



College of  
Policing

# Brief

[COVID-19 latest updates](#)



[Updated Victims' Code](#)



[Enhanced Domestic Abuse Bill](#)



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ISSUE 3 | MARCH/APRIL 2020

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



[Rugby player  
assaults officer](#)



[Police powers  
under TACT 2000](#)



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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](http://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](mailto:brief@college.pnn.police.uk)

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# Editorial

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Dear readers,

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

Over the past couple of weeks, COVID-19, has been the main focus of all media announcements, governmental updates, and regulatory changes. Whilst this edition of the Brief does consolidate some key updates on the COVID-19 situation, we will attempt to continue as usual, with our ordinary content taking priority.

Within this month's edition:

- Rugby player jailed for assaulting a police officer
- Operation of police powers under TACT 2000
- Victims' Code updated in order to provide better support.

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 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**

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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](mailto:brief@college.pnn.police.uk)

# Share with our community

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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. Sharing this 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 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.

If you'd like to contribute, please email [brief@college.pnn.police.uk](mailto: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.

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# College news

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## College bursary 2020 applications open

The College of Policing has launched its fifth bursary scheme, giving police officers and staff the opportunity to apply for financial support to assist with their higher education fees.

The College is committed to supporting the continuing professional development of police officers and staff, and we particularly welcome applications from those working on the front line. The scheme is open to everyone working in policing, regardless of rank, grade, or existing qualifications.

If you are interested in applying, please see the '[Information for applicants](#)' page, which contains: the application form, guidance on completing the form, frequently asked questions, and monitoring forms.

The deadline for applications is Monday 6 April 2020 to receive funding for the academic years 2020/21 and 2021/22.

Read more about [the College bursary](#).

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## Coronavirus – PPE guidance issued

Guidance from the National Police Chiefs' Council on the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) for police has been issued.

It was written in consultation with Public Health England to keep officers safe when responding to emergencies and interacting with the public.

The guidance includes:

- advice for officers and staff when carrying out duties inside stations, including cleaning patrol cars and equipment
- advice when patrolling, including close contact with the public

Read the full [PPE guidance](#).

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# COVID-19 latest information

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Information and guidance released in relation to COVID-19 is updated daily. As such, any information contained within the Brief, was up to date at the time of publication.

The latest guidance for first responders and others in close contact with symptomatic people with potential COVID-19 can be found [here](#).

Please click [here](#) for updates on the status of the College's training, events, and assessments, as well as guidance for officers and staff in the midst of the virus.

Please find further information regarding the decision to postpone the Sergeants exam [here](#).

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## Coronavirus Act 2020

After agreement by both Houses on the text of the Bill, the Coronavirus Act received Royal Assent on 25 March, becoming an Act of Parliament.

Key measures in the Act include:

- giving police new powers to detain people suspected of having coronavirus
- new powers to shut ports and airports (for example, if the UK lacks border staff)
- removing existing regulations in some areas, should public services suffer mass staff shortages
- expanding the availability of live links in criminal proceedings and other criminal hearings
- amending the law on police and crime commissioner (PCC) elections allowing interim PCCs to stay in post for another 12 months

Read full details about [the Coronavirus Act](#).

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## **Coughing at key workers will be charged as assault**

The Director of Public Prosecutions has warned that anyone using coronavirus to threaten emergency and essential workers may face serious criminal charges.

This follows reports of police, shop workers and vulnerable groups being deliberately coughed at by people claiming to have the disease.

Such behaviour aimed specifically at emergency workers is punishable by up to 12 months in prison, and coughs directed at other key workers or members of the public could be charged as common assault.

Darren Rafferty, 45, admitted to three counts of assaulting an emergency worker after claiming to have coronavirus and coughing at Metropolitan Police officers arresting him for another offence. David Mott, 40, was jailed after threatening to spit at police in Blackburn.

The Crown Prosecution Service published new guidance in January. This strengthened its approach to assaults on emergency workers after it was revealed that it had prosecuted almost 20,000 cases since legislation making attacks on emergency workers a specific offence first came into force in November 2018. A joint agreement was published on assaults on emergency workers with partners in the police, NHS, fire and prison services.

