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## **From the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner's Policy Team**

This Briefing Note contains updates on the PCC's new Police & Crime Plan, the launch of the new Retail Crime Forum, the successful funding bid for more Neighbourhood Police Officers and PCSOs and the launch of the new Hertfordshire Youth Commission on Policing and Crime. News of the PCC's approved piloting of Noise Cameras is also available, as well as updates on the PCC's Fly Tipping Fund, Community Safety Fund and Serious Violence Duty funding, plus the most recent Stop and Search data.

If you have any feedback on the Briefing Note or wish to make suggestions for items to be included in future editions, please email [Catherine.Boon@herts-pcc.gov.uk](mailto:Catherine.Boon@herts-pcc.gov.uk).

## **Police & Crime Plan: Fighting Crime, Making Hertfordshire Safer**

Police & Crime Commissioner Jonathan Ash-Edwards has published his new Police and Crime Plan - Fighting Crime, Making Hertfordshire Safer (available [here](#)).

The Plan sets out the PCC's five priority areas:

**Priority 1: Make Hertfordshire safer**

**Priority 2: Strengthen local policing and build public confidence**

**Priority 3: Tackle crime and anti-social behaviour**

**Priority 4: Protect people from violence, abuse and exploitation**

**Priority 5: Bring offenders to justice and support victims**

It is a key document which sets out his strategic plan to make the county safer.

His role is to be the voice of the public, set the strategic objectives for policing, community safety and crime prevention, scrutinise Hertfordshire Constabulary, set the budget and precept and commission services for victims.

This Police & Crime Plan sets out how he will undertake those responsibilities and how he is asking Hertfordshire Constabulary to play its part, with a clear focus on reducing crime, catching criminals and keeping people safe.



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Public confidence in policing in Hertfordshire is strong with 78% saying that they believe the police are doing a good or excellent job in their local area. Mr Ash-Edwards believes that public confidence is maintained and built upon through demonstrable effectiveness, high standards of professionalism, conduct and legitimacy, and visible, proactive local policing that has strong relationships with communities.

The Police & Crime Plan seeks to deliver on what the public have told him are their priorities, ensure communities receive excellent policing and to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour. It sets clear strategic performance objectives for the Constabulary to work towards. And it seeks to try new approaches that haven't happened before in Hertfordshire.

## **Retail Crime Forum to bring retailers and police together to tackle shoplifting and retail crime**

The PCC has launched a new Retail Crime Forum to work at pace with retailers across the county to tackle shoplifting and wider retail crime. Please can we encourage partners to join the Forum on 13<sup>th</sup> June and where possible share the event details with local retailers with their wider networks. You can register your place [here](#).

The Forum will accelerate collaboration between national and independent retailers, business groups, and the police and key partners to address retail crime and improve crime prevention and business confidence in Hertfordshire.

The Forum's first meeting, to be hosted at Tesco Headquarters in Welwyn Garden City, will be held on Friday June 13th. Retailers big and small throughout Hertfordshire are encouraged to attend and have their voice heard and can register their interest at <https://bit.ly/HertsRetailCrimeforum>.

The Commissioner's new Police and Crime Plan for Hertfordshire will prioritise tackling shop theft and wider crime that affects retailers. The Retail Crime Forum will deliver on the Plan's priority to convene businesses and the police to take a collaborative approach to tackling retail crime across the entire county, improving crime prevention and reporting and improving the confidence of retailers.



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Mr Ash-Edwards said:

“Thriving town and village centres and retail parks are essential to Hertfordshire’s economy. But retail crime risks harming the ability of businesses to grow and prosper.

“My new Police and Crime Plan will tackle the crime types that residents and businesses have told me are the most important concerns locally. I have listened to business owners, retail workers and residents, and shoplifting is an issue of major public concern.

“I have therefore launched the Hertfordshire Retail Crime Forum to bring together businesses and the police to agree what more we can do in partnership to tackle retail crime across the entire county. I want to see robust action against prolific shoplifters and those who assault retail workers so that businesses have the confidence to report crime and people feel safe in their place of work.

