

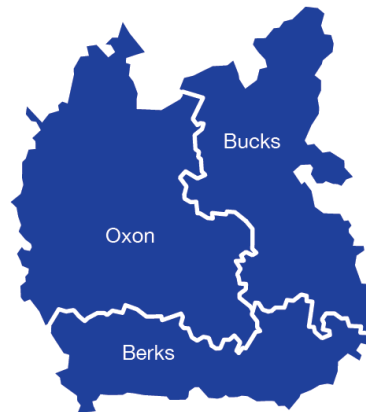
## Report to the Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel

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**Title:** Topical Issues

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### Thames Valley Police must still improve in some areas, inspectors say

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-61257119>

A police force failed to "consistently respond" to calls within its own target times, inspectors found. Thames Valley Police (TVP) was assessed by watchdog Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS).

It found that some staff were working "excessive overtime" and some found their workload "unmanageable".

The force's deputy chief constable Jason Hogg said it is providing an "effective and efficient" service.

HMICFRS, led by Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary, Roy Wilsher, rated TVP good in three areas, adequate in four and requires improvement in two - responding to the public and making a good use of resources. It said the force's "lack of resource" is affecting the way it can respond to the public.

HMICFRS found data from the 12 months to July 2021 showed TVP met its 15-minute target to attend incidents requiring an "immediate" response in 54% of cases.

Others classed as needing an "urgent" response within an hour received it in 38% of cases over the same period.

It found line managers were "responsive" to staff needs, but that the "pressure" on some was "undermining the steps the force has taken to improve wellbeing".

But inspectors said TVP "isn't blind" to those issues and had made some overall improvements since it was last inspected in 2019, including in the way it reports crime.

## HMICFRS - PEEL (Police effectiveness, efficacy and legitimacy) 2021/22 report for Thames Valley Police

<https://www.justiceinspectrates.gov.uk/hmicfrs/publications/peel-assessment-2021-22-thames-valley/>

Outstanding	Good	Adequate	Requires improvement	Inadequate
	Recording data about crime	Preventing crime	Responding to the public	
	Treatment of the public	Investigating crime	Good use of resources	
	Managing offenders	Protecting vulnerable people		
		Developing a positive workplace		

### TVP's Chief Constable calls for cannabis to be decriminalised to free up officers' time

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-10920095/Thames-Valley-police-chief-calls-cannabis-decriminalised.html>

### Police and Crime Commissioner welcomes recruitment of 368 extra police officers since 2019

Thames Valley has benefited from 368 additional police officers in less than three years, new numbers from the Government have confirmed.

Matthew Barber has welcomed the announcement that 368 police officers have been recruited in Thames Valley since September 2019 as part of the national Uplift Programme.

This brings the total number of officers up to 4,618 by the end of March 2022.

The latest figures show that Thames Valley Police now have more police officers than ever before, as numbers have passed the previous high in 2010.

As part of the Home Office's Uplift programme, an additional 20,000 police officers will be recruited across all police forces in England by 2023.

### Met Police's £5k golden handshake branded an 'outrageous' attempt to 'poach' officers by commissioner

<https://uk.movies.yahoo.com/met-polices-5k-golden-handshake-020100936.html>

Thames Valley's police and crime commissioner branded as 'outrageous' efforts by the Metropolitan Police to 'poach' Home Counties officers with the promise of a £5,000 golden handshake. Matthew Barber joined his counterparts in Surrey, Bedfordshire, Sussex and Kent in criticising the Met's recruiting policy.

The commissioner tweeted on Tuesday: "Targeting officers from other forces only risk community safety in this areas not to mention the question of whether it's even legal.

"Instead of fighting over the same turf we should be working together to attract the best new people into policing."

In February, the Met Police said it was temporarily lifting the requirement for new recruits to live in London as it tried to hire 1,800 new officers by March next year.

Corporate services chief Robin Wilkinson reportedly told the London Assembly in March that the number of applications it was receiving was 'too low to meet the growth' the force needed.

The Met is now offering a £5,000 'golden handshake' to officers interested in transferring to London from other forces.

Police and crime commissioners in the areas surrounding London expressed their concerns online yesterday.

