

BEDFORDSHIRE STOP & SEARCH AND USE OF FORCE NEWSLETTER

SPRING EDITION

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide the community of Bedfordshire with transparency regarding Stop and Search and the Use of Force, as well as how these powers are used by Police officers to strengthen the communities trust in Bedfordshire Police.



STOP AND SEARCH / USE OF FORCE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER SPRING EDITION

IN THIS NEWSLETTER

- Insight into the stop and search and use of force scrutiny panel
- A piece from the police and crime commissioner for Bedfordshire
- The scrutiny panel chair and vice chair
- The scrutiny panel survey
- Stop and Search data
- Use of Force data
- Bedfordshire's independent scrutiny panel members
- Updates from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
- Stop and Search and Use of Force scrutiny panel recruitment



Who are we?

- We are independent members of the community
- Aged 16 and over
- Residents in Bedfordshire
- Our job is to hold Bedfordshire police to account by providing scrutiny to the use of police powers in the community.
- We assess individual cases to identify areas of concern and good practice using a RAG (red, amber, green) traffic light system.

RAG Traffic light system

GREEN = Stop & Search / Use of Force used was good

AMBER = Learning & Training needs to be identified

RED = Reasonable suspicion did not exist

Interested in becoming an independent member?

✉ PCC@beds.police.uk

INSIGHT INTO THE SCRUTINY PANEL

The Bedfordshire Scrutiny Panel comprises of two elements, those being Stop & Search and Use of Force. Stop and Search is an essential tool in preventing and reducing crime 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 by officers carrying out this pivotal role.

On the other hand, the Use of Force by police officers in the community is mainly used as a last resort to restore safety in the community when other practices are ineffective. Police officers receive guidance regarding when the use of force should be used and how much force is appropriate. It is important to ensure the public retain trust and confidence in the use of force therefore the Bedfordshire Independent Scrutiny Panel is there to scrutinise the bodyworn footage presented to them, and feedback to the force using the RAG rating, thus increasing the confidence in it's use.

The Police and Crime Commissioner holds Bedfordshire Police to account for their delivery of Stop and Search and Use of Force.

The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) also has responsibility to hold the Chief Constable to account for an efficient & effective police force. In terms of monitoring the Force's use of Stop and Search / Use of Force, the PCC receives updates to his Delivery and Beating Crime Board on a quarterly basis.

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) holds the governance responsibility for the Stop and Search / Use of Force Scrutiny Panel meetings and attends the meeting to take minutes and actions and answer any relevant question relating to the OPCC.

The purpose of the Stop and Search / Use of Force Scrutiny Panel is:

- To provide independent scrutiny of the use of Stop and Search / Use of Force across Bedfordshire.
- To provide feedback on Stop and Search / Use of Force practices.
- To provide a voice for community concerns and to influence police actions.
- To achieve greater transparency and community involvement in the use of Stop and Search / Use of Force powers across Bedfordshire.
- To improve public confidence and trust in the way in which Stop and Search / Use of Force is conducted.
- To review and advise on policy, training and tactical considerations.

A quote from the PCC

"Police powers are rightly so, that in some cases, they are coercive and will deny a member of the public their liberty for a time. These powers are necessary for officers to help cut crime and prevent harm. However, where such immense powers exist, there must be a commensurate level of accountability, scrutiny and transparency. This is why I am pleased to see the continued work of Bedfordshire's Police Scrutiny Panel that looks at things like the use of Stop and Search powers and Use of Force. Ours is one of the longest standing scrutiny panels and has been deemed among best practice in England and Wales. The outcomes bare out these accomplishments as Bedfordshire now has the lowest disproportionality ratio for Stop and Search. HMICFRS have also recognised our police force as being class leader in this area. I remain a strong advocate of the effective use of these important police powers, and the equally important work being done by members of the public who make up our fantastic Police Scrutiny Panel". - Festus Akinbusoye (Police and Crime Commissioner).



Bedfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner - Festus Akinbusoye

SCRUTINY PANEL CHAIR

PHIL DICKSON-EARLE



Mr Dickson-Earle was recently appointed as the scrutiny panel chair in May 2023 following a recruitment process by Bedfordshire's office of the police and crime commissioner.

Mr Dickson-Earle comes from a teaching and volunteering background and joined the Bedfordshire independent scrutiny panel in 2014/15.

"In 1966 I immigrated to Britain from Jamaica at aged 6 to join my parents. Growing up in Tottenham and Lambeth, I experienced what for me was the usual encounters with the police. Those experiences for myself, family and friends shaped my view of policing. I am the father of two grown up sons, I work in education, and I have chosen to do this not only because of my own experiences but, for my boys, for the many thousands of students and parents I come across daily and for everyone who lives in Bedfordshire.

"In putting myself forward for the scrutiny panel chair I knew there was a lot to live up to and a lot of responsibility. I'm particularly keen to ensure that the demographics of the panel members continue to reflect the community of Bedfordshire" said Mr Dickson-Earle.

SCRUTINY PANEL DEPUTY CHAIR

RENEE HENRY



Ms Henry joined the panel in January 2023 after being appointed as the Deputy Chair for Bedfordshire's Stop and Search and Use of Force Scrutiny Panel.

"I am an experienced senior leader with expertise in acting as a chair and deputy chair with a wide range of individuals. I believe my experience helps me approach things objectively and with a high level of emotional intelligence. My background in this field ensures I understand the importance of fair and transparent ways of working for all.

"Mrs Henry said "As a mixed-race female in a male dominated industry I find myself resilient and broad character with a passion for equality, inclusion and diversity and ensuring all cultural and ethnic backgrounds are fairly represented and have a seat at the table.

I am passionate about being on Bedfordshire's scrutiny panel as I feel it is important to give back to my local community. In addition, police powers have been under much media scrutiny, and I would like to play a role in ensuring the processes and procedures are undertaken correctly and fairly and support the team to do so".

SCRUTINY PANEL SURVEY

In January 2023 a Scrutiny Panel survey was conducted by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) to highlight learning over the past 12 months.

Q1: "Have you seen any changes being made since you joined the panel? If no, which changes do you want to see?"