## **PCC welcomes funding for more neighbourhood police officers and PCSOs in Hertfordshire**

Hertfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner Jonathan Ash-Edwards has welcomed news that a bid by his Office and Hertfordshire Constabulary for additional funding to boost the number of neighbourhood police officers and PCSOs has been approved by Ministers.

An additional 35 police officers will join Neighbourhood Policing Teams across Hertfordshire and an additional 20 Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) will be recruited.

The £3 million funding has been secured from the Government’s neighbourhood policing uplift and the new officers are expected to be recruited during the first half of the new financial year.

Jonathan Ash-Edwards, Police & Crime Commissioner for Hertfordshire, said:

“Strengthening local policing is a key priority in my Police & Crime Plan as I know that Hertfordshire residents want to see visible local policing and action on neighbourhood crime and anti-social behaviour.



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“Neighbourhood policing teams play an important role in this work, through patrols in town centres, engaging with local communities and tackling burglary, shop theft, vehicle crime and anti-social behaviour.

“Boosting our neighbourhood policing teams with an additional 35 police officers and 20 PCSOs will mean additional officers in every district and borough working to tackle crime and make Hertfordshire safer.”

These extra officers are a further boost to those the Commissioner set out in his police budget earlier this year. It provided for a permanent increase to the police officer baseline number, taking it 2,405 officers, a new record high.

## **PCC pilots noise cameras to tackle illegal street racing and antisocial driving**

The PCC has committed up to £23,825 in Road Safety Budget funding towards purchase/installation of acoustic monitoring technology and cameras to deter illegal and excessively noisy vehicles in Chiswell Green, St Albans.

The two-year pilot project, delivered in partnership with the Constabulary & Herts County Council, will introduce innovative acoustic devices, combined with cameras, to detect vehicles emitting noise above a set threshold. Drivers caught exceeding these limits will receive educational warning letters, with repeat offenders facing Section 59 warnings, which could result in their vehicles being seized if they are caught multiple times.

Police can act if exhaust does not function as it should or if it has been illegally modified to produce excessive noise.

A review will take place at six and twelve months to assess the project’s impact.

For more information, please contact [grants@herts-pcc.gov.uk](mailto:grants@herts-pcc.gov.uk).



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## **New project launched by Commissioner to hear young voices on crime and policing**

A new project to encourage young people to shape and influence the future of policing and crime prevention in Hertfordshire has been launched.

The PCC has established the Hertfordshire Youth Commission on Policing and Crime to focus on hearing from people aged 14-25.

It will gather and collate youth opinion on community safety issues and use that perspective to steer Hertfordshire Constabulary's efforts to improve the police service for the age group.

Hertfordshire's Youth Commission will focus on young persons' safety as a central theme. But the project will also listen to suggestions on how to reduce youth offending, improve relationships with the police, and broaden support offered to young victims and witnesses.

Over the course of the project, funded by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, a core panel of up to 25 young people will be trained by a bespoke provider how to engage with and collate the views of a broader cross-section of young people.

The group will then meet to discuss actionable recommendations for change directly to the PCC and Hertfordshire Constabulary.

Mr Ash-Edwards said:

"Ensuring Hertfordshire is a great place for young people to live and get on in life is incredibly important and a key part of that is ensuring that young people are safe in our county.

"Sadly, young people aged 14-25 are more likely to be a victim of crime than other age groups. Therefore, it's of vital importance we understand what young people think the police should do to keep our streets safe.

The Commissioner added:

"I'm keen to ensure the group of young people at the heart of the project reflects the diverse community in which we live: ethnically, socio-economically, and of course geographically. It's also important to consider the views of people who've been involved



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with the police positively or negatively in the past alongside those who've never had any interaction with the police at all.

Young people interested in becoming part of the Hertfordshire Youth Commission on Police and Crime can apply here <https://www.herts-pcc.gov.uk/listening-and-responding/youth-commission>.

