



College of
Policing

Brief

Changes to pre-charge bail →

Free legal advice expanded →

Homicide prevention framework →

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ISSUE 10 | NOVEMBER 2022

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



Most female police
officers since
records began

→

CCRC referral
under anti-slavery
law

→

Protesters at
abortion clinics
could face jail

→

Football fans with
banning orders
barred from
World Cup

→

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.police.uk

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Editorial

Dear readers,

Welcome to the November edition of College 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.

In this month's edition:

- changes to pre-charge bail brought into force
- football fans with banning orders barred from the World Cup in Qatar
- free legal advice expanded to help thousands more people at risk
- most female police officers since records began
- Criminal Cases Review Commission referral under anti-slavery law
- protesters at abortion clinics could face jail for harassment under the Public Order Bill
- homicide prevention framework launched

To find out more about the College and what we do, including information on the Policing Education Qualifications Framework (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 please [get in touch](#) if you have any feedback or ideas for future content.

Thank you for reading,

The Legal Services Team

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College news

Next steps following police forces' reviews of police-perpetrated VAWG

In conjunction with the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC), the College launched a report into themes, learning and next steps following reviews by police forces of police-perpetrated violence against women and girls (VAWG). This report seeks to share learning on the problems and good practices that forces identified. Through the analysis of the reviews conducted by forces, the report identifies six areas of focus:

- supporting victims of police-perpetrated VAWG
- raising awareness and encouraging reporting
- upskilling investigators
- avoiding unnecessary delays in cases being criminally investigated
- data quality
- inviting external scrutiny of case handling

The report was influenced by work already underway nationally and locally to improve the response to police-perpetrated VAWG. These six areas do not represent every theme or problem related to police-perpetrated VAWG. Instead, they represent areas where improved national consistency could bring the most benefit to victims and the public. The NPCC and the College will work with forces and other stakeholders to take this forward.

Read more: [**Themes, learning and next steps following police forces' reviews of police-perpetrated violence against women and girls | College of Policing and NPCC**](#)

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College bursary scheme

So far, the College bursary scheme has helped 441 police officers and staff to study for undergraduate and postgraduate degrees. The bursary scheme is open to police officers and staff across England and Wales. This year, the College awarded a record number of bursaries to police officers and staff to help towards their tuition fees.

Since the scheme started:

- PCs and sergeants have received 59% of the bursary awards
- police staff have received 25% of bursary awards
- a third of the recipients have never studied at a degree level before

Lack of formal qualifications is not necessarily a barrier to higher education. Workplace skills and experience can contribute towards a qualification using recognition of prior learning.

Read more: [**Bursary scheme supports police officers and staff completing studies | College of Policing**](#)

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Workplace adjustments for Jewish officers and staff

The College released new guidance to assist police forces who wish to implement workplace adjustments for Jewish police officers and staff. This guidance, which was developed with the Jewish Police Association (JPA), the Board of Deputies of British Jews, and serving Jewish officers and staff, is available to all police forces in England and Wales. It helps managers in policing to understand the customs of Judaism and also covers how the JPA can assist with recruitment and retention.

Read more: [**Jewish police officers and staff supported with new guidance | College of Policing**](#)

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Homicide prevention framework

The College has created a new online framework to support forces and policing partners to reduce crimes that can lead to homicide. The framework focuses on tackling specific types of crime that can lead to homicide, including serious violence, alcohol and drug misuse, and domestic abuse. The **[homicide prevention framework](#)** was developed with the NPCC and His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS).

Read more: **[Homicide prevention | College of Policing](#)**

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Legal updates

Changes to pre-charge bail brought into force

The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 (PCSC) received Royal Assent in April 2022 and makes changes to the legislation around pre-charge bail, which came into force on 28 October 2022. The main changes are:

- the removal of the presumption to release without bail in favour of a neutral position, dependent on the circumstances of the case
- changes to authority levels
- changes to applicable bail periods and extension periods
- introduction of the duty to seek the views of victims prior to a suspect's release on bail and on the conditions to be imposed or varied
- introduction of a three-hour pause to the detention clock for arrests for breach of bail
- improved data collection

To support forces with the implementation of the changes, the College – working with the NPCC and Merseyside Police – have published a number of implementation packs and have produced two e-learning products available on College Learn. There have been five knowledge-sharing events, recordings of which can be accessed on the Knowledge Hub. A national helpline has been set up to assist forces in implementing the changes operationally, and there is a bail-specific Knowledge Hub group that is available for peer-to-peer support, discussion and problem solving.

