

Police and Crime Commissioner Elections 7th May 2020 - Candidate Statement

Gareth Derrick



Since being so close to becoming the first Labour Police and Crime Commissioner for Devon and Cornwall in 2016, I have been continuously engaged with policing, crime and justice issues in the two counties and nationally, including as Parliamentary candidate in South East Cornwall in both the 2017 and 2019 general elections.

In my Plymouth City Councillor role, I sit on the regional Police and Crime Panel, frequently confronting the incumbent Tory PCC Alison Hernandez, and I've built a reputation for an honest and pragmatic approach to challenging the damaging politically-driven policing agenda that she has presided over, and presenting an alternative way ahead. It's now time for me to take the lead.

With the support of our members across the region, we have a very strong chance of securing this important role and making sure that it will never again be a tool for political cover-up. We have a very powerful message on policing, with Tory police cuts bringing about both rising crime and fewer prosecutions, particularly violent crimes that affect women. Trust in the Tories will also loom large as the government cynically tries to reverse its austerity, and with Alison Hernandez having focused on cost-reduction but taken her eyes well off the ball in terms of crime and justice.

I intend to bring real value through strong and effective leadership of policing. With a clear and well-focused plan, developed with the Chief Constable I will ensure that we cut crime, help rejuvenate the criminal justice system, provide better support for victims and kick-start a green transformation in the force. Ensuring safety in our communities will be my top priority, but I will also do all I can to boost the morale and well-being of our most important assets, the Police Officers, Police Community Support Officers, and the vital civilian staff that keep Devon and Cornwall safe.

Policing in Devon and Cornwall must never again succumb to the political whitewash that has blighted it for too long. The recovery from any prolonged period of turmoil and crumbling standards demand integrity and transparency in facing the facts and a commitment to tackling the challenges head on. I am ready to do just that.

With the full endorsement of my GMB Union I urge you to select me as your Police and Crime Commissioner candidate.

Read more at www.garethderrick.org

