



ABOUT THE FORCE

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Devon and Cornwall Constabulary covers the largest geographical police area in England, extending 180 miles from the Dorset and Somerset borders in the east to the Isles of Scilly in the west. The headquarters at Exeter is actually nearer to London than the furthest extremity of the Force.

Policing an area of this size offers many challenges and the needs of both rural and urban communities are continually at the forefront of the Force's approach to tackling crime.

The picturesque countryside of the two counties draws a seasonal influx of tourists which easily triples the normal population of 1.5 million people and this can provide its own pressures.

A wide variety of work is carried out by the Force, ranging from reducing and detecting crime to responding to emergencies. The officer on patrol is as important as the dozens of roles which operate behind the scenes.

are just a few of the functions within the Force which are rarely in the public eye and yet are essential.

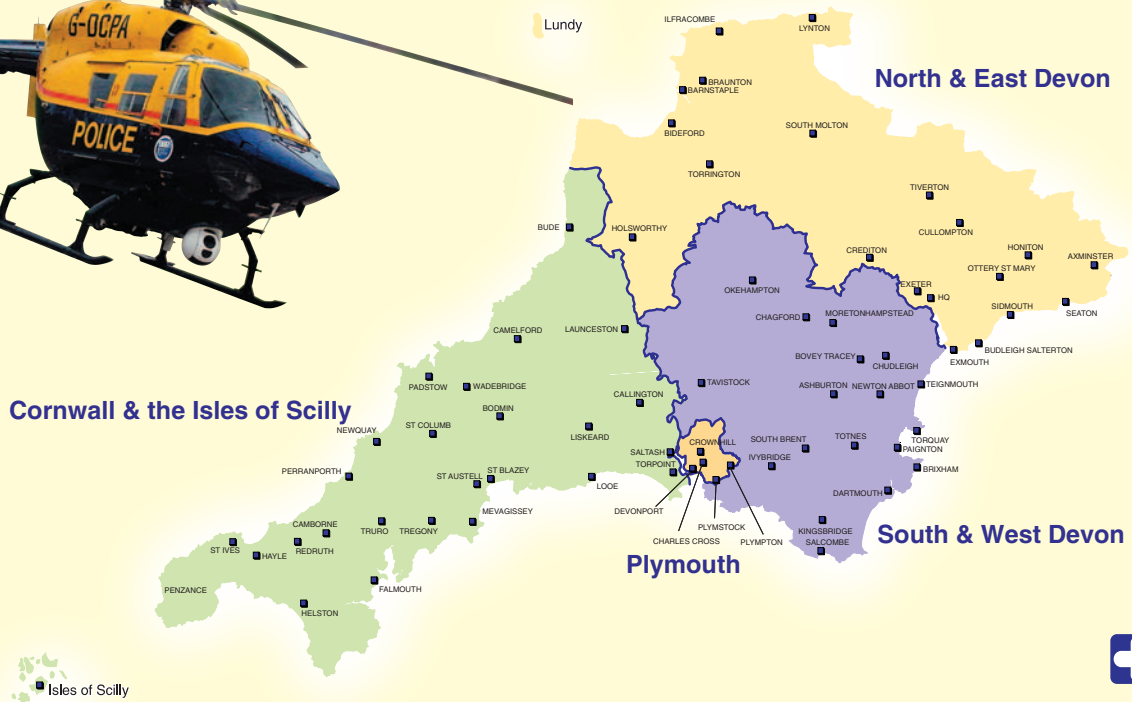
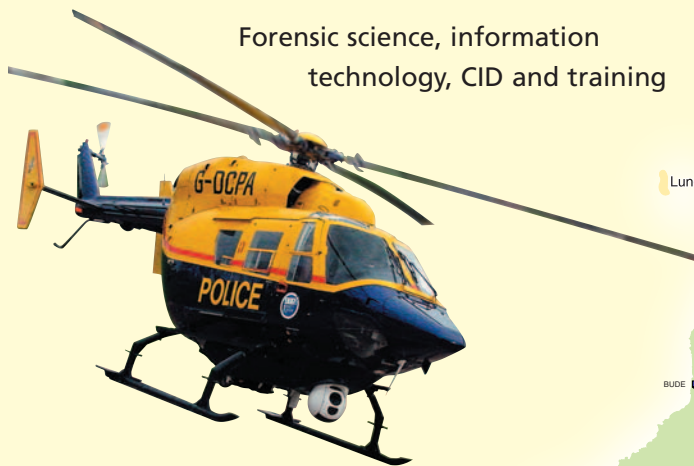
Police officers, police staff and special constables all work together to make Devon and Cornwall as safe as possible.

The Force is split into four Basic Command Units which in turn are divided into neighbourhood beats.

Each neighbourhood beat has its own nominated officer who has a thorough knowledge of the patch and is known and accessible to local people.

These officers work in partnership with other organisations and the community to find long-lasting solutions to the problems which give rise to crime, disorder and the fear of crime.

Forensic science, information technology, CID and training



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The aim is to provide effective policing services that address local people's needs. A large rural area makes responding to target times for emergencies a challenge. The cities of Plymouth and Exeter also present their own unique policing issues, as do popular seaside resorts such as Torquay and Newquay.

At the heart of the Force aim and policing style is the belief that the police service, together with other relevant partners, should aim to tackle underlying problems within the community.

One of the main objectives is to remedy the root causes of crime and disorder rather than just dealing with symptoms as they appear.

The Force prides itself on innovative policing and is always seeking to utilise the latest

technology and break new ground in the fight against crime. Headquarters at Middlemoor in Exeter includes the Scientific Support Unit where work is carried out to catch criminals through the use of technology such as DNA analysis and fingerprinting.

This is also the base for the Force's BK117 helicopter, an essential tool in the fight against crime which can be used to rapidly transport a diving or firearms team; search for missing people; attend collision scenes and other tasks.

As society changes, the Force also adapts whilst preserving its traditional values of integrity, courtesy and community involvement.