Read more about the **CPS charging coronavirus coughers with assault**.

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## **Extended visas for individuals who are unable to return home due to COVID-19**

Individuals who cannot return home due to COVID-19 can extend their visas until 31 May. This will apply to anyone whose leave expired after 24 January and is unable to leave due to travel restrictions or self-isolation. These cases will be kept under regular review in case further extensions are required.

A team has been set up within UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) to make the process as straightforward as possible. Anyone in this position can email the team to let them know their visa has expired and they will be issued an extension. For those wanting to stay in the UK long term, the Home Office is temporarily expanding in-country switching provisions meaning that people



can apply to switch routes, such as from Tier 4 (student) to Tier 2 (general worker) while remaining in the UK.

Some applications may take longer than usual due to COVID-19 related operational pressures.

This extension has been put in place to give individuals peace of mind that they will not be penalised for overstaying their visa. Those who contact the Home Office for these extensions are expected to return to their home countries as soon as possible once travel restrictions have been lifted. The Home Office is also waiving a number of requirements on visa sponsors, such as allowing non-EU nationals here under work or study routes to undertake work or study at home.

Read more on **[visa leave extensions for those unable to return home](#)**.

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## **Human rights and equality considerations in responding to the coronavirus pandemic**

Chair of the Equality and Human Rights Commission, David Isaac, has released the statement he sent to Prime Minister Boris Johnson, about the human rights and equality considerations that must be considered in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. Please find a summarised version below.

The primary role of the government in the current context is to keep people safe. This must involve difficult decisions and compromises, far beyond the normal scope of everyday governing. The Equality and Human Rights Commission recognises and supports this, however such actions will be most effective when public safety and economic interests are balanced with our long-held values of freedom and respect.

COVID-19 affects people differently and the priority remains with those who are most seriously affected. Those who are older, or with underlying health conditions, and those who care for them are most likely to be in this category.

The emergency coronavirus legislation is designed to protect those in vulnerable situations by extending the restrictions. They have significant implications for all but it is important to consider the specific effects they may have on groups who are already disadvantaged to ensure they are not left further behind.

Human rights provide a clear and practical framework on which to decide reasonable restrictions to navigate the delicate balance between protecting health and safeguarding our freedom.

Protections complementing our rights will maximise consent and compliance and will ultimately best safeguard public health. Changes of such magnitude should be proportionate and measured, and rooted in science and law. They must have clear review and end points and be flexible to specific needs while remaining open to challenge.

The elements with particular equality and human rights dimensions include:

- When relaxing crucial safeguards on detention set out in the Mental Health Act, the government must ensure that exemptions only extend as far as is absolutely required.
- Appropriate adjustments must be put in place for those who have learning disabilities or are experiencing mental ill health who may find it difficult to participate fully in proceedings using courtroom video and audio links.
- Domestic abuse tends to increase during periods of confinement and so there will be unprecedented pressure on the healthcare and educational settings that offer ways of identifying the issue.
- Redeployment of care professionals may risk leaving already vulnerable older people and those living with mental health conditions exposed.
- The reduced number of children still able to attend school may have a profound effect on families with children with special educational needs.
- Measures to mitigate financial hardships will be essential for gig economy workers who still have very few protections in employment law and are more likely to be younger, from an ethnic minority, or have caring commitments.
- Women still bear the majority of caring responsibilities for both children and older relatives, so with schools closing the need for this unpaid work will increase. Women should not be disadvantaged in their careers by following government advice to stay home.
- Flexibility and compromise will be essential in responding effectively to this crisis. The restrictions will be hugely disruptive but ultimately

manageable for many people. For others, the implications could be profound. It is possible to protect rights while saving lives.

Read **David Isaac's statement to the Prime Minister**.

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# Legal updates

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## Bills

### **Hate Crime (Misandry and Misogyny) Bill 2019-21**

A Bill to make motivation by misandry or misogyny an aggravating factor in criminal sentencing, and to require police forces to record hate crimes motivated by misandry or misogyny.

This private members' bill is scheduled to have its second reading on Friday 10 July 2020.