"The use of 'GOWISELY' and the expectation/requirement that officer bodyworn cameras are activated before engagements with the general public have been quite effectively rolled out. Would like more accountability by officers failing to follow these initiatives." -Anonymous

"From the one meeting I have attended I would like to see a better range of diverse incidents. All incidents I saw related to only BAME subjects which is not an accurate reflection on the county or figures presented". - Anonymous

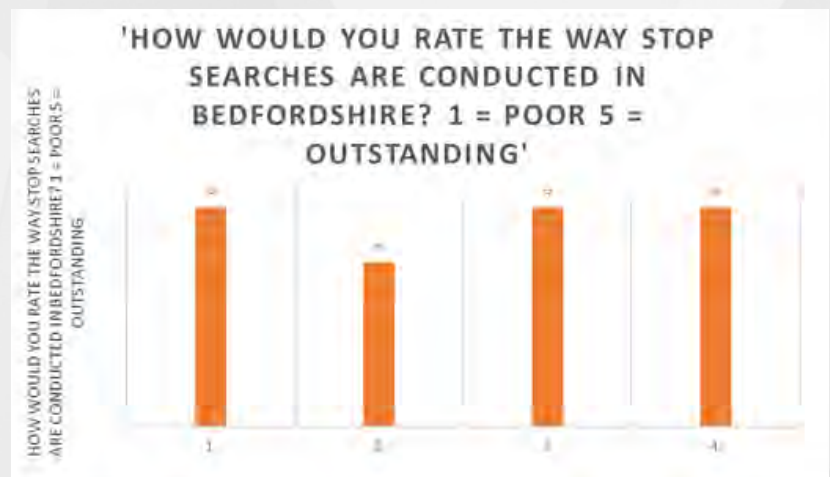
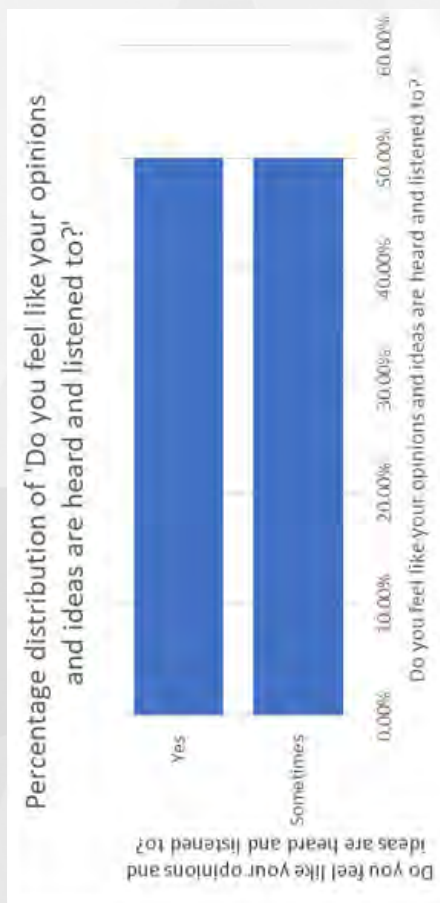
"Less undocumented stop and searches.. and less late turning on of body worn cameras".-Anonymous

Q2: How would you rate the way Stop Searches are conducted in Bedfordshire?

Average rating was 3.75 / 5

Q3: How would you rate the way Use of Force is conducted in Bedfordshire?

Average rating was 3.50 / 5



STOP AND SEARCH DATA SUMMARY

The Police and Crime Commissioner **Festus Akinbusoye** has pledged to make information readily available for the public to review to try and reduce the number of Freedom of Information (FOI) requests received by the OPCC and Force. This will go beyond which is required in the Specified Information Order.

The PCC has asked the Force Exec to provide information so that the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner can publish this information on the website – this was agreed 01.07.2021 during Delivery and Beating Crime Board that the Force would provide the information required.

The document has been updated to show members of the public, how the information links in with the Police and Crime Plan.

The Elected Local Policing Bodies sets out the information that must be published. The Elected Local Policing Bodies (Specified Information) (Amendment) Order 2021 ('the amending Order), which came into force on the 31 May 2021 provides that information relating to the force's performance against the Government's national priorities for policing must be published.

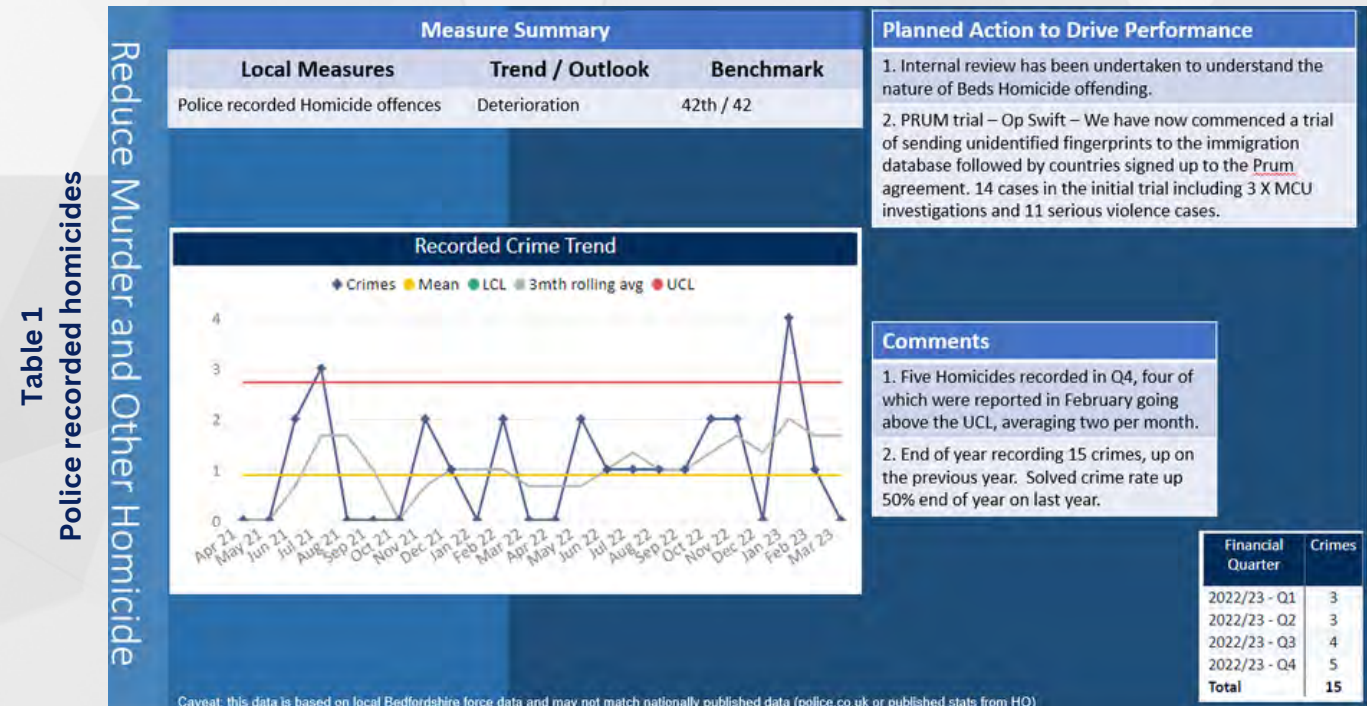
National priorities for policing

The national priorities for policing are specified in the Police and Crime Measures:

