

Test Valley PARTNERSHIP



Test Valley Community Safety Partnership: Strategic Assessment 2020/21:

June 2021.

This assessment covers incidents in regards to Crime and Community Safety in the Test Valley Partnership area for the period from 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021. This period has been impacted heavily by the Covid-19 pandemic and extended periods of lockdown. Therefore it is difficult to provide accurate interpretation of year-on-year data, and so the data provided is for information purposes, rather than for longer term trend analysis.

Test Valley District Crime Data (2020/21 vs 2019/20): ¹

Crime Type:	No.	+/-	% Change
• Homicide	0	(-1)	
• Violence with Injury	743	(-245)	-24.8%
• Violence without Injury	1,819	(-77)	-4%
• Rape	106	(+0)	0%
• Other Sexual Offences	182	(+17)	-8.5%
• Robbery of Business	5	(-8)	-61.54%
• Robbery of Personal Property	30	(-23)	-43.4%
• Residential Burglary	349	(-120)	-25.6%
• Burglary (Business and Community)	214	(+16)	+8.1%
• Vehicle Offences	505	(-80)	-13.7%
• Theft from person	23	(-30)	-56.6%
• Bicycle Theft	70	(+1)	+1.4%
• Shoplifting	235	(-192)	-45%
• Criminal damage	641	(-90)	-12.3%
• Arson	16	(-9)	-36%
• Trafficking of Drugs	63	(+9)	+16.7%
• Possession of Drugs	188	(+50)	+36.2%
• Possession of Weapons	83	(-8)	-8.4%
• Public Order	835	(+72)	+9.4%

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• Anti-Social Behaviour	1,504	(-39)	-2.53%
• Rural Crime	1,715	(+26)	+1.5%
• Total Crime	6,785	(-863)	-11.3%

Test Valley by Area (Indicative*):

Crime Type:	North		South	
	No.	+/-	No.	+/-
• Homicide	0	(-1)	0	(-)
• Violence with Injury	523	(-196)	323	(-69)
• Violence without Injury	1,270	(-3)	850	(-53)
• Rape	80	(+5)	45	(-6)
• Other Sexual Offences	133	(-11)	78	(-2)
• Robbery of Business	4	(+1)	2	(-8)
• Robbery of Personal Property	21	(-16)	12	(-9)
• Residential Burglary	151	(-55)	204	(-87)
• Burglary (Business and Community)	92	(+6)	111	(+8)
• Vehicle Offences	151	(-66)	347	(-22)
• Theft from person	18	(-23)	4	(-)
• Bicycle Theft	43	(+9)	34	(+5)
• Shoplifting	128	(-171)	74	(-8)
• Criminal damage	331	(-102)	365	(+15)
• Arson	7	(-3)	11	(-4)
• Trafficking of Drugs	41	(-2)	24	(-)
• Possession of Drugs	138	(+31)	65	(+19)
• Possession of Weapons	61	(-1)	34	(-7)
• Public Order	505	(-21)	390	(+109)
• Anti-Social Behaviour	848	(-36)	653	(-5)

* Figures split may not exactly total report numbers.

In 2020/21, Total Crime in Test Valley fell by 11.9%. Reports fell in each quarter of the year, with the largest fall (- 430 / 22.7%) registered between April-June, coinciding with the first lockdown period. Falls of 69; 216; and 147 were recorded in the following quarters. Similar trends were noted in all other districts of the county ¹.

As a result of the pandemic, and the lockdowns imposed for large parts of the year, the Police were provided with additional guidance and powers to help enforce these. The Police adopted the '4E's' approach which encouraged engagement where possible but allowed for enforcement where

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necessary. However for the period to 18th May 2021, officers used these emergency powers on 18 occasions, primarily in the St Marys (10) and Winton (3) wards ¹.

A YouGov survey for the Police and Crime Commissioner in August 2020 showed that residents of Test Valley registered the highest rates of support for local lockdown plans with 92.37% strongly or somewhat in favour. Countywide the average response was 90% in favour and nationally at 83.5% ¹.

