crime plan.

The Home Office confirmed that the Commissioner's Fund (which is made up of grant funding streams previously ring fenced, including the Community Safety Fund, the Drug Intervention Programme (DIP) Fund, the DIP Drug Testing Grant, and the Youth Crime and Substance Misuse Prevention Funding) for north Wales in 2013/14 was £1,379,000. The funding distribution has been included in Annex A of this document. For 2014/15 I have allocated £1,166,000 to the Commissioner's Community Safety Fund.

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

The annual budget for 2013/14 has been set at the same level as that of the Police Authority during its final term £731,174.00. This equates to 0.5% of the overall budget for policing in north Wales.

Annex A – Distribution of the Commissioner’s Fund 2013/14

From April 2013 the Commissioner became responsible for the Community Safety Fund. Local Community Safety Partnerships have determined the distribution of funding within their locality for the funds that have been allocated to each partnership area. The fund has been allocated as follows:

Recipient	Purpose	Amount
Anglesey & Gwynedd Community Safety Partnership	Anti-Social Behaviour Coordinator (Gwynedd). <i>An in-year underspend against this element was identified by the Partnership and the Commissioner agreed that the partnership recommendations that funding should be allocated to the Bangor Street Pastor scheme (£5,990.49) and to fund Hermes project aimed at reducing acquisitive crime in north Gwynedd (£4,000) with the remaining £11,009.51 being provided to fund the ASB coordinator post.</i>	£21,000
Total: £62,970.31		
	Gwynedd Care and Repair (installation of target hardening equipment for High Risk Domestic Violence and deployment of Telecare in Domestic Violence cases (high risk MARAC)	£10,000
	Redeployable CCTV Street Hawk and payment of Domestic Violence Telecare rent (Gwynedd)	£4,797.31
	Installation and rent of Telecare for Domestic Violence cases (high risk MARAC) (Anglesey):	£1,055.44
	ASB Reduction Officer (Anglesey):	£11,117.56
	Independent Domestic Abuse Advisor (IDVA) (Anglesey):	£15,000
Conwy & Denbighshire Community Safety Partnership	Joint Conwy and Denbighshire Anti-Social Behaviour Officer <i>Local Priorities’ Projects:</i> Offensive Graffiti Removal	£24,000 £6,000
Total: £75,655.82	Alleygate Maintenance	£9,000
	CCTV	£10,000
	No cold calling signage	£4,000
	Safer Homes Project	£10,000
	Neighbourhood Watch	£4,655.82
	Race Equality Outreach Worker	£8,000
Flintshire Community Safety Partnership	Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) Flintshire Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Coordinator	£8,875.00 £16,170.25
Total: £44,126.50	Neighbourhood Watch Chief Officer Post	£19,081.25

Recipient	Purpose	Amount
Wrexham Community Safety Partnership	Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Coordination and Independent Domestic Violence Advocates:	£15,000
	Communications and Reassurance Campaigns:	£8,000
Total: £49,127.56	Watch Schemes Development and Communications	£12,585.56
	CCTV Surveillance Project	£9,000
	Target Hardening	£4,542
Gwynedd & Anglesey Youth Justice Service	Contribution towards the salary of the Prevention Social Worker Post (joint funded from the YJB grant):	£10,000
Total: £16,464	Contribution towards the salary of the Substance Misuse Nurse (joint funded from the YJB grant):	£6,464
Conwy & Denbighshire Youth Justice Service	Contribution towards the salary of the Substance Misuse Officer (joint funded by the YJS)	£20,384
Total: £20,384		
Flintshire Youth Justice Service	Contribution towards cost of a Youth Justice Prevention Worker (joint funded by the YJS)	£15,029
Total: £15,029		
Wrexham Youth Justice Service	Contribution towards year nine prevention programme	£19,695
Total: £19,695		
North Wales Drugs Intervention Programme (DIP)	Drug Intervention & Arrest Referral Services	£650,000
	Post Custody Prescribing	£148,160
Total: £892,662.59	Regional Management Team	£106,000
	Estates	£52,500
	IT System License	£2,400
	<i>Total programme cost: £959,060.00 (£66,397.41 from other funding sources)</i>	
North Wales Police	Contribution towards 'Drug Testing programme' cover part of the staffing costs for those who administer drug testing in custody.	£182,825
Total: £182,825		





REPORT TO:	North Wales Police and Crime Panel
DATE:	2 June 2014
LEAD OFFICER:	Ken Finch, Strategic Director (Democracy, Regulation and Support) – Conwy County Borough Council
SUBJECT:	a) Police and Crime Panels: The First Year. Document published by the Centre for Publication Scrutiny (CfPS) and b) Developing a Scrutiny Forward Work Programme.

