

QUESTIONS SUBMITTED IN ADVANCE TO THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

- 1) Commissioner, according to the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs who hold the live data, Burton Wood, Widnes and Runcorn have 512 registered XL bully dogs. This is one of the highest densities in the UK. Can the Commissioner inform me of how many attacks have been reported in Cheshire in the last twelve months?

Given the question relates to operational policing, I have sought a response from Cheshire Constabulary that is as follows:

There have been zero XL Bully Attacks during the period mentioned within Cheshire.

The Constabulary has a robust operational plan regarding XL Bullies, Operation Fibred.

To date, the Constabulary has seized 75 XL Bullies and finalised 22 prosecution cases within the Courts, with a further 14 cases being progressed to court.

A total of 27 XL Bullies have been euthanised.

- 2) The Cheshire Police and Crime Panel extend their congratulations to The Duke and Duchess of Westminster on their recent marriage and wish them every happiness in the future. The Panel would like to know the full cost to the Cheshire Constabulary of policing the event which was also supported by police officers from neighbouring forces in the lead up and on the day.

Given the continued very challenging fiscal situation faced by Cheshire Constabulary, the Panel would also like to know if the Grosvenor family were approached and asked to make a contribution to the cost in order to reduce the burden to the Cheshire community?

As the question relates to a specific policing operation, I have sought a response from Cheshire Constabulary that is as follows:

The full cost to the Constabulary is not yet known. Planning the event took over nine months and part of that planning was a robust financial plan to ensure all expenditure has been captured. The Constabulary is currently waiting for the final payroll runs to take place so it can accurately assess the financial impact.

There has been no formal approach to the Duke of Westminster regarding contributions made, following legal advice concerning NPCC Guidance for Special Policing Services (SPS). The central principle is that the police cannot charge for services which fall within their ordinary public duty (i.e. those services the police are duty bound to provide).

The policing response was to protect the public in a crowded space, that was Chester City Centre, and to complete our obligations with regards to protected persons (i.e. HRH The Prince of Wales) and those who were believed to be attending in the initial phase of the planning process (i.e HRH The King, HRH The Queen and HRH The Princess of Wales).

3) In relation to the recent wedding of the Duke and Duchess of Westminster, the Panel note that Just Stop Oil" effected a very serious 'Breach of the Peace, which took place in Chester. Can the Commissioner tell the Panel if an investigation has been undertaken into this lapse in security which led to the offence where protesters managed to expel two fire extinguishers in St Werburgh Street, filled with an unknown orange powder into the atmosphere, whilst the Duke and Duchess and Prince William were exiting the Cathedral.

Has there been an acceptance that this situation was an unacceptable security lapse which could have resulted in a much worse and more dangerous outcome for the Police Officers who bravely responded to the incident, the wedding guests and to the wider public who were in the vicinity? Further what action has been taken against the perpetrators? Was the substance that was expelled sampled for potential contamination due to the introduction a toxic or biological substances?

As the question relates to a specific policing operation, I have sought a response from Cheshire Constabulary that is as follows:

The Constabulary had a comprehensive and externally scrutinised policing plan in place. The plan was centred around ensuring public safety, the safety of those attending the wedding as formal guests and the safety of deployed Police Officers and Staff. Part of the plan included the use of Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) specialists, who were quickly (within 2 minutes) able to identify the substance as non-toxic.

As with all events of this nature, there is always the possibility of a large-scale public event being seen as a platform for various emotive campaigns and there is a fine balance within policing to allow protest activity to take place. It should be noted the individuals (ladies in their senior years), involved in this activity were in the general crowd of thousands, present on the streets of Chester, so how this could possibly be described as a security lapse is beyond me.

I can confirm that no members of the wedding party, public or police were injured or suffered any after effects. The public were extremely supportive of the event, as well as the policing style and tone throughout. Following the use of one adapted fire extinguisher, two people were immediately arrested at the scene and are currently under investigation for public order offences.

As is normal post operational practice, a full operational debrief was conducted and any identified learning shared within the Constabulary's internal Organisational Learning Board.

4) The Commissioner may be aware of the dismissal of the Chief Constable of Northamptonshire, Nick Adderley on the grounds that he falsely claimed military service, and had since 2009 worn on his Police uniform medals that he was not entitled to wear. The media has also brought to light that Mr Adderley is under investigation for his time in Staffordshire Constabulary, where it is alleged, he was involved in fraud in relation to vehicle maintenance. It has also been reported that he served in Cheshire Constabulary, working his way through the ranks to serve as a senior officer. Given recent events and the investigation ongoing in Staffordshire, can the Commissioner reassure the Panel that the Chief Constable is looking to see if there could have been any similar acts committed by Mr Adderley, when he applied to work in Cheshire, or whilst he served as a senior Police Officer in the county.

As the Panel will be aware, the Police & Crime Commissioner for Cheshire was not the Appropriate Authority for this matter. As such, I have sought a response from Cheshire Constabulary that is as follows:

The Force has supported the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) during its investigation and provided a range of material relating to Mr Adderley's application to, and time with, Cheshire Constabulary. There are currently no further matters or allegations being considered by the Force in relation this.