Rural crime increased by a total of 26 reports over the year (1.5%), but fell in the first, third and fourth quarters of the year compared to the same period previously, after increasing by 57 between July and September ¹. This reflects the easing of the lockdown over this latter period, compared to the other terms of the year. Countywide, rural crime levels saw an overall decrease, although some types of crime increased unexpectedly, for example, more people staying at home and buying dogs as family pets then taking them out into local, rural areas without always having the knowledge and due consideration the effect their dog can have on sheep or cattle ⁵.

Overall, 693 reports were classified as 'Business Crimes', representing 10.3% of all crimes. The majority of these were listed as shoplifting, business burglary or thefts ¹.

A total of 127 incidents were recorded as 'Hate Crimes', down from 132 in 2019/20 (-2.3%). Of these 78 were classified as 'Race Hate' (down from 79), 5 were related to faith or religion (previously 6); 4 were linked to gender (1), plus 31 sexuality related (Unchanged), and 9 disability based, a fall from 15 the previous year. Force-wide, there were 3,461 hate crimes recorded in 2020/21, a 17% increase. The countywide proportion of hate crime by strand remains consistent, with race-related occurrences accounting for 64% of all recorded hate crime in 2020. Half of all hate crimes recorded in 2020 were low-level public order offences. 42% were recorded as violence ².

Reports of crimes which involved a 'bladed implement', fell significantly from 148 in 2019/20, to 93 in 2020/21 (-37.2%), with reports being lower in each quarter of the year ¹.

Anti-Social Behaviour:

Analysis of the available data shows that reports of incidents of ASB made to Police have continued to fall by a further 39 incidents (-2.53%) in 2020/21. From its peak in 2011 at 1,234 in Quarter 2 of that year, reports fell to 282 in Quarter 4 of 2020/21 (latest available figures). ¹