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To assist the North Wales Police and Crime Panel (PCP), to deliver “Good Practice” arrangements for the effective delivery of scrutiny of the North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), it’s necessary to have a strategic oversight of the North Wales Police Force area, whilst also providing open and transparent reviews, publication of agendas, minutes and a timely, deliverable yet flexible Forward Work Programme, available to partners and members of the public.
- 1.2 In order to review the decisions taken by the PCC with regards to the discharge of his functions, it is recommended that the PCP develops a proactive scrutiny Forward Work Programme.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 Members are requested to consider how the PCP can improve its scrutiny arrangements of the PCC to ensure that the priorities of the Police and Crime Plan 2014 are delivered for the benefit of all across North Wales.
- 2.2 When considering whether or not to undertake any scrutiny, the PCP will need to take account of the limited resources available, and perhaps the PCP should consider limiting itself to one or two scrutiny topics per year.

- 2.3 Scrutiny, both reactive and proactive is considered integral to the PCP's role in scrutinising the work of the PCC, and also offers support and challenge.
24. Proactive scrutiny has the potential to increase the profile of the PCP as it enters its second year; however it will be critical that the PCP scrutiny work programme links closely with the PCC's own plans and the PCP does not stray away from its core statutory duties.
- 2.5 To assist Members in appreciating how other PCPs have undertaken to deliver their roles and responsibilities by considering a report commissioned and published by the Centre for Public Scrutiny – Police and Crime Panels: The First Year.
- 2.6 Being mindful of the above report, the following possible areas for scrutiny are suggested, which could link to the PCC's activities:
- How is the PCC making commissioning decisions and what are his future intentions?
 - How is the PCC delivering the objectives in his police and crime plan?
 - How is the PCC building effective partnerships?
 - How is the PCC improving communication/consultation with the public?
 - How is the PCC improving confidence in the Police across North Wales?

3. RECOMMENDATION(S)/OPTIONS

- 3.1 That Members consider and note the contents of the published report by the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS), The Police and Crime Panels: The First Year, as "good Practice" principles.
- 3.2 That the North Wales Police and Crime Panel considers the suggested scrutiny topics in Paragraph 2.6, in order to develop a proactive scrutiny Forward Work Programme.

4. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 4.1 According to the Centre of Public Scrutiny (CfPS), PCPs are only now undertaking proactive scrutiny work because of the high pressure and pace of statutory work that was conducted in the first year of operation.

- 4.2 To assist the Panel in appreciating how other Police and Crime Panels have undertaken to deliver their roles and responsibilities at the end of their first year, The Centre for Public Scrutiny, commissioned and published a comprehensive research document – **Police and Crime Panels: The First Year**. The document can be opened by following the link below:

http://www.cfps.org.uk/domains/cfps.org.uk/local/media/downloads/Police_Report_CfPS_web.pdf

- 4.3 The following key example paragraphs have been extracted from the report:

Main Findings:

“The success or failure of Police and Crime Panels owes itself, in every area to the quality of the relationship between the Police and Crime Panel, the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner”

Panels should consider how they can carry out their role with more proactive work, where proportionate and where such work relates directly to their statutory role.

Proactive work – investigations of key strategic priorities with a view to supporting the PCC’s work – will be one key way for the Panel to demonstrate its effectiveness. This work will need to be planned carefully to reflect the PCC’s own work, to minimise duplication and to ensure that the focus is on those areas where the Panel’s intervention can add the most value.

The report goes on to highlight under “**What Good looks like**” a number of key points, as follows;

On the basis of our research, good Panels:

- Have sought to engage constructively with their PCC from the outset, and usually have some kind of agreement in place with the PCC about information-sharing and joint working which goes beyond the terms of the Policing Protocol.
- Use information from a range of sources intelligently, bringing that knowledge and understanding to bear on their strategic, statutory duties.
- Have a clear idea of their role and responsibilities, which translates into a focused approach to work programming.

