

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Over the next couple of weeks we'll be asking:

11/4/16 - Do you think 20mph speed limits in towns and cities help to improve road safety?

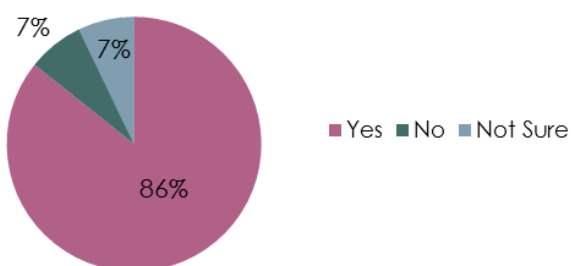
18/4/16 - Is wildlife crime a problem in your area?

25/4/16 - Do you think stop and search powers are a useful resource in reacting to and reducing crime?

2/5/16 - Do you think Scotland still has a sectarian problem?

QUESTION OF THE WEEK - RESULTS

Do you think CCTV Monitoring Suites should be required to undertake an internal audit to evidence they comply with the surveillance camera code of Practice?



GET IN TOUCH



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SCSN Manager's Column - Our new interactive website

In the last edition of Safety NET-works, you might have read about the launch of our new website. As well as all our old favourites; training and events, briefing papers, practice case studies and publications, the site is now a lot more interactive and includes some great new features.



If, like me, you have a Twitter phobia you can now follow us directly from the SCSN website without needing to have a Twitter account. It's a great way to find out about current campaigns and events; engage in policy discussions and share practice.

My favourite addition to the site is the 'Question of the Week' feature - a fun and simple way to gain a quick sample of opinion across a range of topics, government consultations and areas of interest. Our first question 'Do you think CCTV Monitoring Suites should be required to undertake an internal audit to evidence they comply with the surveillance camera code of Practice' received 14 responses. Hopefully we can build on this over the coming weeks and develop the Question of the Week into a tool for engagement and soliciting views.

The website will continue to develop over the coming months and I would ask you to be patient as we try to improve our service. We would however welcome feedback on developments so far, or indeed things you would like to see included in the future.

Any feedback or comments should be sent to info@scsn.org.uk

Social Media and SCSN

The aim of nearly every organisation, no matter who they are or what industry they are in, is to effectively communicate with their audiences, whilst simultaneously reaching new ones.


Social media provides an immediate vehicle for 'viral' transmission of information. It allows you to communicate instantly with millions of people and gives each of them the opportunity to spread your message further.

Social media is not a hype and is not going away, but the truth is that social media is not a new invention. It may be a new technological innovation, but it taps into an ancient human impulse. Humans love to talk. We love to see what our family and friends are up to. We love to connect. And that is what social media is all about – connecting.


At SCSN, we have been using social media for a while; however, since July 2015 we have really focused our efforts, producing more content and engaging with more people and organisations and have seen some really positive results.

Positive results are always encouraging, they enable us to see that what we are doing is having an impact and that we are reaching our target audience. We also know however, that there is a lot that we can do to continue to grow our presence on social media. Over the year, we will be continuing to develop our social media strategy, ensuring that it is aligned to our overall organisational strategy – by doing this we can ensure that we are using social media in the best possible way to enable us to achieve our aims and really meet our members' needs.

So if you haven't already, why not check out our social media accounts;



@scsn2



ScottishCommunitySafetyNetwork

Not on Twitter? – don't worry, our new website will give you a little preview of what we are getting up to on there so you can always stay connected.



60 seconds with Mark Henderson from Network Rail

Tell us a little bit about your job with Network Rail

My official title is Senior Communication Manager for Community Engagement, it is my job to devise and deliver community safety strategies across Scotland, this involves everything from engaging with local communities to promoting projects.

What has been your most interesting job and why?

During my time with the Scottish Prison Service, I was seconded to the Lockerbie Trial in Holland for four months as part of a small team located within the purpose built temporary prison.

Why do you think partnership working is important?

Partnership working allows you to draw on the skills, talent and strengths of other organisations; this can often lead to improved services, better engagement and improved access.

How have the various Network Rail grants benefited communities across Scotland?

The Network Rail grants have supported a wide range of local projects covering everything from victim support to mental health services. People can often dismiss small projects, but I have seen first-hand the amazing work that they do and the impact that they can have. People often think that small amounts of money can't possibly have any impact, but I have seen how even with limited resources, projects, groups and organisations are doing brilliant things.