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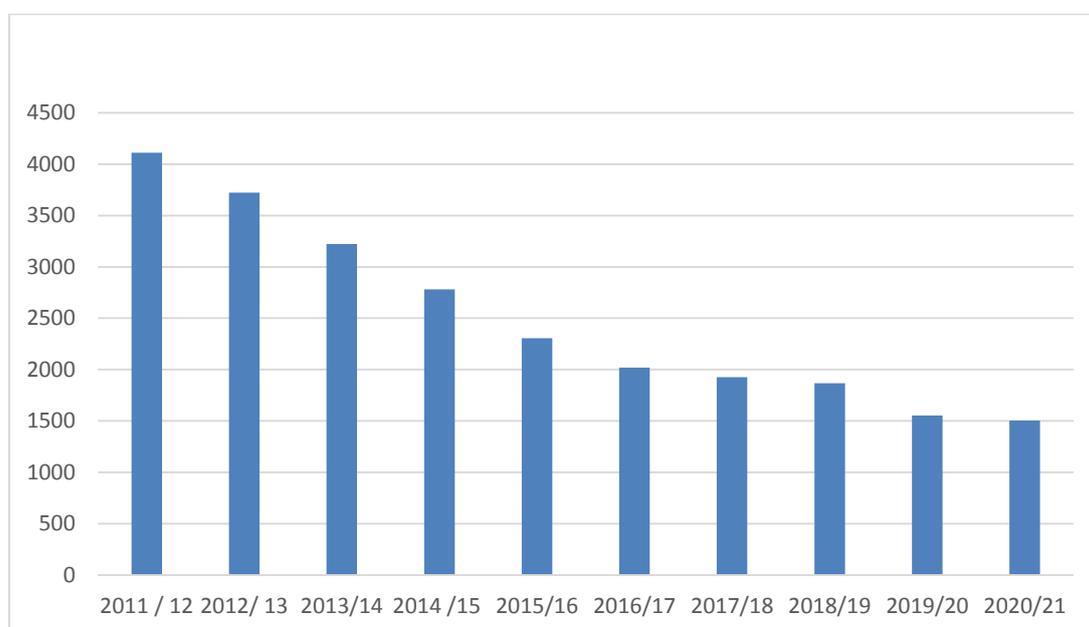
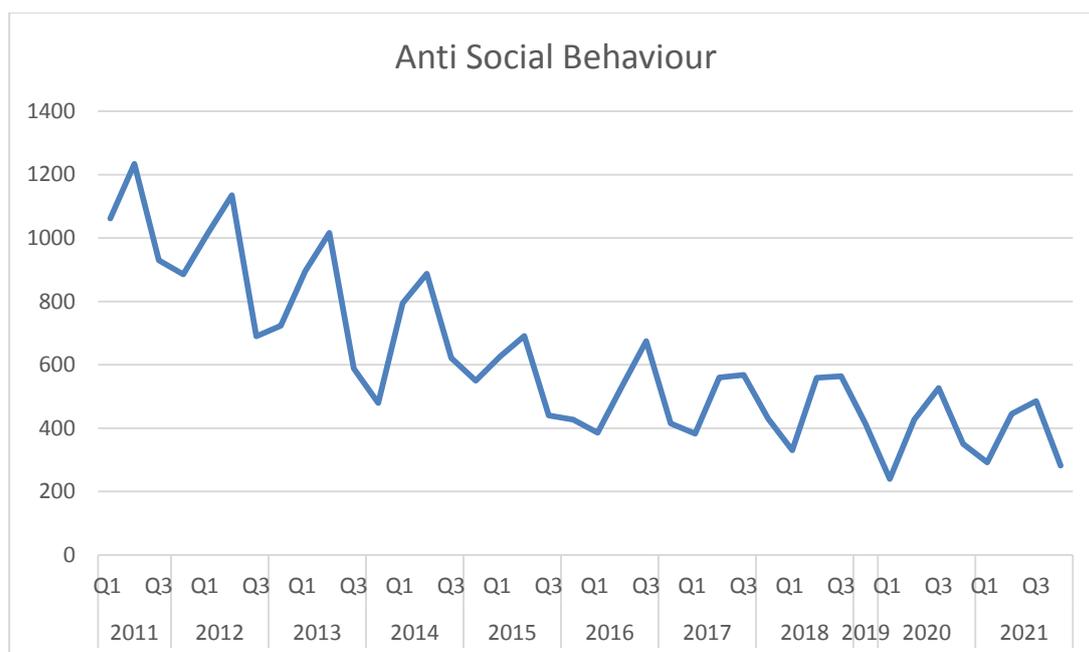
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ASB reports fell in the third and fourth quarters of the year, but increases of 20.66% (+50) and 4.22% (+18) were noted in the periods April – June and July – September respectively. This former of these includes a significant number of reports related to behaviours linked the lockdown terms of that time, with 68% of reports between April – June, and 73% from July – September were classed as ‘Community ASB’¹.

When considered by Ward, the highest levels of reports of ABS were noted in St Marys (273); Alamein (208); Winton (131) and Abbey (129) wards¹.

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Countywide, Test Valley District recorded the second lowest levels of ASB over the year with only Hart district reporting fewer. When considered on a population basis, Test Valley District has the third lowest levels of ASB reports in the county at 217.9 / 100,000 ¹.

Reports of incidents of ASB to Test Valley Borough Council increased from 140 in 2019/20 to 174 for the year to 31st March 2021 ⁸. Data from Radian Housing Association Radian (known known as Abri Group) shows that with their local stock of 545 properties ¹, they dealt with 12 incidents of ASB. Of these the majority (7) were related to noise nuisance ⁷. Vivid Homes hold a total stock of 904 properties across the district, primarily in Andover ⁶. They reported 55 incidents of ASB for the period, with 14 concerning domestic abuse, and 4 which were drug related ¹.

During 2020/21, Aster aimed to put early interventions in place where possible to ensure tenancies could be sustained. From their local stock of 5,917 properties in the district, they served three 'Notice of Seeking Possessions', as well as supporting a Police closure order and subsequent breaches which progressed to the serving of a further 'Notice of Seeking Possession'. A further two with notice injunctions and one without notice were also made ¹.