Read more about the **Hate Crime (Misandry and Misogyny) Bill 2019-21**.

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### **Victims of Abuse (Support) Bill 2019-21**

A Bill to establish a right to specialist sexual violence and abuse support services for victims of sexual, violent, and domestic abuse.

This private members' bill was scheduled to have its second reading on Friday 27 March 2020, but appears to have been postponed.

Read more about the **Victims of Abuse (Support) Bill 2019-21**.

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### **Domestic Abuse Bill 2019-21**

This Bill makes numerous provisions in relation to domestic abuse, including:

- the establishment of a Domestic Abuse Commissioner
- in certain circumstances, prohibiting cross-examination in person in family proceedings
- 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 3 March 2020. A date for the second reading is yet to be announced.

Read more about the **Domestic Abuse Bill 2019-21**.

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# Before the court

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## **Rodi, R v [2020] EWCA (Crim) 330**

On 24 September 2018, the applicant, now aged 51, pleaded guilty to the manslaughter by diminished responsibility of Angela Ryder, in Leeds Crown Court. On 12 November, he was sentenced by His Honour Judge Bayliss QC to life imprisonment, with a minimum term of 10 years, less 251 days spent on remand. He was also made the subject of a hospital direction and a limitation direction under section 45A of the Mental Health Act (MHA) 1983, as amended.

Mr Richard Wright QC, on behalf of the applicant, sought a 162-day extension of time in which to appeal against the above sentence, as well as substantive leave.

The facts of the case can be summarised briefly. Angela Ryder, 51, was the applicant's ex-wife. On 5 March 2018, the applicant telephoned the police to say he had strangled her. Consequently, paramedics attended the scene and found her body. There was never any dispute that the applicant had caused Angela's death by strangulation. She and the applicant had been in a long-term on/off relationship, in which the applicant displayed controlling behaviour and intermittent violence, including strangulation.

In late 2014, the applicant had been sentenced to a hospital order without restrictions, for an offence of assault occasioning actual bodily harm against Angela, during which she had lost consciousness. At the time, the applicant has been diagnosed as suffering from a severe depressive disorder with psychotic symptoms. He was later discharged from hospital with treatment in the community, which included medication. However, after being discharged, he started to miss his medication and withdraw from contact with the mental health team.

At the sentencing hearing, the judge was provided with a number of reports from three consultant forensic psychiatrists: Dr Jonathon Green, the applicant's treating clinician; Dr Lucy Bacon; and Dr Suraj Shenoy, the applicant's current treating clinician.

Dr Green and Dr Shenoy gave oral evidence before the judge. They both agreed that the applicant was suffering from a serious mental illness at the time of the killing, but disagreed as to the level of responsibility he retained. Dr Shenoy considered that the applicant had deliberately and voluntarily stopped taking his medication and receiving treatment, with a complete understanding of the extent of his illness and the likely consequences.

Dr Green's view was that the applicant's illness played a major factor in his decision to withdraw from receiving treatment. Dr Green added the applicant had been let down by mental health services, who had failed to understand the seriousness of his illness when discharging him from hospital following his 2014 conviction.

The judge treated the guilty plea to manslaughter as having been tendered at the first available opportunity, so that maximum credit of one-third would be given. He took into account the impact statements from Angela Ryder's sister, mother, and daughter, which clearly showed that the applicant's relationship with Angela was controlling and coercive, with acts of violence. The judge stated that he was sure the applicant intended to kill Angela, but accepted that his actions were not premeditated, and that the applicant regretted what he had done.

After consideration of the psychiatric reports, the judge concluded that it was the applicant's own failure to engage with treatment and take medication which led to the mental illness, which consequently led to his responsibility being diminished. Therefore, the judge determined that the applicant retained a high level of criminal responsibility for his actions. As a result, the judge determined that the applicant presented a significant risk of causing serious harm by committing further similar offences and imposed a sentence of imprisonment for life, a hospital direction, and a limitation direction under section 45A of the MHA 1983.

In the grounds of appeal, on behalf of the applicant, it was submitted that the judge erred in imposing a penal sentence, due to the applicant's mental disorder, and that detaining the applicant in hospital for treatment should have been the outcome. Secondly, it was argued that the judge should not have imposed a life sentence, and instead should have opted for an extended sentence and, furthermore, that the current sentence was manifestly excessive, considering the circumstances.

