



# LONDON POLICE SERVICE

## REPORT TO THE LONDON POLICE SERVICE BOARD

**BOARD MEETING DATE:** March 20, 2025

**BOARD REPORT #:** 2503CI01

**MEETING:** Open

**TO:** Chair and Members of the London Police Service Board

**FROM:** Paul Bastien, Deputy Chief

**SUBJECT:** 2024 Sexual Assault Investigation Annual Report

**PURPOSE:** Update / Information Purposes Only

---

### RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the London Police Service Board receive the report for information purposes.

### SUMMARY:

This report is submitted pursuant to the London Police Service Board Policy no. 037 "Sexual Assault Investigation", which requires that the Chief report annually on the number of sexual assaults reported, the number of cases reviewed by the Violence Against Women Advocate Case Review Program, and any recommendations made during the course of those reviews. The policy further requires that, in cases where a victim who requests that police disclose the name of the accused has their request denied, the Chief provide the Board with reasons for such.

The number of sexual assaults reported to the London Police Service in 2024 decreased by just over 12% compared to 2023. The number of cases cleared by way of a charge being laid remained stable at approximately 38%, as did the number of cases screened in for review by the VAW Advocate Case Review Program (approximately 44% of all reports of sexual assault made to the London Police Service).

### DISCUSSION:

#### Uniform Crime Reporting Statistics

Incidents reported to police, including sexual assaults, are coded according to standards established by the Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, the most recent edition of which was published by Statistics Canada in 2023. Incidents are categorized as "founded" or "unfounded". An incident may only be coded as unfounded in cases where it has been determined through investigation that the offence reported did not occur and was not attempted. If it has been determined that the reported

incident did occur or was attempted, or if there is no credible evidence to confirm otherwise, an occurrence is coded as founded.

Founded occurrences that are still under investigation, lack sufficient evidence to proceed, or in which the victim declines to proceed are coded as “not cleared”. The remainder may be cleared by way of a charge laid or cleared otherwise through one of several circumstance-specific clearance codes.

Table 1 - Five-year Comparison of Sexual Assault Clearance Data

Year	Reports	Unfounded		Charge Laid		Declines to Proceed or Requests No Further Action		Insufficient Evidence to Proceed		Still Under Investigation		Other	
		n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
2024	513	1	0.2	193	37.6	151	29.4	129	25.1	31	6.0	8	1.6
2023	588	2	0.3	229	38.9	181	30.8	158	26.9	8	1.4	10	1.7
2022	568	0	0.0	177	31.2	206	36.3	177	31.2	0	0.0	8	1.4
2021	533	1	0.2	147	27.6	180	33.8	185	34.7	1	0.2	19	3.6
2020	421	5	1.2	147	34.9	141	33.5	115	27.3	0	0.0	13	3.1

### Violence Against Women Advocate Case Review Program

The Violence Against Women Advocate Case Review Program was established in 2017. The review committee is currently comprised of representatives from Anova, the London Abused Women’s Centre, *le Carrefour des Femmes du Sud-Ouest de l’Ontario*, the Muslim Resource Centre for Social Support & Integration, Atlohsa Family Healing Services Inc., and Bellehumeur Law. The program is intended to:

- ensure ‘best practice’ responses to reports of sexual assault involving adult complainants and suspects
- improve the effectiveness of the investigative process
- assist with the apprehension of offenders
- ensure proper levels of service are provided to sexual assault complainants and to enhance their trust in the investigative process
- promote open communication and cooperation between the LPS and advocacy agencies; and
- improve transparency in sexual assault investigations

The committee is provided access to police records pertaining to all sexual assault reports cleared as unfounded as well as all of those determined to be founded but cleared other than by charge. For the purpose of the VAWACR Program, a “sexual assault report” means a report of sexual assault received by the London Police Service from a complainant aged 16 or older, involving a suspect(s) over the age of 18.

In 2024, 229 cases were screened in for review. The committee reviewed 207 cases, 114 of which were reported in 2024 (the remaining 93 were reported in 2023).

*Table 2 - Five-year Comparison of Violence Against Women Advocate Case Review Program Data*

<b>Sexual Offences</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
Sexual Assaults Reported	513	588	568	533	421
<b>Victim Advocate Case Review Program</b>					
Cases meeting the mandate of the review program	229	245	256	296	203
Cases reviewed	207	197	209	1	0
Recommendations made	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Victim Requests to Disclose Identity of Accused</b>					
Requests	0	0	0	0	0
Denials	0	0	0	0	0

**CONCLUSION:**

It is recommended that the London Police Service Board receive the information provided.

**PREPARED BY:** Katherine Dann, A/Inspector – Corporate Support & Continuous Improvement Branch