

March 2024

Questions to the Commissioner

Mrs Gemma Shepherd - Etchells

At the last meeting of the Panel the Commissioner told us of a Cheshire Retail and Business Crime Conference he was hosting. Protecting businesses and their employees against crime is key and the shopworkers union USDAW as well as leading figures in business have been asking for extra legal protection for shop workers in England and Wales from attacks of violence whilst at work. This would be similar to legislation introduced in Scotland in 2021 which created a specific offence of assaulting, threatening or abusing a retail worker whilst engaged in their role. Abuse received whilst enforcing the law in relation to the sale of age restricted products such as alcohol or tobacco would also be classed as an aggravating feature of any offence.

Does the Commissioner support this? Also how do Cheshire Police deal with the abuse of retail workers? How do they support victims of such crimes who are just carrying out their job and facing abuse whilst doing this?

Cllr Mo Hussain

Following the delivery this week of the latest Tory pre election leaflet it stated there is an increase of around 330 Police Officers. The question is are these new recruits full time Police Officers and not made up of Specials? How many are Community Support Officers? Could the Commissioner also indicate the geographic distribution of these Officers across Cheshire? We have all witnessed a decline in neighbourhood policing and in some cases with negative consequences. I'm aware that the current Commissioner is very concerned around rural crime, but that makes little impact on most of our communities especially those in the inner wards of our towns.

Cllr Martha Lloyd Jones

Commissioner, I have raised with you before the issue of changes in Ward boundaries and the problems that this creates with the allocation of, and communication with Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs). A fellow Halton Councillor has raised a current issue with me, where she has discovered that the Police are still using maps identifying a Ward which no longer exists. I am sure there are other similar issues across Halton and possibly the other three Cheshire local authorities. Could the Commissioner update the Panel on this issue, and could he ask the Police to clarify the current allocation of PCSOs across the county.

Cllr Keith Millar

A review of the Commissioner's Scrutiny meeting held 19th February 2024 show Cheshire Police recorded Rape Offences second highest in MSG position and rated red. Review of Home Office data Cheshire Police report rape offences appear to be lower than the national picture from initially reported rape offences is this an area of concern for the commissioner what actions have been taken to seek assurance. Can the Commissioner provide detail of outcomes specifically Evidential Difficulties Outcome 14,15 and 16?

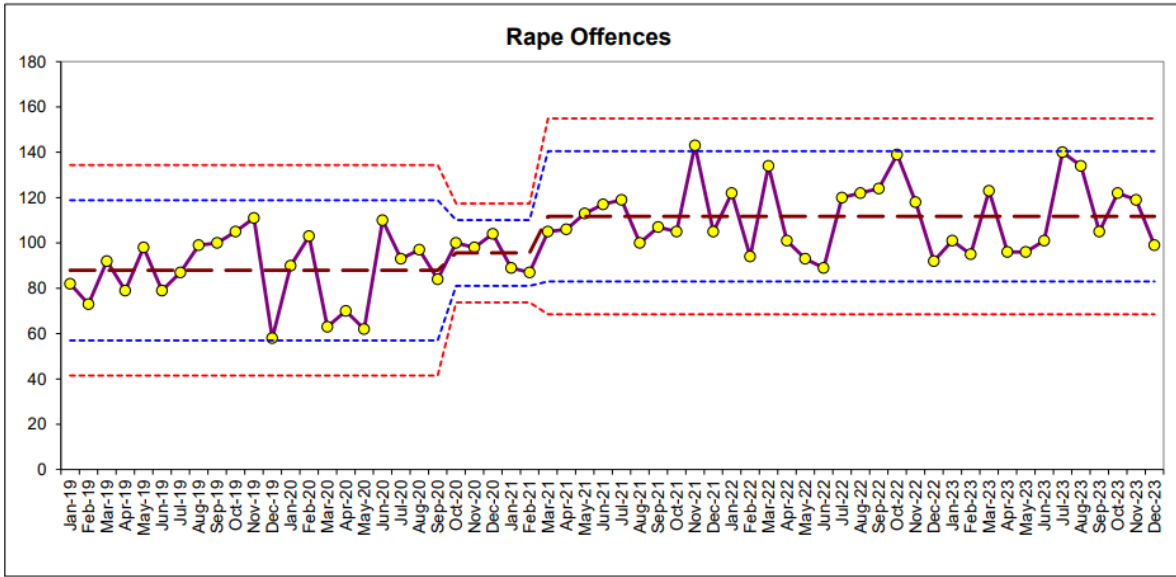
Data Review

Review of Home Office Data 22/23 identifies initially recorded Rape incidents and crimes Cheshire 2159, with police recorded rape offences 1365. Nationally 73.8% of initially recorded rape incidents and crimes are police recorded rape offences but only 63.2% in Cheshire.