- Are well resourced – but more than that, use what resources they have proportionately, using the individual skills and expertise of Panel members to drive its work forward.
- Are visible – usually by having a dedicated web presence, and having plans in place to understand the public’s views, and to bring those views to bear on the scrutiny process.
- Work well with others, usually CSPs and CSP scrutiny committees but also with a range of other partners where appropriate.
- Where relevant, appropriate, and where resources permit, carry out proactive work to actively support the PCC, and to challenge their assumptions and priorities as they develop policy.

“The job of ensuring Panels’ effectiveness sits with Panels and PCCs. While we think that there are a couple of practical policy contributions that the Home Office can make, the fact that the new arrangements work in a number of areas demonstrates that they can and should be made to work everywhere without significant Government intervention. We consider that the tools and resources already exist to make Panels effective”.

There seem to be three principal mechanisms of carrying out “proactive” scrutiny work:

- Thematic Panel meetings. Each meeting of the Panel (other than the meeting to consider the budget, precept, plan and so on) will be themed to a single priority in the PCC’s Police and Crime Plan, allowing for in-depth discussion. This is a low-cost means of ensuring that the Panel can carry out more proactive work, but the thematic approach means that the Panel’s scrutiny may be quite broad-brush in nature.
- Task and finish working. This will be familiar to those officers and councillors who work with local government scrutiny committees. Small time-limited working groups are established to investigate particular policy issues, and to make recommendations. This can be a focused and effective means of working, but is resource-intensive. Around ten Panels are planning to operate in this way, or have already set up T&F groups.
- Setting up a small number of standing subgroups to look at specific issues. A few Panels have set up standing groups to look at the Police and Crime Plan and the budget as they are developed. These approaches to proactive scrutiny are not mutually exclusive.

Using proactive scrutiny work to make Panels more effective

- Proactive scrutiny has the potential of bolstering the Panel's conduct of its core statutory duties, and should be carried out with this primary objective in mind. It will be important that the Panel does not, in carrying out this work, create an "industry" that sees it straying away from its core statutory duties
- Effective work programming and close liaison with the PCC will make proactive work easier to manage and resource, and will enhance its ability to support PCC decision making
- A focus on the content of the Police and Crime Plan will ensure that proactive work feeds directly into the Panels statutory duties, but must be undertaken in such a way that it focuses on those areas where the Panel can add most value
- Work programming should involve a robust approach to prioritising work, defined by the Police and Crime Plan and by background data to which the Panel might have access. Having a way to transparently determine the Panels priorities will help to manage limited resources

- 4.4 It is of paramount importance that the PCP determines a strategic Forward Work Programme, perhaps based on the four priorities set out in the PCC Plan for 2014.
- 4.5 Research will be undertaken by support Officers within Conwy County Borough Council; however the Panel will need to be mindful of issues that are already being scrutinised by Scrutiny Committees and Community Safety Partnerships in order to avoid duplication. In these instances, joint working might be a better use of resources.
- 4.6 The PCC should be consulted on the work programme, to determine if there are particular areas, where he would like assistance from the PCP in developing his policies. In addition, effective work programming and close liaisons with the PCC will make proactive work easier to manage and resource, and will enhance the Panel's ability to support the PCC in his decision making.
- 4.7 As we commence the second year of the PCP, there is a need for the Panel to be strategic about the type and nature of its Forward Work Programme and to this end, it is suggested that topics highlighted in paragraph 2.6 be considered as topics to be appropriately timetabled onto future agendas in order for effective scrutiny to be commenced at the earliest opportunity.

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Consultation has been carried out with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the PCP, who are supportive of a proactive scrutiny forward work programme, to consider how other Police and Crime Panels have operated in their first year and what “Good Practice” processes could be considered further
- 5.2 The PCC and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner have been consulted.

6. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Conwy County Borough Council will provide the support necessary to develop a proactive work programme for the PCP and these costs will be covered by the Home Office grant.

7. RISK

- 7.1 Failure to develop effective “Good Practice” scrutiny could lead to uncertainty as to the overall effectiveness of the PCP and its ability to robustly scrutinise the Police and Crime Commissioner’s commissioning decisions and future intentions in an open and transparent manner.
- 7.2 By not having a proactive work programme, the PCP could be criticised for not investigating issues of priority to both the local area and the PCC. Effective scrutiny will provide openness and transparency not only to the PCP, but to partners and members of the public.

8. PUBLICATION

- 8.1 The Minutes, agenda & Forward Work Programme of the Panel are published on the North Wales Police and Crime Panel’s website