



Isle of Man
Government
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Department of Home Affairs

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Consultation on Policing in the Isle of Man

April 2024

Introduction

This is the opportunity to influence policing in the Isle of Man – this means you can help shape the policies, objectives and priorities and the means by which it is intended that they be achieved.

You'll be able to see the result of this in written plans issued by the Department and see the impact of this in where the police focus their attention.

This consultation builds on public engagement through the Constabulary roadshows towards the end of 2023 to understand what matters to you.

The Department of Home Affairs ("the Department") will use the responses along with what we heard at the roadshows, consultation with the Chief Constable, Community Safety Partnership, reporting from the Constabulary and research to help shape the policies, objectives and priorities and the means by which it is intended that they be achieved, going forward.

This consultation is focused on the policies, objectives and priorities for the Constabulary and the means by which it is intended that they be achieved. While it touches on other areas, such as Road Safety and Criminal Justice, the Department is working on updating those strategies and they will be subject to separate public consultation. Therefore, this consultation is focused on the high level priorities for the Constabulary bearing in mind recognised areas of high risk and harm.

The Constabulary has limited funding and limited resources and so prioritisation is required to ensure the biggest impact can be made on the most important areas in order to keep our Island safe. We can't do everything we want to do as quickly as we want to do it so we need to ensure that priorities are set taking this into account.

The Constabulary report into the Department quarterly on performance against the Policing Plan and the high level objectives and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) are published by the Department (see [23/24 Department Plan Update](#)).

You might be interested to read the [23/24 Policing Plan](#), [23/24 Department Plan](#) and [previous Chief Constable Annual Reports](#).

Questions

The Department proposes to continue to aim for the Isle of Man to be the safest Island in the British Isles, for victims to be at the centre and for the three overall aims for the Constabulary to be to;

Protect the vulnerable, reduce harm and tackle criminality.

These three aims, while interrelated, are each an important focus for the Constabulary.

Currently, the Island seeks to compare our level of safety by comparing our level of harm caused by various offences as determined by the [Cambridge Harm Index¹](#) annually, although this is not a like-for-like comparison.

We would also like to understand more about the public's view of safety on the Island. The initial questions below ask about this.

1. How safe do you feel on the Island generally?

Very unsafe	Unsafe	Neither safe nor unsafe	Safe	Very safe

a. Please explain your answer.

2. How safe do you feel in your own home?

Very unsafe	Unsafe	Neither safe nor unsafe	Safe	Very safe

a. If you answered unsafe or very unsafe, please provide more detail on the circumstance(s) that make(s) you feel this way.

3. Please provide any detail on any action you've taken to make your home feel safer (e.g. video doorbell, security alarm, neighbourhood watch).

4. How safe do you feel when out in the community?

¹ The Cambridge Crime Harm Index (CCHI) is the first system that measures the seriousness of crime harm to victims, and not just the number of officially recorded crimes.

Very unsafe	Unsafe	Neither safe nor unsafe	Safe	Very safe

- a. If you answered unsafe or very unsafe, please provide more detail on the situation(s) that make(s) you feel this way.

- b. If you answered unsafe or very unsafe, please select the area(s) of the Island in which you feel this way.

North	South	West	Central Douglas	East/ Douglas outskirts

5. How safe do you feel when travelling on the roads by the following means? Please complete all that apply.

- a. Driving or passenger in a car or van?

Very unsafe	Unsafe	Neither safe nor unsafe	Safe	Very safe

- b. Riding a motorcycle?

Very unsafe	Unsafe	Neither safe nor unsafe	Safe	Very safe

- c. Passenger on public transport (e.g. bus)?

Very unsafe	Unsafe	Neither safe nor unsafe	Safe	Very safe

- d. Riding a bicycle?

Very unsafe	Unsafe	Neither safe nor unsafe	Safe	Very safe

- e. Pedestrian walking alongside/on a road?

Very unsafe	Unsafe	Neither safe nor unsafe	Safe	Very safe

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- f. If you answered unsafe or very unsafe to any of these questions, please explain the reasons for this (e.g. level of skill of other drivers, conditions of the roads/pavements).

