

# Police and Crime Plan 2021-2024: Quarterly Performance update: Q2 2023/24

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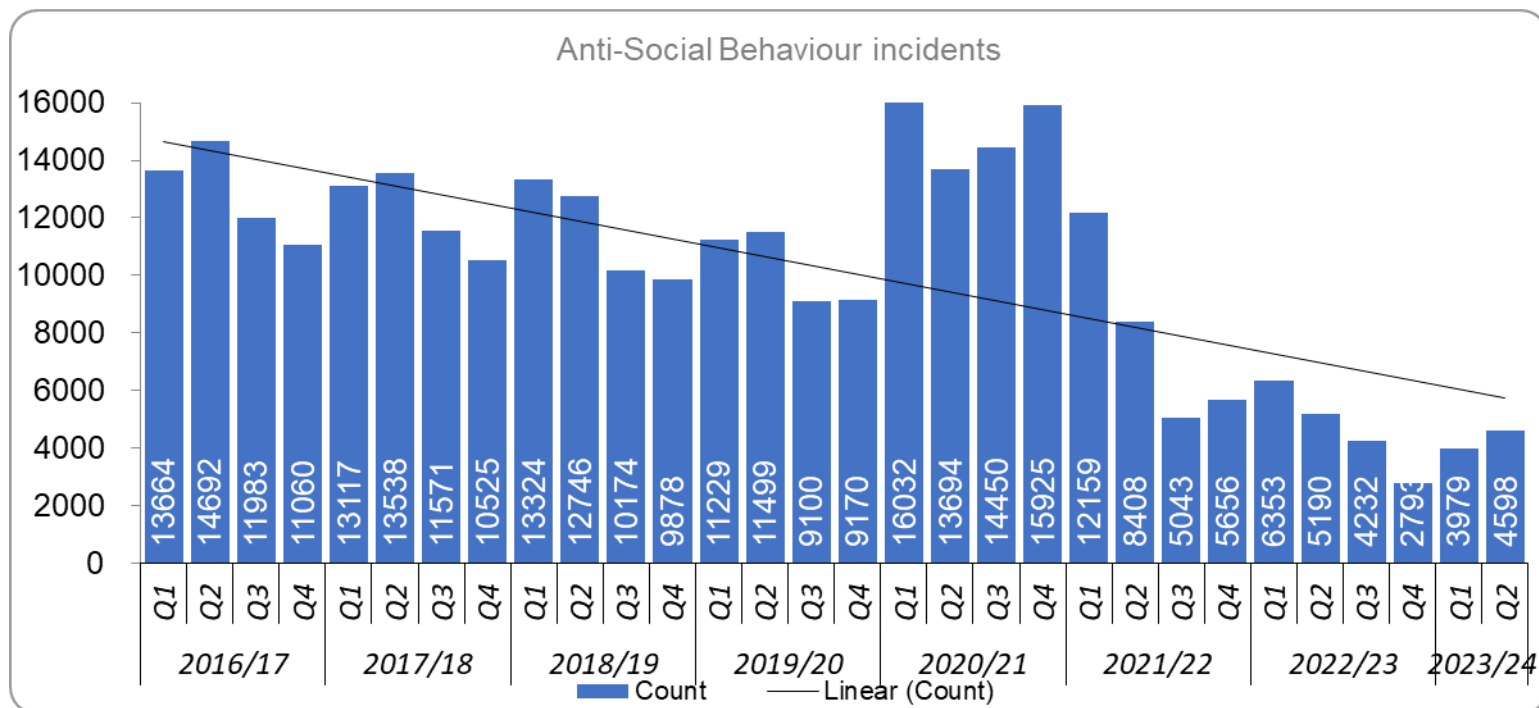


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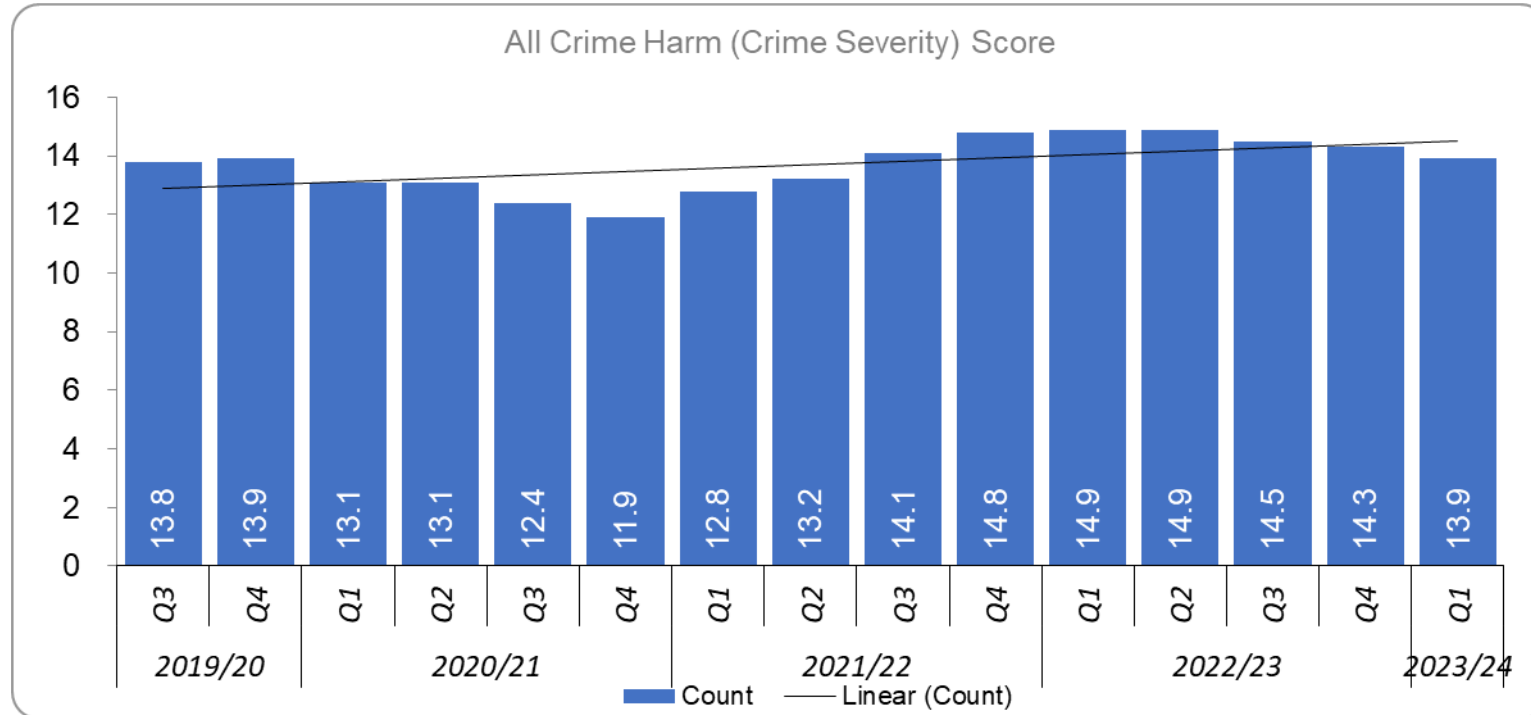
## Priority 1 - Further investment in crime prevention

*Our objective is to invest in activities and initiatives that prevent crime from happening in the first place to reduce overall crime and keep our communities safe.*



### Key Points

- Significant downward trend in Anti-social behaviour.
- The increase between 2020/21 Q1 and 2021/22 Q1 was due to the Government's social distancing restrictions in relation to COVID-19; these were implemented on 23 March 2020. Many of these additional reports related to activities that previously were not considered to be ASB - such as social gatherings - as well as shops and businesses continuing to trade.
- The significant decrease in incidents from 2021/22 Q3 was driven by the implementation of Operation SOMERTON, which aimed to both improve the service given to victims of ASB and ensure crimes are correctly recorded.