- Reduce murder and other homicide;
- Reduce serious violence;
- Disrupt drugs supply and county lines;
- Reduce neighbourhood crime;
- Tackle cyber crime;
- Improve satisfaction among victims with a particular focus on victims of domestic abuse.

STOP AND SEARCH DATA

1. REDUCING MURDER AND OTHER HOMICIDES



An internal review has been conducted by Bedfordshire Police to understand the nature of Bedfordshire's Homicide offending.

The above table shows the number of police recorded homicide offences between April 2021 and March 2023.

The table shows the following:

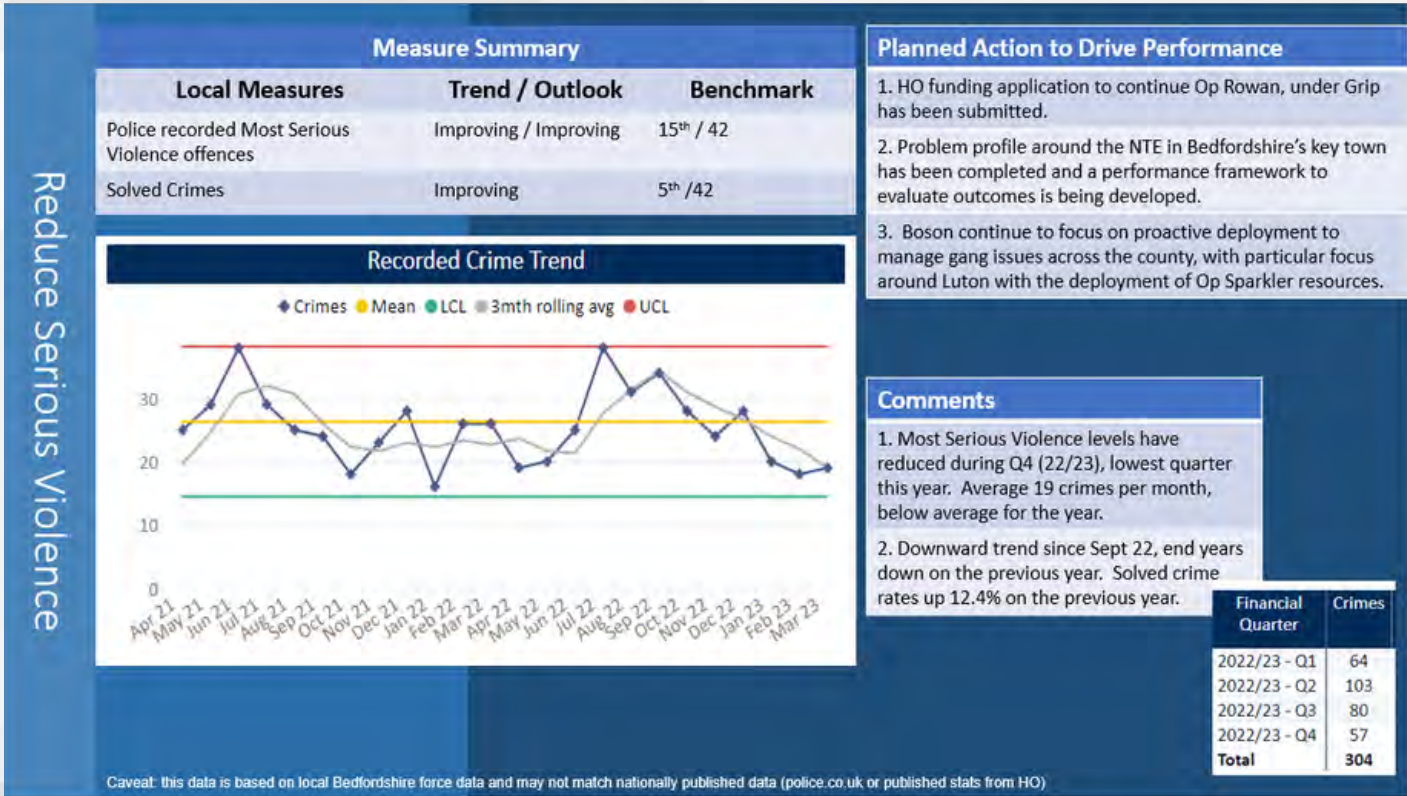
- 2022/23 - Q1 : 3 crimes recorded
- 2022/23 - Q2 : 3 crimes recorded
- 2022/23 - Q3 : 4 crimes recorded
- 2022/23 - Q4 : 5 crimes recorded

Total of 15 homicide crimes reported for the financial year 2022/23. Solved crime rate was up by 50% compared to the previous year.

