



College of
Policing

Brief

2.5 per cent pay award →

Police bravery awards →

Improving offender rehabilitation →

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ISSUE 07 | JULY/AUGUST 2019

Updates in police law, operational policing practice and criminal justice, produced by the **Legal Services Department** at the College of Policing



Domestic Abuse Bill
arrives in
Parliament



Lawfulness of
JCHIS



Reform
'Digital strip
searches'



Officers' wellbeing
and mental health



The College of Policing Brief is a scanning publication intended to capture and consolidate key criminal justice issues, both current and future, impacting on all areas of policing.

During the production of the Brief, information is included from governmental bodies, criminal justice organisations and research bodies. As such, the Brief should prove an invaluable guide to those responsible for strategic decision making, operational planning and police training.

The College of Policing is also responsible for Authorised Professional Practice (APP). APP is the official and most up-to-date source of policing practice and covers a range of policing activities such as: police use of firearms, treatment of people in custody, investigation of child abuse and management of intelligence. APP is available online at app.college.police.uk

Any enquiries regarding this publication or to request copies in accessible formats please contact us at brief@college.pnn.police.uk

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Editorial

Dear readers,

Welcome to the Brief, your monthly update of what's new in the criminal justice field, produced by the Legal Services team at the College of Policing.

Following the appointment of the new Prime Minister, the demands on our police service have finally been considered with the promise of 20,000 new officers. However, whilst Boris Johnson's decision to mass recruit has brought attention to the problems forces have been dealing with for years, it has also received scepticism surrounding 'logistical challenges'.

We also have a new Policing Minister, Kit Malthouse. Kit was a councillor on Westminster Council from 1998 to 2006, he then became a member of the London Assembly from 2008 to 2016. Following this, he served as Deputy Mayor for Policing 2008 to 2012 and Deputy Mayor for Business and Enterprise from 2012 to 2015. He was elected as Conservative MP for North West Hampshire in May 2015.

Within this month's edition:

- case law on the lawfulness of juvenile covert human intelligence sources
- the Domestic Abuse Bill
- HMICFRS' report on the police's understanding of crimes against older people.

To find out more about the College and what we do, including information on the PEQF training, please visit the [College of Policing website](#).

We hope that our publication supports our police officers and staff in their work. We are always looking for ways to get better at what we do, so if you have any feedback or ideas for future content, **get in touch**.

Thank you for reading,

The Legal Services Team

For subscription requests, further information or to send us ideas about what you would like to see in upcoming editions, please email us at:

brief@college.pnn.police.uk

Share with our community

There's lots of great work and innovation taking place across the police service, with some remarkable people working diligently to support and safeguard the communities they serve. The sharing of news can jump start collaboration and growth, so we want to hear from you.

We'd like to invite police officers and staff to contribute by including a monthly 'guest article' under one of the following categories:

Pride: Tell us something about your team or a project you're working on which has produced results that you're particularly proud of.

Innovation: New initiatives and projects, what worked and what didn't, and how you learnt from it.

Collaboration: Tell us about the relationships with other forces and external agencies which help your team.

Your team, our community: Diversity, equality, inclusion and key support mechanisms – that special team member whose hard work deserves recognition in the Brief.

Articles should be a maximum of 500 words. If you'd like to contribute, please email brief@college.pnn.police.uk and we'll provide you with the information you need.

We'd like to pick one article a month, and will ensure there is a wide variety of authors and forces. We will inform you in advance if your article has been chosen. We look forward to hearing from you.

College news

College response to Policing Insight article on new entry routes

DCC Bernie O'Reilly from the College has released the following statement, in response to a Policing Insight article regarding a potential judicial review challenge to new entry routes into policing:

“The College of Policing is aware of a potential legal challenge in relation to the implementation of the new entry routes into policing. The training for new recruits seeks to prepare those entering the service for the complexity of the job and has been developed with colleagues from across policing. We continue to work with Lincolnshire Police to enable them to join the other 30 police forces across England and Wales who are introducing the new training over the next year.”

Read the full statement [here](#).

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Response to Frontline Review June 2019

Following the publication of the Frontline Review, the College has urged for greater investment in wellbeing support, training, and development for officers and staff.

The review makes a number of recommendations, including calling for a better connection between policing organisations and those on the frontline. The College is working with forces and partner organisations to act on the feedback given by officers and staff in the review.

A number of services specifically designed to support officers and staff on the frontline are already provided by the College. These include the recently launched National Police Wellbeing Service, which offers mental health outreach support, training and toolkits to all forces in England and Wales.

The College is working with the Service to ensure policing develops greater awareness of the demands placed on the frontline and how to best equip officers and staff to meet those needs, particularly around issues such as violent crime. Officers and staff can already share details of practical innovations and best

practice through the College. Work to make this more accessible will take place over the coming months.

The College has also begun to introduce updated training for those joining policing as constables. This reflects the complexity of modern policing and recognises the skills and experience of officers with formal qualifications. It also provides officers and staff at all levels with opportunities to develop their skills and leadership capability.

Read the full article [here](#).

