



**POLICE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER**
for Leicester,
Leicestershire & Rutland
Your Communities - Your Commissioner

Police and Crime Panel
Public Order Policing
8th September 2025

Report Date	7 th August 2025
Report Author	Lizzie Starr, Director of Governance and Performance
Security Classification	Official

Purpose of Report

1. In his role as the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) the Commissioner is required to contribute to national and international policing capabilities set out by the Home Secretary, bring together community safety and criminal justice partners to make sure local priorities are joined up and hold the Chief Constable accountable for the performance of the force.
2. The PCC brings this report to outline for the Police and Crime Panel how he is fulfilling his duty by contributing to national and international policing capabilities set out by the Home Secretary, bring together community safety and criminal justice partners to make sure local priorities are joined up and holding the Chief Constable to account for the policing of large-scale public disorder.

Request of the Panel

3. In their role to scrutinise the actions and decisions of the PCC, the Commissioner requests that the panel examines the contents of this report. He would specifically like to ask the panel their opinion on the following questions;
 - a. Is the Panel content in the way that the PCC has held the Chief Constable to account on this important subject?
 - b. Would the panel like to make any recommendations to the PCC in relation to this matter?

Summary

4. It is the opinion of the PCC that the Chief Constable has provided assurance regarding how Leicestershire Police are prepared with the capability, capacity and equipment to be able to deal efficiently and effectively with a future situation.
5. The PCC was presented a comprehensive report by the Chief Constable on the preparedness for the force's coping mechanisms with large scale disorder to the Corporate Governance Board in May 2025, for which key points have been included in the paper below.
6. During the last five years Leicestershire Police have had several significant and protracted public order operations to include disorder and protest. The PCC was briefed on how the force continues to learn and apply the lessons from such deployments to future operations.
7. The Chief Constable was confident it has the capacity, capability and equipment to respond to future demands and the knowledge and experience to draw upon regional and national assets should it need to.

Background, Relevant Data and Trends

8. There have been multiple incidents of public disorder across the UK in previous years. Thanks to social media and organised groups this disorder is now easier than ever to organise and rapid to develop. Following the disorder in Leicester in 2022 and UK wide in 2024 the risk of further public disorder developing is often a concern voiced to the PCC by public and business, especially in the urban areas of our region.
9. During the 2024 riots, Merseyside Police tactically withdrew streets during disorder on the grounds of operational necessity. This led to a lowering of confidence in the police ability to keep the community safe.
10. While the quick work of Leicestershire Police to manage communities and tensions during that period avoided the same scenes in Leicester, it is a realistic possibility of future tensions and unrest as has recently been experienced elsewhere in the country linked to anti-immigration protests. Leicestershire Police have been ongoing in their proactivity to this and are prepared both locally and in support of national mutual aid.
11. The police deal with a wide range of incidents or operations which require the use of trained public order resources. There is a common misconception that public order trained officers only deal with disorder. This is not the case and very often 'public order officers' are assigned to large scale 'public safety' events such as Diwali or a music festival as their training is such that they are used to managing the movement and safety of large crowds. They are of course also trained to deal with outbreaks of disorder which are either planned or spontaneous in nature.
12. Each force regionally and nationally has to maintain a pre-determined commitment to the Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR). The Chief Constable confirmed that the amount in place is the amount required.
13. Whilst the exact numbers of trained officers cannot be provided in the public domain, the PCC was provided with full assurance that the Force meets the requisite number of trained officers and commanders required to meet the SPR, local need and that the force continually succession plans.
14. All Leicestershire police public order public safety officers (POPS) are trained according to the College of Policing (COP) tactics manual, and all commanders have attended and passed a nationally approved and accredited COP course to include adherence to the POPs Authorised Professional Practice (APP).

15. Further to this, if the resourcing requirements exceed local capacity and capability, for example the requirement for horses or additional PSUs, then the force are able to secure additional resources from outside the force area.
16. In times such as the national disorder of 2024, national mobilisation structures will be stood up reporting directly to National Police Coordination Centre (NPoCC) and a national Gold commander appointed. ACC Streets is the Regional Mobilisation Lead (RML) and represents the East Midlands on all such national mobilisations and manages the East Midlands Regional Information Coordination Centre (EMRICC) on behalf of the region.
17. The force considers that it has all necessary kit and equipment required to meet National standards. The force holds sufficient readily accessible stock of PSU uniform and is able to replace worn or damaged items of equipment. The force has ready access to sufficient PSU carriers (vans), having just replaced an aging fleet, intermediate shields, round shields, loud hailers, lighting and fire extinguishers etc. In addition, it has sufficient evidence gathering cameras, medic kits and protest removal capability to include working at heights.
18. The PCC asked how the force assesses the effectiveness of tactics used after disorder. After every POPS deployment a hot debrief is held to ensure that positive elements or learning points are captured and disseminated into both local and national learning via a national debrief form which is completed by all those in the command chain. Fortunately, incidents of widespread disorder are rare but where this does occur then more structured, thorough and often independent debriefs are held. As an example, post the events of 2022 in Leicester, NPoCC were asked to conduct an independent review. The CoP use such learning to host numerous mandated annual CPD events for commanders where feedback from significant deployments is shared nationally.
19. The force has taken significant learning from previous operational debriefs and the value of assigning investigative oversight during the early planning phases. It is now common practice that any pre-planned POPS operation will include the requirement of an assigned Detective Inspector to provide early advice and ensure declaration of and ownership of offences in addition to managing the processing of prisoners.
20. The PCC asked what steps the force has taken to ensure proactive engagement with the public and partners before, during and in the aftermath of public disorder. The force has not experienced disorder since 2022 however in preparing the local response to the national disorder in 2024 the force worked tirelessly to engage with key local stakeholders, the wider community and partners ahead of, during and post police deployment. The

force collaborated with the Local Authorities to ensure access to CCTV provision and the clearing of building work debris which might have been used as missiles.

21. The force engaged with relevant Local Independent Advisory Groups (LIAGs) and with its network of NPA community contacts. Taking the learning from 2022 the force's approach to comms and engagement was further enhanced through regular proactive messaging using both social media 'tiles' and more detailed stakeholder communications circulated via both traditional and non-traditional media. Such messaging prevented the spread of disinformation whilst reassuring communities of the police planned response. The force assured the PCC that it is confident that the proactive approach actually reduced/prevented certain fractions attending our towns and cities in solidarity of one opposing group or another.
22. Post the 2022 disorder the force has also invested in a community cohesion team who continue to support the force in ongoing community dialogue and in developing new community and force relationships.

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