The Court of Appeal held that the judge was entitled to view the applicant's level of responsibility as being high for the offence. In regards to the submission that the sentence was manifestly excessive, the court held that there were at least two specified aggravating factors as described by the guideline. Firstly, previous convictions having regard to (a) the nature of the offence to which the conviction relates and its relevance to the current and (b) the time that has elapsed since the conviction. In addition, there was a history of violence in the relationship, evidence of controlling and coercive behaviour, and the killing occurred in the victim's home.

Consequently, the court held that taking into account the serious aggravation of the previous offending of assaults, and the history of abuse, the sentence passed was not manifestly excessive. Furthermore, the court stated that there was plainly sufficient evidence for the judge to conclude that a penal element in the sentence was required, and that a section 45 hybrid order was justified.

For the above reasons, the court held that the judge was entitled to pass the sentence he did, and although an extension of time was granted, leave to appeal was refused.

Read the full judgment in **Rodi, R v [2020] EWCA (Crim) 330**.

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# Policing

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## News

### **Banned rugby player jailed for assaulting police officer**

Maredudd Francis, 25, the former captain of Rygbi Gogledd Cymru (North Wales Rugby) has been sentenced to 21 months' imprisonment for inflicting grievous bodily harm on a North Wales Police officer.

In August, Francis was at his home address when the officer arrived to arrest him in connection with another investigation. Subsequently, Francis opened the door and attacked him, resulting in the officer using his CS spray and Taser in an attempt to stop the attack. However, Francis overpowered the officer, throwing him to the ground and causing serious injuries.

Francis is banned from playing sports until March 2022 after testing positive for performance enhancing substances.

Read more about the **banned rugby player assaulting a police officer**.

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## Our workforce

### **HMICFRS: Durham Constabulary committed to child protection, but further work required**

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) carried out an initial inspection into Durham Constabulary's child protection services in late 2019. The Inspectorate found that the force had prioritised child protection, and praised officers and staff for their commitment and dedication.

However, HMICFRS also identified inconsistencies and several areas for improvement. For example, although there were effective systems in place allowing the force to identify risk and prioritise responses, broader risks to other children were not always recognised.

The report highlighted several examples of good practice, such as: a well-structured governance and oversight procedures for child protection matters;

good use of body-worn video when responding to incidents involving risk to children; and a consistent good engagement with local young people.

However, the report did raise several areas of concern, such as:

- an inconsistent response to missing children
- a failure to collect and record information to ensure that there is a clear focus and understanding of each child's needs and risks
- underdeveloped approaches to collecting performance information

Read the **[Durham Constabulary national child protection inspection report](#)**.

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### **Met Police slow to respond after Operation Midland**

HMICFRS has published a report that assesses the Metropolitan Police Service's (MPS) progress in learning from the mistakes and areas of concern identified in an independent report by retired High Court judge, Sir Richard Henriques, commissioned in 2016.

HMICFRS found that, although the force had recently begun implementing the recommended changes, MPS had initially not done enough to learn from the Henriques report, when they received it in 2016.

Read more about the **[HMICFRS report on the Met Police](#)**.

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## Reports and statistics

### **A diversity uplift? Police workforce gender and ethnicity trends from 2007 to 2018 and prospects for the future**

This document looks at the published Home Office police workforce data to examine police workforce gender and ethnicity trends over 11 years, between 2007 and 2018.

The six key findings are:

- Across the ranks the percentage of police officers who are female has been steadily increasing.

- Black and minority ethnic representation differs by role, generally being higher for police staff and police community support officers (PCSOs) than police officers.
- Male police officers up to the rank of inspector are more ethnically diverse than female, male chief officers are less ethnically diverse than female chief officers and officers of all other ranks except for female chief superintendents.
- The increase in ethnic diversity of police officers has been down to the recruitment of Asian and mixed ethnicity officers, especially men, while black representation has barely increased.
- Diversity varies widely between police forces, as do changes to diversity over time. It is unclear whether lessons have been learnt about what has worked, where and how to improve diversity.
- Incomplete data limits the understanding of workforce diversity, especially in some forces.

