



Friday 9th August 2024

An Open Letter to the Communities of Avon and Somerset

As the Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB) for Avon and Somerset, we are appalled by the recent violence in our area under the guise of protest. We fully support the right to lawful protest, but violence, disorder, criminal damage, and the fear that these actions generate, especially when they are motivated by hatred, will not be tolerated.

This behaviour is not protest. It is criminal and those responsible can expect to face the full force of the law and pay a heavy price for their actions.

We want to reassure our communities that the Avon and Somerset Criminal Justice System are working together with pace, efficiency, and a shared single intent to take swift action against those involved in the criminal and lawless behaviour we have seen. Individuals have been arrested and charged, with some already facing court proceedings. As each day passes, more arrests are being made as the Police identify those who commit these crimes, whether they do so on the street or online.

People should be in no doubt as to the consequences for them if they choose to engage in this criminal behaviour. Law abiding citizens can have confidence that we are playing our part in bringing those who do engage in it to justice swiftly and decisively.

We extend our gratitude to the law-abiding people of Avon and Somerset for their continued support and to the police officers and staff of Avon and Somerset who have handled these disturbances on behalf of us all with professionalism and courage.

If you have any information about planned disorder or violent activity, please contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or visit www.crimestoppers-uk.org. You can also reach the police on 101. In an emergency, call 999.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Victoria Cook'.

Victoria Cook
Chief Crown Prosecutor CPS

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Clare Moody'.

Clare Moody
Police & Crime Commissioner

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Sarah Crew'.

Sarah Crew
Chief Constable