

Dorset Police and Crime Panel 'Data' Questions – 2 December 2025

Priority 1: The monitoring report references the hotspot policing initiative. How does police intelligence link to the allocation of hotspots? Can the panel receive details of the geographical spread / list of hotspots? (Cllr Woode)

The Hotspot Action Fund is a national initiative directed by and funded by the Home Office. As part of that direction, the HO set a range of criteria. For example, it is mandatory that forces:

- Use knife crime, serious violence and ASB data to identify a single set of hotspots that do not overlap geographically, and which cover the areas experiencing highest volumes of knife crime/ serious violence/ ASB offences.
- Whilst frontline knowledge, community engagement and local intelligence should also be used to supplement data where appropriate, forces are advised to create a single list of hotspots that cover the highest densities of these crimes/harms.
- Have a minimum of 10 identified hotspots which are no smaller than 22,500 metres-squared (150m x 150m boxes) and no larger than 250,000 metres squared unless under exceptional circumstances (to be agreed with HO).
- Ensure that hotspots cumulatively cover at least 10% of force area total ONS defined Knife Crime (including Knife Enabled Robbery).

The HO guidance is attached (to OPCC's knowledge this is the latest version).

There are 16 hotspot areas defined according to the HO criteria, covering Bournemouth, Weymouth, Poole, Christchurch, Dorchester, Blandford, Swanage and Wimborne, as follows:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. The Square / Bournemouth Gardens | 9. Poole Old Town and Quay |
| 2. The Triangle / West Cliff | 10. Poole Bus Station |
| 3. Bournemouth Pier | 11. Weymouth Esplanade |
| 4. Old Christchurch Road East 1 | 12. Weymouth Town Centre |
| 5. Old Christchurch Road East 2 | 13. Dorchester High Street |
| 6. OCR Night-Time Economy | 14. Swanage Town Centre |
| 7. Boscombe | 15. Blandford Forum |
| 8. Charminster High Street | 16. Wimborne Minster |

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Priority 1: The Killed and Seriously Injured KPI remains red. Can we have a breakdown geographically between the Dorset Council and BCP areas, and more granular than that if possible? (Cllr Rampton)

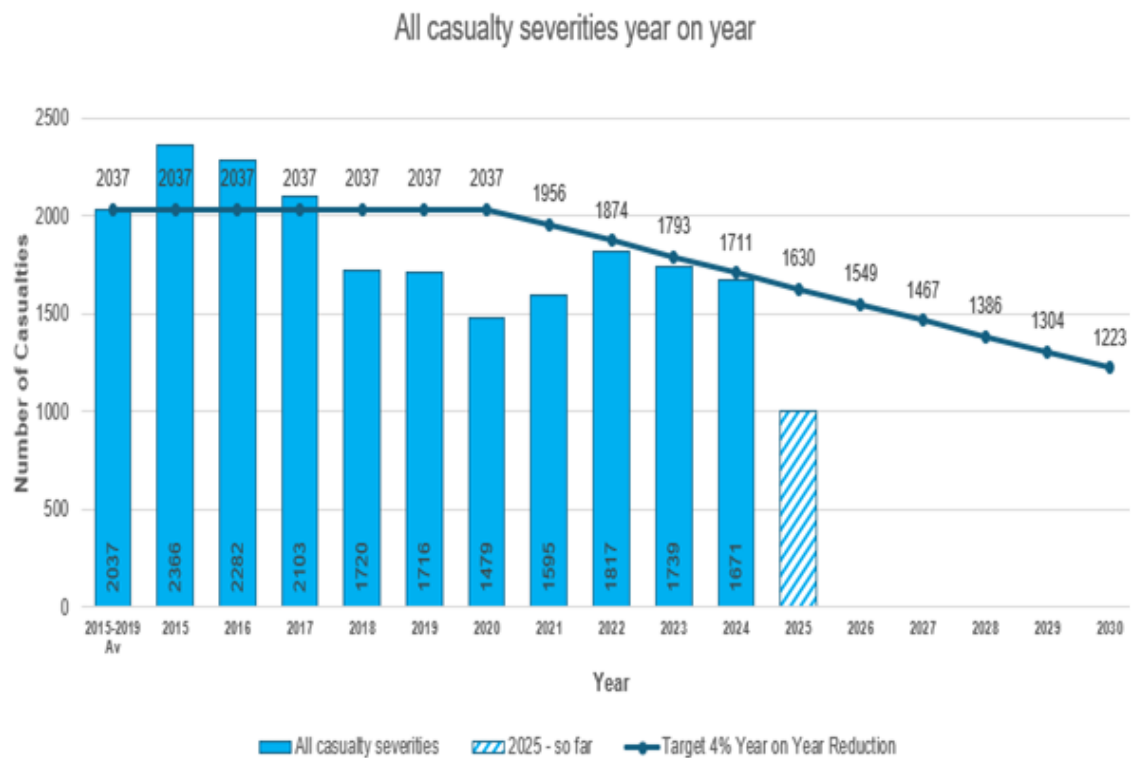
Yes. The Road Safety team have access to a wide range of data and will be able to provide a geographical breakdown, although as the PCC stated at the previous meeting the KSI data is not tagged or grouped by either urban/rural or local authority area so will require a manual analysis of the raw data to provide the requested split.