The PCSC also introduced a power for the College of Policing to issue statutory guidance on the wider pre-charge regime, which came into force on 26 October 2022. Draft statutory guidance was published on the College of Policing website in August 2022. The guidance was subject to a six-week public consultation, which concluded on 16 September 2022.

The draft guidance is available at [**Pre-charge bail guidance – have your say | College of Policing.**](#)

The College has reviewed all feedback and is in the process of making necessary changes to the guidance. The guidance must then be approved by the Home Secretary and laid before Parliament, in accordance with the PCSC.

Further information on the changes can be found at: [**Pre-charge bail: Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 factsheet | GOV.UK**](#)

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Bills

Public Order Bill

The Public Order Bill makes provision for new offences relating to public order, stop and search powers, the delegation of police functions relating to public order, proceedings by the Secretary of State relating to protest-related activities, serious disruption prevention orders and other connected purposes.

During the second reading of the bill, discussions took place on issues including stop and search powers, including suspicion-less stop and search and safeguards, Serious Disruption Prevention Orders, and creating a legal definition of serious disruption buffer zones around abortion clinics and the right to protest. Line-by-line examination of the bill is scheduled to begin on 16 November 2022.

Read more: [**Public Order Bill - Parliamentary Bills | UK Parliament**](#) and [**Public Order Bill: factsheet - GOV.UK**](#)

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Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Bill

The Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Bill makes provisions about economic crime and corporate transparency. The Bill was debated at the second reading on 13 October 2022 and has now been sent to a Public Bill Committee. The Public Bill Committee will scrutinise the Bill line by line and is scheduled to report back by 29 November 2022.

Read more: [**Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Bill - Parliamentary Bills | UK Parliament**](#)

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Statutory instruments

Draft revised Covert Human Intelligence Sources code of practice 2022

The Covert Human Intelligence Sources (CHIS) code was redrafted by the Home Office to replace the 2018 code. The purpose of this document is to provide a draft revised code of practice for the use or conduct of CHIS by public authorities under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000. It reflects new provisions relating to the authorisation of criminal conduct by CHIS introduced by the Covert Human Intelligence Sources (Criminal Conduct) Act 2021. Several minor updates and clarifications have been made to ensure that the use of the powers is conducted in accordance with best practices. The draft was laid before Parliament on 19 October 2022 and will come into force once it has been debated and approved by both Houses of Parliament.

Read more: [**Draft revised Covert Human Intelligence Sources code of practice 2022 | GOV.UK**](#)

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Interception of communications code of practice 2022

The interception of communications code of practice has been revised following a public consultation. The proposed changes to the code aim to provide clarity around the circumstances in which an intercepting authority should serve a warrant on either the cloud-service provider or the enterprise service. This draft revised code was laid before Parliament on 19 October 2022 and will come into force once it has been debated and approved by both Houses of Parliament.

Read more: [**Draft revised Interception of communications code of practice 2022 | GOV.UK**](#)

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Revised code of practice (England, Wales, and Scotland) for the exercise of stop and search powers under the Terrorism Act 2000

The Home Office has published a revised code of practice for the exercise of stop and search powers under sections 43, 43A and 43C of the Terrorism Act 2000, as well as the authorisation and exercise of stop and search relating to section 47A and Schedule 6B of the Terrorism Act 2000.

Under the PCSC, a new power to stop and search has been added to section 43C of the Terrorism Act 2000. Since the previous version of the code was brought into force in 2012, the government has also made minor amendments to ensure that it accurately reflects current practice, legislation, terminology and organisational responsibilities.