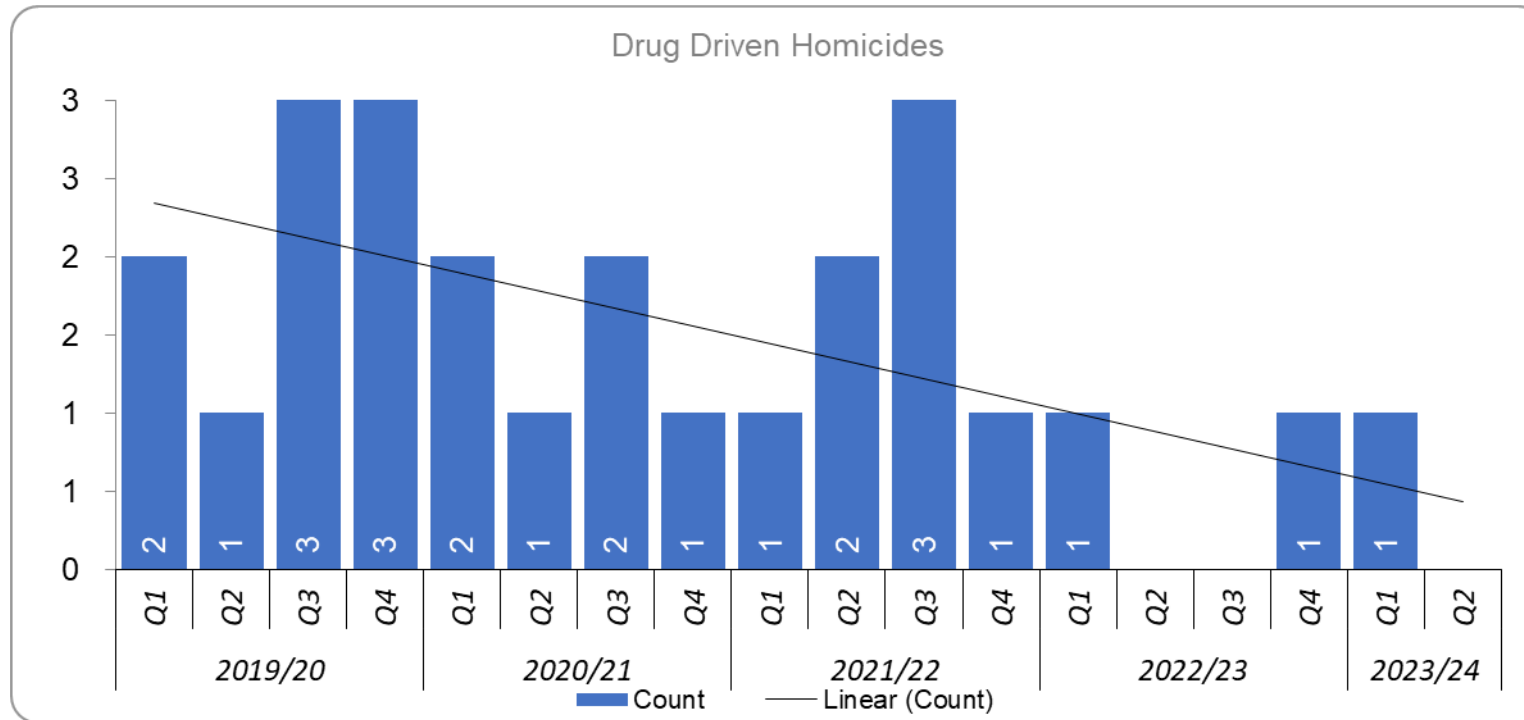


- Although the long-term trend for the All Crime Harm (Crime Severity) score<sup>1</sup> shows a slight increase, there has been a decrease in the last three quarters.

<sup>1</sup> Crime Severity Scores (as calculated by the Office for National Statistics) measure the 'relative harm' of crimes by taking into account both their volume and their severity. Data are only available between December 2019 and March 2023, therefore latest quarter able to report on is 2022/23 Q4.

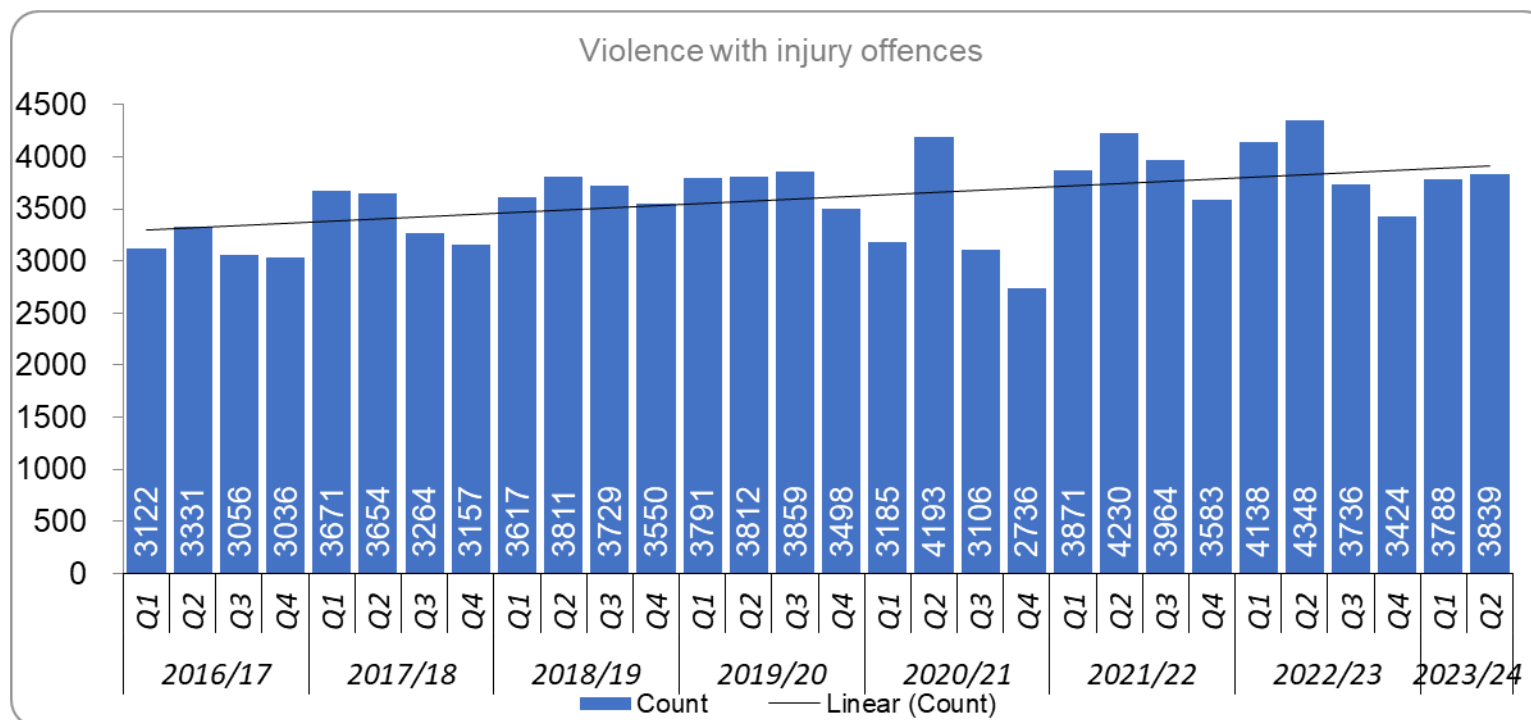
## Priority 2 - Reducing drug driven violence

*Our objective is to crack down on drug driven violence and gangs, protect the vulnerable people these gangs prey on and deal with the hardened criminals whose criminal activities increase violence in our communities.*



### Key Points

- There is a continued downward trend in drug-driven homicides.
- There are lower levels of offences in the last year (2022/23 Q3 to 2023/24 Q2) compared to any of the last three years.



