



20/09/22

## **RESPONSE OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER OF WILTSHIRE AND SWINDON TO THE HMICFRS REPORT**

### **The police response to burglary, robbery and other acquisitive crime – Finding time for crime?**

#### **Police and Crime Commissioner's comments**

I welcome a commitment from Wiltshire Police for its officers to visit all victims of home burglaries.

Today, Wiltshire Police backed a commitment from the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) which said all police forces would now visit all home burglary victims in a bid to increase victim satisfaction and to preserve evidence sooner to support increased prosecutions.

The move will provide consistency with how all police forces deal with burglary and after police chiefs considered public opinion and reviewed a new rapid evidence assessment, produced by the College of Policing, on effective measures for solving burglary crimes.

Wiltshire Police currently attend close to 90% (88.7%) of house burglaries but furthering that commitment to every victim of burglary is a step I am sure will be welcomed by all residents. Through achieving this the force will be delivering key priorities from my police and crime plan which ensures Wiltshire Police focus on providing a policing service which meets the needs of its communities and tackle crimes that matter most to them.

Burglary is a highly invasive crime and understandably leaves victims traumatised with many scared to be in their own homes as a result. This commitment enhances how police forces respond to burglary and will ensure these crimes are not trivialised as they strike at the heart of how safe our residents feel.

Alongside this improved response, I will be scrutinising and challenging the force to ensure that effective, quality, investigations are taking place with more positive outcome rates for detection and charges for perpetrators.

I have also asked Force to explore if it is operationally possible to extend this commitment to include all non-dwelling burglaries, like rural outbuildings and sheds. As ever, this will be a delicate balance but aiming to provide the policing service our communities want is vital. By improving how officers deal with burglary, and how victims are treated, we can directly increase the public's confidence and trust in the policing service they receive.

I am pleased that Wiltshire Police has shown support to this national move and increased its

commitment to visiting victims of all house burglaries across the county. I will now closely monitor this commitment on behalf of residents to ensure it is delivered.