

Policing Plan 2022-23

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Isle of Man
Government

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Department of Home Affairs

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Foreword



Hon. Jane Poole-Wilson, MHK **MINISTER FOR JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS**

Under the Police Act 1993 the Department of Home Affairs, after consultation with the Chief Constable, determines the objectives and strategic priorities of the Isle of Man Constabulary. These are determined annually and a report is then laid before Tynwald. This enables Government to provide high-level direction to the Constabulary without impacting on their operational independence.

This is my first Policing Plan as Minister for Justice and Home Affairs and it follows the publication of Government's Island Plan - which sets out the overarching vision of a secure, vibrant and sustainable future for our Island nation, and a new ambitious economic strategy. We are a small Island and community safety has always been a key contributor to maintaining, and improving, our quality of life and is a consistent driver for economic growth.

Thankfully the backdrop of COVID, which has impacted on policing over the past two years, has shifted and the move to an endemic approach to living with COVID sees us enter a new phase. The independent review of the Constabulary, by HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services, will report shortly and the outcome of the review will allow Government, and the Constabulary, to identify key areas for development.

The Constabulary have established a comprehensive strategic threat and risk assessment process and I commend the Chief Constable for investing resource to support this. In a period of significant pressure on public finances it is imperative that the Constabulary continue to use that assessment to build the right skills and capacity, and target their resources effectively.

This year again reflects the risk from Serious and Organised Crime Groups with several operations in the previous 12 months successfully targeting organised crime - demonstrating the real threats posed to our Island. I want to see the Constabulary continue to address the areas of harm that most impact our communities including violent crime, sexual assault, domestic abuse, and child exploitation.

Critical to this will be ensuring that partnership and collaborative working remains a priority. I have seen first-hand the focus of the Constabulary to support early intervention, particularly to address children and young people on the fringes of criminal activity, and drive a multiagency approach to support and protect children and all victims of abuse. The Department is committed to ensuring that work is supported by all areas of Government.

Continuing to develop our capacity to tackle economic crime is key to meeting global standards and reducing the impact of fraud and cybercrime on our community.

Finally the Constabulary have made huge strides towards digitisation already and I support the Chief Constable's aim to use technology to drive more effective and efficient ways of working. I would like to see this developed to ensure policing is both sustainable and adaptable to address future demands.

The Constabulary are front and centre of delivering the Government's vision of a secure, vibrant and sustainable future for our Island nation and public confidence is critical at a community, national but also international level.

This year's Policing Plan looks a bit different but I want to ensure that we are reflecting Government, and Department, objectives and setting clear strategic priorities for Policing.

Hon. Jane Poole-Wilson, MHK

Minister for Justice and Home Affairs

September 2022

Government Policy

This Policing Plan has been informed by the aims and deliverables set out in the Island Plan, the Department's Delivery Plan, and also the threats to the Island identified by the Constabulary.

Aims

The plan sets out three overall aims for the Constabulary:

- Keep our community safe;
- Reduce harm; and
- Protect the vulnerable.

Priorities

- Tackling economic crime, cyber-crime and fraud;
- Deterring, pursuing and preventing serious and organised crime in the Isle of Man;
- Tackling exploitation of vulnerable people;
- Reducing and preventing youth offending and reoffending, including anti-social behaviour;
- Reducing the harm caused by:
 - Violence;
 - Sexual assault;
 - Domestic abuse; and
 - Road traffic collisions
- Building organisational capacity and capability.

Enablers

- ❖ Understanding of strategic threats and risks;
- ❖ Partnership working;
- ❖ Community policing; and
- ❖ Increased use of technology.

Tackling economic crime, cyber-crime and fraud

The Constabulary must continue to develop its capability to tackle complex international money laundering in particular. The Island is committed to meeting global standards on tackling money laundering and the funding of terrorist activity and the Constabulary's role in supporting this is crucial.

Objectives

- Operationalise the leadership for the new specialist international money laundering investigation team by December 2022;
- Deter, detect, disrupt and respond to cyber-crime; and
- Work with partners, including the financial services sector, to reduce the number of victims of fraud, including that committed online.

How will we know we're successful?

- Increase the number of international money laundering prosecutions.
- Increased number of people protected by the banking protocol.
- Reduced reports of fraud where victims live in the Isle of Man.

Deterring and preventing serious and organised crime in the Isle of Man

Serious and Organised Crime Groups (SOCG) target and exploit the Isle of Man as it is a lucrative market for the sale of drugs. This is not a victimless crime. Drugs gangs target vulnerable people and exploit them. The sale of drugs leads to violence and harm. It is a priority to prevent criminal gangs from bringing drugs to the Island.

