# Award-winning officer's dismissal sparks debate over policing pressures and accountability



An award-winning police officer’s turbulent dismissal following the controversial arrest of a knife-carrying teenager has ignited a debate over accountability and the pressures faced by law enforcement personnel. PC Lorne Castle, 46, was sacked from Dorset Police after being found guilty of gross misconduct, an incident that has left him grappling with financial uncertainty and personal shame.

The incident, which took place in January of the previous year, involved a 15-year-old boy who was suspected of assaulting two individuals, including an elderly man. Bodycam footage released by the police showed an alarming series of events where Castle forcefully detained the youth, slamming him against a wall and ultimately pinning him to the ground while shouting aggressively. During this encounter, a Stanley-type knife fell from the boy’s waistband, a detail that has since become a focal point in discussions surrounding the appropriateness of the officer’s methods.

Castle expressed his distress during an interview with GB News, revealing how this incident and subsequent dismissal have profoundly affected him. “I don’t know whether I’m going to be able to pay the mortgage and bring money home until I see how this goes,” he lamented. He described a torturous period over the past 16 months characterised by isolation and an overwhelming sense of pressure, a stark contrast to his prior experience in law enforcement where he enjoyed face-to-face interactions with the community.

Despite acknowledging his loss of control during the arrest and tearfully apologising for his actions at a disciplinary hearing, Castle insisted that his initial intentions were to ensure a swift and safe arrest. “The intent was to arrest a potentially violent suspect without injuries,” he stated, adding that he hoped some good might come of this ordeal, regardless of the outcome.

The misconduct panel, overseen by Wiltshire Police Assistant Chief Constable Deborah Smith, concluded that Castle's actions instilled fear in the teenager and that he had exhibited a significant lack of courtesy and respect. Castle’s use of aggressive language and physical actions was deemed excessive and disproportionate, leading to his immediate dismissal and a ban from serving as a police officer again.

Critics of this decision, including Norman Brennan, a retired officer and founder of the campaign group Protect the Protectors, have voiced strong support for Castle, arguing that policing often necessitates a certain level of aggression and force, particularly in unpredictable situations. Brennan stated, "Senior officers at Dorset Police have taken leave of their senses." He claimed that the system's response to Castle's conduct is symptomatic of a broader trend where officers face undue punishment for actions taken under considerable stress.

This case sheds light on the broader context of police conduct and accountability amidst rising scrutiny of law enforcement practices. Between March 2021 and February 2025, Dorset Police recorded a notable number of misconduct claims, including multiple cases of officers facing serious allegations. In total, 157 officers were accused of misconduct, with a handful dismissed following hearings.

In the wake of PC Castle's dismissal, Dorset Police has reaffirmed its commitment to addressing violence and ensuring safety in the community. The force has been actively involved in Operation Sceptre, a national initiative aimed at tackling knife crime, collaborating closely with local schools to educate on the dangers associated with carrying weapons.

As discussions continue over the ramifications of Castle's actions, they highlight a growing need for balance within policing: the necessity of effective law enforcement while also safeguarding the rights and dignity of suspects. In an era where public confidence in policing is paramount, how forces navigate these challenging dynamics will shape their future operations and community relations.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14777235/police-officer-fears-sacked-knife-teenager-lorne-castle-bournemouth-dorset.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[4]](https://www.dorset.police.uk/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14777235/police-officer-fears-sacked-knife-teenager-lorne-castle-bournemouth-dorset.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.dorset.police.uk/foi-ai/dorset-police/disclosure-logs/2025-disclosures/police-officer-misconduct/), [[5]](https://www.somersetlive.co.uk/news/somerset-news/huge-armed-police-response-sherborne-2021404)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://news.dorset.police.uk/news-article/6c912abb-d924-ef11-9d65-6045bdd24049), [[6]](https://dorseteye.com/dorset-police-fail-to-identify-former-officer-found-guilty-of-gross-misconduct/)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14777235/police-officer-fears-sacked-knife-teenager-lorne-castle-bournemouth-dorset.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.dorset.police.uk/foi-ai/dorset-police/disclosure-logs/2025-disclosures/police-officer-misconduct/> - Between 1 March 2021 and 28 February 2025, Dorset Police recorded 157 officers accused of misconduct. Of these, 22 cases proceeded to misconduct hearings, resulting in five dismissals, six final written warnings, and nine instances where officers would have been dismissed had they not resigned. ([dorset.police.uk](https://www.dorset.police.uk/foi-ai/dorset-police/disclosure-logs/2025-disclosures/police-officer-misconduct/?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://news.dorset.police.uk/news-article/6c912abb-d924-ef11-9d65-6045bdd24049> - Dorset Police has been actively involved in Operation Sceptre, a national initiative aimed at tackling knife crime. The force has also collaborated with local schools and universities to deliver educational talks on the dangers of carrying knives. ([news.dorset.police.uk](https://news.dorset.police.uk/news-article/6c912abb-d924-ef11-9d65-6045bdd24049?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://www.dorset.police.uk/> - Dorset Police is the territorial police force responsible for policing the county of Dorset in England. The force's website provides information on local officers, crime statistics, and community initiatives. ([dorset.police.uk](https://www.dorset.police.uk/?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://www.somersetlive.co.uk/news/somerset-news/huge-armed-police-response-sherborne-2021404> - In September 2024, Dorset Police deployed a significant armed response in Sherborne following reports of a man carrying a knife near a school. The operation involved dog units, riot vans, armed police squads, and a police helicopter. ([somersetlive.co.uk](https://www.somersetlive.co.uk/news/somerset-news/huge-armed-police-response-sherborne-2021404?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://dorseteye.com/dorset-police-fail-to-identify-former-officer-found-guilty-of-gross-misconduct/> - In April 2025, a former Dorset Police officer was found guilty of gross misconduct after unlawfully accessing personal data without a legitimate reason. The officer admitted to multiple breaches of the Data Protection Act 2018 and was placed on the police barred list. ([dorseteye.com](https://dorseteye.com/dorset-police-fail-to-identify-former-officer-found-guilty-of-gross-misconduct/?utm_source=openai))
7. <https://www.bournemouthecho.co.uk/news/17832831.13-dorset-police-staff-arrested-2015-2019/> - Between 2015 and 2019, 13 Dorset Police staff members were arrested for various offences, including rape, burglary, and assault. However, nine of these cases were dropped, and no disciplinary action was taken against the employees. ([bournemouthecho.co.uk](https://www.bournemouthecho.co.uk/news/17832831.13-dorset-police-staff-arrested-2015-2019/?utm_source=openai))