STOP AND SEARCH DATA

2. SERIOUS VIOLENCE OFFENCES

Table 2
Serious Violence Offences



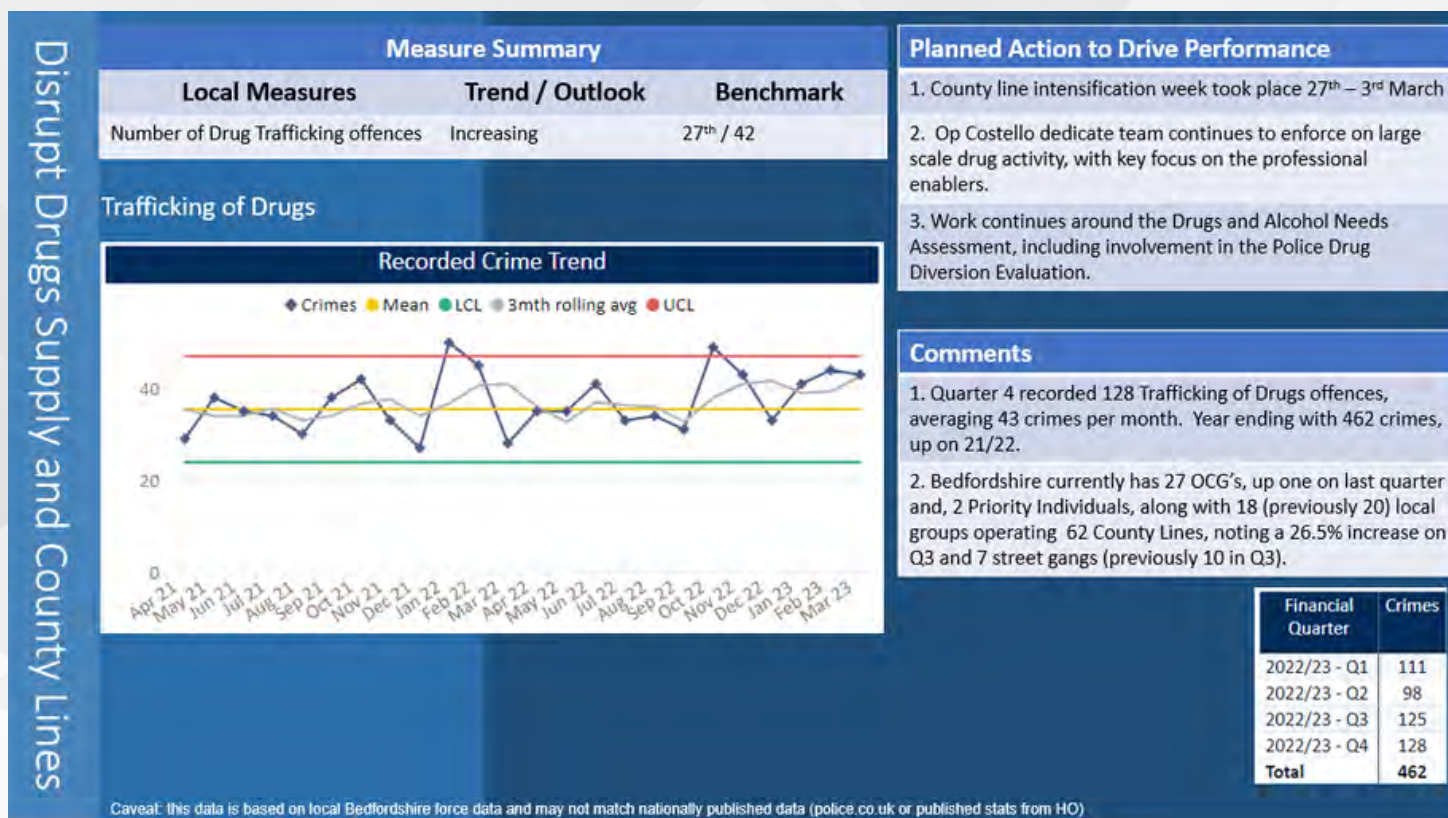
- The above table shows that the number of most serious violence offences recorded by Bedfordshire Police has improved sitting on the 15th / 42 benchmark.
- The table also shows that solved crimes in Bedfordshire is improving sitting on the 5th / 42 benchmark.
- The most serious violence levels have reduced during Q4 (22/23) lowest quarter this year with an average of 19 crimes per month, below the average for the year.

Total of 304 Serious violence crimes in the 2022/23 Financial year.

STOP AND SEARCH DATA

3. DRUGS SUPPLY AND COUNTY LINES

Table 3
Drugs supply and county lines



SUMMARY:

The table above shows that the number of Drug Trafficking offences has increased and sits on the 27th / 42 Benchmark.

- Bedfordshire Police held a County Line intensification week from the 27th February - 3rd March.
- Work continues to be done around the Drugs and Alcohol needs assessment. This includes involvement in the Police Drug Diversion Evaluation.
- There were 128 Trafficking Drugs offences averaging 43 crimes per month.

Total of 462 serious violence offences in the 2022/23 Financial year.



STOP AND SEARCH DATA

4. REDUCING NEIGHBOURHOOD CRIME

Table 4
Neighbourhood Crime

Measure Summary			Planned Action to Drive Performance
Local Measures	Trend / Outlook	Benchmark	<p>1. Op FORESIGHT deployed additional resources around the Galaxy Centre Luton Town Centre.</p> <p>2. Op CRUSH targeting Robberies and ASB in Houghton Regis and Dunstable. Robbery Wanted Suspect Trial – Use of Daily Management Meetings to fast track robbery offender arrests.</p> <p>3. Suspect Imagery Improvement - Agreement from the DMO to deliver a Subject Imagery Database (SIDs) for Beds, Cambs and Herts. This will deliver in Autumn 2023 and significantly boost the tri-force's ability to solve crime through enhanced ability to identify offenders and linked series. This system will allow for all images to be retained and reviewed by offence type and location.</p>
Police recorded Residential Burglary offences	Improving	18 th / 42	
Police recorded Vehicle Crime offences	Deterioration	37 th / 42	
Police recorded Personal Robbery offences	Stable	35 th / 42	
Police recorded Theft from Person offences	Stable / Deterioration	30 th / 42	
<p>Burglary Residential</p> <p>Vehicle Crime</p> <p>Personal Robbery</p> <p>Theft from Person</p> <p><small>Caveat: this data is based on local Bedfordshire force data and may not match nationally published data (police.co.uk)</small></p>			Comments
			<p>1. Quarter 4 recorded 405 Residential Burglaries averaging 135 crimes a month. Year ending 429 fewer victims compared to last year. Currently sitting below our MSF average. Currently sitting 4th for solved crime, 1st in MSF.</p> <p>2. Reduction in Vehicle Crime during Q4, with 273 fewer victims compared Q3, year ends up on the previous year.</p> <p>3. Slight increase in Personal Robbery end of Q4 compared to Q3, averaging 46 crimes per month, slight increase overall end of 22/23.</p> <p>4. 137 Theft from a Person during Q4, highest quarterly in 22/23. Averaging 42 crimes per month. Year ends up on last year. Stable compared to MSF and below the MSF average.</p>