Following Parliament's approval of The Terrorism Act 2000 (Alterations to the Search Powers Code for England and Wales and Scotland) Order 2022, **this revised code of practice applies to any authorisation or exercise of relevant stop and search powers by a police officer after midnight on 26 October 2022.**

Read more: [**Police stop and search powers: code of practice | GOV.UK**](#)

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Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 (Extraction of Information: Code of Practice) Regulations 2022 (SI 2022/1054)

From 8 November 2022, the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 (Extraction of Information: Code of Practice) Regulations will bring into force a code of practice containing guidance regarding the exercise of the powers conferred under sections 37(1) and 41(1) of the PCSC, which creates a new statutory power to extract information from electronic devices.

- Section 37(1) provides that an authorised person may extract information stored on an electronic device if both of the following are true:
 - the user of the device has voluntarily provided the device to an authorised person
 - the user has agreed that the information stored on the device may be extracted by an authorised person
- Section 41(1) provides that an authorised person may extract information stored on an electronic device if a user has died and they were the user of the device immediately before their death.

The powers, and the Code, came into force on **8 November 2022**.

Read more: [**Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 \(Extraction of Information: Code of Practice\) Regulations 2022 \(SI 2022/1054\) | GOV.UK**](#)

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Before the courts

Trafficking victim's conviction overturned

For the first time, the Criminal Cases Review Commission (CCRC) referred a case based on section 45 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015, which serves as a defence for trafficking victims who were compelled to commit an offence.

Following the CCRC's referral in May, a judge at Leicester Crown Court has now considered the case and directed a not-guilty verdict. The 17-year-old involved in the case was trafficked to the UK from Vietnam via Russia in 2016 and was found working on a cannabis farm. According to the CCRC, he was a child victim of modern slavery and his offending was a direct consequence of that.

Read more: [**Vietnamese trafficking victim's conviction overturned after first CCRC referral under anti-slavery law | CCRC**](#)

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R. (on the application of DPP) v Bristol Crown Court

Criminal trials had been adjourned due to indefinite industrial action announced by the Criminal Bar Association on 22 August 2022.

In principle, this might constitute both a good and a sufficient cause for extending custody time limits under section 22(3)(a)(iii) of the Prosecution of Offences Act 1985 Pt III.

However, if industrial action continued, the absence of representation would be considered chronic and routine. At that stage, it was likely that the absence of representation would no longer be capable of providing a good and sufficient cause.

Read more: [**Director of Public Prosecutions, R \(On the Application Of\) v Crown Court at Bristol & Anor \[2022\] EWHC 2415 \(Admin\) \(28 September 2022\) | BAILII**](#)

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Crown Prosecution Service v Cain

In the case of a defendant accused of a racially aggravated public order offence, the defendant and victim were members of the same racial group. This was part of the circumstances and context but did not bar the prosecution from proving the offence. The defendant's words demonstrated racial hostility, since he was criticising the victim as a black person for acting in a manner that the defendant found unacceptable.

Read more: [**Crime and Disorder Act 1998 \(c.37\), section 31 | Westlaw**](#)

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Consultations

Revising PACE Code A (2022): Open consultation

The Home Office published responses to its consultation on a draft version of Code A of the Code of Practice to the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE). Code A governs the exercise by police officers of statutory powers of search without first arresting someone. In response to the consultation, the outcome now includes the revised code of practice for the exercise of statutory powers of stop and search by police officers.

Read more: [**Draft revised PACE Code A | GOV.UK**](#)

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CPS seeks public's views on draft gender deception legal guidance

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has launched a public consultation on updated guidance regarding gender deception in rape cases and serious sexual assault cases. The guidance considers the potential impact on consent in situations where a suspect's gender identity differs from the sex to which they were assigned at birth.

Read more: [**CPS seeks public's views on draft 'Deception as to Gender' legal guidance | Crown Prosecution Service**](#)

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The Children's Commissioner requests information on all strip searches of children by police forces in England and Wales

Under her statutory powers, the Children's Commissioner has requested further information from all police forces in England and Wales on their practice regarding strip searches of children. It follows the serious case review relating to Child Q, as well as the August 2022 publication of data from the Metropolitan Police Service, which showed that the Met conducted strip searches on 650 children between 10 and 17 years of age between 2018 and 2020. The Children's Commissioner expressed concern about racial disparities and reports that some searches were conducted without an appropriate adult present.

The information is being requested to reassure the Children's Commissioner that the issues around Child Q are not more widespread. An analysis will be published early in 2023.