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College update on new PEQF training July 2019

Over the next year, new training for joining officers will take place in more than 30 police forces across England and Wales. Officers are already undergoing the updated training in Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, South Wales, Gwent, Dyfed-Powys, West Midlands, Northumbria, Avon and Somerset and Staffordshire.

As police forces across the country begin to introduce the new training, it's important to remember why the service agreed to make these changes. Policing has significantly changed since the last training course for new recruits was introduced 13 years ago. The job of being an officer is more complex and the demands on police are changing and increasing, as criminals become more sophisticated.

The public expects police officers to be given the best training to protect them and we believe officers should be recognised for the complexity of the job they do. The new training was independently assessed as being degree-standard. It includes digital policing, vulnerability, disclosure, mental health and more. The training still requires police officers to have empathy, compassion and common sense. It is important to note, recruits don't need a degree to join as a police constable.

There are three new ways to prepare new recruits for the role of constable, including an apprenticeship which trains them to degree level.

Apprenticeship

Recruits join as a constable and follow an apprenticeship in professional policing practice – earning while they learn. This route normally takes three

years with both on and off-the-job learning. On successfully finishing the programme, recruits complete their probation and achieve a degree.

Degree-holder entry

If recruits have a degree in any subject, they can join and follow a work-based programme, supported by off-the-job learning. This route normally takes two years, and the learning they undergo is recognised in a graduate diploma in professional policing practice when recruits complete their probation.

Pre-join degree

If recruits want to study first, they can do a three year degree in professional policing at their own expense, and then apply to a force and follow a shorter on-the-job training programme. Being a special constable can be included in this route.

Read the full article [here](#).

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College's response to HMICFRS' 'Crimes against older people' investigation

DCC Janette McCormick, the College's Director for Policing Standards, has released a statement on HMICFRS' report on 'Crimes against older people':

“The report highlights the importance of identifying vulnerable adults at the early stages of investigations, to ensure victims are protected and have the right support throughout any court process. It is encouraging that areas of good work by forces were identified by the inspectors and the improvements in training and the response of officers and staff who come into contact with vulnerable adults were recognised.

The College of Policing's updated vulnerability training, which focusses on age as a factor which can impact a person's vulnerability and helps police identify and respond to specific risks and issues, is available to all forces across England and Wales and has already been delivered to more than 9,500 officers. It is concerning the inspectors found the service to some elderly people fell below expected standards. We will be working with agencies, including the National Police Chiefs' Council and Crown Prosecution Service, to examine the report and its recommendations in detail

and continue to support policing to improve the protection of vulnerable people, whatever their age.”

Read the full article [here](#).

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Legal updates

New legislation

Bills

Courts and Tribunals (Online Procedure) Bill [HL] 2017-19

A Bill to provide for online procedures in civil and family courts in England and Wales in the First-tier Tribunal and Upper Tribunal. Also, in employment tribunals and the Employment Appeal Tribunal.

The Bill is now due to have its report stage and third reading on a date to be announced. Amendments can be made to the Bill at Report Stage.

Read the full Bill [here](#).

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Domestic Abuse Bill 2017-19

This Bill amends the legal definition of domestic abuse to specifically include: economic abuse, controlling or coercive behaviour, and psychological, emotional, or other, non-physical abuse.

In addition, it makes provisions in relation to domestic abuse: to establish a Domestic Abuse Commissioner, to prohibit cross-examination of a person in family proceedings in certain circumstances, to make provisions about certain violent or sexual offences, and offences involving other abusive behaviour, committed outside the United Kingdom.

The Bill was introduced to the House of Commons and given its First Reading on Tuesday 16 July 2019. The date for a second reading has not yet been announced.

Read the full Bill [here](#).

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Domestic Abuse Bill introduced to Parliament

The ‘landmark’ Domestic Abuse Bill was introduced to Parliament on 16 July, in the hopes of transforming the response to domestic abuse. The government carried out a public consultation, after extensive work with stakeholders and charities, which received more than 3,200 responses.

In January, a draft of the Bill was published. It has since undergone in-depth scrutiny by a Joint Committee of cross-party MPs and Peers. The Committee published a report of the Bill in June, alongside recommendations. These included:

- introducing the first ever statutory government definition of domestic abuse, which will include economic abuse
- establishing a Domestic Abuse Commissioner to champion victims and survivors
- introducing new Domestic Abuse Protection Notices and Domestic Abuse Protection Orders to further protect victims and place restrictions on the actions of offenders
- prohibiting the cross-examination of victims by their abusers in the family courts
- providing automatic eligibility for special measures to support more victims to give evidence in the criminal courts.

Read the full article [here](#).

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Policing Resources Bill [HL] 2017-19

A Bill to make provision for ensuring that police forces in England and Wales have sufficient resources to deliver police services.

First reading took place on 6 July. Second reading – the general debate on all aspects of the Bill – is scheduled for 6 September.

Read the full Bill [here](#).