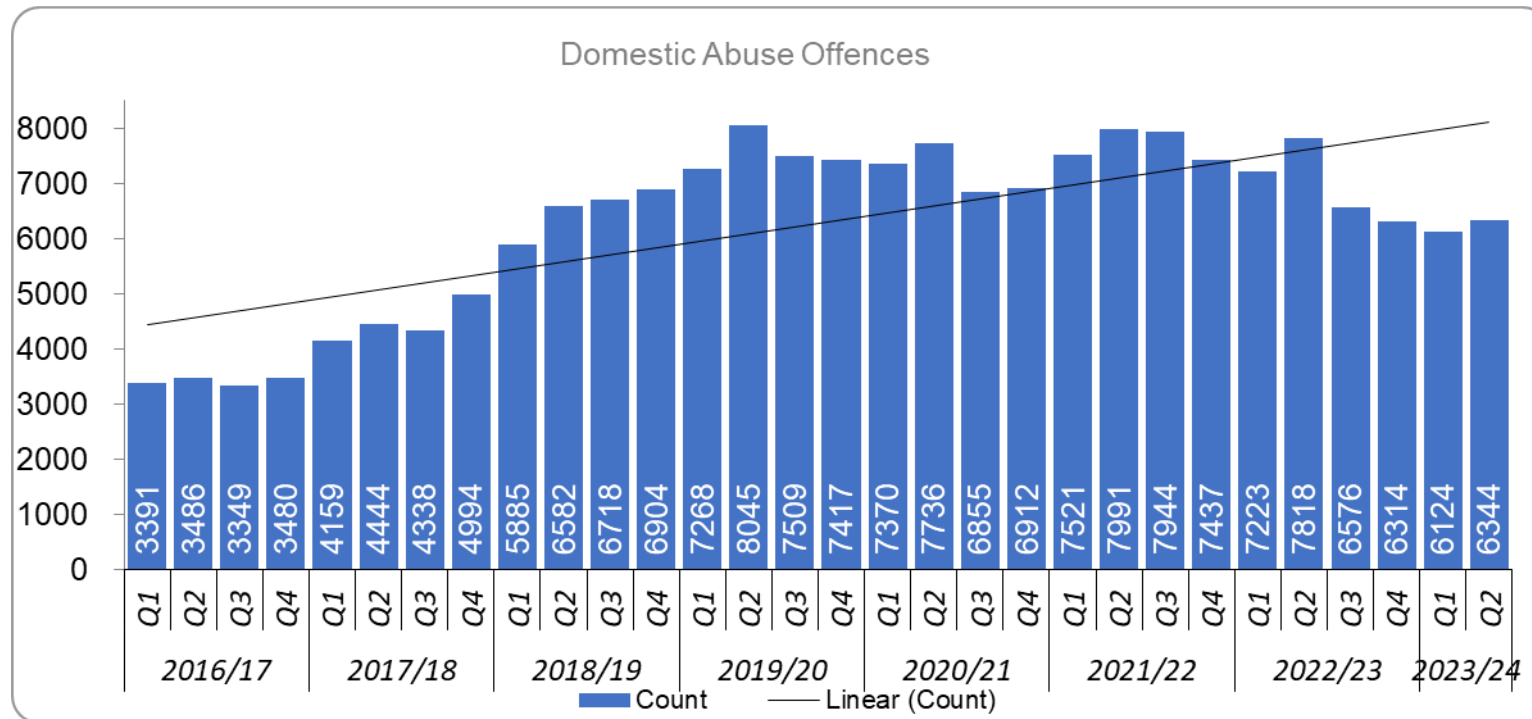
- There is an upward trend in Violence with injury offences from 2016/17 Q1 to 2023/24 Q2.
- Violence with injury offences increased in 2023/24 Q1 and Q2, despite decreases in the previous two quarters.
- The Crime Survey of England and Wales<sup>2</sup> (CSEW) shows that the national perception of violent crime has reduced by 19.5% in the period between March 2020 and March 2023.<sup>3</sup> Essex Police reported a reduction of 2.1% of recorded crime in the same period.

<sup>2</sup> Crime Survey England and Wales (CSEW) provides the best picture of the overall trend in violent crime. Latest data available is for March 2023.

<sup>3</sup> There was a break in the CSEW time series because of the suspension of face-to-face interviewing between March 2020 and October 2021, during the Covid-19 pandemic. Telephone-operated CSEW data collected during this period are not directly comparable and not part of the main CSEW time series.

## Priority 3 - Protecting vulnerable people and breaking the cycle of domestic abuse

*Our objective is to give a voice to those who need protection, support the vulnerable and reduce the number of people who become the victim of crime in their communities or their homes.*



### Key Points

- Domestic Abuse offences have increased significantly in Q2 2023/24 compared to Q2 2016/17. This can partly be attributed to changes in Home Office Crime Recording (HO CR) rules, new national initiatives, and additional ways of reporting to Essex Police over the last five years. These include:
  - 2018 April – Change in Stalking and Harassment (S&H) Crime recording Rules introduced.

- 
- 2021 January - 'Ask for ANI' ('Action Needed Immediately') initiative introduced<sup>4</sup>
  - 2021 October – Domestic Abuse definition made broader<sup>5</sup>
  - 2021 December – Domestic Abuse incidents able to be reported via the Essex Police website.
  - 2022 August – Crime Data Accuracy Review initiated into recording of Stalking and Harassment offences<sup>6</sup> identified over recording.
  - 2023 May – Malicious Communications under Stalking & Harassment (S&H) when only one instance, not multiple crimes which should be harassment, resulting in a reduction in S&H recording
- Despite a significant upward trend from 2016/17, there was a slight increase in Q2 compared to Q1 after decreases in offences in each of the previous three quarters.
  - The total for the 12 months to September is the lowest 12-month total since the 12 months to September 2019.
  - Changes to HOCR for Stalking & Harassment in May 2023, accounts for some of this reduction in 2023/24 Q1. However, Stalking and Harassment only accounts for around a third of the overall decline in domestic abuse, indicating that offences have decreased despite changes to the crime recording rules.
  - The CSEW reports a 14.4% increase in Domestic Violence between March 2020 and March 2023. This compares to a 14.9% decrease reported by Essex Police over the same period.

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<sup>4</sup> A codeword scheme that enables victims of domestic abuse to discreetly ask for immediate help in participating pharmacies and Jobcentres.

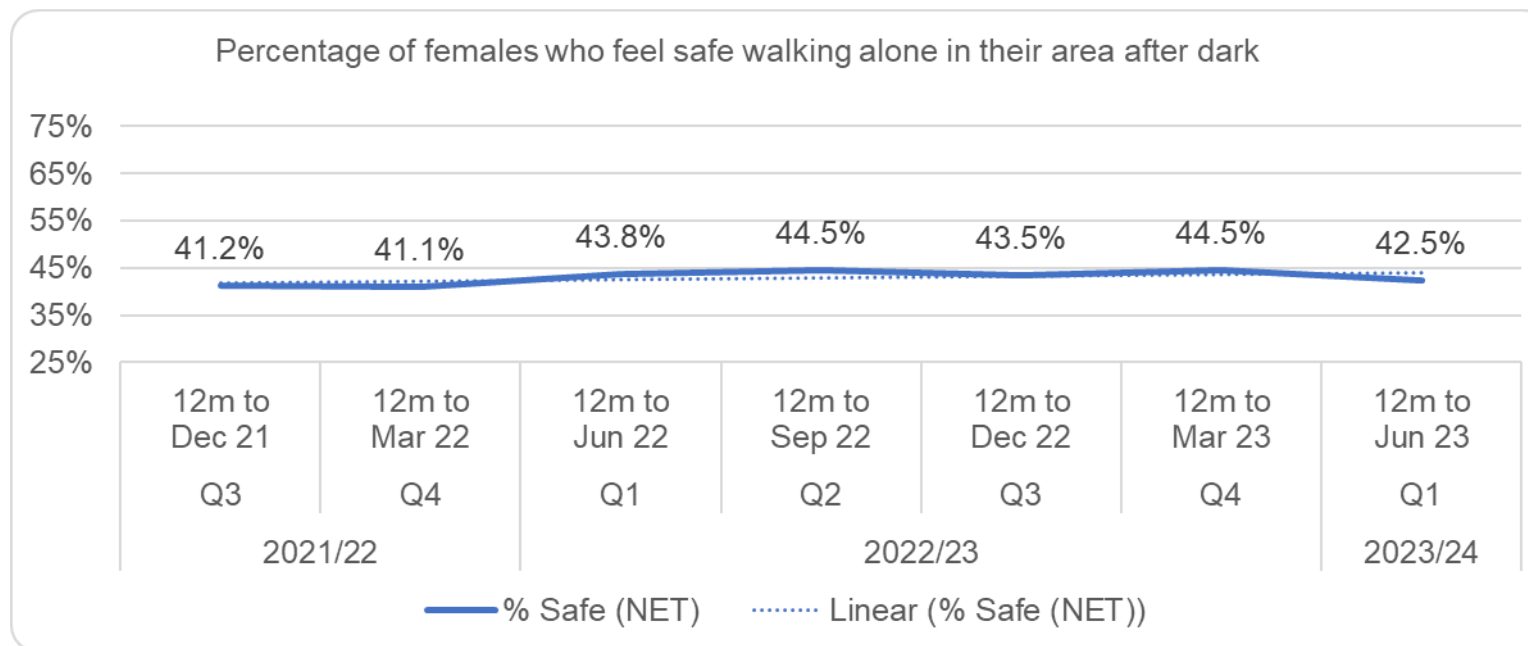
<sup>5</sup> Individuals who are personally connected included, and economic abuse which replaces financial abuse. "What does change is how the two parties are associated with each other (making it wider than it is now), dictating that the parties need to be 'personally connected'."