The Andover Street Pastors were unable to operate as a result of the Covid and Lockdown restrictions over this period and so no comparison or data is available ¹³. In late 2020, the Andover Business Improvement District [BID], introduced a team of Rangers to patrol the town centre, and who were given authorised powers to enforce the Public Spaces Protection Order in the area. Their initial levels and types of community safety activities recorded by the team have been categorised in terms of ASB and thefts, as follows ¹⁰-

- Dec 2020: ASB: 36 (Graffiti 2, Begging 9, Drug Use 15, Other 10), Theft: 34 (Shoplifting 19; 'Attempted' 11; 'Possible' 4), Drug paraphernalia found: 5
- Jan 2021: ASB: 31 (Begging 5, Drug Use 18, Public disorder 3, other 5), Theft: 10 (Shoplifting 6; 'Attempted' 4)
- Feb 2021: ASB: 34 (Begging 7, Drug use 19, 'Suspicious Activity' 3, other 5), Theft: 4 ('Attempted' 4).

A survey conducted by YouGov for the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Police and Crime Commissioner, reported that the levels of residents in Test Valley who responded positively to the question 'I feel safe in my Community' was 90% in March 2021. The average for Hampshire was recorded as 79.2% and nationally at 72.4% ¹.

Domestic Abuse:

Nationally the pandemic lockdown period saw a significant increase in reports of Domestic Abuse over this period. In Test Valley, a total of 1,220 reports were made to Police. These reports rose from 90 / 84 in April / May 2020, to 125 and 119 in May and July respectively. As lockdown was eased, these fell to 96 in September, before rising again to 102 in November. December and January

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(89/92) saw fewer before a further rise, again timed with enhanced lockdown terms to 105 / 104 in February and March ¹.

Of these reports, the majority of victims were aged between 20-39, with the highest levels (204) between 25-29, of which 75 were listed as repeat victims ¹. Information on suspects shows similar demographic trends, but with highest concentration being aged between 30-34 (239), of which 79 were listed as repeat suspects ¹. The highest reports of offence for Domestic Abuse were Common Assault and Actual Bodily Harm ¹.

Rates of Domestic Abuse in Test Valley for the period 2018-20 were lower than the Hampshire county council area averages for both men and women (5.2 per 1,000 for men / 11.4 for women, compare to 5.7 / 12.8 respectively). This shows Test Valley to have the 7th lowest rate of reports for females and 6th lowest rates for male per population in the county area ¹².

The Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme, known as 'Clare's Law', allows individuals to ask Police for information about a partner's previous domestic abuse history; and for the Police to proactively disclose information in some circumstances. Data from this process shows that in Test Valley, there were 15 occasions where these rights were exercised, of which 11 were under the 'right to ask' category ¹.

Countywide, Domestic Abuse incidents and recorded crimes continued an upward trend, mostly in Violence without Injury crime types. COVID-19 lockdown measures exacerbated domestic related violence and harm, the longer-term effects of which are yet unknown. Child to parent violence and abuse (CPVA) is believed to have intensified in lockdown, with parents less inclined to report violence and abuse from their own children until behaviour escalates to a dangerous point ².

There is also continued increase in stalking & harassment in the county. Stalking clinics and training are likely to be improving recognition of offences ².

Countywide Contextual Information: ²

Drug Related (Community) Harm - Class A drugs and the supply mechanisms around them remain the highest risk compared to lower classes and new psychoactive drugs. Drug Related Violence (DRV) and Drug Related Harm (DRH) are most commonly linked to the activities of County Lines (CLs), however gaps in relation to the identification and recording of drug networks impacts accurate assessments of threat, risk and demand.

Any impact Covid-19 had on Class A supply chains appears to have been temporary. The level and types of exploitation exhibited by CLs has increased, with lockdowns appearing to have enhanced grooming capabilities with young people exploited to commit serious offending and perpetuate the exploitation cycle. Lines are quick to re-establish, the longer they are active within an area the more established, higher risk, and more exploitative they become. Innovative partnership approaches linking targeted enforcement and safeguarding of vulnerable children need to be maintained and further developed to reduce threat levels and increase community confidence.

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Serious Violence and Knife Crime - Most Serious Violence (MSV) recorded within the force area decreased by 13% when compared to previous year. Simultaneously domestic related MSV increased by 12%. There has been an increase in weapons and an on-going presence of street level drug related violence, concentrated within the urban areas (particularly Southampton and Portsmouth), on weekend evenings. Violence is likely to rise following of the lifting of lockdown measures.