Overall summary:

- Greater diversity is generally found among the wider police workforce, notably PCSOs but also police staff, the numbers of which have been cut since 2010. This has resulted in an important loss of diversity among uniform-wearing police workforce visible in communities.
- It is noticeable that the story is more complex than black and minority ethnic (BAME) versus white. While there has been good progress increasing the recruitment of Asian and mixed ethnicity police officers, recruitment of male and female black and female Asian officers has been much slower.
- Workforce ethnic diversity varies hugely between forces and a minority of forces account for the vast majority of BAME and especially black officers.
- If the 20,000 uplift is to achieve a boost to ethnic diversity, it is vital learning can be generated and shared where forces have achieved successes in recent years raising recruitment from BAME communities.

Read the full **Perspectives on Policing report**.

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## **Policing and the public: Understanding public priorities, attitudes, and expectations.**

This is the first in a series of Insight papers informing the Police Foundation's Strategic Review of Policing in England and Wales. It focuses on the public's perceptions of, and priorities for, today's police service. The paper draws on two sources: first, representative surveys of public opinion, and second, the Police Foundation's own recent, qualitative research, which sought to understand what lies behind the attitudes captured by opinion polls in greater depth.

The 10 key insights provided in the paper are:

1. **There is a bedrock of public support for the police.** Most people retain a positive opinion of the police service, which tends to increase as they learn more about the current challenges.
2. **Support is not consistently distributed.** Trust and confidence in the police is significantly lower among some groups of the population.
3. **We may be at a 'tipping point'.** The views of the public are changing, crime and policing have risen up the national agenda, and the ratings of local police are declining. This appears to reflect a widespread perception of police 'withdrawal' across multiple aspects of service.
4. **The public want more visible policing.** Research used for this paper suggests the current call for greater police presence is linked to a widespread sense of local 'deterioration', concerns about knife crime, and a lack of clarity on the current policing 'offer'.
5. **When asked to rank policing priorities, the public do not tend to focus on 'low-level' local crime and disorder.** Although members of the public continue to want local order maintenance, when asked to decide between competing priorities, 'low-level' local issues tend to be seen as less important.
6. **The public are sensitive to harm and, when ranking priorities, emphasise the importance of police tackling serious and sexual violence and abuse.** Reducing and responding to serious violence and sexual crimes are seen by the public as clear top priorities for today's police service.

7. **The public have a ‘traditional’ view of the police role.** People’s priority decisions draw on assumptions about what the police, relative to other agencies and actors, should and shouldn’t do. For example, traditional ideas about police remit are in tension with the current trend towards responding to acute welfare and safety demands.
8. **People want visible local policing but, when asked to choose, they see neighbourhood policing as less important than other areas of police work.** Neighbourhood policing tended to be seen as less important when compared to other police functions. However, these views began to change as the challenges of modern policing became better understood.
9. **Procedural justice can reduce crime; strategic alignment between police and public priorities may also have positive benefits.** There is strong evidence to suggest that public perceptions of fair and respectful treatment by the police can influence compliance with the law, by generating a sense of ‘moral alignment’.
10. **When people have more information and opportunities for deliberation, their priorities adjust and they become more positive towards the police.** As people learn more about the police operating environment and discuss priorities with their peers, they tend to move towards consensus, take on a longer-term perspective, recognise complexity, see that they have a part to play themselves and view the police in a more positive light.

Read the full [Policing and the public report](#).

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## Operation of police powers under the Terrorism Act 2000

The Home Office has published the most recent statistical material relating to police powers used under the Terrorism Act 2000. Within the statistics, arrests, outcomes, and stop and search are covered.

### Arrests and outcomes

There were 45 detentions under section 41 of the Terrorism Act 2000 in the year ending 31 December 2019, an increase of nine compared to the previous year. Of these 45 detentions, 27 (60%) led to a charge.