Read more: [**The Children's Commissioner requests information on all strip searches of children by police forces in England and Wales | The Children's Commissioner**](#) and [**Strip search of children by the Metropolitan Police Service - new analysis by the Children's Commissioner for England | Westlaw**](#)

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In focus

Utility warrants of entry: Update

The power for magistrates to issue a utility warrant was created under the Rights of Entry (Gas and Electricity Boards) Act 1954. Gas and electricity suppliers have rights to enter premises to carry out certain work, such as installing, disconnecting or inspecting pay-as-you-go metres. On occasion, utility suppliers may require police support in order to be able to execute the warrant.

Since 2019, courts have been issuing warrants in a digital (PDF) format, which can be applied for over the phone. The reasoning behind the new style of warrant is to allow companies to produce the warrant on a tablet or other device if needed, instead of having to possess a paper copy. The original digital warrant was extremely sparse and stated only the very barest essentials, leading some officers to doubt its validity. It has now been updated and sets out the following details.

- The rights of entry. Utility companies and their agents are entitled to:
 - inspect fittings, pipes, lines or plant
 - ascertain the quantity of fuel conveyed to the premises
 - cut off or discontinue the supply
 - ascertain whether the supply has been reconnected following disconnection
 - remove or replace any meter or other fitting
 - do any other such thing for which they have a right of entry under Schedule 2B of the Gas Act 1986 or Schedule 6 of the Electricity Act 1986
- The nature of the warrant (permitting entry).
- The specific location that the bearer can enter.
- The name of the magistrate and certification of granting the warrant.
- The heading has been amended to 'Rights of Entry Warrant: Rights of Entry (Gas and Electricity Boards) Act 1954, section 2'.

As stated above, suppliers require police support on occasion to execute these warrants. The College has been contacted by His Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS), who seek to update officers on the new format and clarify that wet ink signatures are not required on any warrant.

In order to dispel potential uncertainty for forces surrounding the validity of these digital warrants, the College can confirm that if the warrant contains the bullet points above, whether in paper or digital form, it is a valid warrant and can be enforced. There is no requirement for a wet signature, which is also true for search warrants.

The hope is that the new style of warrant should make it clearer what a warrant of entry would allow officers of the utility company to do, and that it should reassure police officers who attend to prevent a breach of the peace that the bearers are entitled to enter and carry out their activities.

Please share this information with colleagues.

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Statement of changes in Immigration Rules

The Home Office has published a statement of the changes to the Immigration Rules under the provisions of the Immigration Act 1971, sections 1(4) and 3(2). The update includes changes made to deliver the temporary permission to stay for victims of human trafficking or slavery policy, provisions regarding travel bans and the abolition of the police registration scheme.

Read more: [**Statement of changes to the immigration rules: HC719, 18 October 2022 | GOV.UK**](#)

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Policing

News

Football World Cup in Qatar

Supporters with football banning orders in England and Wales are prohibited from travelling to Qatar for the football World Cup. These measures will be implemented to prevent disruptive and violent football fans from travelling to the event.

From 10 November 2022, 1,308 people subject to a football banning order were required to hand in their UK passports to the police until the end of the tournament. Failure to comply, or attempts to enter Qatar or neighbouring countries, will result in six months in prison and an unlimited fine. After the final match of the tournament, their passports will be returned. If they wish to travel abroad, they must seek permission and undergo thorough checks. During the tournament, UK and Qatari police officers will gather intelligence. Fans who cause disruption risk arrest or being handed a football banning order when they return home.

More broadly, over 2,100 arrests were made and 516 new football banning orders were issued in the 2021/22 season. This is part of a larger effort to crack down on violence and disorder at football matches, which includes banning orders being extended to cover women's football and football-related online hate crime, as well as the imminent extension to Class A drug offences at matches.

Read more: [**Disruptive fans banned from World Cup in Qatar | GOV.UK**](#)

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Women in policing

There are now 50,364 women serving in 43 police forces – 34.9% of the overall police force – which constitutes more women than ever before. Of the recruits hired since April 2020, 42.5% (13,326) are women.