## **Police and Crime Commissioner welcomes over £400,000 towards technology and data to help prevent crime**

The Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner (OPCC) for Thames Valley and Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) will benefit from more than £400,000 of funding towards technology and data to help prevent crime

Matthew Barber, Police and Crime Commissioner for the Thames Valley, has today (16 June) welcomed funding which has been awarded through the NPCC's STAR (Science, Technology, Analysis and Research) Fund.

The OPCC will receive £109,145 towards the trialling of a predictive mapping approach to partnership problem solving and multimedia resources to support behavioural change outcomes across youth justice (Project 180).

Matthew said: "I am delighted to see that my office has benefitted from the STAR Fund, providing important investment in the reduction of crime across Thames Valley.

"I look forward to seeing the outcomes from this funding, and the impacts they will have on our communities."

Utilising newly developed partnership data tool called InterACT, we will test the use of harm scores as an improved approach to problem solving with and for our partners. Working with our network of community safety partners, we aim to test, train and apply the approach for use in real time.

Project 180 will create and equip youth justice officers and practitioners with engaging and effective behavioural-change resources. Centred on video testimonies from people

impacted by youth crime, these resources will support reflective conversations between young people and professionals.

The VRU will receive £255,266.88 towards data quality improvements (DaQIOA) and Prediction of Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) which is a tool for investigation, harm reduction, and violence prevention.

Stan Gilmour, Director of the Violence Reduction Unit, said: "I welcome today's funding announcement received from the NPCC's STAR Fund.

"With this funding, the Violence Reduction Unit will be able to make improvements in data capture by frontline staff, as well as having access to cutting edge investigative tools aiming to reduce harm and prevent violence."

DaQIOA will drive effective data capture by frontline staff using innovative technology. It will also allow for the development of advanced analytical activity to inform frontline preventative activity, focused on public space violence and crime prevention activity.

TBI is prominent in cases of violence, both as a cause and an outcome. By building on preliminary and published results, demonstrating its validity in the context of paramedic information, a software tool will be developed to predict the likelihood of a given head impact scenario leading to a clinically assessed trauma.

## **Data released today show how police forces are performing nationally in answer 999 calls**

The 999 Performance Data which was released today as part of the Government's Beating Crime Plan details the time it takes for forces to answer 999 calls. Thames Valley Police answered 83% of 999 calls in under 10 seconds.

Matthew Barber, Police and Crime Commissioner said "I believe the public should feel confident in calling the police in an emergency. This increased transparency helps me to hold the police to account and improve performance. I am pleased that on all of the measures published today, Thames Valley is above the national average. Our call handlers work hard to provide the public with an efficient and professional response.

"My greater focus however remains on the performance of the 101, non-emergency service. In the majority of cases calls to 101 are answered in a timely fashion but I am only too well aware of the frustration to members of the public when they can't get through as quickly as they should reasonably expect. I will continue to challenge the Chief Constable on this as the force works to deliver an efficient and responsive non-emergency reporting service.

"I encourage the public to tell us their views on emergency and non-emergency reporting systems via the Police Contact Survey which is open until 29th June."

The national survey will help inform Thames Valley Police, other forces and the Home Office about the challenges faced and inform the development of future plans.

You can complete the survey at [Crime Reporting - National Public Contact Survey \(2022\)](https://smartsurvey.co.uk) ([smartsurvey.co.uk](https://smartsurvey.co.uk))

## **Reducing reoffending across Thames Valley to cut crime**

Matthew Barber, Police & Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley, recently commissioned a £50,000 independent review of the criminal justice system in Thames Valley

Police & Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley, Matthew Barber, has today (31 May) published the findings of an independent review of the work to reduce reoffending across Thames Valley.

The independent review, commissioned by the PCC, which took place over a number of months, included workshops, interviews and shadowing of services from prison, probation and in the community across 30 different organisations.

Results from the independent review, commissioned by the Police & Crime Commissioner, have now been adopted by the Thames Valley Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB) along with the 21 recommendations it made.

Matthew said: "In line with my Police and Criminal Justice Plan, I commissioned this vital review to further understand our criminal justice system locally.

