POLICE AUTHORITY GIBRALTAR

POLICING PLAN 2026 - 2027

Royal Gibraltar POLICE

Delivering a Safer Gibraltar through Excellence in Policing

FOREWORD

CHAIR OF THE GIBRALTAR POLICE AUTHORITY

I am delighted to introduce the Gibraltar Police Authority's Policing Plan for the year 2026-2027. This is the third annual policing plan within a three-year strategy, established in consultation with other stakeholders, notably His Excellency the Governor, the Chief Minister and the Royal Gibraltar Police, which undertakes the heavy lifting in its elaboration.

The period leading to this third and final year has witnessed extraordinary developments and progress. Last year I highlighted that one of our principal priorities was to help secure for the RGP those additional resources necessary to tackle the law enforcement challenges Gibraltar would face in a post-EU Treaty world. We were, therefore, delighted with the RGP's budget for the year 2026-27. This has increased by approximately 30% over the previous year and now stands at £22.9 million. Furthermore, greater capital expenditure has become available, in particular to ensure the RGP has the required physical assets to deal with EU Treaty obligations. The number of police officers and support staff will also grow, significantly adding to the capacity to keep Gibraltar, its citizens and visitors safe.

Following the provisional implementation of the EU Treaty on 15th July 2026, we enter a phase of transition. This will inevitably give rise to multiple challenges, as the full impact of the changes becomes more evident. New CCTV and facial recognition technology will provide reassurance that safety and well-being are maintained in a proportionate and effective manner. The implementation of the EU Treaty, and the period thereafter, have been exceptionally well policed, and the Community has demonstrated strong support for our law enforcement agencies. Whilst there are bound to be teething issues, the early signs are of very positive management of our new environment. We are acutely aware of the public's interest in protecting the integrity and effectiveness of law enforcement. We will encourage full, timely and appropriate communication to the public at large, including any threats which may emerge.

Much of our work continues to focus on the ongoing exercise on police governance reform and improving the framework for holding the RGP to account. On both these fronts there has been considerable advancement. A Steering Committee chaired by His Excellency and the Chief Minister (and in which the GPA is a principal stakeholder) has worked up detailed proposals for changes to police governance. I am hopeful that firm proposals will emerge in the next few months. These should represent a significant transformation, improvement and modernisation of police governance for our community. They will need to take account of the McGrail Inquiry recommendations and bring Gibraltar into the 21st century in this area.

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FOREWORD

CHAIR OF THE GIBRALTAR POLICE AUTHORITY

Continued..

On holding the RGP to account, we have worked closely with the Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner to settle a more robust and detailed set of performance metrics. The provisional implementation of the EU Treaty provides an appropriate baseline from which to assess performance and evolving trends.

In an ever more complex world, (especially as it impacts Gibraltar in the new Treaty arrangements), there is no doubt we face increasing threats. Next year we move into a new planning cycle for policing. This represents a very timely opportunity to recalibrate policing priorities. This will involve recasting some of the questions we put to the public in our Annual Survey when it is published this autumn. Our commitment and preparedness to keep Gibraltar safe will need to include a renewed focus on potentially heightened vulnerabilities arising from organised crime, drug trafficking and counterterrorism.

We have witnessed significant changes within the RGP itself. The Commissioner highlights some of those in his own foreword. It is evident to us that there has been tangible improvement across many fronts of the RGP. This is in no small measure due to the invigorated leadership of the Commissioner and the Command Team. This is complemented by the work of all dedicated officers and staff during what has been a particularly challenging period. I want, therefore, on behalf of the GPA to thank the Commissioner, all officers and staff for their daily and much valued work and commitment to keeping us safe. No community can grow and thrive unless it is, and feels, secure and protected.

I should like to end by thanking His Excellency, the Chief Minister, Minister for Justice, the Commissioner and all the members and staff of the Gibraltar Police Authority for their collaborative approach and engagement. There is still much to improve on, but there is a strengthened foundation and broad alignment of views which augurs well for the period ahead.