Objectives:

- Work with partners to reduce vulnerabilities in the Island's borders;
- Work with partners to deter and prevent serious and organised crime groups from targeting the Isle of Man, pursuing those who do seek to commit crime here; and
- Deliver the Violence Reduction Plan.

How will we know we're successful?

- Increase in amount of drugs seized
- Increase in amount of drug money seized.
- Increase in prosecutions of SOCG members.
- Reduce levels of recorded violent crime linked to drugs.

Tackling exploitation of vulnerable people

We know that children and vulnerable adults are being exploited by serious criminals, particularly in relation to drugs. In addition, complex vulnerability amongst the community is a considerable driver of police demand. These are not problems the Constabulary can tackle alone and the Department understands that this is a problem which can only be solved with partners in other agencies.

Objectives

- Continue to analyse data to ensure there is a comprehensive understanding of issues connected to the exploitation of children and vulnerable adults, including from partner agencies outside the Constabulary;
- Support bespoke interventions, and sharing of information, to reduce the risk of exploitation; and
- Establish a multi-agency safeguarding hub with other partners by no later than December 2022.

How will we know we're successful?

- Reduction in the number of vulnerable people and children who are repeat victims of crime.
- Increase in the number of young or vulnerable people removed from exploitation.
- Victim satisfaction rates.

Preventing youth offending

Children who break the law should be treated differently than adults. Much youth offending is short term and is a response to other things happening in a child's life. While a great deal of youth offending is lower level anti-social behaviour, the impact on our community should not be underestimated and it must be addressed.

The Police Early Action Team works with young people and their parents/carers and the evidence shows their interventions work to deter the vast majority from further criminal behaviour. For a minority, more sustained and multi-agency approaches are needed.

Preventing youth offending is not simply a job for the Police alone. The Police must work closely with those in health and social care, education and the voluntary sector to prevent offending from happening in the first place and to reduce reoffending.

Objectives

- Improve early identification of vulnerability and those at risk of offending in children and young people;
- Provide interventions to divert those at risk of offending
- Provide input and support to the work on Adverse Childhood Experiences;
- Support the development of a Youth Justice Board;
- Continue to support and develop the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub; and
- Continue to support and develop community policing.

How will we know we're successful?

- Increased referrals between partner agencies.
- Reduced offending and reoffending rates for young people.

Reducing the harm caused by violence, sexual violence, domestic abuse and road traffic collisions

Last year, sexual offences rose by 18% and minor assaults rose by 2%. While serious assaults fell by 18%, the harm caused to individuals and our community by serious assaults and sexual assaults is significant. All violence is preventable.

The new Domestic Abuse legislation will give Police more powers to prevent the harm caused by domestic abuse, but they must have commitment from other agencies to truly begin to make a difference.

The link between drugs and violence is inescapable. Where a drug debt cannot be paid or there is a dispute between rival drugs gangs, violence is routine. This violence is not acceptable in our community and must be tackled.

There will always be road traffic collisions but through the Road Safety Strategy there is a commitment to reduce the harm caused by serious collisions.

Objectives

- Support delivery and operation of the Sexual Assault Referral Centre opening in 2023
- Tackle offending that causes the most harm;
- Implement the Violence Reduction Plan;
- Support effective implementation of the Domestic Abuse Act, together with key partners;
- Support a multiagency approach to increase the number of places where disclosure of abuse can take place; and
- Continue to work with partners to deliver the Island's Road Safety Strategy.

How will we know we're successful?

- Reduce the number of repeat victims of domestic abuse.
- Reduce the number of serious assaults.
- Increase the number of prosecutions for sexual assaults.
- Increase the number of rape prosecutions.
- Improve satisfaction rates for victims of rape and sexual assault.
- Reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured on our roads.
- Increase the number of vulnerable road users who say they feel safe on our roads.

Building organisational capacity and capability

It's vital that the Police service in the Isle of Man is skilled, flexible and represents the community it serves. It must be enabled by technology, but responsive to people.

Succession planning must be a critical focus for the Chief Constable to ensure the Constabulary is able to continue developing for the future.

The Constabulary must continue to transform Policing through the use of digital solutions to improve access, reduce bureaucracy and increase efficiency.

Objectives

- Introduce online public engagement tool;
- Deliver mobile policing solutions;
- Participate in the development of a Blue Light Strategy working with partner agencies;
- Ensure services are digitally enabled, using opportunities provided by technology to keep people safe and support transformational change; and
- Minimise the impact Police operations have on the environment.

How will we know we're successful?

- Improved public access to information systems.
- Reduced inquiry calls to police and increased number of online submissions of low level crimes.
- Greater collaboration between emergency services.



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