- g. If you answered unsafe or very unsafe to any of these questions, please select all types of roads that this applies to.

Residential areas	Minor ("B") roads	Main ("A") roads

6. Do you think the Island should be benchmarked with other places in terms of its safety?

- a. If so, do you agree that aiming to be the safest Island in the British Isles is a reasonable aim?

- b. If not, please explain what you feel would be a more appropriate comparator (e.g. Crown Dependencies, England)?

7. If we were to measure our safety compared to other places, please rank which of the following statistics you would find most useful as a comparison?

1 being the most useful and 7 being the least useful.

Comparison statistics	Rank Usefulness (1 – 7)
Level of harm of offences	
Number of homicides	

Case success rates (the percentage of cases where a positive outcome or sanction has been applied)	
Percentage of population with criminal convictions	
Percentage of population without criminal convictions	
Survey on how safe the population feel	
Number of crimes reported per head of population	

The Department is working on refreshing the [Criminal Justice Strategy](#) to make it more holistic, working with Victim Support and other stakeholders to include a Victims Code, Victims Charter and a broad view about victim and witness satisfaction across the Criminal Justice System (including, but not limited to, the Police). A draft of the new strategy will be published for public consultation later this year.

The focus of a new Criminal Justice Strategy will be ensuring that victims are at the centre of the work that we do, meaning that victim's voice is always heard, they are communicated with effectively, have the space to make their own decisions and are supported in these.

8. How do you feel victims being at the centre of the work could be measured? Please tick all that apply.²

Satisfaction surveys	Rates of cases that go to Court	Rates of cases that have a 'guilty' finding	Case success rates ³	Reduction in complaints from victims

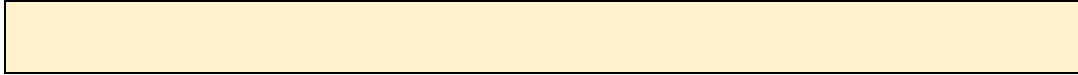
9. In what order of importance would you rank the three overall aims for the Police namely, these are: to protect the vulnerable, reduce harm and tackle criminality? **1** being the most important and **3** being the least important.

Constabulary Aims	Rank Importance (1 -3)
Protect the vulnerable	
Reduce harm	
Tackle criminality	

10. Are there other overall aims that you feel should be included? If so, please state what they are and why.

² The focus of this question is how the Police can aim to demonstrate that they put the victim at the centre.

³ A measure of the percentage of cases where a positive outcome or sanction has been applied.



The Department believes that the current **eight priorities** set for the Police and explained in more detail below, remain relevant today.

- [Tackling international money laundering and the financing of terrorism](#)
The Isle of Man is an International Financial Centre⁴, which is essential to the economy and prosperity of the Island. As such, the Constabulary (along with other law enforcement partners on the Island) is under scrutiny to counter money laundering and combat the financing of terrorism. Going forward, we will be subject to an independent evaluation against a set of Financial Action Task Force (FATF) effectiveness standards. As such, this priority remains relevant while the Department works with stakeholders to implement our plan for a successful MoneyVal inspection in 2025, maintaining confidence of businesses, the UK and worldwide.
- [Community policing based on neighbourhood policing principles](#)
Community policing is fundamental to our small Island's success as a safe place to live and work. Forming the basis of preventative work, community policing builds trust and confidence among the Police and the communities they serve. The Department views community policing focused at a neighbourhood level as a key part of maintaining safety.
- [Deterring, pursuing and preventing organised crime in the Isle of Man \(this includes tackling serious and organised crime and securing the Island's entry points\)](#)
The Department intends to separate this priority out into two distinct priorities, to take into account the related, but separate, nature of securing the Island's entry points and addressing serious and organised crime.

Organised crime groups target and exploit the Isle of Man, due to it being a profitable market in relation to drug sales, which leads to violence and harm. Deterring, pursuing and preventing organised crime in the Isle of Man includes significant work like Operation Nightjar and the work that the Constabulary's neighbourhood policing teams do to keep our Island safe from those who work to cause high levels of harm (through drugs, violence, etc.) and exploit our vulnerable residents.

