

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Bedfordshire Newsletter



August 2023

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Bedfordshire PCC reacts to police pay award

Police officer pay will increase by seven per cent across all ranks from September 1 after the Government accepted in full the recommendation of the Police Remuneration Review Body (PRRB).

Bedfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner Festus Akinbusoye said: "I'm delighted the Prime Minister has accepted in full the recommendations of the Public Sector Pay Review Body, recognising the fantastic work our police officers do every day.

"While this is good news for our officers, I'm keen police staff who play a crucial role supporting colleagues both on the front line and behind the scenes, are similarly also recognised for their efforts.

"We are still awaiting the detail of the pay award, but it is reassuring that the Home Office has indicated additional funding will be provided to support the cost of that increase, which is particularly important for Bedfordshire at a time when our officer numbers are at a record high thanks to the recent Uplift programme to bring in 20,000 additional officers nationally.

Read more: [here](#)



Deputy PCC joins independent custody visit

Bedfordshire's Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner has visited the force's custody facilities in the latest check on detainees' welfare in the county.

Ian Dalgarno joined some of the county's independent custody visitors for a visit to Luton custody suite last week.

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) runs the independent custody visitor programme, where volunteers attend police stations to check on the treatment of detainees and the conditions in which they are held.

It follows a previous out of hours visit by PCC Festus Akinbusoye last month.

Read more [here](#)



Recruitment

Our office are currently recruiting, take a read of the below vacancies and please share these with your contacts and network.



Commissioning Compliance Officer (x2)

As a Commissioning Compliance Officer you will form part of a small team, responsible for the management and compliance of the Commissioning Cycle together with the broadening of partnership working within the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Bedfordshire.

Find out more [here](#).

The Police and Crime Panel are also recruiting for a Co-opted Independent Member

The Police and Crime Panel (PCP) scrutinises the work of the PCC. The purpose of this role is to assist the PCC through providing independent challenge as a critical friend.

For further information, [visit the Police and Crime Panel website](#).

Commissioner launches ‘You said, we did’ campaign

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner have launched a ‘You said, We did’ campaign to highlight the achievements of the Police and Crime Commissioner following the launch of his annual report last month.

The campaign highlights the Commissioners work to date under each of the seven priorities in the Police and Crime Plan.

You can read more and view all of the infographics on our website.



In 2023, funding secured by the office led to 10 new community police officers joining Bedfordshire Police, with the specific aims of providing greater visibility and reassurance especially in our market towns and villages

Investment in community-based and community led policing for urban and rural areas



I have had the privilege of accompanying police officers and staff from various teams during the course of their duties.

This has given me a unique perspective to understand the challenges faced by both the force and the community they serve, while providing viable solutions that improve the forces resilience and the public's confidence.

Investment in community-based and community led policing for urban and rural areas



Safer Streets Household Booklet

The Safer Streets team have been busy creating a booklet which will be delivered to in excess of 280,000 households in Bedfordshire throughout September 2023.

Working in partnership with Bedfordshire Police and the three local authorities, the booklet will include information on the Safer Streets project and initiatives, Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), support services, information on how to stay safe and much more.

A digital version of the booklet will be available on our OPCC website in due course.

For any enquiries please email:

saferstreets.bedfordshire@beds.police.uk



Safer Streets Residents Competition

“ENOUGH” Be part of the change, make a difference and help end Public Sexual Harassment



As part of the Bedfordshire Safer Streets initiative, we are running a competition for residents across Bedfordshire to create digital art, a short animation and/or a short film to help to raise awareness about Public Sexual Harassment. Entries must look to raise awareness about Public Sexual Harassment, so that we can help to raise a generation who are equipped to challenge harassment, to empathise with those who experience it; and who never become perpetrators of this everyday violence.

Should you require any further information, please email

saferstreets.bedfordshire@beds.police.uk

CLOSING DATE: 30th September 2023

Further information including competition entry guidelines can be found [here](#).



Spotlight on the **Stop and Search and Use of Force Scrutiny Panel**

What is the **Stop and Search and Use of Force Scrutiny Panel**?

Stop and Search and Use of Force are essential tools in preventing and reducing crime and when used appropriately, this can be effective in keeping the communities of Bedfordshire safe. Nonetheless, it is important that the public understand their rights when they are stopped and searched or when force is used by officers carrying out this pivotal role. The Police and Crime Commissioner holds Bedfordshire Police to account for their delivery of Stop and Search and the Use of Force.

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner holds the governance responsibility for the Stop and Search and Use of Force Scrutiny Panel meeting and attends the meeting as an observer.

The Stop and Search and Use of Force Scrutiny Panel is made up of local residents in Bedfordshire. They review Stop and Search and Use of Force data and outcomes.

What do the volunteers do?

The group of volunteers scrutinise how Bedfordshire Police use force and other coercive powers with the aim of improving the trust and confidence Bedfordshire communities have in the police through transparency and independence.

Scrutiny panel members review body-worn video footage of incidents where officers have used force or carried out a stop and search.

The police's conduct is then reviewed and graded using a traffic light system and fed back to the force to respond to accordingly.

Earlier this year, the force was praised by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabularies and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) for the work it does to ensure the ethical use of stop and search and use of force powers.



We are recruiting for Stop and Search and Use of Force Panel Members, for further information please [visit our website](#) or email us at: PCC@beds.police.uk



Round up of some of the Commissioner's activities

August



Spoke with nearly a hundred young people in Luton during summer camp activities, focusing on their use of social media.



Met with Chief Constable Trevor Rodenhurst. He was provided with updates on stabbing investigations, performance of force control room, Bedfordshire's Sexual Assault and Referral Centre (SARC) inspection by Care Quality Commission, Community Policing, police misconduct hearings and overall risk planning.



Visited Cranfield University to see the exceptional knowledge centres housed there. He met with leads from Cranfield Forensics Institute where postgraduate training is delivered in partnership with forensics experts from policing and investigations to students.



Invited to take part in a podcast with commissioned partner, Mary Seacole Housing Association, to discuss their work on community mediation, public confidence in policing and the issue of hate crime.



Visited the ground-breaking aviation research centres to learn more on why Artificial Intelligence combines with Human Behaviour Science for improving air travel. The Commissioner went on to meet Cranfield Aerospace Solutions to see their investment into hydrogen powered air travel.



Follow **@BedsOPCC** to find out more on what activities the PCC and his office are doing day-to-day!





You can keep up to date with the PCC and his offices day to day work via Twitter, Facebook and Instagram



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