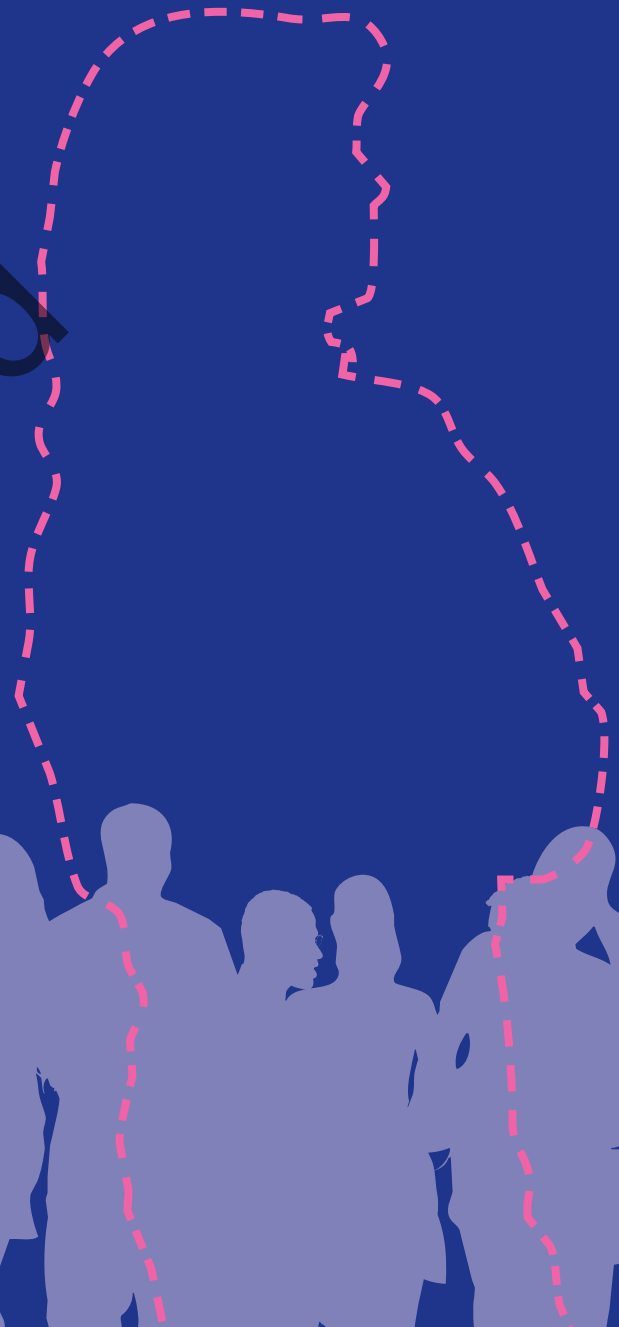


# Have you got what it takes?

**Police.uk: the national crime-mapping website**

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# Have you got what it takes?

## Police.uk: the national crime-mapping website

'Transparency is at the heart of our agenda for Government. We recognise that transparency and open data can be a powerful tool to help reform public services, foster innovation and empower citizens.'

*David Cameron, Prime Minister*

### Important facts

Police.uk is a Home Office website that provides the public with key crime and policing information in an accessible format that enables them to identify local issues and take an active role in tackling crime and antisocial behaviour.

The site provides a range of helpful information about crime, policing and justice:

- **street-level maps showing crime and criminal justice outcomes – the data are updated monthly by police forces and criminal justice agencies;**
- **a new 'Compare My Area' tool, which enables people to compare crime in their local area with that in other similar areas;**
- **details of local neighbourhood policing teams and beat meetings, as well as links to force websites, YouTube pages and Twitter feeds; and**
- **advice on crime prevention as well as information about joining or setting up a Neighbourhood Watch group.**

### Background

Since its launch in January 2011, the site has had over 50 million visits and an average of 150,000 hits per day, making it one of the most popular government websites. Police.uk has become the 'go to' internet-based resource for policing; there is often a surge in traffic when policing issues are in the news.

### Developing Police.uk

Major recent developments on Police.uk include

- **the integration of data on 'justice outcomes';**
- **pinpointing of relevant crimes to 'points of interest' such as train stations, shopping centres and nightclubs; and**
- **information about Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) and a new 'Compare My Area' tool.**

By the end of the year we will have

- **rolled out Police.uk to Northern Ireland; and**
- **begun a pilot linking West Yorkshire's 'In the Dock' tool to Police.uk.**

Options for future development include

- **publishing the specific locations of those crimes in which privacy is not an issue;**
- **increasing the frequency with which data is released; and**
- **making greater use of interactive tools and social media functionality to support accountability and engagement between local people, the police and PCCs.**

### How can Police.uk help PCCs?

Police.uk has the potential to be a valuable resource for PCCs, supporting their engagement with local people.

Information about the role of PCCs is already available on the website, and will be updated with PCCs' names, photos and contact details after the elections.

Looking ahead, the website could support engagement between PCCs and local people, for example, by inviting people to vote on their priorities, providing web-chat facilities, or simply a space which PCCs could update with information about their priorities.

### **Trailblazers**

The Home Office also supports a number of 'trailblazer' projects which are helping to change the ways in which the public engage with the police and access information about crime, policing and justice. Current and recent trailblazer projects include:

- **Avon and Somerset Police – 'TrackMyCrime' tool**
- **Surrey Police Beat mobile app**
- **Hampshire Police's Crime Reports website**
- **Greater Manchester Police – mapping Stop and Search**
- **North Yorkshire Police – mapping Caught on Camera to Police.uk**
- **Humberside Probation Trust – Community Payback storyboards**

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