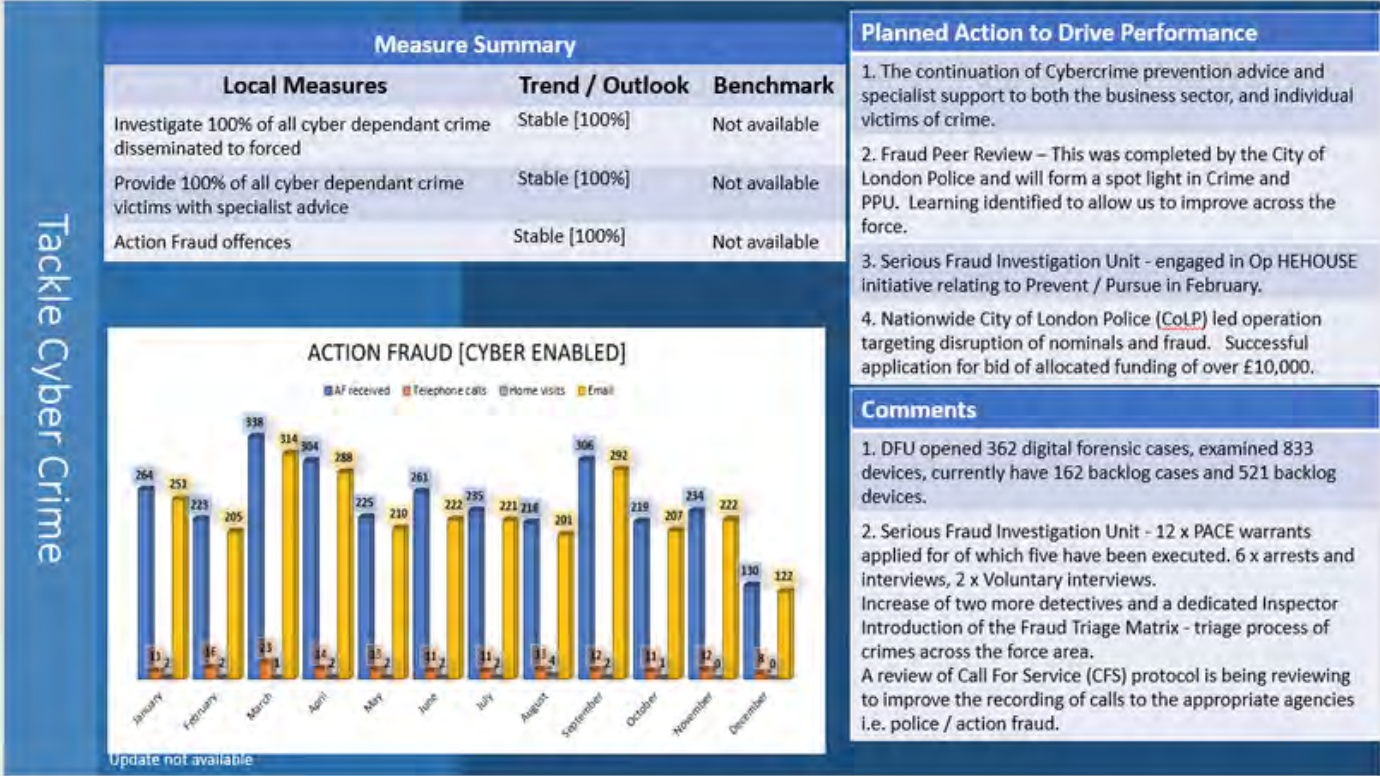
SUMMARY:

- Police recorded Residential Burglary offences - Improving, sitting on the 18th / 42 Benchmark.
- Police recorded Vehicle Crime offences - Deteriorating, sitting on the 37th / 42 Benchmark.
- Police recorded Personal Robbery offences - Stable, sitting on the 35th / 42 Benchmark.
- Police recorded Theft from Person offences - Stable, sitting on the 30th / 42 Benchmark.
- In Q4 there were 405 Residential Burglaries averaging 135 crimes in a month.
- At the end of the Financial Year 2022/23 there were 429 fewer victims compared to the previous year, which sits below the MSF average.
- There was reduction in Vehicle Crime during Q4, with 273 fewer victims compared to Q3.
- There was a increase in Personal Robbery end of Q4 compared to Q3, averaging 46 crimes per month, which is a slight increase.
- Q4 had the highest quarterly theft from a person, averaging 42 crimes per month.

STOP AND SEARCH DATA

5. TACKLING CYBER CRIME

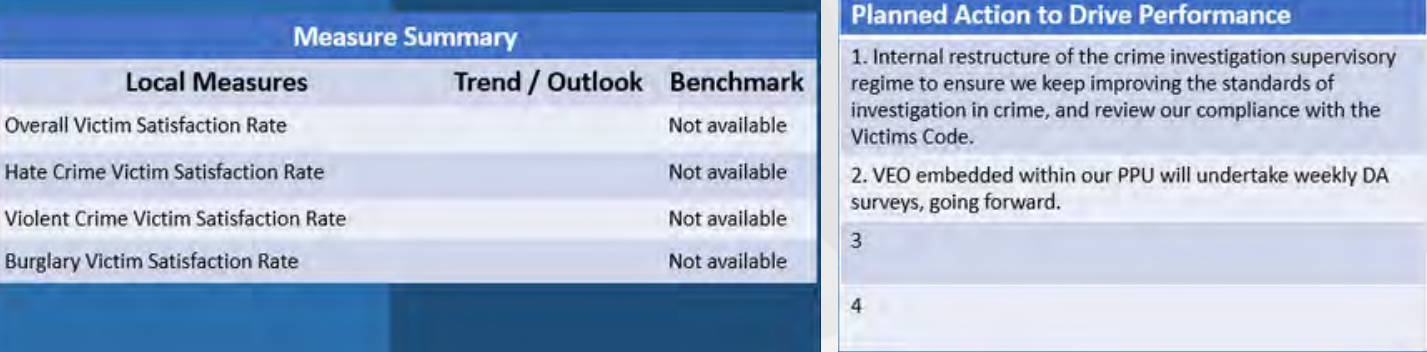
Table 5
Tackling Cyber Crime



STOP AND SEARCH DATA

IMPROVING SATISFACTION AMONG VICTIMS

Improve Satisfaction Among Victims with a particular focus on Victims of Domestic Abuse



STOP AND SEARCH DATA

RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION NUMBERS

Recruitment and Retention Numbers:

Police and Crime Commissioners have statutory responsibilities for delivering an efficient and effective police service. Our efficiency and effectiveness improves when the right level of resources are available and maximised.

