

**CHOOSE  
MY PCC**

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# **Candidates for the Gloucestershire Police Force Area**

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On 6th May, you will be able to vote for  
your police and crime commissioner.

Find out who your local candidates are  
and how to vote





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# About Police and Crime Commissioners

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**On 6th May, you will be able to vote for your Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC). The role of the PCC is to be the voice of the people and hold the police to account. Elections will be taking place in England and Wales. In London, Greater Manchester and West Yorkshire, there will be elections at the same time for Mayors who exercise PCC functions.**

PCCs are responsible for the totality of policing in their force area and aim to cut crime and deliver an effective and efficient police service.

39 PCCs will be elected across England and Wales, of which 4 are also responsible for overseeing the fire and rescue authority for their area and are called Police, Fire and Crime Commissioners (PFCC) – these PFCCs are found in Essex, Staffordshire, North Yorkshire and Northamptonshire). There will also be 3 Mayors with PCC functions elected in London, Greater Manchester and West Yorkshire.

PCCs are elected by you and aim to cut crime and hold the force to account on behalf of the public. PCCs bring a public voice to policing, and they do this by:

- engaging with the public and victims of crime to help set the policing priorities for the area and consulting on their Police and Crime plans;
- ensuring the police force budget is spent where it matters most; and
- appointing the Chief Constable, holding them to account for delivery of their objectives and if necessary, dismissing them.

## Work with others

PCCs, PFCCs and Mayors who exercise PCC functions also work with your council and other organisations to promote and enable joined up working on community safety and criminal justice.

The PCC, PFCC or Mayor who exercises PCC functions does not 'run' the police force or fire service. Chief Constables and Chief Fire Officers are operationally independent, and they are responsible for the day to day operations of the police, but they are accountable to the public via the Police and Crime Commissioner.

PCCs, PFCCs and Mayors who exercise PCC functions are single, directly elected individuals ensuring the public are protected, providing greater opportunities for collaboration and more effective scrutiny of public services.

They ensure that there is an effective policing contribution to national partnership arrangements to protect the public from other national and cross-boundary threats.

## **Represent the entire community**

PCCs, PFCCs and Combined Authority Mayors who exercise PCC functions are required to swear an oath of impartiality when they are elected to office.

The oath is designed so that they can publicly set out their commitment to: serve all of the people in their police force area; act with integrity and diligence; give a voice to the public; act with transparency so that they may be effectively held to account; and not interfere with the operational independence of police officers.

## **Find your candidate**

This booklet contains information on the candidates standing for election in the Gloucestershire police force area. You can also order a copy of this booklet in the following formats: large print, braille and audio.

To place your order visit **[www.choosemypcc.org.uk](http://www.choosemypcc.org.uk)** or call **0808 196 2170**.

## **About your vote**

You need to be registered to be able to vote.

If you are not registered visit **[www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote)** or contact your local council.

If you are registered, and eligible to vote you can either vote in person at a polling station, by post, or by proxy (allowing someone you trust to vote on your behalf).

In this election you can vote for a first and second preference of who you want to win.

For more information about your vote and other elections taking place on 6th May visit **[www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter)**

# Chris Coleman

Liberal Democrat



## **Election statement:**

### **Local solicitor Chris Coleman has worked in the criminal justice system for over 15 years.**

Chris spends a great deal of time working at local police stations as well as being an advocate in local courts. He has also been a local councillor for many years and has been involved in delivering significant projects for local people.

Chris said: “My record as a councillor shows I stand up for local people and get things done. My work in the justice system gives me real insight into the challenges faced by the police.

“Too often our justice system lets down victims of crime. Too often crimes go unsolved. Too often people feel unsafe in their homes and communities. I want to change that – that is why I am standing in this election.

“The primary role of the Police and Crime Commissioner should be to ensure that the public’s voice gets heard. I believe that I have the experience to do that. I will be genuinely independent of the police and work to get the best possible service for local people.”

Chris' key priorities are:

### **1. More local police**

Local people say they don't see enough police officers on our streets. Chris will put that right.

### **2. Fix the 101 service**

People have to wait too long before their 101 calls are answered. Chris will fix the long wait times and improve the service for local people.

### **3. Mend our broken justice system**

There are significant delays in crimes being dealt with - the impact on victims is unacceptable. Chris will work to cut the delays in justice being done. He will campaign for a new justice centre to replace our crumbling courts.

Prepared by Andrew McKinlay on behalf of Christopher Coleman (Liberal Democrat) all at 40 Lichfield Drive, Cheltenham GL51 3DH.

### **Contact details**

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## Chris Nelson

The Conservative Party Candidate



### **Election statement:**

I have served my country in the Army and as a local politician, and have **almost 40 years of public service.**

**I retired as a full Colonel**, having played my part defending democracy in the First Gulf War and protecting the vulnerable on the streets of Northern Ireland.

In business, I provided state of the art training facilities for international police forces.

In Gloucestershire, I have been a Borough Councillor and Chairman of my local Parish Council, **listening to residents about their concerns and fear of rising crime.**

**Local crime is much worse than official figures suggest**, as many fail to report sexual and domestic abuse, retail theft and things like rural crime.

**Too often, victims believe the police will do little to help them.**

I have the strategic, management, financial and business skills to ensure I make an immediate impact as your Commissioner. **After consulting widely with the residents of Gloucestershire, my top 6 priorities are:**

- **Recruit 300 more police officers, plus 150 more volunteer Special Constables**
- **Cut Anti-Social Behaviours by 50%**, by immediately adopting a zero-tolerance approach to all ASB, including house burglaries, bike theft, vehicle and bike crime, drug dealing, littering, fly-tipping, illegal parking, speeding and problem neighbours
- **Fight Rural Crime** by providing more locally recruited police, who know and love their community
- **Reduce Internet and Phone Scams**, by improving public awareness, resilience, and working with national security agencies
- **End the culture of spin and waste in the Commissioner's Office**

I will ensure the Chief Constable has the necessary resources to deliver these priorities and will hold him to account until they are achieved.