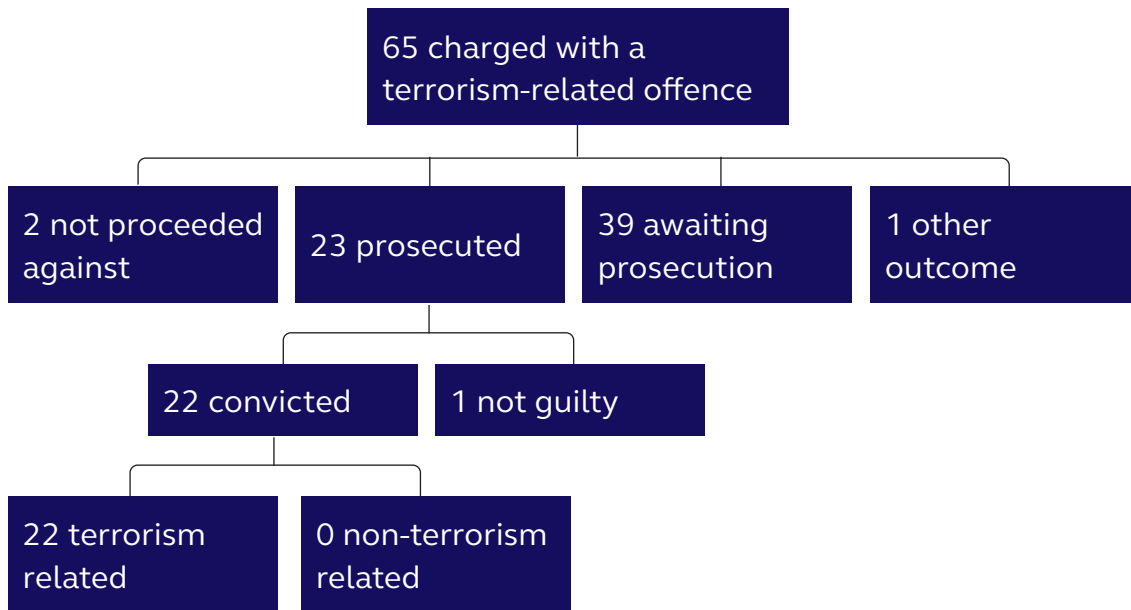
The diagram below outlines the outcomes for those 65 people charged for a terrorism-related offence.

#### Key results from the statistical bulletin:

There were 280 arrests for terrorism-related activity in the year ending 31 December 2019, a 1% decrease compared to the previous year.

Of these 280 arrests:

- 110 people (39%) were either released under bail pending further investigation, or released under investigation without bail conditions being imposed
- 87 (31%) resulted in a charge, 65 of which were for terrorism-related offences
- 63 people (23%) were released without a charge
- 19 people (7%) faced alternative action, such as being cautioned, being recalled to prison, or being transferred to immigration authorities
- one case was pending an outcome at the time of data collection



## Demographics of those who were arrested

### Sex

Similarly to previous years, and to other types of crime, the overwhelming majority of arrestees for terrorism-related activity were male. However, 31 (11%) of the 280 arrests were female, the same number as the previous year.

### Age

As in previous years, the '30 and over' age group accounted for the majority of arrests (57%). Those aged under 18 accounted for 4% of arrests.

### Ethnic appearance as recorded by the arresting officer

There were decreases in the number of arrests across all ethnic groups, apart from those of Asian ethnic appearance, which increased by 26%. Arrests for White ethnic appearance decreased by 3% and arrests for Black ethnic appearance decreased by 45%.

The proportion of White ethnic appearance accounted for 42% of all arrests, Asian ethnic appearance accounted for 40% of all arrests, Black ethnic appearance accounted for 8% of all arrests, and 'Other' ethnic appearance accounted for 11%.

### Nationality

Of those arrested, 71% considered themselves to be British, or British dual nationality, a 3% decrease compared to the previous year.

## Court proceedings

The most common sentence length was just under four years. 24 out of 46 (52%) convictions received sentences under four years and 11 sentences were between four and 10 years. 7% of all those sentenced received a life sentence.

Of the 46 individuals convicted of a terrorism-related offence, 28 (61%) pleaded guilty and 18 (39%) entered a not-guilty plea.