[Securing the Island's entry points](#) – the key agencies with responsibility for safety at our ports and compliance with UK and international obligations agree that measures must be taken at point of entry to the Island to reduce the risk to our Island from criminals. The Common Travel Area and the Customs Agreement with the UK bring many benefits and opportunities, but they also bring risk. Any changes must be proportionate and transparent, along with appropriate safeguards for the public.

- [Tackling exploitation of vulnerable people](#)
Increasingly, children and vulnerable adults are becoming at risk of exploitation by organised crime groups and gangs, who use violence or the threat of this, as part of their operations. To improve how we safeguard those who may be at risk of harm, the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) has been created as a co-located team that brings together professionals from services that have contact with such children and

⁴ A centre operating from a physical location that facilitates international activity and operates under a regulatory framework that meets international standards.

young people of the Island and who can act to intervene and protect vulnerable people. The purpose of the MASH is to improve outcomes for these individuals by ensuring that there is a comprehensive and joined-up response to reducing the risk of harm. This model allows health and social care and police professionals to make the best possible use of their combined knowledge to ensure that children and vulnerable adults are kept safe.

➤ Reducing and preventing youth offending and reoffending, including anti-social behaviour

The impact of youth offending on the quality of life in our small Island community should not be underestimated. Only a minority of individuals are responsible for the majority of such offending and anti-social behaviour. The Police must work closely with those in Health and Social Care, Education and the voluntary sector to prevent offending from happening in the first place, as well as focusing efforts on reducing reoffending, particularly in respect of juveniles. The work of the MASH is relevant to this, as is the dedicated intervention work by the Police Early Action Team to identify and divert children and young people from offending. Community policing is also important to support this work.

➤ Reducing the harm caused by violence and tackling violence against women and girls and domestic abuse (this includes all types of violent crimes, including but not limited to sexual offences)

There has been an increase in the number of sexual offences reported across the Island. These offences cause significant personal harm and have an adverse impact on the feeling of safety in the wider community. The majority of the Sexual Offences and Obscene Publications (SOOP) Act 2021 came into effect on 25 March 2024. The Act introduces crimes like voyeurism, revenge porn and 'upskirting' into Manx law, so responding to newer types of harmful offending and enhances protection for the vulnerable, in particular, children. There has been an extensive training programme across Government and the Police to ensure all parts of the organisation are ready to deal with the new law. Given the significant harm caused to victims of sexual offences and violence and the impact for wider society, this remains an important issue to tackle.

The Department and Constabulary understand that anyone can be a victim of domestic abuse, regardless of gender, age, ethnicity, socio-economic status, sexuality or background. On 4 January 2023, the Domestic Abuse Act 2020 was introduced to the Isle of Man and gives victims of domestic abuse, and the Police, wider powers to deal with such offences. Two new offences now available to the Police are that of 'domestic abuse' and 'coercive and controlling behaviour'. Also available to Police and the Courts are the use of a Domestic Abuse Protection Notice (DAPN) and a Domestic Abuse Protection Order (DAPO), which aim to provide a victim with immediate protection following an incident of domestic abuse. Domestic abuse can be hidden from society and as such, awareness is crucial in recognising the signs of domestic abuse as is a continued focus on addressing this type of offending and the associated harm.

Reducing the number of people killed and seriously injured on our roads

The [Road Safety Strategy](#) sets out a commitment to reduce the harm caused by serious collisions. This strategy is currently under review and a refreshed strategy will be consulted upon and published with planned timing for this by the end of 2024. For the Police the priority focus in relation to road safety is regarding the objective to reduce the number of people killed and seriously injured on the Island's roads.

➤ **Building organisational capacity and capability**

This has been included as one of the eight priorities to reflect the importance of the Constabulary being adequately developed and supported to deliver the best services possible. This means making the best use of resource and ensuring that the Constabulary keeps pace with technological and other changes in best practice and the nature of serious criminality. This includes, for example, use of technology, upskilling, training, organisational development, succession planning, etc.

11. Please rank each of these priorities on their importance to you from an Island-wide perspective.

1 being the most important and 8 being the least important.