**Crime prevention will be my single focus and my top priority.**

This form has been prepared by Dan Ruff, Election Agent, Unit 1143 Regent Court, Gloucester Business Park, GL3 4AD

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# Simon Terence James O'Rourke

Labour Party



## **Election statement:**

I live in Tewkesbury. I have been involved in charity work for a great number of years including five as the Chairman of a local Victim Support Scheme. This role involved representing the voice of victims of crime to the local constabulary while maintaining a good working relationship with the force. This experience ideally qualifies me for the role of PCC.

I have also worked in a large number of complex environments dealing with strict regulatory frameworks. I have helped to develop organisational strategy, then determined the key metrics to help manage and maintain the delivery of that strategy. I'm experienced in delivering large scale projects, handling big budgets whilst not losing sight of the eventual goal. These will be key skills in developing and monitoring the Police and Crime plan.

If elected as your PCC my main points of focus will be to;

- Really place the needs of Victims of Crime at the heart of policing in Gloucestershire.
- Work to represent the views of all our communities to develop stronger partnerships with the force.
- Fight increases in local taxation and look to increase the proportion of the policing budget that comes from central government.

- Tackle the causes of crime by working to improve the preventative services offered throughout the County.
- Ensure the policing budget reflects the priorities of the people of Gloucestershire

I have never sought elected office before but feel that it is now necessary for everyone who cares about how we treat all those in our community to push for change and to demonstrate what a caring society could and should look like.

Please support me in becoming the next Gloucestershire Police and Crime Commissioner.

This form has been prepared by my election agent

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### **Contact details**

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## Adrian (Stratts) Stratton

Independent



### **Election statement:**

**I am Adrian STRATTON, known to most as Stratts and I would like to win your vote as an INDEPENDENT candidate in the Gloucestershire Police and Crime Commissioner election.**

**I retired from the Gloucestershire Constabulary in 2017 after serving 30 years at the front end of Policing. I worked towards preventing crimes but when these occurred, I was a committed officer and always worked towards a conviction. Supporting the victims of crime was an essential part of my remit and I would do my best to help them achieve the closure they needed.**

**I received seven Judges and Chief Constable commendations for the thoroughness of my investigations and my commitment to protecting the public.**

**Retirement has given me a different perspective on the Force.**

**I have seen a lack of communication between the Police Force and the general public when reporting a crime or an unlawful incident.**

**I have seen the Public frustration when habitual offenders walk free and law-abiding citizens are fearful of walking down the street because of harassment,**

**abuse or anti-social behaviour. I have listened to people who do not report these incidents as they feel 'nothing will be done' or 'the Police are too busy'.**

**I will not make promises I cannot keep. I will prioritise looking into the spending of public funds, review the channels of communication between the Police and the general public. I want to ensure the basics of Policing are carried out efficiently and to the best of the Force's ability.**

**I will endeavour to ensure residents have my full support and I will use my position to improve policing within the existing budget.**

**If elected I want to make Gloucestershire a better and safer place for everyone.**

**Prepared by Adrian (Stratts) STRATTON, 28 Church Street. GLOS GL5 1JL**

### **Contact details**

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## Martin John Surl

Independent



### **Election statement:**

I've been honoured to serve as your Independent Police and Crime Commissioner since 2012. I have kept my word, delivered everything I promised and kept party politics out of local policing. I hope you will let me continue.

Austerity saw a reduction of 249 police officers in Gloucestershire and a cut of £32 million to their annual budget. Those were tough times but step by step we're growing again, however government policy has seen taxation shift from central government to your council tax.

When I took office Gloucestershire had the 14th lowest crime rate in England and Wales, now it's the 5th lowest and though crime has begun to rise, Gloucestershire has seen the second lowest increase. (ONS data). We should be proud of this. Gloucestershire is a good place to live, work and bring up a family.

I have a good relationship with the voluntary sector to whom I kept my promise to put them on the top table with local councils and others.

My challenge to the Gloucestershire Constabulary is to demonstrate to you that 'every crime matters'. Why? Because 'every victim matters'.

When I set burglary as a priority the police knew exactly what to do, the same for rural organised crime.

But we can do better! The challenge of 'Every crime matters' is far tougher. Success will take absolute commitment, experience and skill. Not because the resources that go into a murder will be the same as a shoplifter, but because if you ignore minor crimes the rot sets in and our quality of life deteriorates.

I'll work for you and with you, for the whole County; be it rural or urban. I'll work with all parties but I can only do this because I'm elected and Independent.

Prepared by: Martin Surl, Higher Ground, Birdlip, Gloucester.

### **Contact details**

Martin John Surl

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# Statement by the Police Area Returning Officer for Gloucestershire

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This booklet contains more information about those candidates (where provided) and other information useful to voters. The information provided by a candidate is their responsibility, and may not reflect the opinions of myself or my council.

As Police Area Returning Officer I am responsible for coordinating the election and announcing the result in Gloucestershire.

Police and Crime Commissioner Elections will be held in Gloucestershire on 6th May 2021; the candidates standing in that election, alphabetically by surname (as they will appear on the ballot paper), are:

- COLEMAN, Christopher Francis – Liberal Democrat
- NELSON, Chris – The Conservative Party Candidate
- O'ROURKE, Simon Terence James – Labour Party
- STRATTON, Adrian (Stratts) – Independent
- SURL, Martin John – Independent

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