Read more about the [statistical material relating to the Terrorism Act 2000](#).

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## Seizures of drugs in England and Wales – second edition

The Home Office has published a statistical bulletin containing figures for seizures of drugs made by local police forces and the UK Border Force. The bulletin presents figures for drug seizures made in 2018/19 in England and Wales by the police (including the British Transport Police) and Border Force. The data relates to all drugs controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.

### Key results include:

- Police forces and Border Force made a total of 153,135 drug seizures in England and Wales in 2018/19, a 12% increase when compared to the previous year (136,439).
- Class A drug seizures increased by 13% compared to the previous year.
- Seizures of cocaine increased by 12%, as well as the quantity of cocaine seized, which increased by 6,307kg compared to the previous year.
- Seizures of crack increased by 20% and the quantity of crack seized increased by 73%.
- The quantity of ecstasy seized increased from 0.7 million doses to 2.2 million doses.



## Seizures

In 2018/19, there were 153,135 drug seizures. Similarly to previous years, the majority of seizures were for Class B drugs, and in particular cannabis. Just under three-quarters (71%) of all seizures involved cannabis.

### Class A drugs

In 2018/19, there were 32,753 seizures of Class A drugs, an increase of 13% when compared to the previous year. Over half (52%) of all seizures of Class A drugs involved cocaine. After cocaine, heroin was the second most commonly seized Class A drug (26%), a 13% increase from last year. There was an increase of 20% in the number of seizures of crack cocaine, from 5,451 the previous year to 6,561 in the current year.

### Class B drugs

There were 108,362 seizures of cannabis in 2018/19, an 11% increase from 2017/18. Seizures of herbal cannabis increased by 11% between 2017/18 and 2018/19 and seizures of cannabis plants increased by 13%.

Amphetamines were the second most frequently seized Class B drug, with 3,664 seizures in 2018/19, a 5% increase compared to the previous year. The number of seizures of mephedrone fell by 6%, from 67 to 63.

### Class C drugs

There was a 4% increase in the number of seizures of Class C drugs in 2018/19 compared to the previous year. 43% of all seizures of Class C drugs involved benzodiazepines, with the number of seizures increasing by 13%.

Read more about [seizures of drugs in England and Wales](#).

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# Criminal justice news

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## Introduction of Immigration Bill to Parliament

The Immigration Bill, introduced to the House of Commons on 5 March 2020, will allow the UK to depart from the European Union's rules on free movement.

The Bill will allow the newly announced UK points-based system to operate from 1 January 2021, which the Home Office says will 'deliver a firmer and fairer immigration system for the whole of the UK'. Details of the new points-based system were **announced in February** by the Home Secretary.

Liberty has responded to the Government's immigration plans, warning that a hostile environment may lead to human right abuses and leave migrants at higher risk of being exploited. It has called for a new immigration system that has 'humanity, dignity, and respect' at its core, rather than a divisive points-based system.

EU citizens and other non-visa nationals will not require a visa to enter the UK for visits of up to six months. The Bill will not prevent Irish citizens from freely entering and residing in the UK.

Read more about the **landmark Immigration Bill**.

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## Enhanced Domestic Abuse Bill to receive first reading in the House of Commons

An enhanced version of the Domestic Abuse Bill has been presented to Parliament. The Bill, which has been widely welcomed by charities and stakeholders, aims to provide further support and protection to victims.

The Bill includes new measures, such as placing a requirement on tier one local authorities to provide support and to ensure safe accommodation for victims and their children. Furthermore, the Bill will build on a previous pledge to ban abusers from cross-examining their victims in family courts where there is evidence of domestic abuse.

To counteract any new ways perpetrators try to control their victims, the Bill has been designed to be future proof and encompass new trends, such

as tech abuse, where abusers use personal and home devices to control the victim. Economic abuse will also be specifically referenced in the definition of domestic abuse, to raise awareness of this type of abuse.

Read more about the **enhanced Domestic Abuse Bill**.

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### **Tackling Crime Forum brings together PCCs**

On 5 March 2020, Policing Minister Kit Malthouse hosted the Tackling Crime Forum, where he spoke to Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) about tackling alcohol-related crime, county lines, and serious violence.

