

Welcome to **February's** RAG Briefing note from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

This briefing covers:

- **Live Facial Recognition**
- **Serious Violence**
- **Winter of Action – results**
- **Grant Funding: Innovation and Targeted Interventions**
- **Accountability and Performance Meetings (APM)**
- **Countywide Stop and Search data**

Live Facial Recognition

LFR is a crime-fighting tool designed to support police forces in locating wanted offenders and safeguarding vulnerable people. The technology compares a live camera feed of faces against a predetermined watchlist of offenders in real time, generating an alert when a possible match is found. Hertfordshire Constabulary will be deploying the use of LFR in Hertfordshire, following a trial in December 2025.

We are bringing together community leaders and stakeholders to explain how the technology works and discuss its intended use. The event will be chaired by Jonathan Ash-Edwards, Police and Crime Commissioner, and joined by colleagues from Hertfordshire Constabulary.

- Date: **Tuesday 24th February**
- Time: **15:00-16:00** · Registration link: [Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams](#)

You can also pre-submit questions for the presenters to address in the meeting by using this link: [Live Facial Recognition Webinar Question Form](#)

Webinar capacity is limited so entrance to the webinar will be on a first come first served basis, any issues with registration then please respond to this email.

Winter of Action

Following the successful **Summer Town Centre initiative**, the PCC supported the '**Winter of Action**' initiative which built on the summer success over the period from **1 December 2025 to 31 January 2026** to support the Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee.

Similarly to the Summer Action initiatives **grant funding** was made available to councils, BIDs, and community groups to support local crime prevention initiatives.

Residents invited to shape the programme via a public survey: Winter Town Centres Survey.



The survey's **public safety** results indicate an NPS of more than **+25**, suggesting that residents generally felt safe in their town centres during the winter action initiative.

The survey results show that the most significant concerns for residents are **antisocial behaviour** and **a lack of police presence**. Increasing police visibility in these areas directly addresses these two leading issues and responds to how residents feel.

17% of residents reported noticing either a considerable or a slight change in **police visibility** within the area.

Focus areas for Winter of Action

- **Retail crime**-Heightened risk of shop theft due to busier retail activity.
- **Street Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour**- visible patrols and using enforcement to address persistent issues.
- **Night-time economy safety and VAWG**- disorder because of night-time economy.

Outcomes:

This was deployed across **24 different town centres** located throughout the county. The categories of arrests during the winter action period aligned with the focus areas: retail-related offences, violence-related offences, and sexually-related offences.

- During this period, there were a total of **77 retail related-crime** arrests across the areas of winter action with the largest proportion of arrests occurring in **Welwyn Garden City**, which accounted for **22 arrests**.
- During this period there were a total of **44 violence related-crime** arrests within these town centres.
- Finally, there were also **10 sexually related-crime** arrests that occurred across 4 different locations (Watford, Stevenage St Albans Hatfield Galleria)

Youth Commission on Policing and Crime



The PCC has launched the **Hertfordshire Youth Commission** to engage young people aged 14–25:

- A core panel of up to 25 young people will be trained to gather views from peers across the county.
- **‘Big Conversation’** conference took place on the **29th of January** where members of the youth commission produced and showcased a video showcasing their learning and insights on joint enterprise.
- **Focus areas:**
 - Youth safety
 - Reducing youth offending
 - Improving relationships with police
 - Supporting young victims and witnesses

Innovation and Targeted Interventions

- **Noise Camera Pilot** launched in St Albans to tackle illegal street racing and antisocial driving.
 - Acoustic monitoring and camera technology will detect vehicles exceeding noise thresholds.
 - Offenders will receive warnings, with repeat offenders facing enforcement under Section 59.
 - The PCC has committed up to **£23,825** in funding, with additional support from local partners covering ongoing operational costs
- **Fly Tipping Fund** continues to support private landowners, especially farmers, with clean-up and prevention measures of tips on private land.
 - **£16.5k** allocated in 2024/25; further funding committed for 2025/26.
 - In 2025/26, 5 awards have been made in St Albans, East Herts & Hertsmere, totalling over **£7.5k**.

The scheme process is currently being reviewed before a decision on a 2026/27 scheme is made.