Review of Home Office Data 22/23 identifies initially recorded Rape incidents and crimes not recorded as police recorded rape offences, Nationally 12.07% were classified "Victim/3rd party not confirmed/cannot be traced. Cheshire 23.3% were classified "Victim/3rd party not confirmed/cannot be traced.

Review of Home Office Data 2016/2023 Cheshire initially recorded Rape incidents and police recorded rape offences Pre Covid 74% of initially recorded Rape incidents were police recorded rape offences Post Covid 64% of initially recorded Rape incidents were police recorded rape offences.

Mindful of Supreme Court Judgement Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis v DSD & Another 2018 confirms that the police can be liable in proceedings for a breach of ECHR, Article 3 prohibition on inhuman and degrading treatment where they fail to perform an adequate criminal investigation into alleged serious ill-treatment.



	Rolling 12 month period	Last Year	This Year	% Change This Year Compared to Last Year	Year to Date period	Last Year	This Year	% Change This Year Compared to Last Year	MSG Position
Total number of Rape Offences	Jan - Dec	1,348	1,331	-1.3%	Apr - Dec	998	1,012	1.4%	7 out of 8 (2nd Highest)

<https://www.cheshire-pcc.gov.uk/SysSiteAssets/media/downloads/what-the-commissioner-does/scrutiny/scrutiny-board/docs-23-24/20240219-public-scrutiny-board-report-pack-website.pdf>

Table 19: Number of reported incidents of rape and police recorded rape crime data, police forces in England and Wales, 2022/23

Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office

England and Wales, recorded crime and incident data

Some shorthand is used in this table: [x] = unavailable

Police Force	Total number of initially recorded rape incidents and crimes	Reported incidents of rape (excludes offences recorded by the police) [Note 1]	Police recorded rape offences	Transferred rape offences [Note 2] [Note 6]	Cancelled rape offences [Note 3] [Note 6]
Avon and Somerset	2,241	258	1,948	0	35
Bedfordshire	906	106	662	76	62
British Transport Police	334	224	71	26	13
Cambridgeshire	1,230	194	889	83	64
Cheshire	2,159	542	1,365	125	127

Table 21: Number of reported incidents of rape by type of incident, police forces in England and Wales, 2022/23 [Note 1]

Source: Police recorded crime, Home Office

England and Wales, police incident data

Police Force	Total number of incidents	Victim/3rd party not confirmed/cannot be traced	Credible evidence to contrary exists	Transferred rape incidents [Note 4]
Avon and Somerset	258	161	1	96
Bedfordshire	106	64	23	19
British Transport Police	224	11	3	210
Cambridgeshire	194	146	33	15
Cheshire	542	504	5	33

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/652eab16b6fbf000db75843/prc-rape-incidents-2016-2023.ods>

Cheshire	Year	Total number of initially recorded rape incidents and crimes	Police recorded rape offences	Percentage Police Recorded Rape Offences	Victim/3rd party not confirmed/cannot be traced	Credible evidence to contrary exists	Transferred rape incidents
	2016/17	636	507	79.7	61	7	
	2017/18	1222	886	72.5	205	12	
	2018/19	1392	995	71.4	234	9	
	2019/20	1478	1101	74.5	201	2	
	2020/21	1756	1143	65	409	3	
	2021/22	2072	1361	65.6	502	1	
	2022/23	2159	1365	63.22	504	5	33
	Year	Total number of initially recorded rape incidents and crimes	Police recorded rape offences	Percentage Police Recorded Rape Offences	Victim/3rd party not confirmed/cannot be traced	Credible evidence to contrary exists	Transferred rape incidents
England / Wales	2022/23	90547	66844	73.8	10930	2186	4596
					12.07%	2.52%	5.07%
Cheshire	2022/23	2159	1365	63.22	504	5	33
					23.30%	0.23%	1.46%