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Victims of Crime (Rights, Entitlements, and Notification of Child Sexual Abuse) Bill [HL] 2017-19

This Bill makes provisions for specifying new statutory rights and entitlements for victims of crime under the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime. These include:

- placing a requirement on elected local policing bodies to assess services for victims
- increasing the duties of the Commissioner for Victims and Witnesses
- granting victims the right to request a review of a decision not to prosecute
- establishing reviews in homicides where no criminal charge has been made
- creating an obligation on professions to notify cases of possible victims of child sexual abuse.

The second reading took place on 22 July. The committee stage – line by line examination of the Bill – is yet to be scheduled.

Read the full Bill [here](#).

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Before the court

Just for Kids Law, R (on the application of) v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2019] EWHC 1772

KEY MESSAGES

- This claim challenges the lawfulness of the juvenile covert human intelligence sources used by the police.
- Does the scheme breach Article 8 ECHR?
- The claimant argues that it is irrational for the scheme to draw distinctions between juveniles aged 15 or younger, but not a person aged 16 or 17.

In this claim, the issue is the lawfulness of the scheme operated by the Secretary of State for the Home Department (the Secretary of State) that governs the use and authorisation of juvenile covert human intelligence sources (JCHIS), particularly by police in the context of criminal justice.

The statutory framework for the use of CHIS is set out in Part 2 of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA), but there is no express mention of the use of JCHIS. However, specific requirements for this can be found in a different piece of legislation.

The claimant, Just for Kids Law (JKL), is a non-governmental organisation that specialise in representing and supporting children and young people who encounter legal difficulty. In this application, JKL challenge how adequate the safeguards put in place to protect JCHIS are, but did not raise a challenge in principle to the use of JCHIS.

The claim raises two issues, which are broadly outlined below:

- Firstly, whether the scheme breaches Article 8 of the ECHR. JKL argue that the scheme contains inadequate safeguards to allow the use of a JCHIS to be (a) necessary and proportionate, (b) consistent with the obligation to treat the interests of the child as a primary consideration, and (c) accompanied by sufficient procedural safeguards.
- Secondly, whether it is irrational for the scheme to draw distinction between children aged 15 or under, who must always have the safeguard of an appropriate adult at meetings with JCHIS, while a person aged 16 or 17 does not have that requirement.

More specifically, the two grounds of challenge permitted are:

- (i) The scheme relating to the use of JCHIS breaches Article 8 ECHR. This was argued from eight main points, some of which are detailed below:
 - (a) Although the Code of Practice states that a person may be vulnerable due to age, and vulnerable individuals should only be used as a CHIS in ‘exceptional circumstances’, it does not state that all children should be treated as vulnerable.
 - (b) In relation to 16 and 17 year olds, there is no requirement at all for an appropriate adult.
 - (c) A renewal of an authorisation is not required at any greater frequency than every four months.
 - (d) There is a lack of requirement when assessing risk or authorising the use of a JCHIS to draw on the expertise of those with child welfare training. The risk assessment can be carried out by an individual with no expertise in child development and welfare.
 - (e) There is no cap on the number of times a four-month authorisation can be renewed.
- (ii) That it is irrational for the scheme to draw a distinction between persons aged 15 or under, who must always have the safeguard of an appropriate adult at meetings with JCHIS, but a person aged 16 or 17 does not.

In conclusion, it was acknowledged by the judge that children were significantly more vulnerable than adults and that the severe risk of physical and psychological harm from being a CHIS in the context of serious crimes was self-evident.

The conclusion then followed on, stating that in line with the above observation, special rules have been put in place to account for the vulnerability of children. The enhanced risk assessment requires a detailed evaluation of the risk pertaining to a particular juvenile’s deployment as a JCHIS prior to authorisation. The result is that the number of juveniles used as JCHIS is low. The authorisation is for a short duration of four months, they are kept under monthly review and the authorising officer is under an ongoing obligation to consider whether the authorisation continues to be appropriate. Further, there is a statutory system of oversight of the use of JCHIS.

The judge held that:

- There was no unacceptable risk of breach of the Article 8 rights of a JCHIS inherent in the scheme. The claimant's contention that the scheme is inadequate in its safeguarding of the interests and welfare of JCHIS was rejected..
- It is not irrational for the scheme to draw a distinction between persons aged 15 or under, who must always have an appropriate adult, and persons aged 16 or 17 who are not subject to the same requirement.

Consequently, the judge was satisfied that the scheme operated by the Secretary of State was lawful and the claim was dismissed.

Read the full judgement [here](#).

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Policing

News

‘Profound and far-reaching’ policing reform urgently needed

Her Majesty’s Chief Inspector of Constabulary, Sir Thomas Winsor, has stated that ‘profound and far reaching’ aspects of police reform are crucial to prevent unacceptable compromises in the quality of service levels.

In his annual assessment of policing in England and Wales, Winsor acknowledged that most police forces were performing well overall, and praised the police for their integrity and bravery.

However, he also requested that leaders in policing take action to improve the service, for example by making bold and long-term decisions. In addition, he highlighted the controversy surrounding the 43-force structure of policing, contrasted with the need for policing cohesion as part of a single law enforcement system.