<sup>6</sup> Essex Police auditing and, where appropriate, cancelling Stalking & Harassment offences to ensure additional crimes have not been unnecessarily recorded. Essex Police have also been educating those working within the Resolution Centre, ensuring they fully research the individuals involved in these types of offences before they create new crimes; where previous records exist, these additional incidents are instead referred to the relevant officer(s) in order that they can be investigated together.



## Priority 4 - Reducing violence against women and girls

*Our objective is to support a cultural change within society and provide strong, consistent, and vocal support for the safety of women and girls whether they report crimes against them or not.*

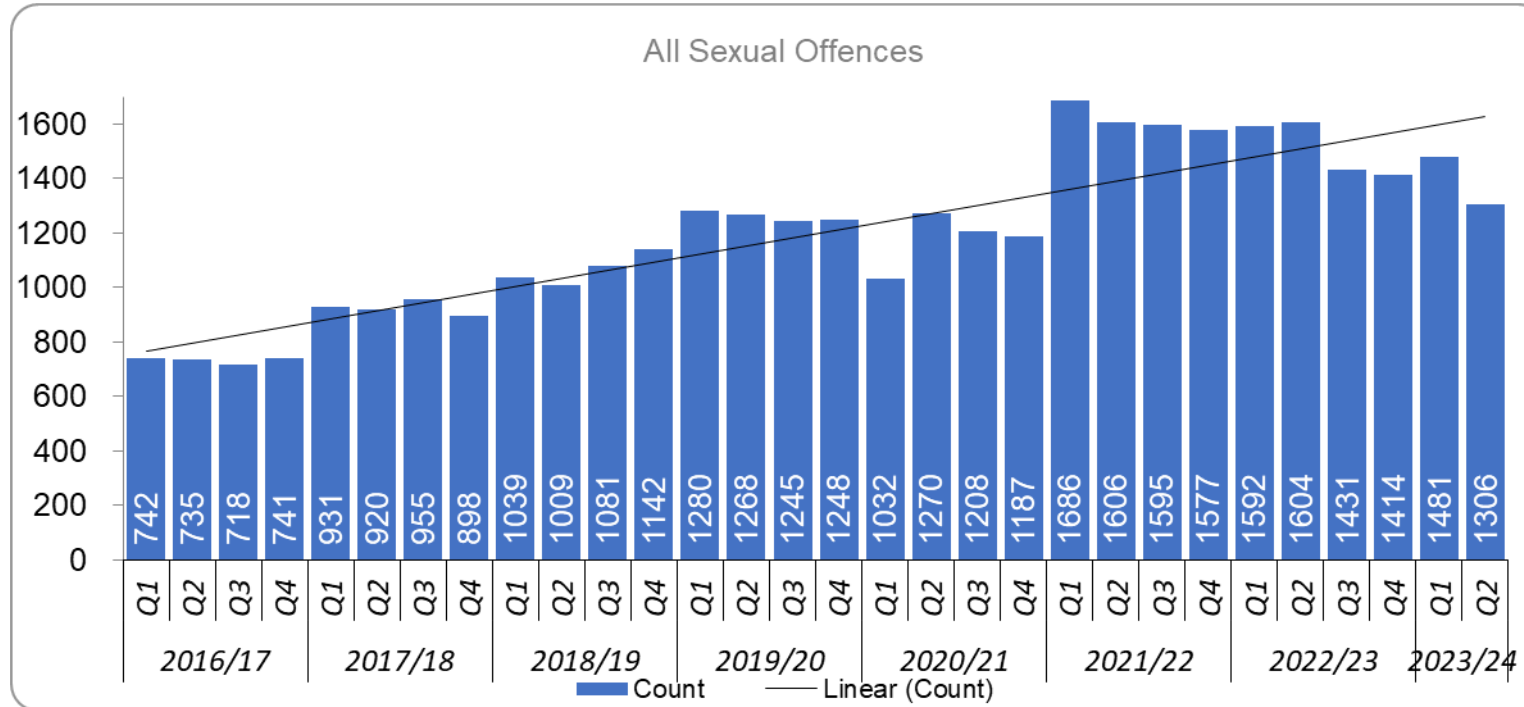


### Key Points

- Female confidence in walking alone after dark<sup>7</sup> remained stable in 2023/24 Q1 when compared to 2022/23 Q4 and the same quarter last year.<sup>8</sup>
- There is a slight decrease in percentage points compared to the previous quarter, but this may be due to the publication of Baroness Casey's report on the Metropolitan Police which was published in March 2023.

<sup>7</sup> The confidence question was added to the internal survey in September 2021.

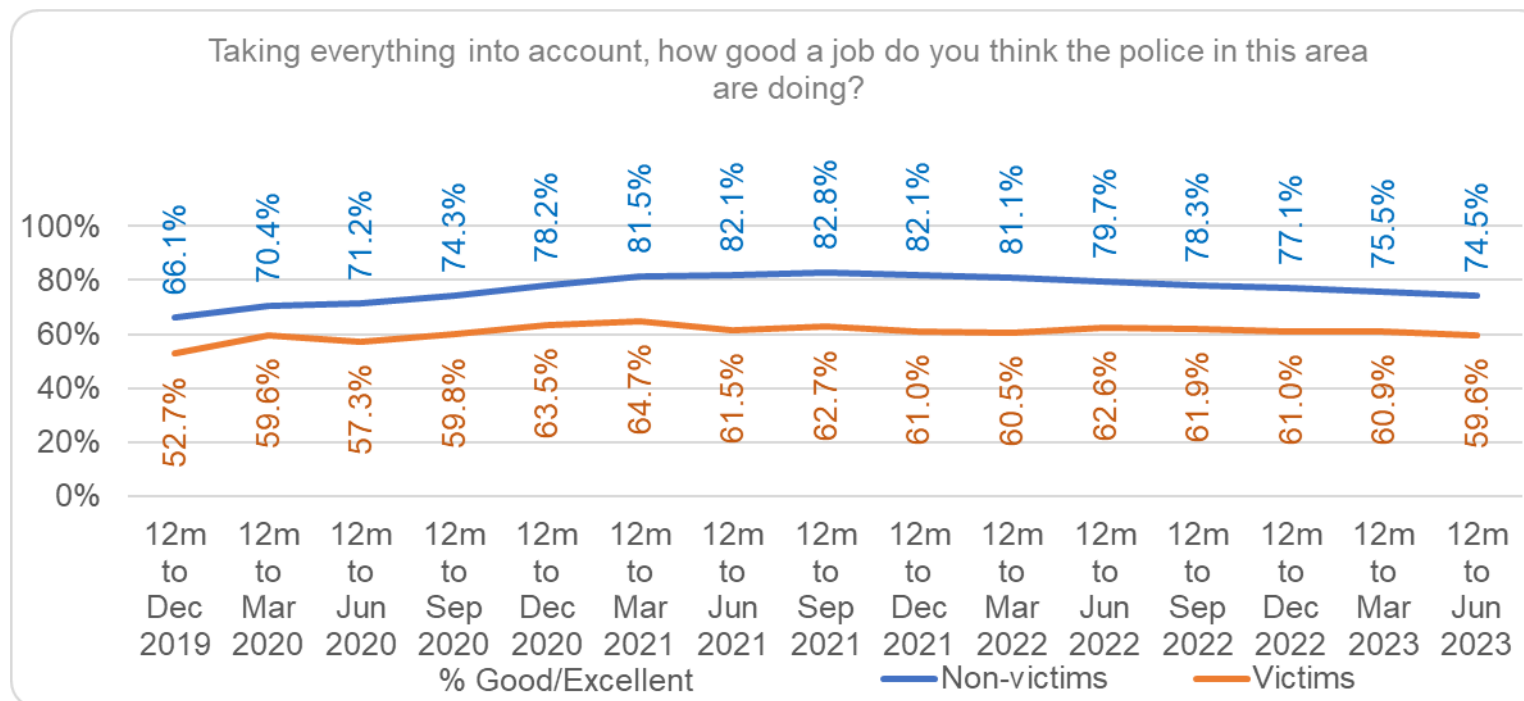
<sup>8</sup> Confidence levels resulting from actions taken in 2023/24 Q2 will be received at the end of September.



