

REPORT: THE SYSTEMIC EROSION OF PUBLIC TRUST

Analysis of Surrey Police Performance & Accountability (2023–2026)

Report Issued: April 25, 2026

1. Executive Summary

Following the closure of the Epsom rape investigation on April 23, 2026, widespread civil unrest highlighted a critical "Trust Deficit" between Surrey Police and the community. This report examines the data behind this distrust, including an "Inadequate" audit rating for public response, record-high victim withdrawal rates, and a history of significant data management failures.

2. Institutional Failures and Governance

A. The "Another Call" App Scandal & Proposed £1 Million Fine

In April 2023, the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) issued a formal reprimand to the Chief Constable of Surrey.

- **The Violation:** Officers used a mobile app to record **200,000+ private phone calls** with victims and witnesses without consent.
- **The Fine:** The ICO stated it **considered a fine of £1,000,000** but issued a reprimand instead to protect public funds.
- **Legal Infringements:** Breach of Sections 35, 39, and 40 of the Data Protection Act 2018.

Primary Sources:

ICO Enforcement Record (April 2023); The Guardian Media Report (2023).

B. Vetting and Internal Integrity

A 2025 audit of Professional Standards revealed that **469 personnel** were working without correct security vetting levels. This internal lack of oversight mirrors the national concerns raised by the dismissal of figures like Nick Adderley for gross misconduct.

Primary Sources:

Surrey Police Professional Standards Audit (2025); HMICFRS PEEL Assessment.

3. Distorted Metrics of Sexual Violence

A. The Accountability Gap: Victim Withdrawal

Surrey Police currently maintains some of the **highest victim withdrawal rates (Outcome 16) in the UK** for rape cases, estimated between 52% and 58%.

Metric Category	Surrey Data (2025/26)	National Average
Adult Rape Charge Rate	~5.8%	9.2%
Victim Withdrawal Rate	52% - 58%	44%
Days to Charge Decision	700+	~450

Primary Sources:

Gov.uk Criminal Justice System Data (Jan 2026); HMICFRS "State of Policing" Report.

4. Criminal Misconduct Within the Force

The public's skepticism is further fueled by high-profile convictions of officers investigated within the county:

- **PC Dion Arnold:** Convicted on April 16, 2026, at Guildford Crown Court on 8 counts of rape and sexual assault.
- **PC Robert Butters:** Jailed for using police systems to stalk a woman (Unauthorized access to computer material).

Primary Sources:

Surrey Police Public Newsroom (April 2026); IOPC Misconduct Statistics (2025).

5. Case Study: Epsom (April 2026)

Conclusion: "No offence occurred."

The closure of the Epsom case within 10 days was viewed by the public as an "expedited dismissal." While the force claimed "outside agitators" were responsible for the unrest, no forensic or residency proof was provided to verify that the protesters were not local residents with legitimate grievances regarding the audit failures cited above.

This document is compiled for public interest and accountability review. All data is derived from official regulatory bodies and independent audits.