## **PCC Awards Community Safety Funding**

Following a call for proposals, the PCC has awarded £43,000 funding to nine local community groups, charities, and district safety partnerships to deliver projects that focus on the following priorities from the Commissioner's new plan:

- Preventing crime and anti-social behaviour
- Tackling violence against women and girls
- Improving young people's safety

The successful projects include creation of community safety hubs to offer advice/protection to women and girls across Dacorum, diversionary boxing/basketball/sports activities in Watford/Broxbourne/Welwyn Hatfield and a crime prevention project targeting communities of interest across Herts.

For more information, please contact [grants@herts-pcc.gov.uk](mailto:grants@herts-pcc.gov.uk).

## **PCC Allocates £16.5k in 2024/25 to Private Landowner victims of Fly**

### **Tipping & Commits to 2025/26 Funding**

Victims of fly tipping on private or unregistered land (principally farmers) have benefited from funding from the Commissioner to clear up the rubbish left behind and towards target hardening measures to prevent further tips.

Fly tipping on private land, primarily farms, is a concern often raised to the Commissioner. By collaborating with local authority partners and the Constabulary Rural team, real steps have been taken to address it, including a focus on prosecution and prevention.



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In 2024/25, approximately £16,500 has been spent towards clearances and target hardening, predominantly in East Herts but also Hertsmere and Three Rivers.

The Commissioner has committed funding to a scheme in 2025/26, the details of which will be launched very soon.

For more information about the scheme, please visit [Fly Tipping Fund](https://flytippingfund.hertscommissioner.org) ([hertscommissioner.org](https://hertscommissioner.org)).

## **Home Office confirms Serious Violence Duty funding available for Hertfordshire in 2025/26**

Approximately £675k funding has been made available by the Home Office to deliver the Duty and tackle serious violence in Hertfordshire in 2025/26.

The OPCC continues to facilitate the work of the County Community Safety Unit Strategic (CCSU) Chairs Board (the lead governance body for the Duty in Hertfordshire), in delivering the interventions funded by the Duty.

The 2025/26 Home Office award follows previous allocation of their funding in 2023/24 & 2024/25, which saw 13 projects commissioned covering a range of topics/delivery models, including intensive support to young people/adults involved in violent crime, mentoring, and interactive education workshops for school-aged children/young people using virtual reality headsets.

In 2024/25, over 1000 individuals across Hertfordshire benefitted from either targeted 1:1 support, group activities or training/awareness.

The CCSU Chairs Board are in the process of considering proposals from statutory partner organisation for allocation of 2025/26 funding.

For more information, please contact [grants@herts-pcc.gov.uk](mailto:grants@herts-pcc.gov.uk).



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## **Countywide Stop & Search Update (May 2024 – April 2025)**

Each RAG plays a key role in reviewing the Stop & Search data, including complaints, for their own district. We hope that sharing data with you will improve transparency about how this coercive power has been used.

The data below covers Stop & Searches undertaken over the last twelve months, from **1 May 2024 – 30 April 2025** (please note the data is subject to further finalisation).

During this time there has been a 1% drop in the use of Stop & Search. Positive outcomes are up 4.4%, and arrest rates are up 2.1%.

There were some local differences in these trends.

Use of Stop & Search was up in 6 of the 10 CSPs – Hertsmere (34.5%), St Albans (27.2%), Welwyn Hatfield (11.2%), Broxbourne (9.8%), East Herts (1.7%) and North Herts (0.6%).

However, over the same period East Herts, North Herts and Welwyn Hatfield saw increases in their positive outcome and arrest rates:

- In East Herts, there was a 5.7% increase in positive outcome rate and a 1.6% increase in arrest rate.
- In North Herts, there was an 9.7% increase in positive outcome rate and a 9.1% increase in arrest rate.
- In Welwyn Hatfield, there was a 1.3% increase in positive outcome rate and a 0.4% increase in arrest rate.

Comparatively, Broxbourne, Hertsmere and St Albans saw an increase in positive outcome rates but a decrease in arrest rates:

- In Broxbourne, there was a 4.3% increase in positive outcome rate but a -0.7% decrease in arrest rate.
- In Hertsmere, there was a 4.9% increase in positive outcome rate but a -0.5% decrease in arrest rate.
- In St Albans, there was a 1.6% increase in positive outcome rate but a -1% decrease in arrest rate.





