



FOI Ref: OPCC 44 – 2024

Request: Dated 9th February 2025

Response: Dated 7th March 2025

I can confirm that the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) holds the information requested, as outlined below:

Question:

Accept this as a request under the FOI Act if you need to but it should be a case of just answering the questions.

Note: I know in the majority of PCC offices there are police staff receiving and answering messages. This is a conflict of interest to running an independent office and I would like this message to be seen and answered by the PCC themselves as this is a national issue and I have written to all PCCs.

Dear PCC,

1. Will your police force/constabulary be ring-fencing the extra income from the latest firearms licensing fee increase to the firearms licensing functions?
2. What improvements will you be asking the Chief constable to make to streamline the system and reduce delays in grant and renewal?

This is a response under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and disclosed in March 2025

3. Will you be looking to ensure the Chief Constable recruits additional staff to reduce backlogs and provide better service, even to those who are under suitability review?

Note: It is well established that people under review are neglected and left for many months and years without any resolution due to risk aversion, often victims of malice by the scorned ex partner. There is a duty to resolve disputes expeditiously as the human rights act applies (peaceful enjoyment of possessions).

Answer:

1. The additional fees will assist in offsetting the costs of the Firearms Licensing Department and will be recorded against that cost centre. For 2025/2026, total income from firearms licensing (after taking account of the increases in fees) are projected to be £532,445 against a cost of staffing alone of £760,782 for the 19.9 Full Time Equivalent Staff directly employed in this area.
2. The PCC here in Dyfed-Powys has held the Chief Constable to account on several occasions in relation to firearms licensing matters through formal Policing Board meetings. In September 2023 due to the Office of the PCC receiving correspondence in relation to firearms licensing delays the PCC asked for specific information to be provided. During consideration of the information, the PCC requested that the Chief Constable make improvements within the Service. At the Policing Board meeting held in October 2023 the PCC was provided with assurance that improvements had been made and continued to be made. This correlated with a reduction in correspondence within the Office of the PCC and this has continued until the present day.

An action at the Policing Board meeting held in September 2023 was raised that the Chief Constable undertake a virtual engagement session with licence holders to address their concerns. To facilitate this a meeting was held the British Association of Shooting and Conservation (BASC) and the Commissioner and the Chief Constable due to the issues that were being raised at the time by their Members. The Firearms Department of the Force now hold quarterly meetings with BASC and they are considered successful.



3. The recruitment of staff is an operational matter, and the PCC cannot direct the Chief Constable to allocate operational resources. However, as with the response to question 2 above, the PCC does hold the Chief Constable to account and will continue to do so as part of the performance monitoring of the Force. The responsibilities of both the PCC and Chief Constable are set out in the Policing Protocol 2023 than can be found on this link [Policing Protocol 2023](#)