Read more: [**Over 50,000 female police officers now in forces | GOV.UK**](#)

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HMICFRS inspection: The Metropolitan Police Service

Following a recent inspection, His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) graded the Metropolitan Police Service's performance in nine areas. According to the report, the force performed well in one area, performed adequately in two areas, needs improvement in five areas, and is inadequate in one area (responding to the public). Specifically, HMICFRS believes that improvements are needed in the areas of investigating crimes, protecting vulnerable individuals, managing offenders, creating a positive work environment and using resources effectively. In June 2022, the Met became part of the HMICFRS Engage monitoring process, which provides additional scrutiny and support to help forces improve.

Read more: [**Concerns raised over Metropolitan Police's performance | HMICFRS**](#)

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Home burglaries in England and Wales

Police chiefs in England and Wales have committed to attending all home burglaries. This follows the publication of an assessment produced by the College of Policing on effective measures for solving burglaries. Some forces already have a policy of attending all home burglaries. Others follow where it has been established that there are evidential lines of enquiry or where victims are vulnerable or elderly. HMICFRS will take new standards set by the College into account in determining the efficiency and effectiveness of forces.

Read more: [**All home burglaries in England and Wales will be attended by the police | NPCC**](#)

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Support for victims of terrorism

The Home Office detailed support for people who have been affected by the incident in Dover on 30 October 2022 or any other terrorist incident. This support includes guidance for first responders who have been affected. This page contains information on where to seek advice and assistance following a terrorist attack. It also provides details of official helplines and support services available to victims, survivors, witnesses, family members and all others affected.

Read more: [**Support and advice for first responders victims of terrorism | GOV.UK**](#)

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County lines: Seven-day intensification week

The term ‘county lines’ is used to describe drug dealing using mobile phones to deliver drugs from large cities to towns and rural areas. Runners deliver drugs through county lines, which are operated by ‘line holders’. Violence and exploitation are common results of the drug distribution system.

Police forces have closed 172 county lines used by criminals to sell drugs across the country during a seven-day long intensification week, an increase of 65% from the previous intensification week, when 104 lines were closed.

Between 3 October and 9 October 2022, the intensification week consisted of the following activities:

- 1,360 people were arrested
- 321 weapons were seized, including 43 firearms and 228 bladed weapons
- over £2.7m worth of Class A and Class B drugs were seized
- 9kg of crack cocaine, 15.3kg of heroin, 48.1kg of cocaine and 69kg of cannabis were seized
- £987,562 in cash was seized

A five-million-pound allocation from the Home Office was announced in September 2022 to support young people and their families in the coming three years.

Read more: [**Police forces shut down over 170 drug lines during national operation targeting county line drug dealing | NPCC**](#)

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Reports

House of Lords Library: Violent crime, burglaries and gang activity

This article from the House of Lords Library presents statistics and information on violent crime, burglaries and gang activity in England and Wales. It also discusses the government's efforts to address these issues, including its 'Beating crime plan', and its efforts to increase police numbers.

Read more: [**Violent crime, burglaries and gang activity | House of Lords Library**](#)

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Interim report on misconduct

An interim report presents the evidence to support Baroness Casey of Blackstock's conclusions about the current misconduct system in the Metropolitan Police Service. These conclusions are set out in Baroness Casey's letter to the Commissioner of the Met.

Through analysis, the report identified eight key issues, including that:

- the Met takes too long to resolve misconduct cases officers
- staff do not believe that action will be taken when concerns around conduct are raised
- allegations relating to sexual misconduct and other discriminatory behaviours are less likely than other misconduct allegations to result in a 'case to answer' decision
- the Met does not fully support local professional standards units to deal with misconduct effectively

Read more: [**Baroness Casey review interim report on misconduct | Metropolitan Police Service**](#)

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The Police Foundation seeks ways to improve police-public interactions with technology

The Police Foundation seeks to improve interactions between the police and the public through technology. Policing is often perceived as primarily consisting of face-to-face interactions. In reality, it has not been immune to social changes and technological shifts. For example, the use of online reporting, body-worn video and live chat is now commonplace. In this vein, the Police Foundation is researching how technology can enhance public trust and confidence in the police. More specifically, it is investigating the following.