- There is an upward trend in sexual offences from 2016/17 Q1 to 2023/24 Q2.
- There was an 11.6% decrease in the 12 months to Q2 compared to the same period last year and an 18.6% decrease compared to the same quarter last year.
- 2023/24 Q2 recorded the lowest since 2020/21 Q4.
- The CSEW reports a 20.0% increase in Sexual Offences between March 2020 and March 2023. This compares to a 13.3% increase reported by Essex Police over the same period.

## Priority 5 - Improving support for victims of crime

*Our objective is to recognise and prevent the harm caused to victims by the crime they experience, and the need to protect those who are most vulnerable to becoming victims.*

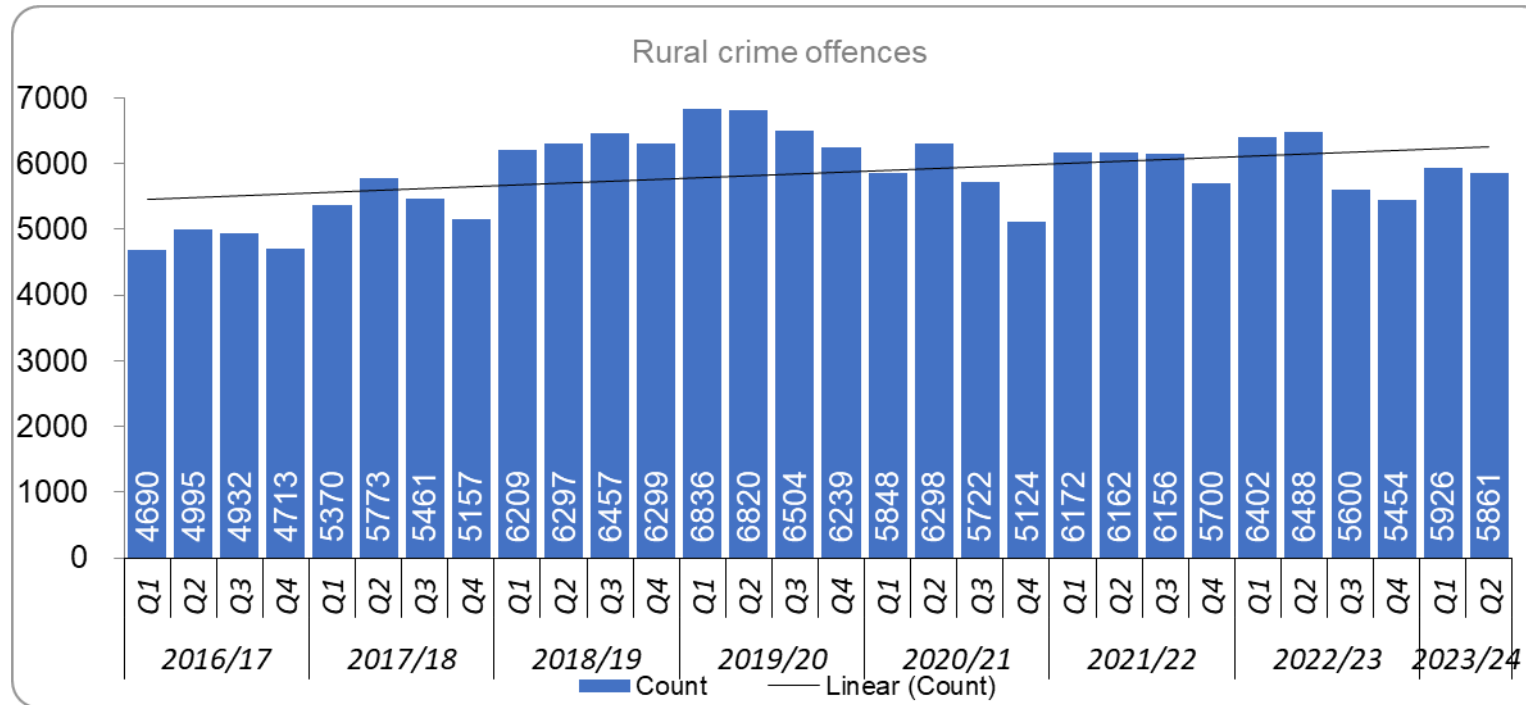


### Key Points

- Confidence among victims (from the independent survey commissioned by the PFCC and Essex Police) is at 59.6% for 2023/24 Q1 (results for the 12 months to June 2023).
- Confidence among victims is 14.9% lower than confidence among non-victims in Q1. This is 2.2% points less when compared to the same quarter last year (17.1%).
- Confidence levels have decreased for Victims and Non-victims in the 12-month period to June 2023 compared to the same period last year (Victims 59.6% vs 62.6%, Non-victims 74.5% vs 79.7%).
- Confidence levels resulting from actions taken in 2023/24 Q2 will be received at the end of September.

## Priority 6 - Protecting rural and isolated areas

*Our objective is to work with rural communities to help them build greater resilience and keep them safe.*



