

**National Crime and Policing Measures**

**Cumbria Position, Year Ending March 2023**

The Government has set out some key national priorities on crime. These are to:

* Reduce murder and other homicides
* Reduce serious violence
* Disrupt drugs supply and county lines
* Reduce neighbourhood crime
* Tackle cyber crime
* Improve satisfaction among victims – with a particular focus on victims of domestic abuse

The Commissioner supports the importance of these national measures and has incorporated them into his Police and Crime Plan. Below is information on the levels of these crimes and victim satisfaction.

The Commissioner holds Public Accountability Conferences where he receives reports from the Chief Constable on these national measures and how Cumbria Constabulary is working to help reduce these types of crime, or to continue to keep levels low.

Cumbria has continued to see a general increase in recorded crime since the Covid-19 pandemic. In 2020, when the pandemic began, the Constabulary recorded a significant reduction in crime: 19.1% across all offences with some specific crimes reducing by as much as 34.1% over the year. As restrictions began to lift and the free movement of the public slowly returned, the commission of criminal offences increased. In addition to the changes in recorded crime, so too did the complexity of those offences change – including increases in offences involving alcohol use, and those affected by mental health.

Notwithstanding the above challenges and complexities, the Constabulary is recording 0.1% more crime now, than pre-covid. Criminal damage offences have reduced by 14%; burglary by 28%; theft by 5%; and vehicle offences by 10%. Whilst we have seen an increase in certain crime types including drug related offences by 22.8%; public order offences by 4%; and possession of offensive weapons by 60%, there are various drivers and contributors to these – indeed some increases in recorded crime are attributable to conscious decisions and proactive policing which is discovering more offences via the tactics adopted.

The Constabulary has:

* Improved the time it takes to answer emergency calls to now sustaining 90% and above (up to 96.4%) within 10 seconds, making it one of the highest performing forces in the country.
* Improved the time it takes to answer non-emergency calls to a now sustained 90% and above (up to 97.5%) of all calls within 5 minutes.
* Reduced the percentage of calls abandoned to less than 10% per month – as low as 3.7% at times. All call timeliness performance is contributing to ensuring an officer speaks with any member of the public reporting an incident or crime.
* Improved attendance times for urgent incidents in built-up locations by 14% to over 90%; improving attendance times by over 18% for urgent incidents in rural locations; and by over 44% for priority incidents. The significant improvements in attendance times has undoubtedly enabled officers to capture progressing incidents and record accurate crime via witnessing the event first hand.
* Improved crime recording practices and introduced additional control measures and recovery processes to ensure the highest levels of crime data integrity.
* Introduced a concept called “Principles of Investigation” which mandates a minimum standard to be applied at each stage of an investigation for all officers, including the expectation of reviews by supervisors and managers which consider investigative quality and crime recording – this ensures that crimes identified as the investigation progresses are appropriately recorded.
* Increased proactivity in targeting and disrupting offending, including increasing the volume of stop and search activity by 215% in the previous 12 months, whilst sustaining the ration of criminal offences identified and subsequently recorded.
* Reduced instances of anti-social behaviour (ASB) by nearly 42% over three years.
* Achieved positive outcomes for victims of crime on 14.1% of occasions – this is higher than our most similar group, the North-West Region, and nationally. This has further increased in the most recent 3 months following a county-wide organisational restructure and implementation of a new governance and performance framework, where the shorter-term positive outcome rate has increased to 16.7% - one of the top performing forces in the country.

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(All data is for the period April 2022 to March 2023)

Reduce Neighbourhood Crime

Cumbria has a low rate of neighbourhood crime compared to other areas of the country. Small increases in numbers of offences therefore show as large percentage increases.

As the cost of fuel has increased, there has been a small increase in thefts of fuel and cooking oil. The Constabulary is targeting these types of offences and monitoring them closely. There has been a small rise in thefts of certain types of vehicles, particularly linked to rural areas such as quad bikes. Other thefts have involved heavy machinery, as well as thefts from vehicles such as HGVs but these are below the average seen in previous years. The Constabulary is targeting these types of thefts and also running public awareness campaigns about taking appropriate security measures to prevent theft.

Operation FIRM is the Constabulary response to rural burglaries, this will continue into the summer months. This operation has seen a committed team of detectives, response and specialist officers dedicating time, investigative techniques and patrol activity to priority locations to address and deter instances of criminality whilst bringing offenders to justice.

Operation LANTERN is the Constabulary response to rural crime. The recent restructure of the force’s Neighbourhood Policing framework and investment in additional officers dedicated to these roles provides capability, capacity, skills and experience to disrupt and prevent such offending and related anti-social behaviour. It is foreseeable that the increase in officers within this area of business will increase the volumes of recorded crime in the short to medium term, this would be expected as a consequence of anticipated increases in public confidence and accessibility to officers to report incidents which otherwise may not be forthcoming.

From a Neighbourhood Crime perspective:

* Burglary has increased by 126 offences compared with the previous 12 months (this is an 8.7% increase).
* Robbery has increased by 3 offences compared with the previous 12 months (this is a 2.0% increase).
* Theft of or unauthorised taking of a vehicle has increased by 84 offences compared with the previous 12 months (this is a 38.4% increase).
* Theft from a vehicle has increased by 69 offences compared with the previous 12 months (this is a 18.1% increase).
* Theft from a person has increased by 14 offences compared with the previous 12 months (this is a 14.1% increase).

Reduce Murder and Other Homicide

The level of homicides in Cumbria is fortunately low.

* There was 1 offence of homicide in the 12 months to March 2023. This represents a reduction from the 3 offences in the previous 12 months.

Reduce Serious Violence

* There were 2 offences involving discharge of a firearm in the county during the 12 months to March 2023.

Disrupt Drugs Supply

Government has chosen to measure this using drug-related homicides and police referrals to drug treatment. This data is currently not available for publication.

Tackle Cyber Crime

National data is currently not available for publication.

Improve Victim Satisfaction (with a Focus on Victims of Domestic Abuse)

Cumbria Constabulary continues to work to improve the experience of victims and survivors of reporting to the Police. The Commissioner received a report about this at his Public Accountability Conference in June 2022 where he sought assurance about the on-going work of the Constabulary around victim care. This includes training for officers, work with criminal justice partners to improve the experience of investigation and going to court and ensuring that the rights within the Victims’ Code of Practice are provided to victims and survivors.

* Satisfaction with the police among victims of domestic abuse: Cumbria Constabulary has commissioned a regular survey to find out about the experience of survivors of domestic abuse of their service. This survey showed that 94% of people interviewed felt safer as a result of contacting the police. There were 33 interviews conducted between 1st April 2022 and 31st March 2023.
* Victim satisfaction with the police: 76.1% of victims interviewed reported that they were satisfied with their whole experience with Cumbria Constabulary. There were 690 victims interviewed between April 2022 and March 2023.