- How to distil lessons about police contact and public confidence in the digital era.
- How the profile of police-public contact is changing and the potential implications of this for public confidence.
- How police forces are responding to the challenge of improving trust and confidence, as well as the strategies, approaches and tools they are employing.
- How technology is helping to transform public contact in UK policing, as well as overseas and in other relevant sectors.
- The potential opportunities, challenges, and limitations of technology to improve public contact and the police-public relationship over years and decades to come.

Read More: [**Contact and confidence improving police public interactions with technology | Police Foundation**](#)

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Criminal justice news

Types of Cases Guidance 2022

This Parole Board published the Types of Cases Guidance. It has been revised to reflect:

- the PCSC
- the amended Secretary of State 2022 Directions on the transfer of indeterminate sentence prisoners to open conditions
- the Parole Board Rules 2019 (as amended)
- Johnson R v Secretary of State for Justice [2022] EWHC 1282 (Admin)
- the review of the Parole Board's paused policies

The guidance highlights where the powers and procedures of the Board are affected by the type of sentence that the prisoner is serving. It also details the process-related issues relevant to specific types of cases.

Read more: [Parole board types of cases guidance 2022 | GOV.UK](#)

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Humanitarian, development and peacebuilding work overseas

In response to a recommendation by the Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation, the CPS published guidance for humanitarian, development and peacebuilding work overseas. The guidance provides information on proscription and terrorist-financing offences. It also includes a framework for public interest considerations that would be made when considering whether to prosecute.

The CPS has never prosecuted an individual from an international non-governmental organisation (NGO) for terrorism-related offences. Ultimately, organisations working overseas must ensure that their activity complies with UK law and the laws of the country they are operating in, and must take all reasonable steps to reduce the risk of non-compliance.

Read more: [**New legal guidance for humanitarian, development and peacebuilding work overseas | Crown Prosecution Service**](#)

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Ministry of Justice and the Criminal Bar Association reach an agreement

The Ministry of Justice and the Criminal Bar Association have been holding discussions on a package of proposals, and have now agreed to a fee uplift. The recent fee uplift for new cases claimable by litigators and advocates will also apply to the vast majority of existing cases in the backlog, where the main hearing takes place after the commencement of the Statutory Instrument on 31 October 2022. This equates to an additional investment of £28 million in the fee scheme for advocates and £14 million in the fee scheme for litigators over the Spending Review period.

How to claim the new fees

Increases will automatically be applied to ongoing cases where the following both apply:

- representation orders were granted between 17 September 2020 and 29 September 2022
- the main hearing takes place on, or after, 31 October 2022

This applies to Schedules 1 and 2 of the Criminal Legal Aid (Remuneration) (Amendment) (Amendment) (No.2) Regulations 2022, so it will only affect claims made under the litigators' and advocates' graduated fee schemes.

Read more: [Extension of fee rises after MoJ and CBA deal | GOV.UK](#)

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Digital Proceeds of Crime Act forms

New digital Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 (POCA) forms are now available that include updated claiming rates. The forms can be used for all POCA claims, including those where a representation order has been made on, or after, 30 September 2022.

Read more: [Updated digital Proceeds of Crime Act forms | GOV.UK](#)

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Free legal advice for victims of domestic abuse

With the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, the government committed to introducing new Domestic Abuse Protection Notices and Domestic Abuse Protection Orders for domestic abuse victims. Upon implementation, police will be able to issue Protection Notices to provide immediate protection for victims (for example, requiring the perpetrator to leave the victim's home). To provide long-term protection, a court may order the perpetrator to undergo behaviour change programs or wear an electronic tag. Victims protected by these will now have access to free expert legal advice and representation in court.

The government will also invest an extra £10 million a year in housing legal aid, so that thousands more people can access legal advice if they risk eviction.

Read more: [**Free legal advice expanded to help thousands more people at risk | GOV.UK**](#)

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Harassment at abortion clinics

MPs voted in favour of proposals to create 150-metre buffer zones outside abortion clinics, as well as to prohibit protesters from harassing clinic staff by standing outside. Protesters who harass women while they are attending clinics may face up to six months in jail if they are found guilty. It will take several stages before the Public Order Bill 2022-23 becomes law, but this amendment was approved by MPs by 297 votes to 110.

