

**SURREY POLICE AND CRIME PANEL – 3 FEBRUARY 2025
COMMISSIONER'S QUESTIONS**

Question submitted by Cllr Richard Wilson

- 1. Does the Commissioner believe that Surrey Police is taking appropriate action to deal with the threat posed by people who have been individually radicalised online in Surrey? Is the Prevent programme effective in the county?**

Response:

The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a legal duty on specified authorities, including the police, to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. This is known as the Prevent Duty, and I want to assure the Panel that Surrey Police takes this responsibility extremely seriously. We have embedded it into all aspects of policing - patrols, neighbourhood policing, and safeguarding - to maximise opportunities to reduce the risk of terrorism.

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey is also represented on the Surrey Prevent Executive and receives regular updates from Counter Terrorism Policing South East (CTPSE).

However, following the horrific murder of three young girls in Stockport, the government has launched a public inquiry and signalled its intention to review and reform the Prevent programme nationally. Given this ongoing process, it would not be appropriate for me to comment further at this time.

Question submitted by Cllr Paul Kennedy

- 2. This is the 4th year in a row that the Commissioner is proposing to increase council tax by the maximum permitted without a referendum, and the Commissioner's response to the Government's provisional funding settlement requested an increase in Surrey's referendum limit on the basis that Surrey has a higher policing precept than other areas and therefore a fixed nominal increase represents at 4.3% a lower maximum increase than other areas.**

How big an increase in the referendum limit would be required before the Commissioner would not be seeking to increase council tax by the maximum permitted?

Response:

It is not possible to determine a specific increase in the referendum limit that would prevent the Commissioner from seeking the maximum permitted council tax

increase. Panel members will be aware that the level of council tax required depends on multiple factors, including the amount of direct government funding and other budgetary considerations – none of which are set out in the provided hypothetical scenario.

- 3. The previous police and crime plan included a specific police and crime objective of ensuring safer Surrey roads. The proposed draft new plan no longer includes a specific objective. Does this indicate a deprioritisation of road safety in Surrey?**

Response:

While the draft plan no longer includes road safety as a separate objective, it remains a key focus and is embedded within Priority 4 through specific actions.

Towards the end of my last term, a substantial research project - funded by the Department for Transport - was undertaken by my team to explore how PCCs could better oversee road safety and support preventative work. The findings from this research will be published shortly and will help shape both local OPCC-led initiatives and inform wider national efforts.