Other areas specified for reform include:

- consideration of new mandatory standards to prevent inefficiency and ineffectiveness in policing
- enactment of proposed legislation to strengthen the role of the Forensic Science Regulator
- multi-year financial settlements for the most efficient police forces, to provide them with certainty, stability and predictability
- longer-term investment in technology, such as body-worn video, fully-functional hand-held mobile devices, facial recognition and artificial intelligence.

Read the full article [here](#).

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Development of innovative policing technology

£5 million has been pledged to support the development of innovative policing technology. The grant will be provided to West Midlands Police to carry out further testing on a data analysis system that scrutinises large volumes of police-held data, to assess the risk of someone committing a crime or becoming a victim. However, the tool is designed to support officers, not to replace their decision making.

Read the full article [here](#).

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Our workforce

Wellbeing and mental health of officers prioritised

The Front Line Review, a report containing ideas for change and improvement in policing from police officers, PCSOs, and staff, in operational roles in England and Wales, has been published, alongside a plethora of new measures which aim to transform the support given to policing officers and staff. These include plans to work with Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) to enmesh wellbeing into the policing culture.

New guidance will be issued to encourage police officers to resist responding to inappropriate requests for attendance. For example, those that are health or welfare related, and those that the police do not have the right skills, or powers to deal with.

Further measures in the Front Line Review launch include:

- plans to bring the front line into the decision-making process on future policies and change
- a commitment to look into shift patterns with a view to give officers more time for wellbeing, as well as personal and professional development
- bringing police chiefs and their staff together to find solutions to the front line's frustrations over internal bureaucracies, including administration and inefficiencies, to free up time.

The government has worked closely with the College of Policing, National Police Chiefs Council, the Police Federation, HMICFRS, the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners and others to discuss the future of these findings.

Read the full article [here](#).

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Plans for a police covenant

The Home Office have published their intention to create a police covenant, in order to recognise the bravery, dedication, and commitment of police officers. The covenant will establish that police officers are not employees, but rather

hold the 'office of constable', which holds an extremely high level of personal accountability and responsibility for the protection of life and property.

This announcement follows the conclusion of the Home Office's Front Line Review, which highlighted concerns of police officers and staff, and proposed a package of measures to reduce their workloads, ensure their wellbeing and give them a stronger voice in decision making.

Read the full article [here](#).

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Police bravery awards

The Police Federation's annual bravery awards took place on the 18 July. The awards, which have been running for 24 years, honour officers for their incredible acts of bravery and courage, both off and on duty.

Read the full details of nominees [here](#).

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2.5 per cent pay award – 'a small step in the right direction'

The Police Federation of England and Wales have commented on the 2.5 per cent pay increase for policing officers, calling it 'a small step in the right direction'.

On 22 July 2019, the Home Office announced that it would accept the full recommendations from the Police Remuneration Review Body (PRRB) and provide police officers with a 2.5 per cent pay rise.

As well as the pay rise, which is applicable across all ranks, the Government announced:

- an increase in the on-call allowance from £15 to £20 per 24-hour period for all Federated ranks
- a 2.5 per cent uplift in the Dog Handlers' allowance
- a 2.5 per cent uplift in London weighting

- no change for apprentice and degree holder progression pay, which means those joining the service will continue to receive the current incremental pay rises through their probationary period.

Read the full article [here](#).

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Criminal justice news

Codes of Practice consultation – Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE)

The response to the Home Office consultation on PACE Codes C (Detention), E (Audio recording of interviews with suspects), F (Visual recording of interviews with suspects), and H (Detention – terrorism) has been published.

The main revisions to PACE Code of Practice C relate to safeguards for vulnerable suspects, voluntary interviews, and the amendments to PACE introduced by the Policing and Crime Act 2017. The changes contain new and amended provisions, which:

- introduce a new definition of ‘vulnerable’ to replace references to ‘mentally vulnerable’
- set out in full the rights, entitlements, and safeguards for voluntary suspect interviews
- reflect amendments to PACE made by the Policing and Crime Act 2017, including an amendment to ensure that 17 year olds are treated as children for all purposes under PACE.

The revisions to Code H mirror the first bullet point above, of introducing a new definition of ‘vulnerable’.

The revisions to Code E which are mirrored in Code F, introduce significant changes to the existing approach to audio recording of suspect interviews, which:

- specifies the type of devices which, if authorised, are to be used to audio record suspect interviews for any offence type
- requires for any interview for any offence type, whenever a suitably compliant authorised recording device is available and can be used, it must be
- are mirrored in Code of Practice F by setting out the requirements and modifications that apply exclusively for the purposes of making a visual recording with sound.

32 responses were submitted from separate individuals and organisations. From these responses, the main concerns were that specific safeguards for juvenile and vulnerable suspects were insufficient. A number of further changes and comments were raised, including:

- That the police were not adequately trained to recognise when a suspect needed an appropriate adult.