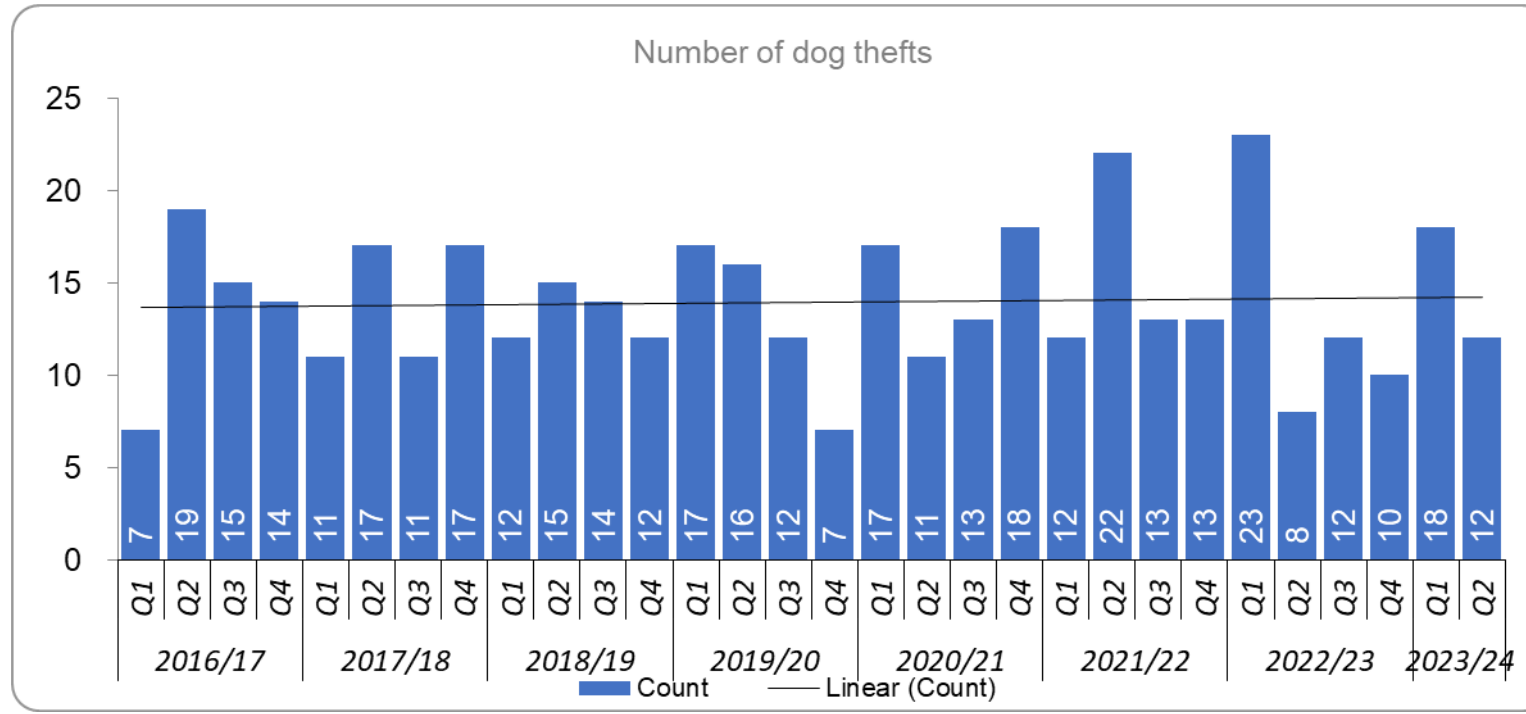
### Key Points

- Although the long-term trend for Rural offences is slightly increasing, fewer offences were recorded in Q2 2023/4 compared to the same period the previous year.
- The trend for Rural crime broadly matches the pattern for All Crime.
- Of all the most impacted forces for Rural Crime, Essex is the only one to experience a reduction in cost of rural theft.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>9</sup> From the NFU Mutual – Rural Crime Report 2023

## Priority 7 - Preventing dog theft

*Our objective is to do more to protect our pets and build confidence in how Essex Police handle dog thefts.*



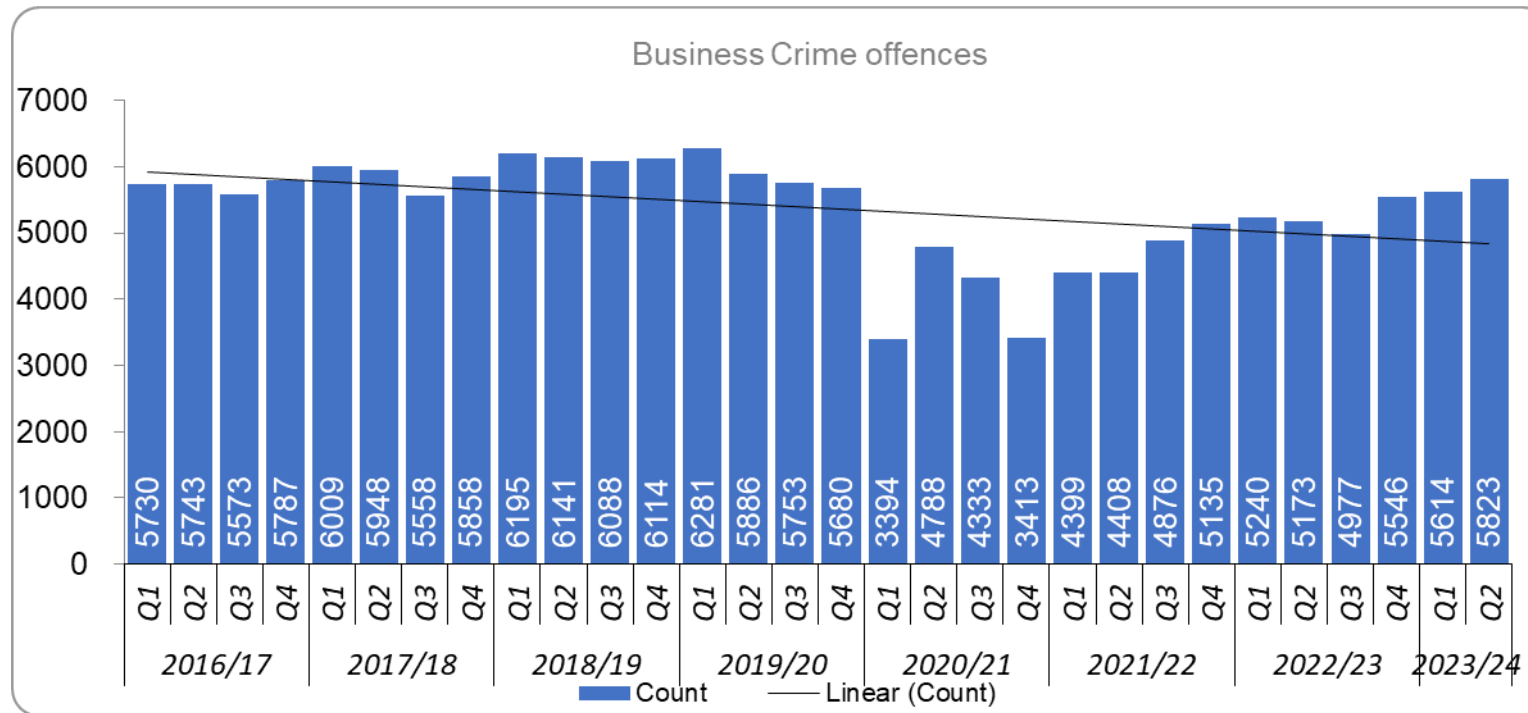
### Key Points

- There is a stable trend in the number of dog thefts<sup>10</sup> from 2016/17 Q1 to 2023/24 Q2.
- There were 52 dog thefts in the 12 months to September 2023 compared to 57 in the same period last year.

<sup>10</sup> This relates to the number of thefts in which dogs were stolen – not the quantity of dogs stolen. Data is based on theft and robbery offences where the property code is recorded as ‘pet animal – dog’ and the property status is ‘stolen’ and/ or ‘stolen/ recovered’.

## Priority 8 - Preventing business crime, fraud and cyber crime

*Our objective is to work with businesses and individuals to tackle the surge in fraud and cyber-crime and to support Essex Police's Business Crime Strategy to help keep businesses safe.*