"The learning and recommendations from this review are already being implemented in the work of the Local Criminal Justice Board and our Ministry of Justice funded pilot project called 'Restart Thames Valley'.

"Restart Thames Valley will be a yearlong pilot, running from June this year, working with more than 350 offenders leaving both Bullingdon and Bronzefield prisons. It will build on the experience of those currently being released from prison, those who have successfully resettled and frontline staff working hard to help people maintain successful outcomes such as stable accommodation and support networks.

"The findings from my independently commissioned review will feed back directly to decision makers across prison, probation and commissioned services so that they can act on and test improvements during the Restart Thames Valley pilot.

"I look forward to seeing the impact Restart Thames Valley will have to increase the chances for those leaving prison to lead a successful life with the right support."

## **Special police constables could be allowed to use Tasers under new anti-crime measures**

<https://news.sky.com/story/special-police-constables-could-be-allowed-to-use-tasers-under-new-anti-crime-measures-12614786>

Special constables will be given powers to use Tasers if appropriately trained and authorised by chief officers under a new package of anti-crime measures set to be announced by the government.

These will include allowing some special constables to use Tasers, empowering the police to take more knives off the streets and more investment to get young drug offenders back on track and reduce reoffending.

It comes after Home Secretary Priti Patel lifted restrictions on the police using stop and search in areas where they expect serious violence to happen.

The government say these restrictions, which have been in place since 2014, have hindered officers' ability to rid the streets of dangerous weapons.

Ministers believe that by making it easier for the police to seize more weapons, knife crime will be driven down and lives will be saved.

## **Thames Valley Police conduct mass firearm operation to tackle gun crime**

<https://www.bracknellnews.co.uk/news/20198716.thames-valley-police-conduct-mass-firearm-operation-tackle-gun-crime/>

181 firearms and ammunition have been handed to Thames Valley Police after a mass firearms surrender last month.

In a campaign supported by police forces in England and Wales, the force appealed to members of the public to hand in any unwanted guns.

This included 48 firearms and ammunition as part of the campaign coordinated by The National Ballistics Intelligence Service between May 12 and May 29.

Some of the items that were handed in to police were legal firearms that were no longer needed, however police have said that other have been distributed by criminal networks to harm, threaten and intimidate their local communities

## **Black people in Thames Valley more than three times as likely to be arrested as white people**

<https://www.bracknellnews.co.uk/news/20192215.black-people-thames-valley-three-times-likely-arrested-white-people/>

Black people in Thames Valley are over three times more likely to be arrested than white people, new figures show. Civil lobbying charity Liberty, which campaigns for justice and equality, accused the police of acting unjustly towards ethnic minorities and called on the Government to reduce police powers.

Home Office figures show 2,766 arrests of black people were made in Thames Valley in 2020-21. This equated to an estimated 40.1 arrests per 1,000 black people in the area, based on population figures from the 2011 census.

In contrast, there were just 11.4 arrests per 1,000 white people, meaning a black person was 3.5 times more likely to be arrested.

Arrest rates were down from 2019-20 – before the coronavirus pandemic led to a fall in overall crime – when 42.1 arrests per 1,000 black people and 11.9 per 1,000 white people were made.

## **Thames Valley Police joins race equality initiative**

[Thames Valley Police joins race equality initiative \(yahoo.com\)](#)

Thames Valley Police has joined 800 other employers and signed up Race at Work charter. The Business in the Community (BITC) initiative encourages businesses to commit to improving equal opportunities for Black, Asian, Mixed Race and ethnically diverse employees in the UK.

Launched in 2018, the Race at Work charter builds on the work of the 2017 McGregor-Smith Review.

This review found that people from Black, Asian, Mixed Race and ethnically diverse backgrounds are still underemployed, under promoted and under-represented at senior levels.

Findings from BITC's 2021 Race at Work Survey revealed while 76 per cent of employers said that race recruitment and progression was a priority, only 46 per cent had set targets to improve the racial diversity of their boards.

The charter commits organisations to improve equality by taking steps such as appoint an executive sponsor for race, capturing ethnicity data and publicise success and support race inclusion allies in the workplace.