Peter Montegriffo KC Chairman, Gibraltar Police Authority

THE RGP VISION

A Safer Gibraltar

Investing in Our People

Working together with our Community & Partners

Commissioner's Introduction

I welcome this Policing Plan 2026/27, the third and final year of our current three-year planning cycle. This Plan builds on the strong foundations established following my appointment as Commissioner in July 2025 and reflects our continuing commitment to delivering a safer Gibraltar through effective, accountable, and community-focused policing. As we enter the final year of this cycle, we have sharpened our focus on the outcomes that matter most to the public, placing greater emphasis on measuring the impact of our work rather than simply the activity we undertake.

Gibraltar continues to evolve, and so too do the challenges facing modern policing. The implementation of the UK-EU Treaty, alongside changing patterns of criminality, emerging technologies, and increasingly complex demands, requires us to remain agile, forward-looking, and prepared. This Policing Plan has therefore been designed to ensure that our priorities reflect both current and emerging risks while maintaining our focus on those issues that most affect the daily lives of our communities.

Central to this year's Plan is our commitment to reducing high-harm crime and protecting the most vulnerable in society. We will continue to focus on tackling domestic abuse, serious violence, exploitation, economic crime, and other offences that cause significant harm to individuals and communities. At the same time, we recognise the importance of addressing the concerns that have the greatest impact on public confidence and quality of life, including anti-social behaviour and the visible presence of policing within our communities.

This Plan also reflects a more outcome-focused approach to performance and accountability. Our measures have been refined to better demonstrate the difference policing makes, ensuring that success is judged not only by what we do, but by the outcomes we achieve for victims, communities, and Gibraltar as a whole.

The delivery of this Plan will be supported by continued investment in our people, technology, infrastructure, and partnerships. Working alongside the Gibraltar Police Authority, His Majesty's Government of Gibraltar, community groups, and regional and international partners, we will continue to strengthen our ability to prevent crime, protect the vulnerable, and respond effectively to emerging threats.

While this Plan marks the final year of the current cycle, it also provides an opportunity to prepare for the future. We will continue to build a modern, capable, and resilient police service that is ready to meet the challenges and opportunities ahead, while maintaining the trust and confidence of the communities we serve.

Owain Richards, MSt.(Cantab)
Commissioner of Police

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OVERVIEW

Our Area

Gibraltar is situated at the southern tip of the Iberian Peninsula. It thrives on its excellent reputation as a community that enjoys religious and cultural coexistence and one that promotes equality, diversity and inclusion.

With a bustling maritime industry, busy sea port, international airport, military base, defence infrastructure and land frontier with Spain, Gibraltar's current resident population of approximately 38,000 people, interacts daily with approximately 15,000 cross-border workers and the 10 million (annual) visitors, of varying nationalities and backgrounds.

GPA Role

The Gibraltar Police Authority is an independent body established by the Police Act 2006, responsible for ensuring that the RGP operates as efficiently and effectively as possible and in accordance with its statutory responsibilities.

The authority is comprised of 10 members, with a Chairman appointed by His Excellency the Governor, acting on the advice of the Specified Appointments Commission. One member is appointed by His Excellency the Governor, one member is appointed by the Hon Chief Minister, and the remaining seven members are appointed by HE the Governor, acting on the advice of the Public Service Commission.

About the RGP

The RGP enjoys a long distinguished history as the oldest police force in the Commonwealth. Through a community based ethos which serves our diverse and multicultural society, they work proactively to develop engagement strategies to effectively prevent and detect crime.

Presently led by Commissioner Owain Richards, it numbers 290 officers & 24 Civil Servant and 24 Police Staff. Units include 24/7 Response, Marine, Roads & Community Policing, Criminal Investigation Department (CID), Public Protection, Domestic Abuse, Economic Crime, Crime Scene Investigation (CSI), Force Intelligence & Special Branch, together with a range of support functions.

YOU TOLD US...

MORE POLICE ON STREETS AND ENFORCING TRAFFIC LAWS ON THE ROAD.

RGP SHOULD GO INTO SCHOOLS AND BE PROACTIVE MAKING LINKS WITH THE COMMUNITY LIKE THEY USED TO DO.

ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR IS A GROWING PROBLEM.

I WOULD SAY GIVE GREATER ATTENTION TO VICTIMS OF REPORTS OR CRIMES. A CHECK UP CALL WOULD BE NICE A FEW DAYS LATER..

NEED MORE RESOURCES IN FINANCIAL CRIME AND DRUGS SECTION.

DRUGS, I THINK THERE IS A BIG PROBLEM OF DRUGS AND EVERY YEAR I SEE YOUNGER GENRATIONS GETTING INTO DRUGS EARLIER.

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... WE LISTENED

We listened to your concerns and have ensured our policing plan priorities address them. The GPA and RGP believe that every victim, of whatever type of crime, should receive appropriate support and the services they are entitled to under the Victims Code of Practice. In delivering all our priorities we will support the RGP to provide a consistent, excellent service to victims and witnesses, and support vulnerable victims and witnesses through the Criminal Justice System. This approach will build the confidence of victims and witnesses to report crime and remain engaged with the Criminal Justice process.

YOU TOLD US ABOUT THE THINGS THAT CONCERN YOU THE MOST

- ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR & VANDALISM
- CARELESS & INDISCRIMINATE DRIVING
- SUPPLY & MISUSE OF DRUGS
- DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
- CYBER & FINANCIAL CRIME
- CHILD ABUSE

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PRIORITIES

1. A SAFER GIBRALTAR
2. WORKING FOR OUR COMMUNITY
3. SAFEGUARDING OUR VULNERABLE
4. REDUCING THE HARM CAUSED BY DRUGS
5. REDUCING FINANCIAL & ACQUISITIVE CRIME
6. TRANSFORMING & DEVELOPING OUR SERVICE

Royal Gibraltar POLICE

Delivering a Safer Gibraltar through Excellence in Policing

PRIORITY 1

A SAFER GIBRALTAR

The RGP will maintain its stance of building partnerships to both monitor and identify current and emerging security threats, whilst reinforcing community engagement. These actions will seek to safeguard a secure and resilient Gibraltar, by delivering protection to our community, infrastructure and thus our economy.

Performance Measures

Reduction in High Harm Crime

Increase in Detection Rates Across All Crimes

Increase in the % of Residents Who Report Feeling Safe in Gibraltar

Why It Matters

High harm crime covers the offences that have the most serious impact on victims and communities, including violent crime, domestic abuse, sexual offences, robbery and other serious acquisitive crime. These offences cause significant physical, emotional and financial harm, and they affect people's sense of safety more than any other type of crime.

By focusing on these offences, the RGP is prioritising the issues that matter most to the public. The emphasis is on protecting vulnerable people, reducing violence and preventing the most damaging crimes before they happen.

Reducing high harm crime makes Gibraltar safer by cutting the harm caused to individuals, families and the wider community, rather than focusing only on overall crime numbers.

Detection rates show how effectively crimes are investigated and brought to justice. A detection is a positive outcome such as a charge, caution or other formal resolution, so a higher rate means offences are being resolved and not simply recorded.

For the public, this is central to confidence in the justice system. Victims want to know that their report will be taken seriously and that there is a realistic prospect of an offender being identified and held responsible.

A higher detection rate means more crimes reach a formal outcome and more offenders are held to account, which is what victims and the public expect from an effective justice system.

Public perception of safety matters as much as actual crime levels. Even where crime is low, fear or anxiety can have a real effect on quality of life and on whether people feel able to take part in community life.

For residents, feeling safe shapes everyday decisions such as walking at night, allowing children some independence or attending public events. It depends on effective policing as well as strong community engagement and visible reassurance.

When this measure improves, it tells us that residents are safer and feel safer, with the confidence to go about their daily lives and take a full part in their community.

PRIORITY 2

WORKING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

The RGP will continue to engage with stakeholders and our community to understand their policing needs. We will continue to build community partnerships to address concerns regarding anti-social behaviour and road safety.