- The threshold for determining whether a suspect was vulnerable from ‘suspicion’ to ‘belief’ would exclude many who needed help and should not be implemented.
- Greater safeguards are needed before a live link is used to interview any juvenile or vulnerable suspect or to extend their detention, with a presumption in favour of not using a live link.
- Additional safeguards for voluntary interviews were unlikely to be effective if it takes place elsewhere than at police station and without effective supervision.

The outcome of the consultation prompted a number of significant changes to the original proposals. In particular:

- (a) The threshold for determining whether a suspect is vulnerable has been set at ‘any reason to suspect’ and has not been raised to ‘reason to believe’
- (b) The safeguards for juvenile and vulnerable suspects have been strengthened
- (c) The safeguards for live link interviews have been strengthened and, in some cases, considerably extended.

Read the full article [here](#).

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Legal aid to made more accessible for separated migrant children

Draft legislation laid in parliament on 22 July 2019 aims to make it simpler for separated migrant children to access, and apply for legal aid. Previously, migrant children who were separated and made a non-asylum immigration application to remain in the UK, would have been required to apply for legal aid through the Exceptional Case Funding (ECF) scheme. The draft legislation has been created to ensure legal aid is easily accessible in every case where there is a breach or risk of a breach of the ECHR or enforceable EU law.

Read the full article [here](#).

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Economic Crime Plan set to tackle economic crime

Economic Crime Plan main points

- The government, law enforcement, legal bodies, and businesses agree upon joint plan to work closely together to prevent fraud, money laundering, bribery, and corruption.
- The Suspicious Activity Reporting regime will be reformed with £6.5 million given from major financial institutions.
- Implementing a new Asset Recovery Action Plan with a range of measures to retrieve the proceeds of crime.
- Promoting innovation in the private sector and encouraging use of pioneering technology.

The publication of the new Economic Crime Plan was announced on 12 June. It has been agreed between the former Home Secretary Sajid Javid, heads of law enforcement, major financial institutions, and legal, accountancy, and property organisations. It joins public and private sectors with improved levels of information sharing, resource pooling, and technological innovation.

The plan draws together several actions to improve the current approach to tackling economic crime. The actions include:

- a boost to law enforcement capability, with £48 million of previously announced funding to continue to build the National Economic Crime Centre and help the National Crime Agency to better utilise data to proactively target those involved in fraud and laundering dirty money
- reform of the Suspicious Activity Reporting regime, with Barclays, HSBC UK, Lloyds Banking Group, Nationwide, RBS and Santander UK investing £6.5 million in 2019/20, in addition to the £3.5 million committed by the Home Office this year
- establishing a new crypto-assets regime with the Financial Conduct Authority, going beyond international standards to create one of the most comprehensive global responses to the use of crypto-assets in illicit activity
- promoting innovation in the private sector and encouraging businesses to take advantage of pioneering technologies to combat economic crime
- implementing the new Asset Recovery Action Plan, setting out a range of measures designed to enhance efforts to get back the proceeds of crime.

It is now believed that one in fifteen members of the public are victims of fraud, with gang violence and drug trafficking regularly financed through this. These plans build on other ongoing work to combat economic crime, including the encouragement of transparency around the ownership of assets, with recent proposals to reform Companies House so that ownership and control of companies is clearer.

Read the full article [here](#).

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Improvements to be made to the Child Abuse Image Database

The capabilities of the Child Abuse Image Database (CAID) are set to be improved by the introduction of three new tools, in the hopes of preventing child sexual abuse. It has been announced by the former Home Secretary Sajid Javid, that forces across the UK will soon have access to several new tools, aimed at speeding up investigations of child abuse online and limiting the number of indecent images of children police officers have to view.

The new tools are:

- A fast-forensic tool to rapidly analyse seized devices and find images already known to law enforcement – this tool will significantly free up police time.
- An image categorisation algorithm to assist officers to identify and categorise the severity of illegal imagery – this tool is the first step in using computers to relieve investigators the psychological pressure of viewing the imagery.
- A capability to detect images with matching scenes to help identify children in indecent images in order to safeguard victims.

CAID was first introduced to forces at the end of 2014. Currently, there are 13 million images on CAID, and unfortunately, the number increases by roughly half a million every two months. The tools were developed in partnership between the CAID Innovation Lab and UK based companies – Qumodo, Vigil AI, and Cyan Forensics.

Read the full article [here](#).

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UK and Switzerland collaborate on security and migration

On Wednesday 10 July, the UK and Switzerland stepped up their collaboration on tackling cross-border crime and terrorism after Brexit, by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

The MoU was signed by the former Home Secretary, Sajid Javid, and Swiss Federal Councillor, Karin Keller-Sutter. The agreement sets out the two countries' commitment to continue working closely together, whilst also setting out provisions around increasing information sharing, and plans for increased co-operation between police forces.

Prior to this MoU, the UK and Switzerland have already begun working closely together on internal security. In addition, the National Crime Agency and Swiss Federal Police (Fedpol) have been working closely together to prevent joint threats of: cybercrime, child sexual exploitation, firearms, and money laundering. Swiss and UK law enforcement regularly share intelligence on live investigations between themselves.