Additionally, positive outcome rates were down in Three Rivers (-5.2%) and arrest rates were down in Watford (-1.1%).

If you have any comments or questions about the data please email [Catherine.Boon@herts-pcc.gov.uk](mailto:Catherine.Boon@herts-pcc.gov.uk).

#### Stop Search by Month

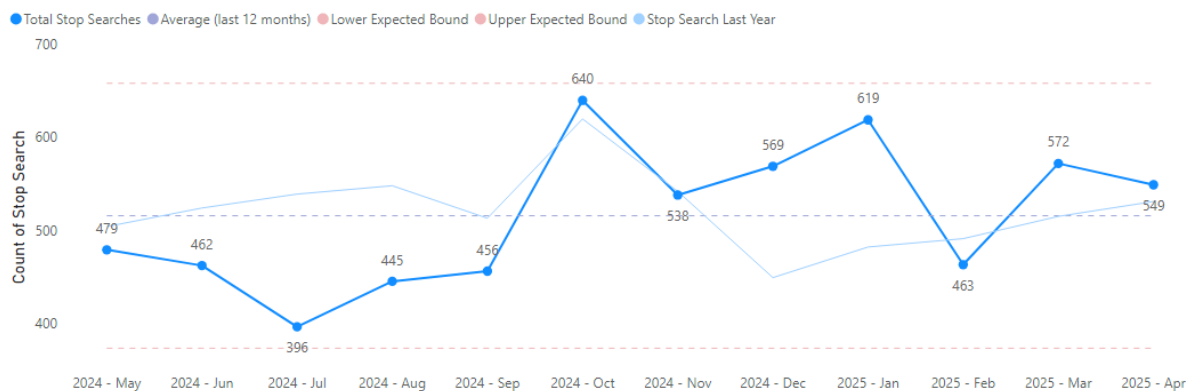


Figure 1 - Stop & Search volume by month in Hertfordshire, for period May 24 – Apr 25.

#### Stop Search Volumes by CSP

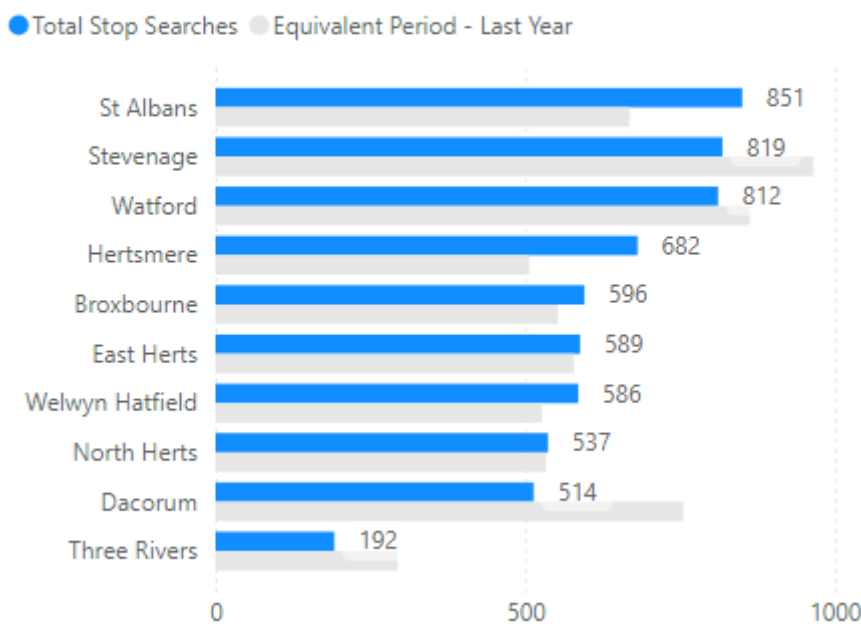


Figure 2 - Stop & Search volume by district in Hertfordshire, for period May 24 – Apr 25.



