

***‘An inspection of the police response to the public disorder in July and August 2024: Tranche 1’ published by HMICFRS on 18 December 2024
Avon & Somerset PCC response dated 12 February 2025***

I want to start by addressing the events that led to this inspection. I fully support the right to lawful protest, but the events, including those in Bristol, went beyond an expression of legitimate concern. The violence, disorder, criminal damage, and the fear that these actions generated, especially when motivated by hatred, will never be tolerated. It was criminal and those responsible should expect to face the full force of the law.

I want to extend my gratitude to the police officers who were on the front lines, dealing with these disturbances with professionalism and courage. I also thank everybody in policing and the criminal justice system who helped bring many offenders swiftly to justice.

On a local level, Avon and Somerset Police planned for, responded to and investigated these events excellently. I received positive feedback from our residents, especially recognising how well Avon and Somerset Police engaged with the community.

This report itself contains no recommendations or areas for improvement for myself or the Chief Constable.

However, I note the findings of this report and will consider it in relation to my future scrutiny of Avon and Somerset Police.

This response is published on the OPCC website <https://www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk/reports-publications/hmicfrs-reports/>