Furthermore, Brexit Secretary, Steve Barclay, met with Federal Councillor, Karin Keller-Sutter to sign the transitional migrant agreement, which would allow people from the UK and Switzerland to continue applying for jobs and work in the other country until December 2020, in the event of a no-deal scenario. Both countries also signed a safeguarding agreement in February 2019, aimed at protecting the existing rights of UK nationals living in Switzerland and Swiss nationals living in the UK, at the time of the UK's exit from the EU.

Read the full article [here](#).

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'Digital strip searches' urgent reform required

10 campaign groups are calling for an urgent reform on a new policy requiring victims of crime to hand their phones in to the police for mass data downloads. The new Digital Processing Notices were rolled out to police forces in April 2019, they are used to notify victims of crimes before the police download data from their phone.

The 10 campaign groups are:

- Big Brother Watch
- Amnesty International

- Centre for Women’s Justice
- End Violence Against Women
- Fawcett Society
- JUSTICE
- Liberty
- Privacy International
- Liberty
- Southall Black Sisters
- The Survivors Trust

Big Brother Watch has launched a report in Parliament stating that the new policy is unlawful and needs urgent reform. They state the digital searches are extremely likely to infringe upon victim’s personal data protection and privacy rights.

The new forms also warn victims that if evidence is found on their phones relating to other criminal offences, they will be investigated. This, it is argued, has caused victims to fear that they may be investigated for minor offences, or that they may incriminate their friends or family by handing over their phones to the police.

Victims’ groups and MPs have warned that the policy is deterring rape victims from going forward to police. After rights groups raised concerns, the Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO) launched a high-priority investigation into the issue which is ongoing.

Big Brother Watch has delivered a petition of 35,000 signatures to the Policing Minister and CPS, calling for the policy to be changed.

Read the full article [here](#).

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Grant given to domestic abuse charity, Refuge

Domestic abuse charity Refuge has been awarded just over £1.2 million to operate the National Domestic Violence Helpline, a confidential and free service providing information and support to individuals affected by domestic abuse.

As well as providing support, the helpline staff can assist victims to access refuge accommodation and other specialist services. Furthermore, Refuge has been provided with additional funding to develop digital and mobile resources to help a greater number of victims.

The grant, which will run from November 2019 to March 2022, was awarded following a competition.

Read the full article [here](#).

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Legal requirement on public bodies to tackle serious violence

A new ‘public health duty’ will require: the police, local councils, local health bodies, education representatives, and youth offending services to work together to share data, intelligence, and knowledge to understand and counteract the root causes of serious violence.

In addition to this, the government will amend the Crime and Disorder Act to ensure that serious violence is a top priority for Community Safety Partnerships, including local police, fire, and probation services.

The duty will hold organisations as a whole accountable, instead of individual teachers, nurses or other frontline professionals. New guidance that is yet to be published will support the legislation by providing examples of different partnership models with explanations of how organisations and sectors can collaborate.

Read the full article [here](#).

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Funding allocated to support victims of sexual abuse

Funding, awarded through the Support for Victims and Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse (SVSCSA) and the National Sexual Violence Support Fund (NSVSF), has been given to six groups who support victims and survivors of sexual abuse. The £750,000 funding is aimed at helping the groups to set up support lines, counselling services, and specialist tailored support.

Projects being funded through the SVSCSA are:

- The National Association for People Abused in Childhood (NAPAC) – to fund a support line for adults who suffered abuse in childhood.
- The NSPCC’s ‘Letting the Future in’ programme – to support children with learning difficulties, who have been sexually abused.
- Safeline’s specialised telephone and online counselling service for adult survivors of sexual abuse.

Projects being funded through the NSVSF are:

- Rape Crisis England and Wales’ services, including specialist websites, to support victims and survivors of sexual violence.
- The Survivors Trust – to work directly with survivors of sexual violence.
- Survivors Manchester’s Male Survivor Partnership – to increase awareness and support male victims and survivors of sexual violence.

The SVSCSA funding comes within a wider package of funding to support victims of child sexual abuse. In addition, funding has been provided for the establishment of ‘The Lighthouse’, a pioneering service for victims of child sexual abuse, offering medical, investigative, and emotional support in one place. The NSVSF funding has been provided through open competition since 2018.

Read the full article [here](#).

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New joint agreement to improve offender rehabilitation

A new partnership between the Ministry of Justice and the Department for Work and Pensions has been set up to improve offenders’ chances of securing work, and successfully integrating into the community after being released from prison.

Minister for Family Support, Housing and Child Maintenance, Will Quince, and Prisons Minister, Robert Buckland have joined together to assist offenders in their rehabilitation journey after custody.

The National Partnership Agreement lays out the obligations both departments must follow to jointly improve rehabilitation and decrease the

rate of reoffending. These include:

- ensuring prisoners have proper access to the right training and support during their time in custody
- providing access to bank accounts and ID so prisoners can apply for jobs more easily
- streamlining the resettlement process
- reviewing the support provided through the grant given to offenders leaving custody.