Community Safety and Serious Violence Funding

- **£43,000 awarded** to nine local projects addressing:



- ASB prevention
- Violence against women and girls
- 4 courses started as part of the **Aspire Higher Programme** for **30 young males** on Probation with convictions/known intelligence links to carrying or using weapons, involvement in county lines/organised drug supply or exiting organised crime.
- **£675,000 Serious Violence Duty funding** confirmed for 2025/26.
 - Delivered via the County Community Safety Unit Strategic Chairs Board.
 - Supports mentoring-**Herts Sports Partnership/StreetGames** have advertised the wider commissioning opportunity to deliver secondary level opportunities for young people identified at high risk.
 - **Over 30** young people, aged 13+, carrying knives or involved in Serious Violence have started the **YouTurn Futures** structured 12-week intervention plan that is a trauma-informed, relationship-based approach designed to engage vulnerable young people, address the root causes of violent behaviour, and support long-term desistance from crime.
 - **3 secondary level interventions** have started to be delivered to over **30** young people via **the Herts Sports Partnership/StreetGames**-led initiative to support young people/adults identified at high risk. Workforce upskilling, including Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning planned for 7 organisations thus far.
 - **550+** young people, including habitual knife carriers, referred to attend a session where **VR Headsets** are used as a visual/interactive learning tool.

The Home Office has announced funding for the serious violence duty to the PCC for 2026/27. Further details will be provided in due course.

Performance and Accountability

The Police and Crime Commissioner holds monthly Performance and Accountability meetings with the Chief Constable as part of the holding to account. These are live streamed and can be accessed after the meeting via the OPCC website:

[Accountability and Performance Meetings](#)

The most recent February APM covered the following topics:

- Live Facial Recognition
- Response Times

- Online Safety Act
- Victims Code of Practice
- Disclosure & Barring Act

Countywide Stop and Search Update

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 below data covers Stop & Searches undertaken over the last four months, from **30th September 2025 – 31st January 2026** (please note the data is subject to further finalisation).

During this time there has been a 6% increase in the use of Stop & Search compared to the equivalent period of 30th September 2025 – 31st January 2026. Positive outcomes are up 41% and positivity rates are down 0.5%.

There were some local differences in trends.

Use of Stop & Search was up in all 10 CSPs – St Albans (+14%), Hertsmere (+9%), East Herts (+9%), Welwyn Hatfield (+8%), Stevenage (+12%), Watford (+16%), Three Rivers (+6%), Dacorum (+7%), Broxbourne (+7%) and North Herts (+6%)

Similarly, over the same period all CSPs saw increases in their positive outcome rates and arrests in comparison to rates in the previous year:

- In Broxbourne, there was a 46% increase in positive outcome rate the highest out of all the CSPs
- In Stevenage, there was a 36% increase in positive outcome rate, and a 16% increase in arrests.
- In Three Rivers, there was a 45% increase in positive outcome rate and 16% increase in arrests.
- In North Herts, there was a 35% increase in the positive outcome rate. Although it remains the lowest in the county, it also recorded one of the highest increases in arrest rates, at 19%.

If you have any comments or questions about the data or information provided in this briefing, please email: Eleanor.makoni@herts-pcc.gov.uk



Stop Search by Month

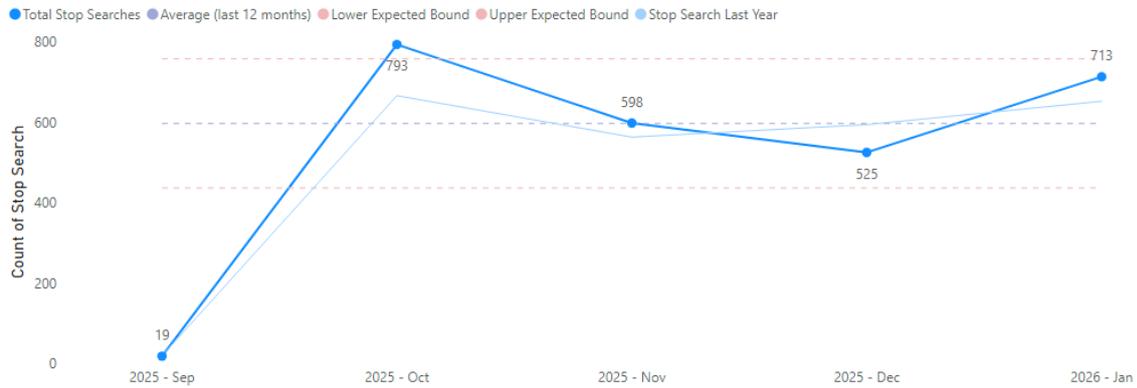


Figure 1 – Stop & Search volume by month in Hertfordshire, for period September 25 – January 26