Youth on youth violence - both victim and offender under 25 years of age, accounted for 20% of all MSV.

Children at Risk of Criminal and Sexual Exploitation - Children flagged at risk of CCE have increased from 126 in 19/20 to 347 in 20/21. Inaccurate or inconsistent recording of CSE crimes presents a challenge to accurate understanding and identification of opportunities for early intervention.

Sexual harassment and Serious sexual offences - Hampshire remains consistently high in terms of recorded serious sexual offences amongst comparable police force areas. Sexual offences reported in 2020-21 reduced by 6% compared to 2019-20; Rape offences fell by 5%. Lockdown restrictions and the limited night-time economy in 2020-21 is reflected in a 17% increase in domestic rapes in contrast to a 50% reduction in 'stranger' rapes and reported acquaintance rapes falling by a third.

Fraud and Online Exploitation - Residents and businesses of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight reported losses of approximately £3.8 million each month to Action Fraud an increase from £3 million. In contrast to the rise in financial loss, 2020 saw an 8.7% reduction in Action Fraud reporting.

Dating scams (AKA Romance Fraud) account for a small percentage of overall fraud (2.1%), however financial loss and psychological impact are considered high. In 2020 4.3% of reported offences to Action Fraud were categorised as 'Hacking Social Media and Email' in comparison to 3.7% in 2019. Nationally there has been a 53% increase.

There has been a rapid accelerated move by institutions during Covid to encourage greater digital inclusion, on-line service delivery and on-line social connectedness which has helped support vulnerable people, including within Test Valley via the 'Test Valley Connected' I-pad lending project. This is likely to be continued as a permanent aspect of life but could open up some people vulnerable to fraud and on-line exploitation, without education and support.

Other Data:

HF&RS completed a total of 36 safeguarding visits to residents, up from 25 in the previous year. Of these the majority (26) were related to concerns over self-neglect. Others were concerned with neglect (4) and emotional abuse (2). A total of 289 fire incidents were recorded in Test Valley District in 2020/21 (up from 212 in 2019/20), of which 164 were classed as accidental, 36 were deliberate on others property, and 7 listed as being against an individual's own property¹.

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Data from Public Health England ¹ shows that Test Valley has lower than national and regional rates of Alcohol related morbidity (40.3; 41.1 SE Region ;45.5 England); and of alcohol related hospital admission episodes, except of those aged under 18 where it is listed as 'similar'.

The Mental Health and Wellbeing Index ⁹ shows that the wards of Alamein, St Marys and Abbey are in the lowest 20% in the county for mental health, with the former 2 also showing higher rates of A&E admissions, and vulnerabilities for crime. Valley Park, Ampfield & Braishfield, and over Wallop are in the top 10%.

No referrals were made to the Channel Panel from Prevent in the district in 2020/21 ³.

Proposed Community Safety Priorities: 2022/22

The Community Safety Management Group has reviewed its priorities for 2021/22, on the basis of the views and priorities of the Group partners, and the most recently available strategic and partner data. They will remain subject corroboration with Police's Force Control Strategy priorities and the priorities of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner to ensure consistency of approach.

The draft proposals, subject to the agreement of the Test Valley Partnership Board, are as follows:

CSP Priority Areas for 2020/21:

- Community Crime Prevention and Public Safety. To increase public reassurance and confidence to report issues to public bodies.
- Anti-Social Behaviour, through Positive engagement and early intervention with young people, to identify and address potential causal issues of behaviours.
- Supporting Vulnerable People in Need, including issues of Domestic Abuse, Scams, and Hate Crime.
- Drug related harm, including knife crime and Modern Slavery linked to 'County lines'.
- Fire Safety; including the promotion of Safe and Well visits and advice.
- Maintain rural community confidence, through encouraging co-operative partnership amongst landowners and partners.
- To encourage co-operative partnership amongst agencies and community/voluntary sector groups working towards enhanced and positive communities.

