



HERTFORDSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

POLICE CRIME DATA REPORT OF THE PCC

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13 February 2014

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 That the report from the PCC is noted.
- 2 The Panel considers any recommendations it wishes to make to the PCC on the report.

Purpose of report

To allow the Panel to satisfy itself that data produced by the Constabulary to support the work of the PCC is reliable and correctly states the crime statistics in the county.

Crime Data

The PCC produced an update to the November 2013 meeting of the Panel including crime data collated and reported by the Constabulary. At the same time, a number of allegations had been made about the reliability of data produced by police forces and the reliability of the Hertfordshire data was queried by members of the public and the Panel at the meeting. The PCC replied that he was aware of the issue and had already requested some work to be done by the Chief Constable to validate the integrity of the crime statistics, treatment of vulnerable people and response to victims of crime.

Since that meeting, the UK Statistics Authority has decided not to designate police recorded crime figures as National Statistics although commentary on the figures will continue to be provided by the Office for National Statistics pending the release of the forthcoming inspection of data integrity which is being carried out by HM Inspectorate of

Constabulary. The Crime Survey for England and Wales has also produced its figures since the last meeting. These also show a decrease in the levels of crime generally. These figures remain designated as National Statistics. The basic difference between the two sets of figures is that the former represent police records of crime reported to them, the latter is a survey of a statistically significant number of citizens to report their experience of crime. Initially, the two sets of figures were widely different (the police figures were approximately 60% of the crime survey figures), then as greater uniformity of police reporting was introduced, the figures came together (the difference being only about 10%). Recently, they have diverged again. There is a suggestion that target setting has caused a degree of false or adapted reporting in some areas.

Clearly, there is a need for the public to have confidence in any data published by a public service and so the Panel is invited to consider the report from the PCC at Appendix B and to comment and make any recommendations considered appropriate.