The joint partnership has been announced one year on from the launch of the Education and Employment Strategy, with 230 additional businesses – including Pret A Manger and Greene King – already signed up to the MoJ’s flagship offender work placement scheme, the New Futures Network.

Read the full article [here](#).

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Reviews, reports, and statistics

HMICFRS – police’s ‘superficial understanding’ of crime against older people

HMICFRS have found that crime against older people is not well understood and the police and CPS need to be better prepared to deal with an ageing population. Research shows that older people who have been the victims of crime often feel let down by the police and the wider criminal justice system.

It has also been found that police only have a ‘superficial understanding’ of the full nature and extent of crimes against older people. It is crucial to improve this understanding as, while older people account for only eighteen percent of the population, an overwhelming eight out of ten victims of doorstep scams are elderly, as well as a quarter of domestic homicide victims.

Overall, the police’s initial response to older victims of crime was good. However, officers struggled to deal with more complex needs of older people afterwards. Findings included:

- Older people were not always properly safeguarded. For example, in 153 cases where a safeguarding referral should have been made by police to the local authority, on 77 occasions we could not find any evidence of this taking place.

- Referral to victim support services for older people was too inconsistent.
- Older people were not always offered the support of intermediaries, or helped to give their best evidence, for example by video-recording their evidence or using hearing loops.

Of the 192 cases of older victims of crime the HMICFRS looked at, victim care was found to be insufficient in 101 cases, and the Victims' Code had only been followed on 97 occasions.

Following the inspection, several recommendations have been made by the HMICFRS and HMCPSI:

- The National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) and the CPS should, within six months, agree a definition of what constitutes an older victim and take a coordinated approach to understand and respond to the problem.
- The NPCC should, within six months, establish a standard way for police forces to conduct a victim needs assessment.
- The NPCC and College of Policing (COP) should, within six months, develop a strategy for how the police service should respond to the problems faced by older people, and agree who should be responsible for it.
- The NPCC and COP should, as a matter of urgency, develop guidelines and training for officers involved in adult safeguarding procedures.

Read the full article [here](#).

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DNA Database statistics 2019

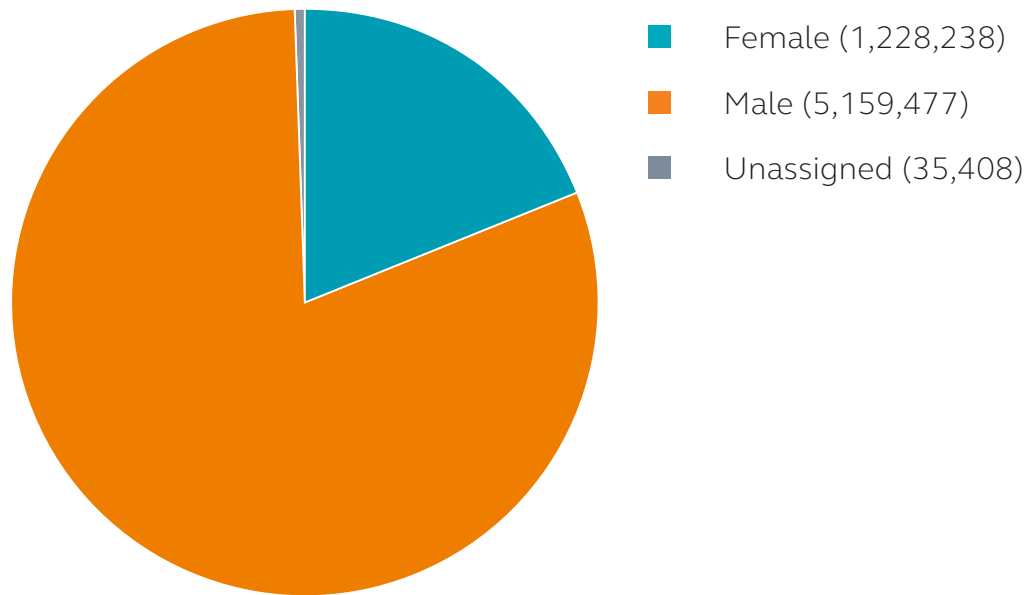
The national DNA Database quarterly statistics as of 30 June 2019, have been released. The figures cover all DNA profiles retained on the National DNA Database as of 30 June 2019 and are broken down into various categories, some of which are detailed below:

DNA profiles retained from all forces:

