

Cheshire Police and Crime Panel

Questions to the Commissioner, November 2025

1. SWAP Fund: I would be grateful if you could clarify the following points.
 - (i) Audit Process: What audit or oversight process exists for monitoring the allocation and use of SWAP funds?
 - (ii) Fair Distribution: What measures are in place to ensure the funding is distributed fairly across the whole area for which the PCC is responsible?
 - (iii) Political Neutrality: How is it ensured that funds do not disproportionately benefit organisations with political connections, such as those linked to local councillors?

Cllr David Brown

2. In the approach to the festive season what campaigns are you running or championing to safeguard Cheshire's residents and/or make it an area hostile to crime?

Gemma Shepherd - Etchells

3. Your fellow Police and Crime Commissioner for Bedfordshire, John Tizard, has called on the government to tighten up the sale of firearms. He is calling for a system to be put in place for clearance from the police to be required prior to the sale of any firearm, not just having the purchaser showing a firearms certificate which could indeed be fake. Will you be supporting this? What are you doing to ensure illegal firearms are not on the streets of Cheshire?

Gemma Shepherd - Etchells

4. With devolution processes being looked at within Cheshire this obviously has implications on the role of the Police and Crime Commissioner. A report by the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners looking at this and the transfer of police and crime powers was published in July 2025. It is proposed that there will be a Mayor with overall responsibility and a Deputy Mayor for policing and crime. With the option of having a Public Safety Commissioner do you feel this would further complicate matters in the eyes of the public as you have previously commented that people can be unsure of the role of the Police and Crime Commissioner at present and how this is differentiated from the police. What will you be advising at any discussion with the local authorities on this?

Gemma Shepherd - Etchells

5. You will recall that at the Police and Crime Panel on 12 September 2025, there was a question relating to the 20th Anniversary of the Hunting Act. Some parts of this were considered to be related more to operational policing procedure, than falling within the Commissioner's role. This included suggestions for improved, active communication between all stakeholders and the use of notices to allow all, including the public to be aware of hunting activity in their area and to prepare for it. The answers provided have given rise to follow up questions.

In order to move this discussion forward and to ensure that it remains within the parameters of the Commissioner's role, would you be prepared to meet stakeholders and to discuss the drafting of a Commissioner's Cheshire Hunting Strategy which would meet your Police and Crime Plan pillars of listening to the public, modernising and reducing crime?

Cllr Judy Snowball