The PCC wishes for his office to publish the monthly figures of the recruitment of officers.

The PCC has made an Equality Commitment and will work with representing bodies that support diverse groups within the Force to ensure we pick up on the earliest signs of discrimination and exclusionary practices which impact on disproportional outcomes in areas such as recruitment, promotions, career progression, disciplinaries and dismissals. The aim will be to address any identified disproportionality of outcomes for all of our staff.

The PCC wishes for his office to publish the monthly figures of the diversity of officers.

Priority Two

Recruitment and retention of police officers

Recruitment and Retention Numbers:

Position Category	Total Starters Headcount March	Starters (people from ethnic minority backgrounds) Headcount March		Starters Female Headcount March		Starters Under 24 Headcount March		Starters 45+ Headcount March		Starters (Declared Disability) Headcount March	
Officer	47	10	21.28%	25	53.19%	29	61.70%	1	2.13%	5	10.64%
Staff	28	3	10.71%	18	64.29%	3	10.71%	11	39.29%	3	10.71%
Special	0	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
SUM:	75	13	17.33%	43	57.33%	32	42.67%	12	16.00%	8	10.67%

Position Category	Total Leavers Headcount March	Leavers (people from ethnic minority backgrounds) Headcount March		Leavers Female Headcount March		Leavers Under 24 Headcount March		Leavers 45+ Headcount March		Leavers (Declared Disability) Headcount March	
Officer	7	1	14.29%	4	57.14%	0	0.00%	4	57.14%	0	0.00%
Staff	21	2	9.52%	13	61.90%	5	23.81%	7	33.33%	4	19.05%
Special	0	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
SUM:	28	3	10.71%	17	60.71%	5	17.86%	11	39.29%	4	14.29%

The table above shows a recruitment breakdown by:

- Starters from an ethnic minority background (Officer, Staff and Special).
- Female starters
- Starters under 24
- Starters 45+
- Starters Declared Disability

The table above shows a recruitment breakdown by:

- Leavers from an ethnic minority background (Officer, Staff and Special).
- Female leavers
- Leavers under 24
- Leavers 45+
- Leavers Declared Disability

STOP AND SEARCH DATA

QUARTER 4 DATA - 01/01/2023 - 31/03/2023

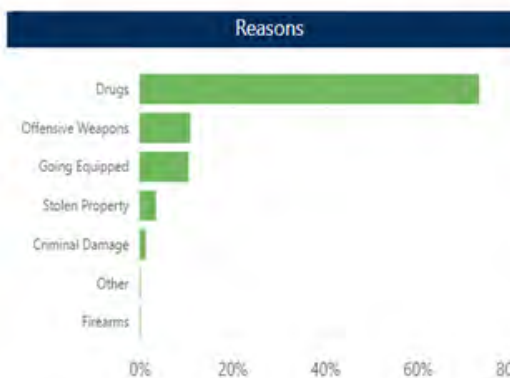
Stop searches per 1000 population			
CSP	Stops	Population	per 1000 population
▲	1		
Bedford Borough	311	169.91	1.83
Central Beds	171	280.03	0.61
Luton Borough	584	214.66	2.72
Bedfordshire	14		
Unknown CSP			
Out of Force	16		
Total	1097	664.60	1.60

The weapons seized and drugs seized counts are based on a count of searches where a weapon or drug property item has been recorded in relation to the stop search.

Level of Search		
Search Level	Stops	%
▲		
Standard Stop Search	1053	96%
Removed Outer Clothing	4	0%
Exposed Intimate Body Parts	39	4%
None	1	0%
Total	1097	100%

Reasons			
Home Office Reason	Stops	Weapons Seized	Drugs Seized
Drugs	804	23	251
Offensive Weapons	120	17	7
Going Equipped	116	1	4
Stolen Property	39		2
Firearms	1	1	
Criminal Damage	15		
Other	2		
Total	1097	42	264

Outcomes		
Outcome Group Police.UK	Stops	%
<input type="checkbox"/> No further action	713	65%
<input type="checkbox"/> Police action taken	357	33%
<input type="checkbox"/> Nothing found - No further action	26	2%
<input type="checkbox"/> No further action	1	0%
Total	1097	100%



SUMMARY OF STOP SEARCHES IN BEDFORDSHIRE:

1. Luton Borough had the highest number of stop searches with a total of 584.
2. Bedford Borough had the second highest stop searches with a total of 311.
3. Central Beds had a total of 171 searches between January 2023 and March 2023.
4. Unknown CSP's accounted for 14 searches in Bedfordshire

SUMMARY OF REASONS:

1. Drugs accounted for 804 stop searches conducted in Bedfordshire.
2. Offensive weapons accounted for 120 stop searches.
3. Going equipped had a total of 116 stop searches.
4. Stolen property accounted for 39 stop searches and criminal damage had a total of 15.
5. Firearms had the least number of stop searches, resulting in 1 stop search in this quarter and the other category accounted for 2 stop searches.

OUTCOMES OF THE STOP SEARCHES:

1. 713 (65%) stop searches resulted in No further action.
2. 357 (33%) stop searches resulted in Police action taken.
3. 26 (2%) stop searches resulted in No further action.



STOP AND SEARCH DATA

PROPORTIONALITY RATES

Stop Search by Officer
Defined Ethnicity

Stops Between:

01/04/2022

31/03/2023

CSP

All

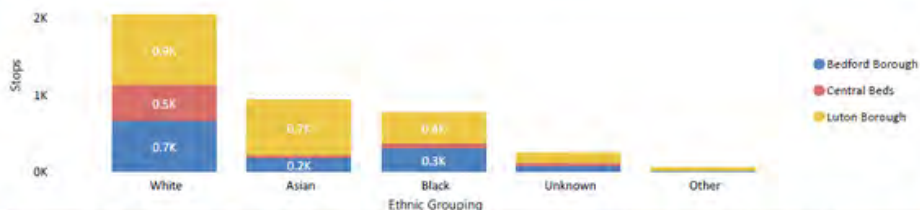
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Stops per 1000 Population - Bedfordshire