To ensure that this meets the needs of Panel members, and also to minimise the time the team is required to interrogate systems, it would be useful to clarify exactly what is being sought please. It is recommended that the Panel liaises with OPCC on this detail, so that the information can be requested from the relevant team as soon as possible.

Priority 1: Can the PCC help explain what is being done to improve the red KPI based on its continuing red status, and do we anticipate an improvement in Q3? (Ben Sargeaunt)

This is a reporting artefact. Members will recall the Op Snap paper tabled at the last meeting which shows the overall number of casualties in recent years, and may also recall that the PCC answered a similar question relating to the Q1 data too.

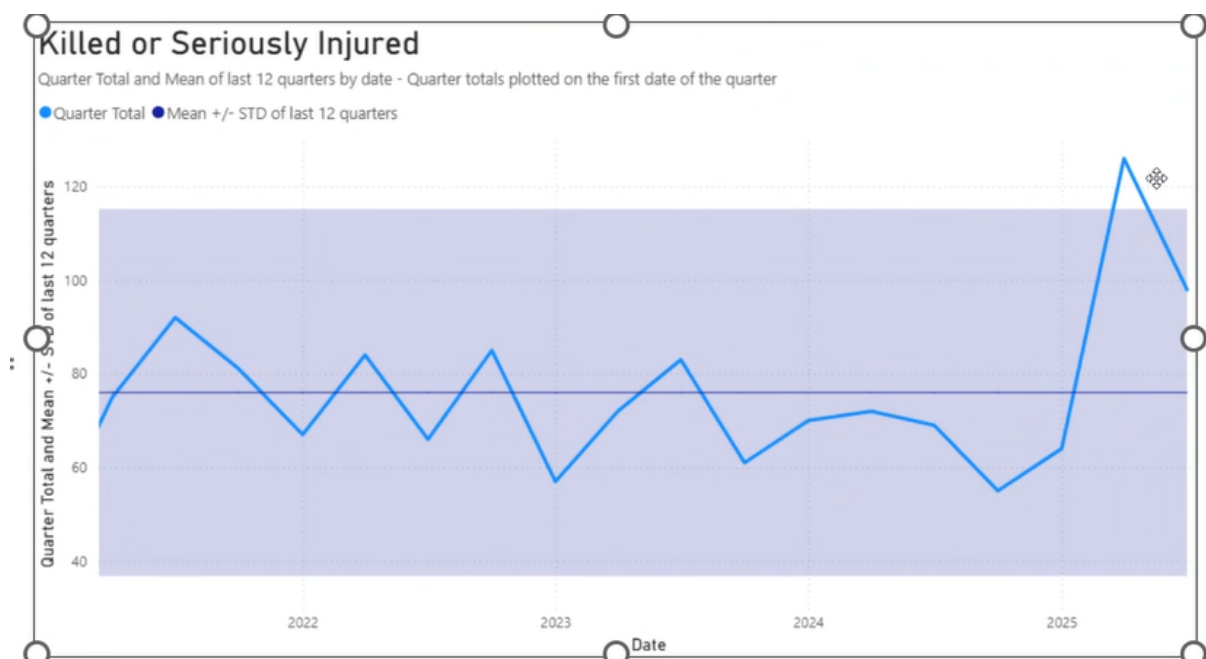
The overall annual data shows that Dorset Road Safe is keeping pace with the 4% year-on-year annual reduction. It is confirmed that remains the case, which is positive news.



When considering the KSI breakdown, it is important to note a few things.

First, that the difference between a minor injury and a serious injury can be relatively slight. A cut or a graze to a thumb, for example, would be classified as minor – should that thumb be broken, it would be categorised as serious instead.

Second that the numbers are comparatively low and, when combined with the effects of seasonality, there is significant quarter-on-quarter variation when considered through a narrower lens.



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This variability showed a more significant spike at the beginning of 2025 which now appears to be returning to expected levels. The way the quarterly data is reported will mean that variation in the numbers of casualties each quarter will cause the trendline to bounce up and down – not surprisingly, this is typically aligned with the warmer months.

Members may wish for the OPCC to suggest alternative options for the presentation of this data to better aid transparency and understanding.