The event brought together PCCs from across England and Wales to discuss and share best practice, and how they could improve their approach to tackling issues around serious violence. External speakers at the event included Stanford University professor of psychiatry Keith Humphreys; Dr Laura Bainbridge, lecturer in criminal justice at the University of Leeds; and Katy Bourne, chair of the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners.

Read more about the **Tackling Crime Forum**.

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### **Updated Code offers victims greater support**

Victims of crime should have clearer rights regarding the support they can receive from the police, courts, and other criminal justice agencies, after a new Victims' Code was published on 5 March 2020.

For the first time, the Code will allow eligible victims to be automatically referred to the Victim Contact Scheme (VCS), which provides victims with vital updates on offenders as they serve their sentence, including their estimated release date.

In addition, the Code will give victims greater flexibility in relation to when and how a Victim Personal Statement (VPS) can be made. Victims will also be permitted to request a copy of their VPS.

Proposals set out in the new Code include:

- Simplifying and shortening the Code to make it clear, concise and easy to understand.
- Changing the VCS from an opt-in to automatic referral scheme.
- New rights for victims of mentally disordered offenders, allowing them access to a Victim Liaison Officer to provide information on an offender's management and potential release from hospital.
- For the first time, the Code sets out the rights of victims of Foreign National Offenders to be updated on when an offender's deportation may occur.
- The new Code also includes practical information about how victims can access services provided by the National Health Service and signpost them to where they can get help and advice if they are approached by the media.

Read more about the **new set of rights for victims of crime**.

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## **Sentencing Code unveiled in Parliament**

The Sentencing Code will ensure there is greater clarity in sentencing law, in an attempt to reduce the number of errors made and to improve the efficiency of sentencing hearings.

The Code will place the sentencing procedural law into one place, with a clear and logical structure, making it more accessible for the public, judiciary, and practitioners. The Code will not introduce any new substantive laws, or alter the maximum or minimum penalties available for an offence.

Read more about the **Sentencing Code**.

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## Information on criminal exploitation and gangs

The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) has published an extremely informative article on children and young people involved with gangs and criminal exploitation. The key points are outlined below.

### What is a gang?

The word ‘gang’ can mean different things, depending on the context in which it is used. Within the governmental paper ‘Safeguarding children and young people who may be affected by gang activity’, three different types of peer groups are distinguished between:

- **A peer group.** ‘A relatively small and transient social grouping which may or may not describe themselves as a gang.’
- **Street gang.** ‘Groups of young people who see themselves (and are seen by others) as a discernible group, for whom crime and violence is integral to the group’s identity.’
- **Organised criminal gangs.** ‘A group of individuals for whom involvement in crime is for personal gain (financial or otherwise); most crime is their ‘occupation’.’

It isn’t, of course, illegal for a young person to be in gang. It must be noted that there are many different types of gangs, and not all are criminal or dangerous. However, gang membership can be linked to illegal activity, particularly organised criminal gangs involved in trafficking, drug dealing and violent crime.

### How are young people recruited?

- A child or young person may be recruited into a gang because of where they live, or who their family is. They may join because they don’t see another option, or because they feel they need protection.
- Children and young people may become involved in gangs for many reasons. These can include:
  - Peer pressure and wanting to ‘fit in’ with friends.
  - After joining they feel respected and important.
  - They want to feel protected from other gangs, or bullies.
  - They have a desire to make money and are promised rewards.
  - They want to gain status and feel powerful.
  - They have been excluded from school and don’t feel as though they have a future.

Studies have shown that a child is more at risk of being recruited if:

- They've been excluded from school.
- They have special education needs.
- There are problems at home, such as neglect, domestic abuse, or sexual abuse.
- They have problems with their mental health.
- They live in existing gang territory.

Exploiting a child into committing crimes is abusive. Children who are targeted can be groomed, physically abused, emotionally abused, sexually exploited, or trafficked. However, as children involved in gangs often commit crimes, they aren't always seen as victims by adults and professionals, despite the harm they have experienced.

Read more on the [NSPCC website](#).

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## About the College

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.

[college.police.uk](https://college.police.uk)



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