Priorities	Rank Importance (1 – 8)
Tackling international money laundering and the financing of terrorism	
Community policing based on neighbourhood policing principles	
Deterring, pursuing and preventing organised crime in the Isle of Man (this includes tackling serious and organised crime and securing the Island's entry points)	
Tackling exploitation of vulnerable people	
Reducing and preventing youth offending and reoffending, including anti-social behaviour	
Reducing the harm caused by violence and tackling violence against women and girls and domestic abuse (this includes all types of violent crimes, including but not limited to sexual offences)	
Reducing the number of people killed and seriously injured on our roads	
Building organisational capacity and capability	

12. Please rank each of these priorities on how much of an issue they are in your local community.

1 being the biggest issue and 8 being the small issue.

Priorities	Rank Issue (1 - 8)
Tackling international money laundering and the financing of terrorism	
Community policing based on neighbourhood policing principles	
Deterring, pursuing and preventing organised crime in the Isle of Man;	
Tackling exploitation of vulnerable people	
Reducing and preventing youth offending and reoffending, including anti-social behaviour	
Reducing the harm caused by violence and tackling violence against women and girls and domestic abuse	

Reducing the number of people killed and seriously injured on our roads				
Building organisational capacity and capability				
Please confirm your local community.				
North	South	West	Central Douglas	East / Douglas outskirts

13. Are there any other priorities that you feel should be included? If so, please state what they are and why.

14. Is there anything else you think the Department should consider with developing the Constabulary's policies, objectives and priorities and the means by which it is intended that these are achieved?

Confidentiality

You are not required to provide any of your personal information to complete this consultation. Should you wish to provide your personal information, please note that if you select "Publish in full", your name, organisation and answers to the questions will be published on the Consultation Hub. Your email will not be published.

If you select "Publish anonymously" or "Do not publish", none of your personal information will be published on the Consultation Hub. What this means:

- Publish in full – your first name and surname, organisation name, along with full answers **will** be published on the hub (your email will **not** be published).
- Publish anonymously – only your responses **will** be published on the hub (your name, organisation and email will **not** be published).
- Do not publish – **nothing will** be published publically on the hub (your response will only be part of a larger Summary of Responses document).

The collection and processing of your personal information in relation to this consultation are done so on the basis of your consent (Article 6(1)(a) of the Applied GDPR). Should you wish

to withdraw your consent at any time, please contact the Department at GeneralEnquiries.DHA@gov.im or in writing to the address detailed at the end of this consultation document), after which your personal information will be deleted from the dataset within one calendar month.

The Department will use the responses along with what we heard at the roadshows, (Police roadshows in November 2023 and Council of Ministers roadshows in April 2024), consultation with the Chief Constable, Community Safety Partnership, reporting from the Constabulary and research to help shape the policies, objectives and priorities and the means by which it is intended that they be achieved, going forward.

Further information about the Isle of Man Government Consultation principles and guidance on these can be found here: <https://www.gov.im/consultation>

Reasonable adjustments & alternative formats

The Department is committed to equal opportunities and our aim is to make our documents easy to use and accessible to all.

We will take steps to accommodate any reasonable adjustments and provide such assistance as you may reasonably require to enable you to access or reply to this consultation.

If you would like to receive this document as a paper copy, in another format or need assistance with accessing or replying to this consultation, please email GeneralEnquiries.DHA@gov.im or telephone (01624) 694305.

Storage of personal data

The Department will ensure that data is only retained and used in accordance with GDPR rules.

For more information regarding GDPR, visit <https://www.gov.im/about-the-government/data-protectiongdpr-on-the-isleof-man/>.

All responses submitted will be held within the Isle of Man Government's Consultation Hub and will be treated in accordance with the privacy policy.

What happens next?

We will review results from the consultation and liaise further with respondents as necessary.

A consultation summary will be produced and made available on the Consultation Hub.

Any questions?

Any comments or questions about the consultation should be sent to GeneralEnquiries.DHA@gov.im or:

- ❓ made via the questionnaire on the consultation hub at www.consult.gov.im;
- 💻 submitted via email to GeneralEnquiries.DHA@gov.im; or
- ✉️ posted to –

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