### Arrest Rate and Positive Disposal Rate

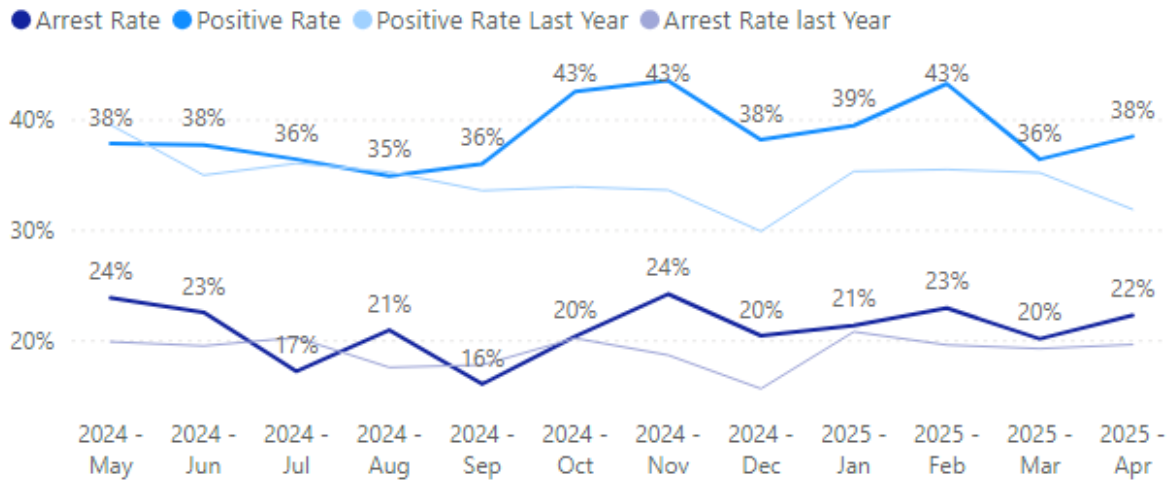


Figure 1 - Arrest and positive disposal rates for Stop & Searches monthly in Hertfordshire, for period May 24 – Apr 25.

### Positive Outcome Rate

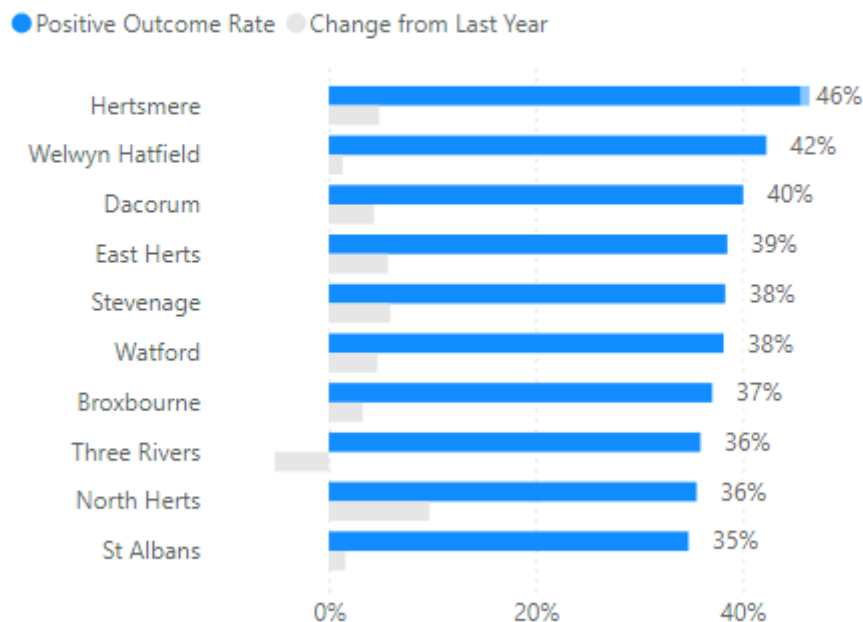


Figure 2 - Positive outcome rates for Stop & Search by district in Hertfordshire, for period May 24 – Apr 25.