

**Barnstaple Sector Police report**  
**Barnstaple Town Council Meeting**  
**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

Dear Councillors,

Please accept my apologies, but this Town Council meeting conflicts with the scheduling of a Town Centre retailer meeting which I am required to attend along with colleagues from North Devon District Council. I am aware that some Councillors might also be attending at least part of that meeting prior to the commencement of the Town Council Meeting and look forward to seeing them there. We also have the fair proclamation to look forward to, and I will be able to catch up with you personally there. If any questions arise from your meeting, please raise them with your Clerk for my attention.

The effects of Crime and Disorder in Barnstaple Sector are disproportionately concentrated to affect the Town Centre and supporting our hospitality and retail sectors through this at what is an already difficult time due to the cost of living, and recovery from the pandemic is a priority I need to support. Owing to this, I will be unable to attend the Town Council Meeting.

In my last update on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2022, pleasingly I was able to update that the previous month has seen falls in levels of overall reported crime year on year. However, the past month has seen a significant increase in volumes of reported crime both relative to that period and year on year. Levels of reported antisocial behaviour has reduced however. We are accustomed to dealing with the usual challenges of the seasonality of our area. However, whilst there have been some series type offending, the increase in demand has been broad, in many cases without obvious pattern or causation. The past month has therefore been a testing time for our teams, and has required focus, and carefully consideration and scaling of our response to incidents informed by threat, risk, and harm considerations. I have prepared a table to illustrate recent demand in the period 07/08/22-06/09/22, relative to 2 previous reference years:

Offence	Recorded Crime 07/08/2022 - 06/09/2022	Recorded Crime 07/08/2021 - 06/09/2021	Recorded Crime 07/08/2019 - 06/09/2019	Recorded Crime % Change 2021-22	Recorded Crime % Change 2019-22
Public Order Offences	34	22	26	54.5%	30.77%
Violence with Injury	36	30	30	20.0%	20.00%
Criminal Damage	39	37	28	5.4%	39.29%
Stalking and Harassment	39	26	25	50.0%	56.00%
Arson	1	1	0	0.0%	%
Violence without Injury	48	54	39	-11.1%	23.08%
Non Notifiable	0	0	0	%	%
Possession of Weapons	4	1	7	300.0%	-42.86%
Shoplifting	31	17	20	82.4%	55.00%
Vehicle Offences	14	6	17	133.3%	-17.65%
Other Sexual Offences	14	1	3	1,300.0%	366.67%
All Other Theft Offences	30	14	27	114.3%	11.11%
Possession of Drugs	14	8	23	75.0%	-39.13%
Burglary Non-Dwelling	7	4	8	75.0%	-12.50%
Other Offences	7	3	4	133.3%	75.00%
Burglary Dwelling	6	2	1	200.0%	500.00%
Rape	5	7	4	-28.6%	25.00%
Trafficking of Drugs	1	5	5	-80.0%	-80.00%
Bicycle Theft	2	6	4	-66.7%	-50.00%
Robbery	3	0	2	%	50.00%
Theft from the Person	3	2	2	50.0%	50.00%
-	0	0	0	%	%
	<b>338</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>37.4%</b>	<b>22.91%</b>

With our nearest comparable 'pre'covid' year being 2019, our recorded crime has shown a 22.91% increase overall. As would be the case in any area of private or public sector industry, respond to a % increase in demand of this order has been a challenge.

However, during this time, our positive offender outcome rate has risen to over 32%. This is the highest figure of any Sector in the Devon and Cornwall Police area. We also received positive recognition following a force wide review of 'Crime data integrity'. This is a measure of the extent to which our officers record the correct crime reports from incidents they respond to, and our data showed the highest standards in the force. Taken together, this means that we record crime as fully as any other part of the force area, and even at a time of high demand, we maintain the best levels of outcome for the community we serve.

In terms of particular series of note, earlier in the month we experienced a series of dwelling burglaries. This series has now ended, with the last recorded dwelling burglary in Barnstaple sector taking place on 22/08/2022. I am satisfied that police interventions against individuals has led to this series ending, but am unable to comment further at this time for legal reasons.

Latterly, a series of Town centre focussed commercial burglaries has taken place. There are similarities between the offences, and officers are currently following active and viable lines of enquiry. We recognise the significance of these offences to both the parties directly concerned, and wider public confidence in policing.

We continue to work across the whole host of statutory partners to keep people safe, drive and support individual behavioural change, and prevent and detect crime.