Performance Measures

Reduction in Total Number of Road Traffic Collisions

Increase in Victim Satisfaction Rates

Reduction in the Number of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Crimes

Why It Matters

Road traffic collisions affect those directly involved as well as their families, the emergency services and the wider community. Collisions can cause serious injury, loss of life and lasting consequences for victims.

For the public, safer roads mean fewer disruptions, less risk on daily journeys and greater confidence for pedestrians and cyclists. This is achieved through the ethos of effective enforcement, education and engineering.

A reduction in collisions, and particularly in serious and fatal ones, means safer journeys for everyone who uses the roads.

Victim satisfaction reflects how people feel they have been treated during their contact with the police, from the first report through to resolution. It includes empathy, communication, timeliness and professionalism.

For the public, this is an important measure of trust. Even when the outcome is not what they hoped for, a positive experience reassures victims that they have been heard, respected and supported.

When satisfaction improves, victims feel they have been treated well even where the result was not what they wanted, and victims who feel well treated are far more likely to report crime again in future.

Anti-social behaviour (ASB) is often less serious than other crime, but it has a disproportionate effect on community wellbeing. Examples include disorderly conduct whilst intoxicated, making disturbances, graffiti and begging. Persistent ASB wears down neighbourhood cohesion, creates fear and reduces quality of life.

For residents, reducing anti-social behaviour means quieter, safer and more welcoming communities. It is one of the most visible forms of disorder and has a direct influence on how people view policing.

A sustained fall in ASB means more settled neighbourhoods, where everyday disorder no longer determines how safe people feel where they live.

PRIORITY 3

SAFEGUARDING OUR VULNERABLE

The RGP will ensure a strategic and coordinated allocation of responsibilities with key partner agencies in identifying and supporting the most vulnerable in society. They will strive to reduce the harm caused by Domestic Abuse (DA) and reduce violence against women and girls (VAWG) by taking positive action and working with key stakeholders to identify new ways to protect all those in vulnerable positions.

Performance Measures

Reduction in Time Taken from Crime Reported to Suspect Charged

Increase in Detection Rates for Domestic Abuse Offences

Reduction in Child Victims of Online-Enabled Crime

Why It Matters

Reducing the time from crime reported to suspect charged or summonsed is vital for supporting victims and delivering timely justice. It focuses on progressing investigations efficiently, so victims are not left waiting for outcomes.

Faster charging decisions reduce uncertainty, limit prolonged distress, and show a report is being taken seriously. It helps maintain victim confidence and engagement throughout the process.

Shorter timeframes also protect victims by disrupting offenders sooner and reducing the risk of further harm. The RGP aims to improve victim experience, strengthen trust, and ensure a quicker, more effective response to crime.

Domestic abuse offences are often hidden and underreported, with victims facing fear or control from perpetrators. Increasing detection means more cases are investigated and lead to formal action.

For victims and the public, higher detection shows these offences are taken seriously, builds trust, and encourages reporting. It also reassures communities that action is being taken.

Improving detection rates helps hold offenders accountable, disrupt abuse, and protect victims. The aim is to strengthen trust, improve safety, and ensure effective responses to domestic abuse.

Reducing child victims of online-enabled crime focuses on preventing harm and improving safety. It aims to lower the number of children affected by exploitation, grooming, abuse, and peer-to-peer sharing of indecent images.

For children, fewer victims mean less harm and long-term impact. For families and the public, it shows that online risks, including harmful behaviours between peers, are being effectively managed.

Success in this area reflects stronger prevention, earlier intervention, and effective disruption of offenders, helping protect children and create safer online spaces.

PRIORITY 4

REDUCING THE HARM CAUSED BY DRUGS

Our community continues to have grave concerns relating to drug related crime. The RGP will continually review their strategies to combat drug related crime through enforcement, education and awareness actions in conjunction with key strategic partners. The RGP will show determination in detecting and deterring those involved in drugs supply and misuse, as well as supporting those who misuse drugs to find support to curtail dependency. The RGP will also seek to take the profit out of drugs trafficking through the improved use of relevant legislation.