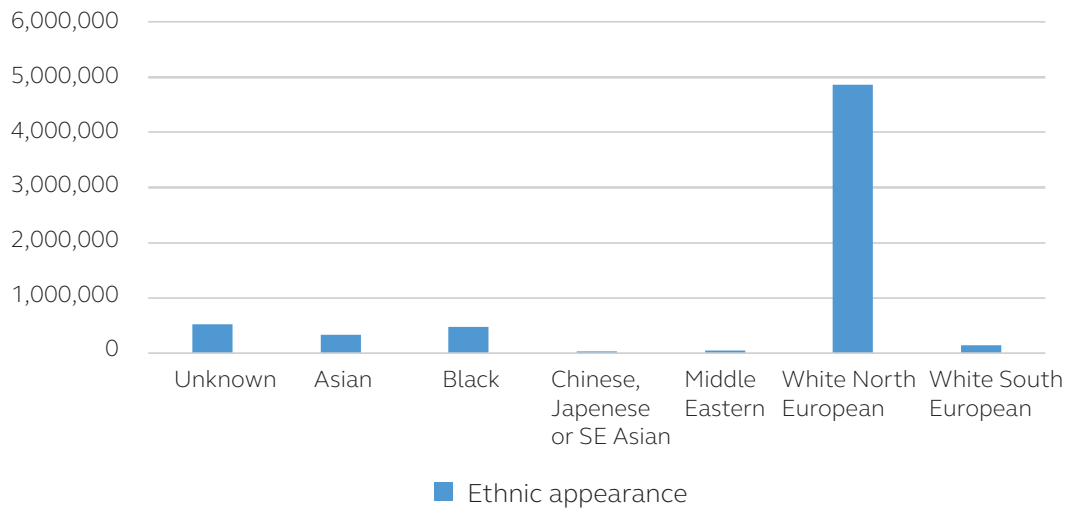
- Estimated total number of individuals retained on NDNAD – 5,514,904.
- Total number of subject sample profiles retained on NDNAD – 6,423,123.
- Total number of crime scene sample profiles retained on NDNAD – 631,026.

The subject profiles from all forces retained on the NDNAD, are further broken down:

Gender



Ethnic appearance



Read the full article [here](#).

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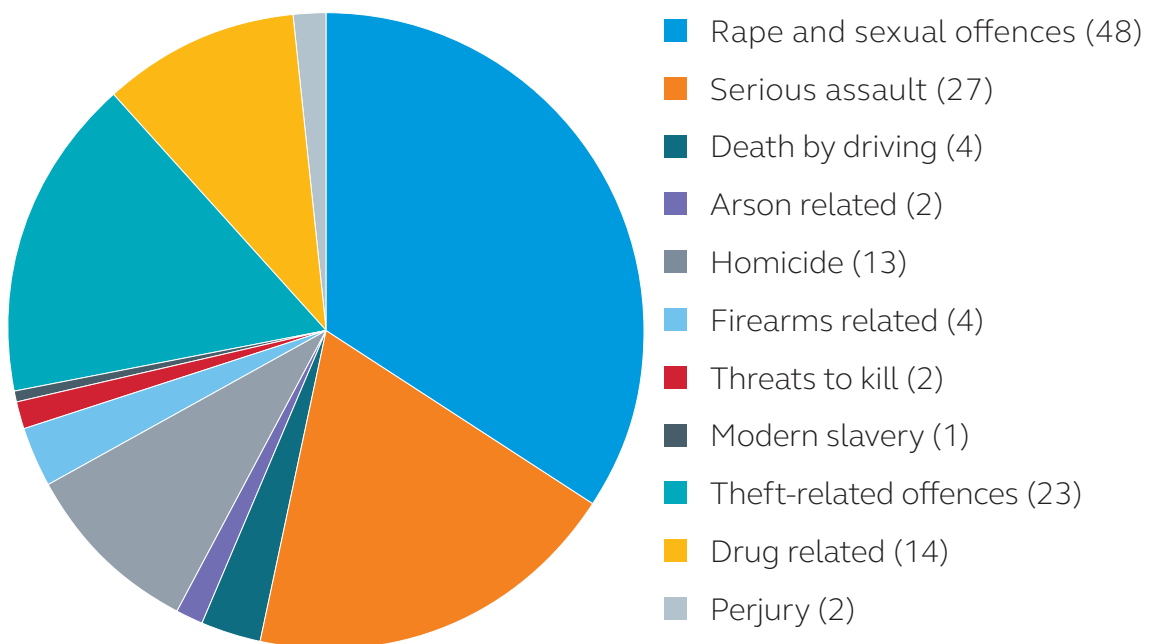
Unduly lenient sentence scheme – 99 sentences increased

Under the 2018 Unduly Lenient Sentence (ULS) statistics released by the Attorney General’s Office, out of 140 referrals, 99 offenders had their sentence increased in 2018 and 23 people received immediate imprisonment after avoiding incarceration during their original sentencing.

The ULS scheme allows victims of crime, members of the public and the CPS to ask for sentences that fall within it to be reviewed. If deemed too low (‘unduly lenient’) by either the Attorney General or the Solicitor General, the Court of Appeal is asked to review the sentence with a view to increasing it. A fifth of the cases referred to the Attorney General and Solicitor General which fell within the Scheme were referred to the Court of Appeal, 71 per cent of which resulted in an increased sentence.

Of the 140 offenders referred to the Court of Appeal in 2018, the crime breakdown was as follows:

Offence breakdown



Read the full article [here](#).

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We're the professional body for everyone who works for the police service in England and Wales. Our purpose is to provide those working in policing with the skills and knowledge necessary to prevent crime, protect the public and secure public trust.

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