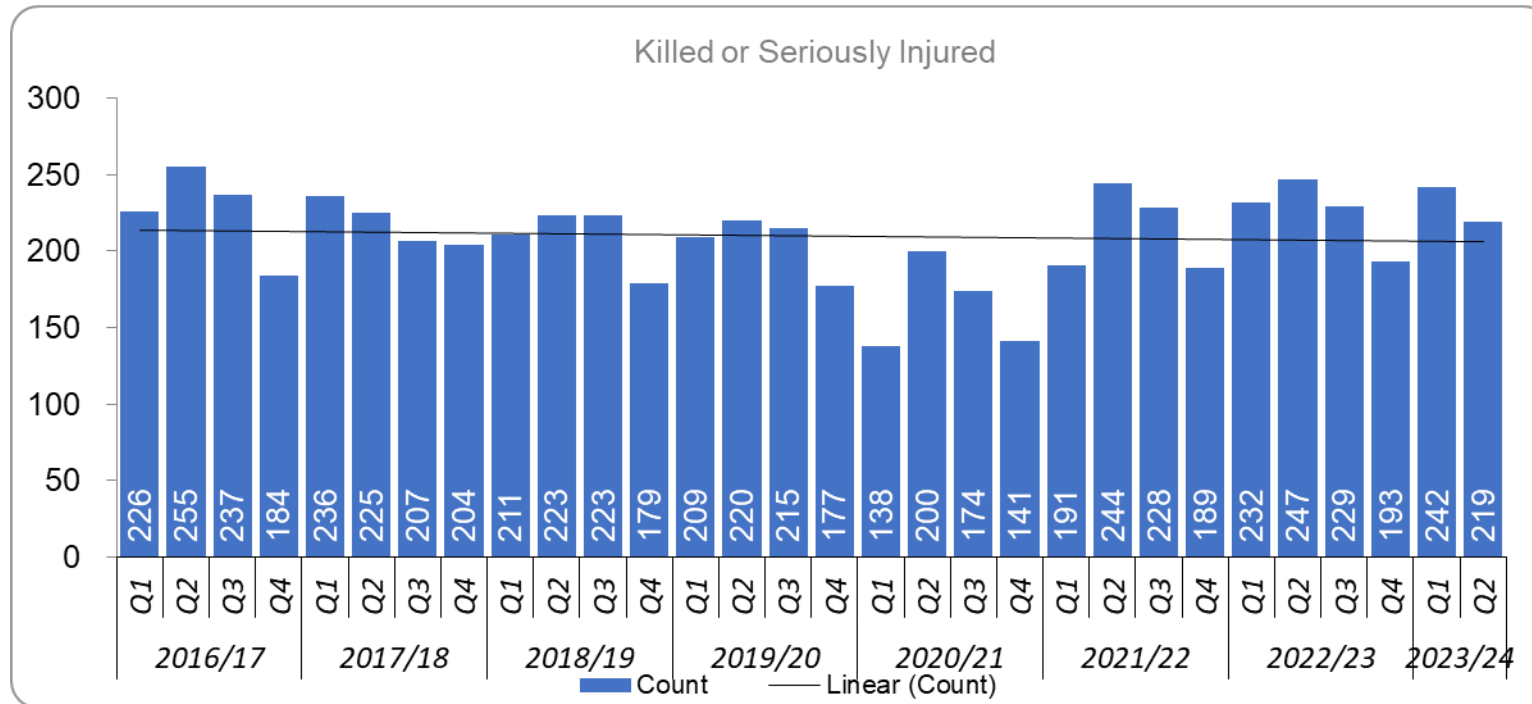


### Key Points

- The long-term trend for offences recorded from 2016/17 Q1 to 2023/24 Q1 is slightly down. This is because many businesses were prevented from fully opening during the period of Government COVID-19 restrictions.
- Offences have been rising over the last two years (2021/22 Q2 to 2023/24 Q2), with offence levels in the last quarter almost reaching pre-pandemic levels.

## Priority 9 - Improving safety on our roads

*Our objective is to continue to improve safety on our roads, promote safer driving behaviours and robustly targeting those who cause the most harm.*

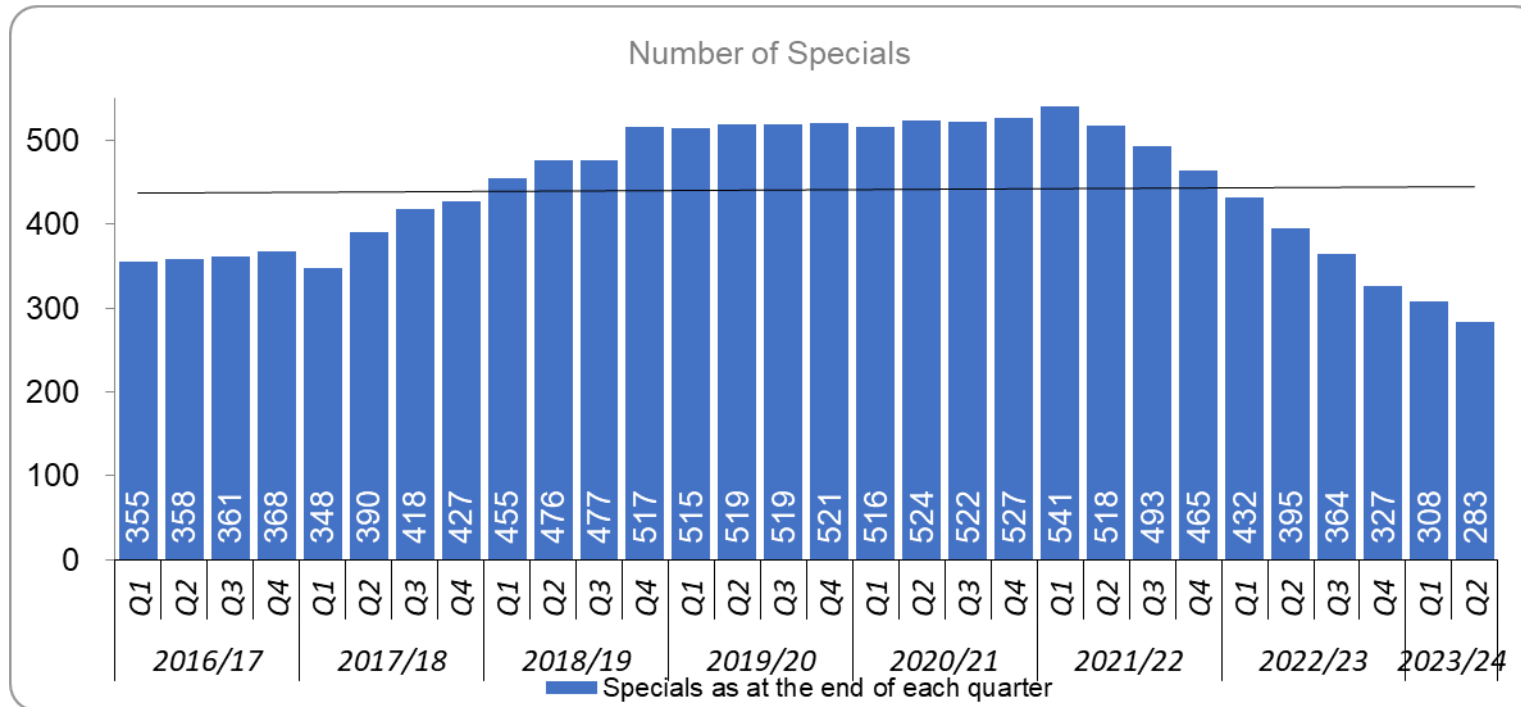


### Key Points

- The levels of those Killed or Seriously Injured (KSIs) on Essex's roads is relatively stable. Lower numbers were recorded when COVID-19 restrictions in relation to movement and travel were in place.
- There is a stable trend in KSIs in the last two years alone (2021/22 Q3 to 2023/24 Q2).

## Priority 10 - Encouraging volunteers and community support

*Our objective is to work with our communities to prevent crime, support victims and ensure that criminals have no place to operate.*



### Key Points

- Despite a general upward trend from Q2 2017/18, the number of Specials has fallen each quarter since Q2 2021/22.
- The number of Specials at the end of Q2 2023/24 is the lowest number recorded over the last seven years.



### Essex Volunteers

- The total number of Watch Groups increased by 737 in Q2 compared to Q1.
- The Essex Horse Rider Volunteer Scheme was launched in November, initially as a trial, sponsored by Uttlesford council, within their district. There are now four volunteers signed up and active in this area with continued promotion of the scheme and further applicants being progressed.
- Three volunteer induction courses/drop-in events for Active Citizens and Police Support Volunteers have been conducted for both new and existing volunteers.
- The Volunteer Police Cadet Scheme continues to work in collaboration with Essex County Fire Cadets.

### Essex Special Constabulary

- Headcount is currently 3,271. This quarter, Specials have completed a total of 24,009 hours; they have undertaken 19,071 hours of Operational Policing. 32 Special Constables resigned, with two retiring and 16 joining regulars, including two joining other forces.
- The revised #MyOtherLife dedicated recruitment campaign was very active on social media, as well as adverts in local gyms, and Channel 4 Catch Up. Recent activity includes an internal campaign to encourage friends and family to sign up and we have seen a small increase in applications in the last month. Further activity around the campaign is planned in 2023.
- There are 14 Community Special Constables (CSC) supporting 11 Parishes who completed 63 duties and 420 hours during January and February.
- The Employer Supported Policing (ESP) scheme currently has 64 companies registered with 83 Special Constables benefitting, including Essex Police. We continue to work with Chamber of Commerce and local Parishes to promote schemes.