Performance Measures

Increase in Number of Detections for Drug-Related Offences

Increase in Number of Detections for Drug Driving Offences

Why It Matters

Drug-related crime often sits beneath wider criminality, including violence, exploitation and organised crime. Increasing detection disrupts supply chains and reduces harm to communities.

For the public, tackling drug offences improves neighbourhood safety, reduces visible drug activity and addresses related harms such as addiction and exploitation.

More detections mean more offences brought to a formal outcome, supply chains disrupted and the profit taken out of dealing, reducing the activity that communities tell us concerns them most.

Driving under the influence puts lives at risk and is a major cause of serious road incidents. Increasing detection against offending drivers, helps remove dangerous drivers from the road.

For the public, this leads directly to safer roads and a lower risk of serious or fatal collisions. It also reinforces responsible behaviour and acts as a deterrent.

Each detection is a dangerous driver brought to a formal outcome and removed from the road before causing harm, which contributes directly to safer roads and deters others.

PRIORITY 5

REDUCING FINANCIAL & ACQUISITIVE CRIME

The RGP will continue to work towards strengthening their capability to disrupt, prevent and robustly investigate Financial and Acquisitive Crime, including cyber-enabled acquisitive crime and target those responsible for burglaries. The RGP will use all powers available to it to identify and confiscate assets derived from crime.

Performance Measures

Reduction in Number of Theft Offences

Increase in Detection Rates for Money Laundering Offences

Why It Matters

Theft is often seen as lower-level crime, but it can have a significant impact on victims, causing financial loss, inconvenience and a lasting sense of vulnerability. Repeated incidents wear down confidence in community safety.

For the public, reducing theft is central to a sense of security. It shows that policing is focused on preventing opportunistic crime and protecting property, which has a direct effect on quality of life.

A sustained fall in theft means fewer residents and businesses left out of pocket or feeling vulnerable where they live, and greater confidence in everyday safety.

Money laundering enables organised crime by allowing illegal profits to be hidden and reinvested. Tackling it is essential to protecting Gibraltar's financial reputation and economic stability.

For the public, this helps ensure that Gibraltar remains a safe and reputable place to live, work and do business, and shows that serious and complex crime is being targeted effectively.

When detection improves, more of these offences reach a formal outcome, intercepting illicit profits before they can be reinvested into further crime.

PRIORITY 6

TRANSFORMING & DEVELOPING OUR SERVICE

In order to deliver the vision of 'Delivering a Safer Gibraltar through Excellence in Policing' the RGP is committed to developing its officers as leaders, both within the service and the greater community as a whole thereby improving the service from within. We will continue to cooperate with partners and stakeholders in order to react to exterior challenges. In doing so, the RGP will endeavour to improve the police service for the public.

Performance Measures

Reduction in Average Days to Resolve Public Complaints

Reduction in Voluntary Exits from the Service

Why It Matters

Efficient complaint handling is a cornerstone of accountability and public trust. Delays cause frustration and dissatisfaction and reduce confidence in policing.

For the public, prompt resolution ensures that concerns are taken seriously and dealt with transparently. It reflects a responsive and professional organisation that is willing to examine its own conduct.

When complaints are resolved more quickly, complainants are not left waiting and concerns about conduct are dealt with openly, which is fundamental to public trust in how the RGP holds itself to account. A reduction in this area would be reflective of staff development & training, service efficiencies and transformation of established processes.

Workforce stability is essential to consistent, high-quality policing. High levels of voluntary departure lead to a loss of experience, greater pressure on remaining staff and reduced continuity of service to the public.

For the public, a stable and experienced workforce means a better service, stronger community relationships and more consistent policing over time.

A fall in voluntary departures would be a reflection of investment in people, confidence and development in leadership meaning experience is retained, pressure on remaining officers eases and the public is served by a stable and familiar team.

How to find us

Gibraltar Police Authority
www.gpa.gi
(+350) 20040918
info@gpa.gi
Unit 25B Casemates Square, PO Box 1487

How to contact the Royal Gibraltar Police

Report online at www.police.gi/report-online

Instagram @royalgibpolice

facebook.com/royalgibpolice

twitter.com/RGPolice

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