Read more: [**Public Order Bill 2022 \(HC Bill 8\) | Westlaw**](#)

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Offenders are subject to drug testing to reduce reoffending

From 3 October 2022, offenders in supervised probation hotels will face random drug testing. During mandatory drug screening, offenders are tested for 14 different types of drugs. Heroin addicts, for example, will need to take a urine test up to once a week if their drug habits are directly connected to their crimes. The purpose of this is to prevent further crimes from arising from their addiction. Other offenders will be tested at least twice while being supervised in approved premises. Those who test positive will be required to undergo intensive drug treatment or face being recalled to prison.

Read more: [**Offenders to face mandatory testing to cut drug-fuelled crime | GOV.UK**](#)

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Criminal justice reports

Fraud and the Justice System: Fourth Report of Session 2022-23

In this report, the Justice Committee concludes that prioritising traditional forms of crime has left it ill-equipped to deal with the continuing rise in fraud.

The committee invites the government to modernise how fraud is tackled and to ensure that such crime is given greater priority and resourcing across the justice sector. The report details how this might help to boost prevention, investigation and prosecution, and also improve the treatment of victims.

The report calls for a victim-focused approach that ensures that people know where to report cases of fraud, and are kept up-to-date and supported as criminal investigations progress.

Read more: [**Justice response inadequate to meet the scale of fraud epidemic – Committees | UK Parliament**](#)

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Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse

The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse has published its final statutory report. The report sets out the main findings about how state and non-state institutions failed in their duty of care to protect children from sexual abuse and exploitation, and also makes recommendations for reform. As a result of the inquiry, the report makes 20 proposals. These final recommendations complement the 87 proposals contained in the previously published investigation reports (including six that have been restated).

This report focuses on recommendations made by the inquiry to help protect children. These recommendations are based on the belief that protecting children against sexual abuse needs more priority and attention, politically and across society. In England and Wales, child protection authorities have been established with national public awareness campaigns to ensure that the spotlight remains focused on preventing child sexual exploitation.

The recommendations include:

- cabinet-level ministerial positions with responsibility for children, to provide senior leadership and increased priority within the government
- a redress scheme to address the impact of past failures to protect children from sexual abuse and to provide support to those
- a revised law that will require those who work in regulated activities or who hold positions of trust to report child sexual abuse
- a public awareness campaign to inform the public about what they should do if they suspect, or know, that a child is being sexually abused

Read more: [**The Report of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse | IICSA**](#)

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Sentences of imprisonment for public protection

An article from the House of Lords Library discusses the concept of imprisonment for public protection (IPP) sentences. IPP sentences, which were introduced by the Criminal Justice Act 2003, were indeterminate sentences that could be given to offenders who had been convicted of one or more specified violent severe or sexual offences (offences carrying a maximum sentence of 10 years or more), where the court considered that the crime did not merit a life sentence. Although the IPP sentence was abolished in 2012, thousands of people subject to such a sentence are still in prison.

Read more: [**Sentences of imprisonment for public protection | House of Lords Library and IPP sentences: Third Report of Session 2022-23 | Westlaw**](#)

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Gender-based violence: The needs of migrant women

The Equality and Social Justice Committee published a report on gender-based violence, in which they say that the Welsh Government's domestic violence strategy could better address the needs of migrant women and children. According to the report, migrant women experiencing domestic abuse and sexual violence are often discouraged from seeking help because they do not understand their rights or do not know where to turn for assistance. It recommended that the Welsh Government should amend its Strategy on Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence to enhance the support available to migrant women. The committee warns that these women, who are already subjected to disproportionate levels of gender-based violence and abuse, could suffer further abuse or become subject to human trafficking.

Read more: [**Migrant women subject to gender-based violence and abuse are often hidden in plain sight according to Senedd report | Welsh Parliament**](#)

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About the College

We're the professional body for the police service in England and Wales.

Working together with everyone in policing, we share the skills and knowledge officers and staff need to prevent crime and keep people safe.

We set the standards in policing to build and preserve public trust and we help those in policing develop the expertise needed to meet the demands of today and prepare for the challenges of the future.

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