



## Eurovision FOI Closing Report

Eurovision 2023 (Operation Lightyear) was one of the largest policing operations Merseyside Police has delivered. The planning phase began in December 2022 with the operational phase running from Friday the 5th of May to Saturday the 13th of May 2023. The operation took place over several sites with an increased Night-time Economy operation throughout that period. Further to the FOI Strategy the following information is provided for release:

Category	Information
Strategy and Policy	<p>The Overall Strategic intention set by the Gold Commander was:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To deliver a high-quality policing operation that supports the event organiser, our partners, and stakeholders to provide a safe environment for the events over the period of Eurovision 2023.</li><li>• We will seek to enable all key stakeholders to fully participate in the delivery of solutions throughout the planning, delivery and recovery phases of these events and thereby keep the public safe.</li></ul>
Finance	<p>The total policing cost was £3 million, with £2.2 million being reclaimed under Home Office Special Grant arrangements.</p>
Staffing	<p>The event was staffed with an emphasis on additional officers for the event in order to maintain levels of service across the force for non-Eurovision related policing. Over 5500 police officer duties were recorded. Mutual Aid arrangements, from a small number of forces, were utilised for various specialisms such as Firearms, Counter Drone and Public Order trained staff.</p> <p>A full-time planning team was employed from Jan 2023. This consisted of a Tactical commander, 2 Counter Terrorism Security Coordinators, Police Search Coordinator, Project Servator Coordinator, Intelligence Bronze, Local Policing SPOC, Planning Coordinator, Lead Planner, and a planning team of 4 officers.</p>
Operational Activity	<p>The operation consisted of the following significant events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Inaugural event and hand over of Eurovision “keys” to Liverpool – 31st Jan - St Georges Hall</li><li>• “Welcome to the World” Official opening Eurovision Ceremony – 7th May - St Georges Hall and surrounding footprint</li><li>• Semi Final 1 – 9th May - M and S Bank Arena</li><li>• Semi Final 2 – 11th May - M and S Bank Arena</li><li>• Grand Final – 13th May - M and S Bank Arena</li></ul>

	<p>In addition to the above, the following events took place throughout the Liverpool City region, creating a 9-day Eurovision Festival:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Euro village – Pierhead – Friday 5th May – Saturday 13th May 1400-2300hrs</li> <li>• Euroclub – Camp and Furnace – Friday 5th May – Saturday 13th May 2100-0400hrs</li> <li>• Eurocamp - Chavasse Park – Monday 8th May- Sunday 14th May 1200-2100hrs</li> <li>• Cultural Commissions - 24 varying pieces of art displayed throughout the city, from inflatable Soloveiko Songbird to a floating Earth in the Albert Dock, to Theatre productions engaging Ukrainian Artists- each with their own draw of crowds.</li> </ul> <p>The whole of the city of Liverpool and the wider Merseyside region embraced Eurovision, holding Eurovision themed events, from Pub quizzes to Eurovision themed party nights.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Between the 5th and 13th May crime increased by 40 crimes compared to the comparative period in the previous year. 27% of those crimes were victim based.</li> <li>• The crimes related to drug possession and use (28), Public order (7), Theft person (4), Other sexual offences (3), Violence without injury (2), Theft shop (1), other theft (1), Criminal Damage excluding arson (1), and Robbery personal (1)</li> <li>• Arrests increased from 1 in the comparative previous year, to 10 during Eurovision. These included 4 drug arrests, 2 Robbery arrests, 1 drunk and disorderly, 1 breach of the peace, 1 public order arrest and an arrest for a suspect circulated as wanted for a historical non-event sexual offence.</li> <li>• One arrest was resultant from a crime that occurred on a bus. This should be discounted as the bus could have been stopped outside of the boundary and is therefore unrelated.</li> <li>• There was a reduction of 60% in ASB incidents compared to the same period the previous year. During Operation Lightyear there were 4 cases of ASB during NTE hours and locations, which was a reduction from 10 the previous year.</li> </ul>
Professional Standards	There were no complaints about police recorded during either the planning or operation phases.

**Summary**

Overall Merseyside Police and partners have worked together to deliver a safe, secure, and extremely successful Eurovision 2023. This is reflected in all the positive feedback received, from the European Broadcasting Union, BBC, Liverpool City Council and more, including the public that attended the events themselves. Merseyside Police are extremely proud to have been part of it.