## Priority 11 - Supporting our officers and staff

*Our objective is to ensure that the officers, staff and volunteers in Essex Police and the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner's office receive the support they need to keep delivering an outstanding service to the public, that they reflect all of our communities across Essex and can go about their work safely.*

### Officers

Sickness - Average hours lost per person												
Financial Year	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
2015/2016	9.02	9.60	9.56	9.27	8.67	7.89	8.45	7.60	8.62	8.17	9.02	9.16
2016/2017	7.64	8.04	7.16	7.57	7.04	7.30	8.94	8.69	8.59	7.71	6.64	6.64
2017/2018	6.20	6.74	6.85	7.83	6.94	7.46	9.01	7.72	7.71	7.78	6.95	6.91
2018/2019	5.62	5.78	6.01	6.73	6.34	6.29	6.94	6.60	6.21	6.49	6.32	6.49
2019/2020	6.19	6.17	5.87	5.94	5.13	5.23	6.47	6.75	7.35	7.00	6.19	6.10
2020/2021	4.80	3.98	3.75	3.89	4.31	4.46	4.97	4.60	4.84	4.93	4.22	4.27
2021/2022	3.63	4.25	3.87	5.17	5.62	5.80	8.00	6.45	7.68	5.77	5.43	6.79
2022/2023	6.08	5.46	5.73	6.91	6.10	5.96	6.62	6.96	8.87	6.35	5.98	5.53
2023/2024	4.98	5.18	5.35	6.11	5.67	5.76						
23/24 Variance to 22/23	-1.10	-0.28	-0.38	-0.80	-0.43	-0.20						

**Staff (excluding PCSO)**

**Sickness - Average hours lost per person**

Financial Year	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
2015/2016	5.46	5.15	5.49	5.30	5.82	5.45	6.05	5.38	6.80	6.23	6.56	7.25
2016/2017	5.41	4.99	5.25	5.30	5.22	5.37	6.05	5.44	5.95	5.26	4.68	4.70
2017/2018	4.22	3.87	4.08	4.85	5.14	4.92	6.55	6.45	7.49	8.16	6.75	5.73
2018/2019	5.14	5.57	5.09	5.08	4.68	5.71	6.91	6.43	6.17	6.33	6.67	6.50
2019/2020	5.78	5.60	6.04	5.60	5.76	6.25	7.62	7.03	7.55	6.68	6.59	7.46
2020/2021	4.58	3.68	4.09	4.38	3.43	4.20	4.54	4.33	4.86	6.02	4.28	4.62
2021/2022	4.46	4.51	4.86	5.42	5.09	5.88	7.22	6.70	7.10	5.38	5.40	6.81
2022/2023	5.05	4.42	5.34	6.33	4.62	4.24	6.04	5.54	6.85	5.53	5.24	5.73
2023/2024	4.40	4.84	5.17	5.36	5.36	5.27						
23/24 Variance to 22/23	-0.65	0.42	-0.17	-0.97	0.74	1.03						

Ethnic Minority Employees	Sep-22	Sep-23	% Pt. Difference 2022/23
% of total workforce	4.17	4.04	-0.13
% of all Police	4.03	4.05	0.02
% of all Staff (excluding PCSOs)	4.34	4.11	-0.23
% of all PCSOs	0.97	0.00	-0.97
% of all Specials	5.28	4.95	-0.33
Ethnic Minority Economically Active population	-	11.21	-

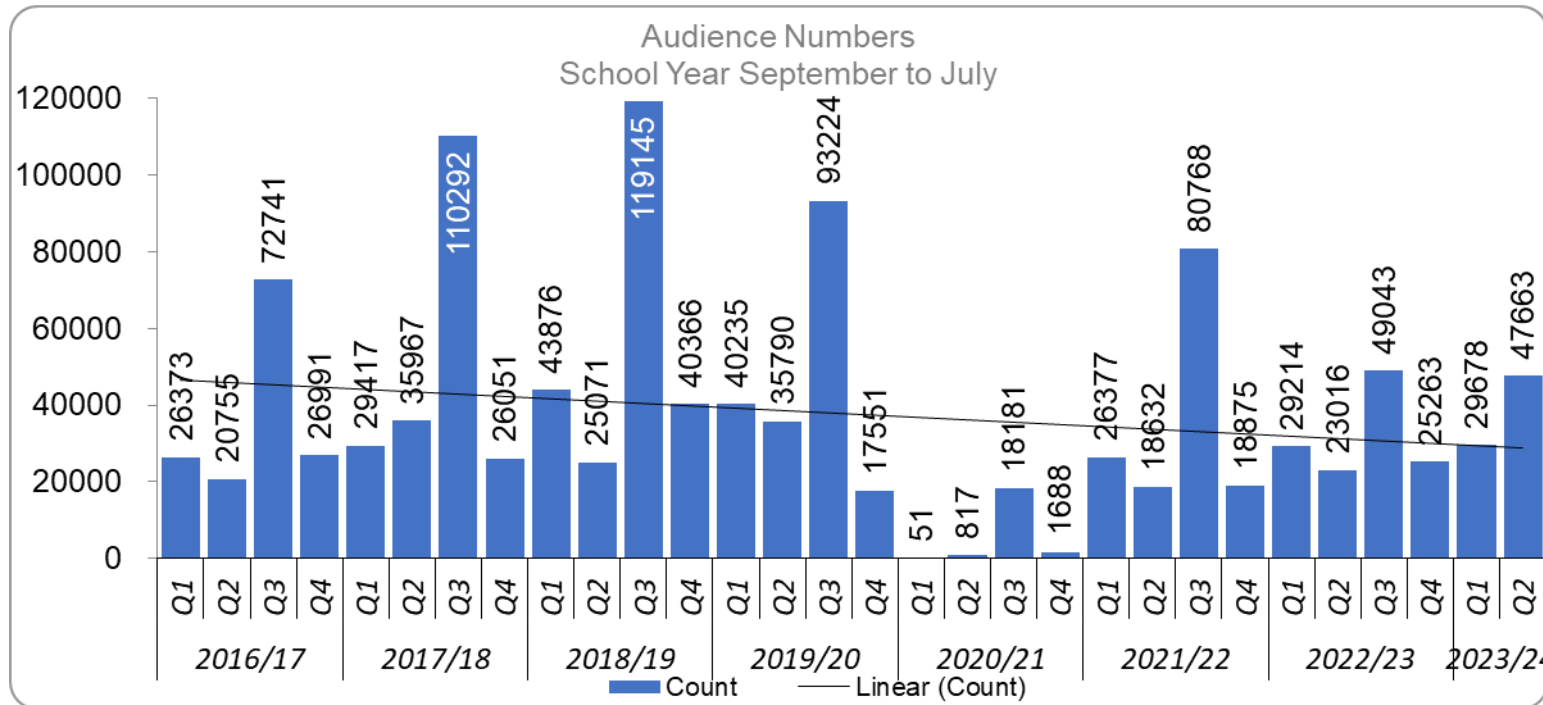
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### Key Points

- The average number of hours lost per person due to sickness was less for officers but more for staff in September 2023 when compared to September 2022.
- There is a slight decrease in the proportion of ethnic minority employees at the end of 2023/24 Q2 (263) compared to the same period last year (270); this equates to 7 fewer employees.
- 4.04% of the Essex Police workforce are from ethnic minorities. This is 7.17% lower than the total economically active ethnic minority population.

## Priority 12 - Increasing collaboration

*Our objective is to build a culture of collaboration and continue to unlock resources to reinvest so we can provide even better emergency services in Essex.*



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### Key Points

These data are provided by Essex County Fire and Rescue Service as part of the Joint Essex Fire and Police Education in Schools Programme (2022) and are for the school year only (September to July<sup>11</sup>).

- The audience numbers decreased by 0.2% in the 12 months to September 2023 (151,647) compared to the previous 12 months (152027) and decreased by 27.7% compared to the 12 months to December 2019<sup>12</sup>.

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<sup>11</sup> It is worth noting:

- there are no figures for August due to school holiday closures. The figures are reflective of delivery in July and September only. However, figures for the last couple of days in September have not been uploaded yet due to the short turnaround for recording visits at the end of the month and the report deadline. Figures are usually final within a few days after the end of the month. This will lead to increased numbers of sessions/schools than those reported below.
- totals are consistently higher in Q3 as campaigns are targeted at schools ahead of fireworks night.

<sup>12</sup> 2020/21 School closures due to COVID-19: Q1 – April, May, June, Q2 – July, Q4 - January