



Business Crime Strategy

2016 - 2019



Our commitment



Andy Marsh

Chief Constable
Avon & Somerset Constabulary

A business is the victim in more than a quarter of all crime committed in Avon and Somerset. These businesses are a crucial part of our communities – they provide employment, drive local economies and provide a multitude of services that we rely on as part of our daily lives. Levels of reported crime against businesses continue to be constant and the harm caused can be devastating for business and community alike.

This Business Crime Strategy, the first of its kind for Avon and Somerset, is our commitment to working with businesses to improve confidence, prevent crime and reduce the harm it causes.

We want to work with the business community and other stakeholders to achieve a sustainable reduction in crime. With existing business partners in towns and rural areas across the Force, our aim is for us all to work together in making these partnerships cohesive and inclusive, and with improved capability to share intelligence and reports of crime.

We'll do this by working to Five core principles:

- We will enhance the relationships between Avon and Somerset police and businesses
- We will reduce business crime through consultation and partnership with local businesses.
- We will develop improved methods for crime reporting and intelligence sharing with key business communities focussing on high criminal and anti-social threat
- We will work on a local level to build positive relationships with businesses of all sizes and ensure they are maintained
- We will utilise dedicated specialist officers to protect businesses and tackle serious criminality. This will include organised criminality and Cyber Crime threats

In this strategy we focus on working with the business community to develop plans to prevent crime. By far the best solution though is to stop crime **before** it happens. Preventing crime and keeping safe is a priority for all of us. This strategy set out how we will do this, with your help.

This strategy is owned and directed by Detective Superintendent Mark Saunders.



How will we do it?



Enhance the relationships with businesses

We will:

- Identify and make business aware of a dedicated business crime lead in each region of the Force
- Support the creation of local partnership groups of communities and businesses to tackle business crime
- Make better use of local resources and the support offered by business communities
- Ensure businesses are regularly consulted and involved in identifying and resolving local problems
- Ensure businesses are at the forefront of decision making to enable them to feel safer and suffer less crime

Consultation and partnerships with local businesses

We will:

- Seek out best practice and ensure lessons learned from other forces are adopted – for example, through 'Op Sodium' Humberside Police have seen a reduction in shoplifting as a result of working with businesses
- Ask businesses to ensure that their policies, procedures and staff training are aligned to encourage their staff in proactively intervening and disrupting, challenging and preventing crime where appropriate
- Do all we can to achieve a reduction in demand at key locations
- Work with business victims of crime to help them use their experiences to help others

How will we do it?



Develop improved methods for crime reporting and intelligence sharing

We will:

- Enhance our website platform to provide dedicated online reporting for business crime
- Explore opportunities for businesses to upload CCTV images and videos directly to our website
- Develop our community alerts platform to share information with key business partners

Utilise dedicated specialist officers to protect businesses and tackle serious online criminality

We will:

- Help businesses to educate themselves enough to protect their interests online
- Utilise our existing intelligence network to inform and protect business where possible
- Promote current online initiatives and self-help guides such as:

10 Steps to Cyber Security

The Cyber Information Sharing Partnership

Cyber Essentials

Get Safe Online

Free online training provided by the National Archives

Free online course provided by the Open University

- Develop improved Digital Intelligence and investigation capabilities to tackle new and existing threats to businesses

How does this fit with wider Force strategy?



Tackling business crime is an integral part of the way we operate:

- By working with businesses of all sizes, our aim is to prevent crime before it happens, in line with our **Crime Prevention Strategy**
- We want to engage with businesses to listen, understand, involve and inform, as our **Citizen and Community Engagement Strategy** aims to
- In a world where technology is changing, we will help protect businesses online, which will also be a key focus of our **Cyber Strategy**

Our Business Crime Strategy does not stand alone. It is integrated with, and complements, our existing way of working at Avon & Somerset Constabulary



Where will we be in 2019?



We will see:

- A **reduction in demand** from **large business** such as supermarkets, allowing us to spend more time with smaller businesses
- A **reduction in crime** at **locations** where demand has been especially high
- Vibrant **relationships** with **local businesses**
- Greater reassurance and increased confidence within **communities**
- More businesses **using their position** and **taking responsibility** for **identifying, defining and solving problems** within our communities.