Officer Defined Ethnicity	Stops	Population	per 1000 population	Ratio
White	2099	516,995	4.06	1.0
Asian	937	95,787	9.78	2.4
Black	781	46,529	16.79	4.1
Other	58	5,289	10.97	2.7
Unknown	252	0		
Total	4127	664,600	6.21	1.5

% Stop Searches by CSP



Stops per 1000 Population - Luton

Ethnic Group	Stops	Population	per 1000 population	Ratio
White	899	117,342	7.66	1.0
Asian	709	66,295	10.69	1.4
Black	390	27,873	13.99	1.8
Other	38	3,148	12.07	1.6
Unknown	138	0		
Total	2174	214,658	10.13	1.3

Stops per 1000 Population - Central

Ethnic Group	Stops	Population	per 1000 population	Ratio
White	475	262,792	1.81	1.0
Asian	43	8,670	4.96	2.7
Black	73	7,628	9.57	5.3
Other	1	940	1.06	0.6
Unknown	39	0		
Total	631	280,030	2.25	1.2

Stops per 1000 Population - Bedford

Ethnic Group	Stops	Population	per 1000 population	Ratio
White	659	516,995	4.82	1.0
Asian	177	95,787	8.50	1.8
Black	302	46,529	27.38	5.7
Other	17	5,289	14.15	2.9
Unknown	71	0		
Total	1226	664,600	7.22	1.5



SUMMARY:

The table above shows a breakdown of stop searches in Bedfordshire (Officer Defined Ethnicity).

- Those from a **black background** were **4.1 times** more likely to be stopped when compared to those identified from a White background and therefore had the highest ratio of stop searches between **01/04/2022 - 31/03/2023**.



The table above also shows the breakdown of stop searches by CSP areas (Officer Defined Ethnicity).

The **Black community** had the **highest ratio** of stop searches in all three CSP areas.

- Bedford: 5.7**
- Central: 5.3**
- Luton: 1.8**

- White background stop searches were the highest at 2099 of a total of 4127. However census data shows that the white background population is high, therefore this is not disproportionate, when compared against the Black community with a total of 781 searches, but a much lower census population, creating the 4.1 times more likely search rate.

- The 252 unknown searches relate to searches of vehicles.**

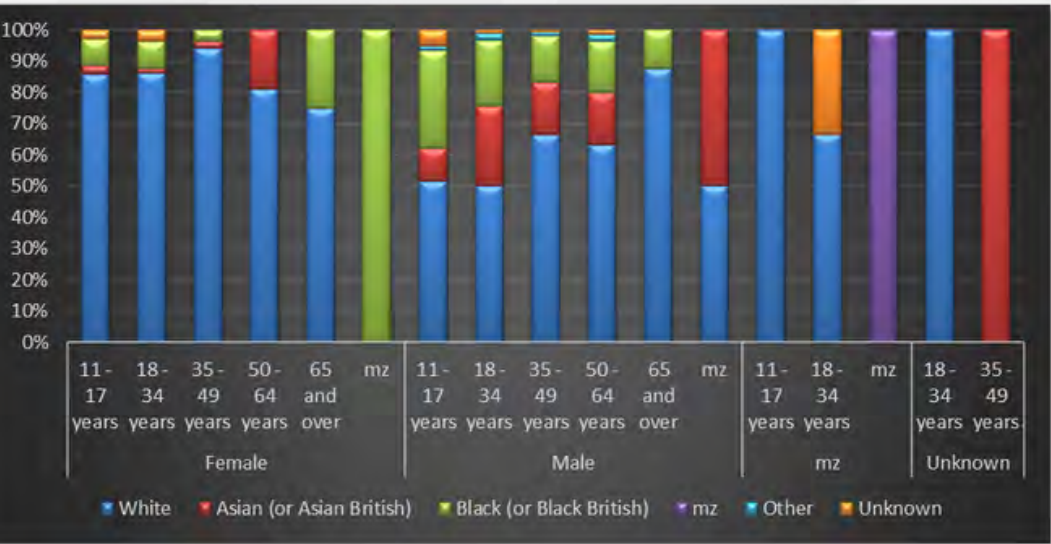
USE OF FORCE DATA

The purpose of the Scrutiny Panel is to hold the Police Force to account by ensuring the way Use of Force tactics are used in Bedfordshire is effective. The following data shows a improvement in the way Use of Force is used in the community by Police Officers - *Data from August 2022.*

- 1708 UOF recorded in Q1 22-23 compared to 1777 the previous quarter. - Although there is not a magnificent change in the figures, the figure has declined from the previous quarter which shows improvement, and also shows the Police are actioning the feedback they receive from the Independent Scrutiny Panel Members.
- In December 2022 a total of 1743 cases of Use of Force were recorded in Q3 22-23 compared to 1734 in the previous quarter which shows an increase.
- 62.19% of the total Use of Force cases resulted in arrest, compared to 62.98% in the previous quarter. This has been gradually increasing over the last few quarters.



USE OF FORCE DATA



Graph showing use of force by age and ethnicity -
Table 1 - m/z = no details

The graph shows the following:

- Overall those from a white background had higher rates of use of force than any other ethnic group.
- Females from a white background aged 35-49 years had a 95% use of force rate in Q3 which was the highest rate for females.
- Females from an Asian background had the least amount of use of force encounters with the police.
- White males had a higher use of force rate in Q3 across all age groups, compared to Black and Asian males with the exception of the mz category which was 50:50 between White and Asian males.

QUARTER 2 VS QUARTER 3 - 2022/23

Q3 22-23 - Arrested					Q2 22-23 - Arrested				
Perceived Ethnicity	#Use of Force	Population	Per 1,000 Population	Ratio	Perceived Ethnicity	#Use of Force	Population	Per 1,000 Population	Ratio
White	647	516,995	1.25	1	White	654	516,995	1.27	1
Black	171	31,702	5.39	4.31	Black	174	31,702	5.49	4.34
Asian	184	90,785	2.03	1.62	Asian	200	90,785	2.20	1.74
Mixed / Other	15	25,120	0.60	0.48	Mixed / Other	7	25,120	0.28	0.22
Unknown	67				Unknown	57			
	1,084	664,602	1.63			1,092	664,602	1.64	

Outcome	#	%
Hospitalised	43	2.39%
Arrested	1084	60.29%
Detained (MH Act)	142	7.90%
Other	183	10.18%
No further action	346	19.24%

Summary of Table 2

- Comparing Q2 and Q3, there were 7 less Use of Force arrests on those from a White background.
- Comparing Q2 and Q3, there were 3 less Use of Force arrests on those from a Black background, which shows a slight decrease, based on a population of 31,702.
- Those from an Asian background had the highest decrease of Use of Force arrests with 16 less arrests made.
- Those from a Mixed background and Other had a decrease of 8 less Use of Force arrests made.
- Table 2 shows that those from a Black background were 4x more likely to have the use of force used on them and have an outcome of arrest.
- In total there were 8 less arrests in Q3 than in Q2 in Bedfordshire.