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Priority 2:

The KPI on average 101 answer time remains red, at 32.3 minutes. Do we know how many people give up/disconnect when faced with that wait? (Ben Sargeant)
Can we have raw numbers of calls to provide some context for the panel members? (Cllr Woode)

To remind Panel members, this figure relates to the approximate 25% of total number of non-emergency calls that require secondary call handling, not the approximate 75% of total calls that do not and are answered in an average time of 3.15 minutes.

The abandonment rate of those secondary call handling calls for this quarter was 34.3%, which refers to 2581 out of 7532 calls. For reference, the overall abandonment rate of non-emergency calls as a whole is 21.6% for this period.

Dorset Police has a series of dashboards that highlight this information, as below, and this performance is considered regularly through various boards and meetings.

SCH Calls	Avg Answer Time (mins)	% Ans Within 15 mins	% Abandoned	Avg Handling Time (mins)	NE Overall % Abandoned
7,532	32.3	30.2% ^{1.47k}	34.3% ^{2.58k}	14.4	21.6% ^{3.61k}

Data on the point at which calls are abandoned are also available, and this is - out of the 34.3% overall - 10.3% up to 10 minutes, 18.4% up to 20 minutes, 24.1% up to 30 minutes, and then the 34.3% overall figure also includes all calls abandoned after 30 minutes.

The PCC will provide an overview of the improvement work being done at the meeting.

Priority 5: The 91% of people feeling safe does not seem to reflect the lived experience in some wards. Can the panel be provided with a geographic breakdown? (Cllr Sidaway)

Having checked this is not possible. This is a longitudinal survey, asking the same questions over time which allows a strategic view of long-term trends and opinions to be considered. It is not designed to accommodate a deeper understanding of geographical variations.

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Priority 5: To what extent are the satisfaction surveys reflective of Dorset's full demographics. For instance, do we talk to minors in addition to adults, to understand how safe they feel? (Cllr Williams)

Can the PCC provide detail on the sample size of the surveys? (Cllr Rampton)

The Community Safety Survey is representative of Dorset's population along the dimensions for which it samples – which include location, age, gender and ethnicity.

It is a telephone survey carried out over the financial year whereby 1,200 randomly selected residents of Dorset aged over the age of 16 are surveyed by an independent specialist provider, Social and Market Strategic Research (SMSR).

Discussions have been had about decreasing the age limit of the survey, but this brings consent issues, as parental or legal guardian permission is required for surveying individuals under 16 in the UK. The national Crime Survey for England and Wales, conducted by the ONS, also surveys people aged 16 and older for example.

The survey is conducted over 4 periods, Q1 – Q4, to provide discrete quarter and rolling annual data, with each quarter comprising of 300 randomly selected Dorset residents.

The survey uses a stratified sampling framework to ensure that the survey accounts for location (specifically the BCP and Dorset local authority areas), age (within ten-year bands), gender (male, female) and ethnicity (white, BAME). A stratified survey will divide the whole population into groups or bands and then sample randomly from within those subgroups until the required quota is achieved. In that way the distribution of the sampled population precisely mirrors that of the target population along the dimensions being accounted for.

In terms of the overall sample size, a robust number is 1066 for a population of 800,000 – which this survey exceeds. (This is at the 95% confidence level with a 3% margin of error, meaning we can be 92% to 98% confident that the results of this survey are a true reflection of the sample population).

Priority 5: Can the PCC provide a breakdown of hate crimes and hate incidents to provide the panel with an understanding of how this reflects different under represented groups (Cllr Canavan)

The Home Office published the latest [annual hate crime statistics](#) last month, which showed an increase of around 5% since last year in Dorset - up by 43 reported offences from 867 to 910. Within this however:

- Disability hate crimes are down 8% since last year, to 79 offences, and have been on a downwards trend since the high-point in 2020/21
- Sexual orientation hate crime is down 13% since last year, to 131 offences, and has been on a downwards trend since the high-point in 2021/22

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- Transgender hate crime is down 28% since last year, to 26 offences, albeit these crimes have been increasing in recent years, and so the current year might be an aberration
- Both racially motivated hate crime and religiously motivated hate crime are up since last year - by 13% - to a total of 674 offences (600 racially motivated and 74 religiously motivated). Moreover, the long-term trend for both continues to rise - marginally down from the high-point in 2021 around the time of Brexit, but with a very clear long-term increase.

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Disability	91	86	79
Race	481	530	600
Religion	62	66	74
Sexual orientation	165	150	131
Transgender identity	32	35	26
TOTAL	831	867	910

Hate incidents are not centrally recorded, but Dorset Police maintains its own data. Please note that incidents can have more than one prejudice type assigned to them and therefore can appear more than once in the breakdown below:

	2023/24	2024/25
Disability	23	13
Race	93	98
Religion	22	18
Sexual orientation	22	37
Transgender identity	11	4
TOTAL	156	151

OPCC, 28/11/2025