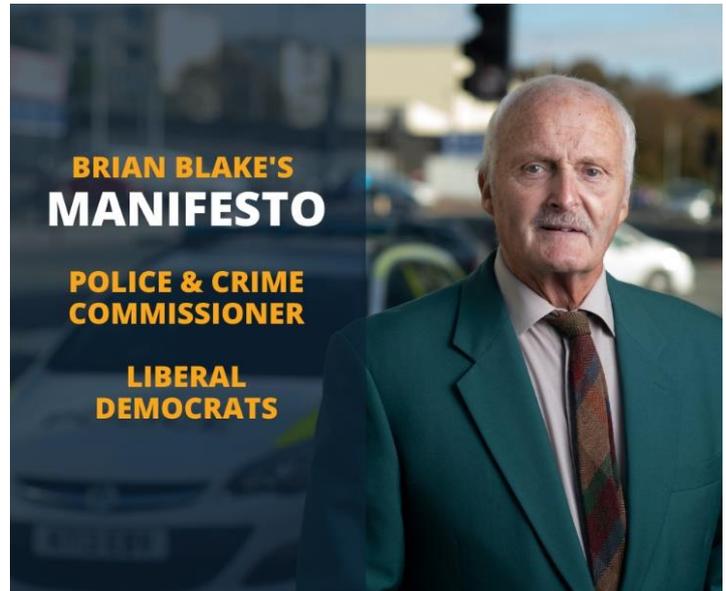


Brian Blake - MY MANIFESTO

Candidate for Police and Crime Commissioner for Devon and Cornwall I'm Brian Blake, and I'm a retired Detective Chief Inspector with Devon and Cornwall Police.

I will be impartial and non-political

Although I am standing as the Liberal Democrat candidate, if elected I will have to swear an oath of impartiality something which, as a former copper, I take very seriously. Policing and politics should be entirely separate: there is nothing political about having your house burgled or having our young people surrounded by drug dealers. If elected, I will work for everyone across the region, regardless of their race, religion, gender or politics.



My experience in National & International Policing

I've lived in Yealmpton for 31 years, I'm married to retired nurse Elinor, and we have three grown up children. As a former police officer in the Devon and Cornwall Police, I think I'm ideally suited to be the region's next PCC. During a career of more than 30 years, I worked in nine stations across the two counties, starting in uniform before moving on to CID, Special Branch and the Regional and National Crime Squads.

I retired with the rank of Detective Chief Inspector and then worked with the MoD and NATO, mainly in Europe, in security related roles. My expertise was such that I was invited to address the Chief Constables Conference on international crime issues. I spoke on the same subject at Interpol conferences in Lyon and Madrid.

This is the 'learned frontline experience' of national and international policing that I bring to my candidacy for Devon and Cornwall's next Police and Crime Commissioner.

My Plan for Devon & Cornwall

The PCC is required to work with the Chief Constable to produce an annual Police and Crime Plan. If elected, my Plan will be underpinned by Sir Robert Peel's definition of policing: "the prevention and detection of crime." Its main aim is to restore policing to the level it was prior to funding cuts. It is what we pay for and need.

I've seen at first hand the damage that crime does to individuals, families and communities, and I shall argue strongly in favour of:

- visible police patrols
- improved detection rates
- fighting hate crime
- rigorous pursuit of drug dealers, and re-hab programmes for addicts
- fairer funding for the police
- restorative justice, where appropriate, to ensure that perpetrators acknowledge the damage that their crimes cause



I will work closely with agencies

The code of conduct for Police and Crime Commissioners requires the Commissioner to support victim support services and charities in all their forms from rape crisis centres, domestic violence support organisations through to restorative justice. That will be in the plan and will be a continuing commitment.

Combatting: Drugs – offences against women – hate crime

Drug dealers have a disproportionate impact on our communities. They enrich themselves at the expense of individuals, families and the community. They place a strain on the NHS and mental health services. Four young people have died in Devon and Cornwall recently after taking class A drugs which is tragic. Rigorous enforcement against dealers is needed to combat this together with re-hab programmes for those addicted.

There has been a worrying rise in offences against women and these should be investigated as a matter of priority.

Hate crime has risen considerably and it targets the vulnerable and marginalised in our society. Those affected need support and confidence that their complaint is being investigated and the offender prosecuted.

I will Fight for proper funding for the police

Due to funding cut-backs the level of investigations into reported crime has fallen dramatically with a national rate of 8% detection which is unacceptable. It is important that victims of crime feel their complaint is being investigated and have reassurance that something is being done. More offenders prosecuted, fewer victims in the future.

The Devon and Cornwall Police funding settlement is below the national average and that despite nearly 11 million visitors a year to the two counties and the Isles of Scilly. Given that and our huge geographical area and coastline it essential that the Home Office policing grant reflects this.

Keep up with me on

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