BEDFORDSHIRE'S INDEPENDENT SCRUTINY PANEL MEMBERS

The Bedfordshire Independent Scrutiny Panel is diverse and currently made up of 27 members and 1 new recruit from different demographic backgrounds. **We are currently recruiting members aged 16 and above to join our panel so if you are interested, please apply on our website.**

What purpose do we serve?

The purpose of the panel is to hold the Police Force to account in relation to Stop Searches and Use of Force in Bedfordshire. The aim is to regularly review bodyworn footage and provide feedback to police officers in order to bridge the gap between the public and the Police Force thus ensuring the community of Bedfordshire trust the Police Force.

The meetings are held in the form of Sub Panel meetings, consisting of 5-6 panel members reviewing bodyworn footage. The selected videos are then brought to the main panel meeting whereby all members attend and grade the footage, and the feedback is given to the police officers by their Line Manager's, depending on the level of feedback given.

The panel use the following tools when grading bodyworn footage:

P - Was the amount of force used **Proportionate** for the risk faced by the officer?

L - Was the **Length** of time the force used acceptable?

A - Did the **Actions** of the member of the public warrant force to be used?

N- Was it **Necessary** to use force to protect the officer or members of the public?

T- Was the **Type** of force used the minimum appropriate level to achieve compliance?

E- Was it **Ethical** to use force in the situation?

R- Was it **Reasonable** for the officer to use force?

Red, Amber, Green (R.A.G) Voting System

Use of Force was necessary and undertaken reasonably and professionally	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The correct level of force was applied in the circumstances and throughout the encounter.2. The correct level of force was applied by the officer but where initial verbal communication was possible it could have been better.3. The correct level of force may have been applied but it is desired that two minor matters need to be drawn to the <u>officers</u> attention from the Panels observations.
We understand why force was used but advice and /or training issues are required	<ol style="list-style-type: none">4. Accountability Issues arise in terms of failure to switch on BWV in time and/or to accurately complete documentation or voice could have been used beforehand.5. Force might have been justified but applied for too long or having chosen the correct level of force the officer's proficiency in its use was lacking giving rise to a need for training.6. Force may have been justified but the officer escalated too quickly to a higher level without regard to the requirement to use the minimum level in the circumstances.
Use of Force was not necessary nor compliant with PLANTER. The force may be unlawful	<ol style="list-style-type: none">7. The level of force was not proportionate to the risk faced by the officer.8. The level of force was significantly greater than that necessary to protect the officer or the public and the panel had additional concerns.9. The officer used force entirely without need and did so to injure/punish or in a discriminatory fashion. The officer's actions were unlawful.



The most common reasons bodyworn footage is scored low is due to lack of information recorded regarding the use of force that was used e.g. why the police officers stopped the subject and used force on them. Also, police officers switching their bodyworn footage on late or not at all is a common occurrence which has been fed back to the Line managers. We have seen an improvement in the number of timely bodyworn activation which shows that the scrutiny panel are being listened and their feedback is respected.

In 2023 our main priority is to ensure that best practices are adhered to by the Force as it is important that the communities faith in the police force is restored and for Bedfordshire community to feel safe and protected.



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UPDATES FROM THE OFFICE OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner is currently recruiting for the following volunteering roles.

- **Stop and Search Panel Members**
- **Use of Force Panel Members**

We are recruiting for volunteers from Bedfordshire to join our Independent Stop and Search and Use of Force Scrutiny Panel.

We would love to hear from those aged 16-18 years to ensure that the panel is fully representative of the local community, however if you are not within this age group we would still love to hear from you!

To read more about the Scrutiny Panel, please visit the Stop & Search / Use of Force pages.

If you would like to contact the office to find out more information, please email PCC@beds.police.uk or use the contact us section on our website.

**STOP & SEARCH / USE OF FORCE
SCRUTINY PANEL**

YOUNG INDEPENDENT MEMBERS NEEDED IN BEDFORDSHIRE!

**AGED 16 - 18?
WE WANT TO
HEAR FROM
YOU!**



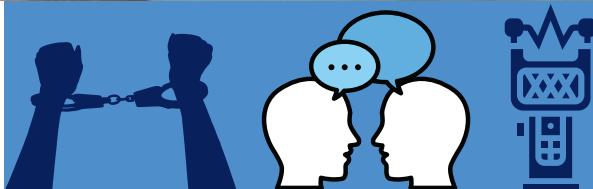
What do we do?

We are an independent panel formed to consider the application of the use of force used within Bedfordshire Police. We aim to ensure accountability, through openness and transparency with the police service. We assess individual cases to identify areas of concern and good practice.

Interested in joining us or would you like to find out more information?



PCC@beds.police.uk



Who are we?

- We are members of the local community
- We are aged 16 and over
- We live in Bedfordshire



**Office of the
Bedfordshire
Police & Crime
Commissioner**

STOP AND SEARCH/USE OF FORCE SCRUTINY PANEL

INDEPENDENT MEMBERS NEEDED IN BEDFORDSHIRE!



What do we do?

We are an independent panel formed to consider the way that Bedfordshire Police use stop and search, to ensure it is being used appropriately. We aim to ensure accountability, through openness and transparency with the police service, provide learning and increase public confidence in the police. We assess individual cases to identify areas of concern and good practice using a RAG (red, amber, green) traffic light system.

Interested in joining us or would you like to find out more information?



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Office of the
Bedfordshire
Police & Crime
Commissioner



A HUGE Thank You to our panel members for all of their hard work and commitment to the Scrutiny Panel. Thank you to the community of Bedfordshire for continuing to support us, we hope this quarterly newsletter has been insightful into the purpose of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and our Independent Scrutiny Panel. If you would like to be part of the journey of making Bedfordshire great, don't forget to apply to join the scrutiny panel.