A cross cutting theme for these priorities will continue to be the impact and effect of the Covid-19 pandemic on each. A partnership action plan for these priorities covering the period Oct 2021 - June 2022 will be drawn up and monitored by the Community Safety Management Group, and its sub groups, subject to their approval by the Test Valley Partnership. ³

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Project Updates:³

‘Op Mazi’: 2021/21 was impacted heavily by the pandemic as were those who had previously been noted as being ‘street –attached’ and very few complaints were received from the public. Just under 20 partnership patrols were completed from July through to October. A small a number of individuals were noted and engaged with whilst out drinking but they had moved away from Pocket Park to more discrete areas where they were less visible. Various reports of begging in the town centre were received but these revolved around one of two repeat offenders.

The Police and TVBC officers conducted their 6 week Op Mazi patrols through August and September. No CA12s were issued for the drinking (down from 85 in 2019/20) although evidence was collated for a CBO for one of those individuals who was repeatedly begging.

This data also reflects the reduction in homelessness in the town centre, resulting from the ‘everyone in’ directive from MHCLG. The numbers of people housed in emergency accommodation rose from 48 in 2019/20 to 121 in 2021/22. Of these some have been housed for a couple of weeks, whilst others have been in placement for over 50 weeks.

Two rough sleepers are known in Andover at the present time, both adult females aged under 65, who are not always rough sleeping. They are more frequently staying with friends as and where possible.

Community-MARAC – In 2020/21 the Community-MARACs had 33 cases referred and reviewed, a reduction of four from the previous year.

The Legacy Project: The Legacy Project is at early intervention programme tackling the risk of criminal exploitation of young people, including serious violence, gang life, county lines and modern slavery, by positive engagement with mentors with similar life experiences. During 2020/221 the Legacy Project, managed by Yellow Brick Road received 30 nominations received (28 in 2020/21), and held two webinars with c250 attendees and which included personal testimonies from young people and mentors on their lived experiences . Since September all nominations been matched to a mentor. A wide range of subjects have been covered including trauma, self-worth and self-identification. All those involved also have exit plans, which have included art and music based projects linked to their personal issues. The majority of referrals have been female, and reported increased confidence and increased awareness of longer term consequence of dangerous relationships, and social media pressures.

In addition the linked ‘Exodus project’, aimed at those involved in CCE and covering themes such as Knife Crime, County Lines, CSE, identity and relationships, allows for an intensive 12 week project of support and education. To date this has a 100% attendance, including high risk females not engaging elsewhere.

Funding has been secured from the Police and Crime Commissioner, Test Valley Borough Council and the Test Valley Community Safety Management Group to allow the project to continue and to

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expand to cover the whole of the Test Valley from April 2021, and a new worker has been employed for Southern Test Valley area. Alongside this Detached Youth Outreach work will commence in Andover with the expectation of alternating between Tuesday and Wednesday evenings to further support and engage at risk young people.

'ICE': As a result of the Covid pandemic and resultant lockdown periods, the ICE programme was suspended during 2020/21. It is planned that this will resume in 2021/22 subject to guidelines.

Big Band Buffet: Due to the Covid-19 Restrictions in place, and the vulnerabilities of the demographic involved with the Big Band Buffet, the event planned for Jan 2021 was postponed.

CCTv: Following the recent review, the new overt Town Centre CCTV system in Andover and Romsey came on line in July 2020. The system now incorporates the Chantry Centre along with new coverage for the multi-storey car park, Town Mills, Lights Theatre underpass, and Sheppard's Spring Lane in Andover. Additional coverage is also now in place in the War Memorial Park in Romsey.

Statutory Reporting Items:³

Community Trigger: 'Community Trigger' is a statutory device which gives victims and communities the right to request a formal review of their case where circumstances of ASB meet a set threshold. CSP's are obliged to publish details of all Trigger requests and outcomes annually.

In 2020/21 no formal Community Trigger review requests were received.

Domestic Homicide Review: In May 2020 the DHR report (known by the pseudonym 'Nicole') was completed and subsequently approved by the CSP members of the Test Valley Partnership. This was then submitted to the Home Office, along with its action plan and executive summary in October to undergo its formal Quality Assurance process.

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