Stop Search Volumes by CSP

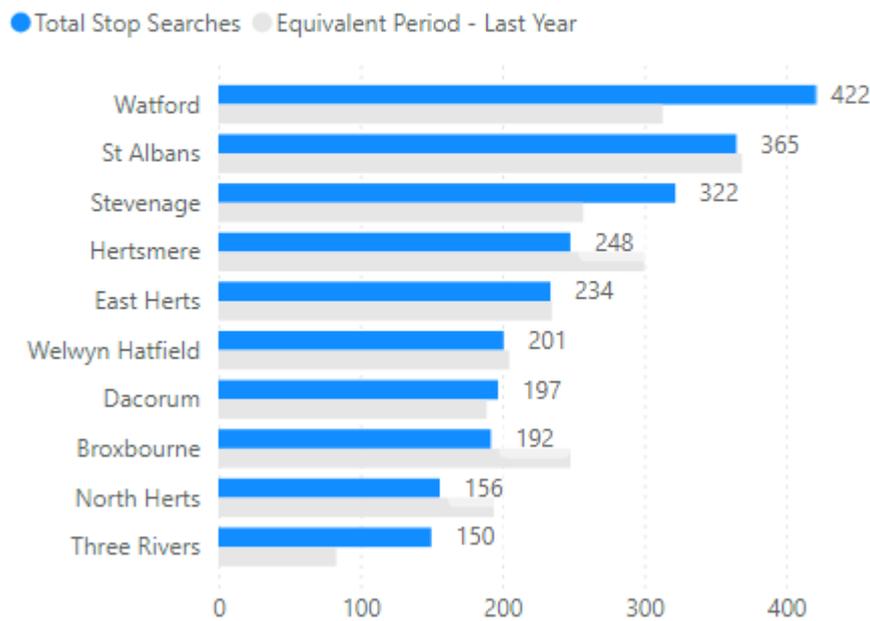


Figure 2 – Stop & Search volume by district in Hertfordshire, for period September 2025 – January 2026



Positive Outcome Rate

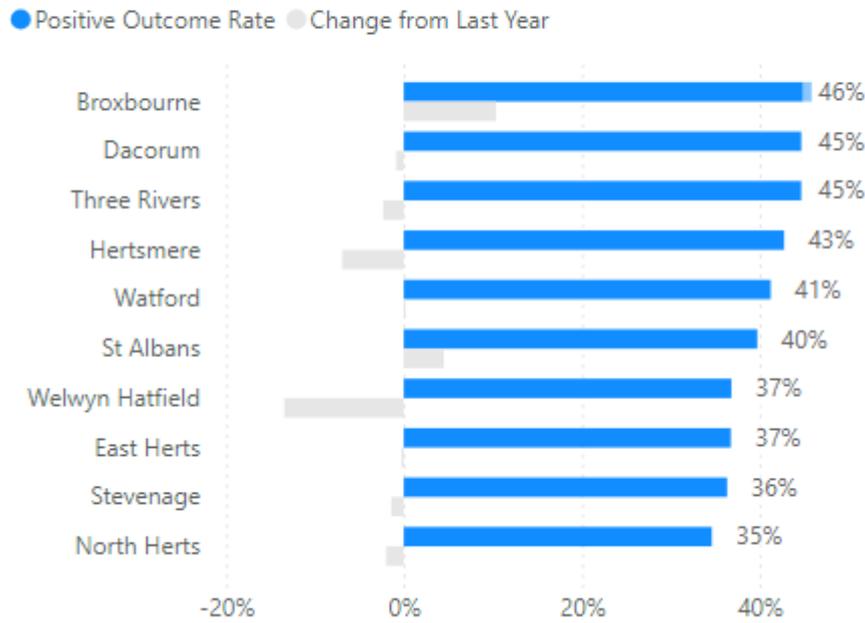


Figure 3 – Positive outcome rates for Stop & Search by district in Hertfordshire, for period September 25 – January 26



Figure 4- Overview of the whole county for Stop & Search by district in Hertfordshire, for period September 25- January 26