If you could only share one safety message about railways what would it be?

It is important that we all respect the railway and adhere to the safety measures in place with a view to ensuring that we are all afforded the right to a safe and pleasant

journey. We work extremely hard as an industry to ensure our key messages are delivered to a wide audience as part of our community engagement strategy and the EGIIP (Edinburgh to Glasgow Improvement Programme) project is a good example of this. We are installing overheads along the line of route which will provide faster, more frequent and greener journeys though will result in 25,000 volts of electricity running through the overhead cables which, in turn, increases the risk of misuse – it is therefore vital that we take the opportunity to educate our lineside neighbours whilst also promoting the benefits the project will bring.

How would you describe working alongside SCSN?

SCSN have really helped Network Rail to access the right people in organisations and local authorities across Scotland. Without their involvement it would have been much more difficulty for us to engage with communities and get real community buy-in.

What is your favourite train journey in Scotland?

We are very fortunate in Scotland to have so many beautiful journeys. The West Highland Line is breath-taking and the journey up the east coast takes in some stunning views, although the new Borders line is a really beautiful scenic route - too many to choose from!

To find out more about the community projects Network Rail has helped to support look out for our 'Safer Communities and Lasting Legacies with Network Rail' which will be released soon.



Using Intelligence Data: A guide for partnerships

Information sharing is key to the delivery of better, more efficient public services that are coordinated around the needs of communities and individuals. It is essential to direct early intervention and preventative work, and to effectively tackle local community safety issues and safeguard individuals.

The sharing of data and intelligence is key to Community Safety Partnerships (CSP) work and there is evidence through the CSP self-assessment toolkit that partnerships are scoring highly in relation to having robust data sharing practices. However it is important that the providers of data continue to have trust and confidence in the partnerships ability to use the data appropriately, and that they are

compliant with government guidance and legislative requirements.

We are pleased to launch this guidance document which aims to support partnerships to ensure that data is shared, used and stored in compliance with existing legislation to support the above principles. To complement this guidance pack and to support partnership to meet the training requirement, SCSN has also produced an eLearning course which is suitable for all partners and can be accessed via the SCSN website;

www.safercommunitiesscotland.org

The 2016 National Community Safety Convention (6 September 2016) will have a lunchtime workshop incorporating the principles and advice within the Using intelligence data guidance. Information about booking your place will be available soon.

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY	
26-28 April	Evidence Based Strategic Planning Modules 2-4, Glasgow
24 May	Evaluation Training, Perth
28 June	Evidence Based Strategic Planning Module 5 - Advanced Analysis and Horizon Scanning, Edinburgh
29 June	Evidence Based Strategic Planning Module 6 - Advanced Priority Setting and Action Plans, Edinburgh

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Additional funding to support participatory budgeting in Scotland

A £2 million investment is enabling greater roll out of a programme which is giving people the power to make decisions on spending in their local area.

The new Community Choices Fund aims to build on the £500,000 invested in participatory budgeting projects in 14 local authority areas in 2015/16 and the further initiatives taking place across another six areas.

Community Empowerment Minister Marco Biagi said,

"By creating this new Community Choices Fund and increasing our investment to £2 million we are putting our money where our mouth is on community empowerment. Every community in Scotland has different needs and challenges. We want to see more decision-making handed to local people- especially in choosing local spending priorities. The roll out of our pilot project will massively expand opportunities for councils, communities and public bodies to get people involved."

More information about participatory budgeting is available at <http://pbscotland.scot/>

Call to action to reduce drowning



On 29 February, UK Transport Minister Robert Goodwin launched a national drowning prevention strategy that aims to halve the number of fatal incidents on or near water.

The document, created in response to the World Health Organisation's report on global drowning, is the first drowning prevention strategy within the UK.

About 400 people drown and a further 200 take their own lives in our waters in the UK every year that equates to one accidental drowning every 20 hours. Activities in and around water are now safer than ever, but

44% of drowning fatalities happen to people who had no intention of entering the water.

The UK strategy highlights the areas that organisations need to focus on to make a difference and asks for support in contributing towards a national plan.

George Rawlinson, Chair of the National Water Safety Forum commented,

“Hardly a day goes past without some form of human tragedy taking place in UK waters. Around four-hundred people accidentally drown each year in the UK, this is unacceptable. The organisations represented through the National Water Safety Forums have united in a common aim – to prevent history repeating itself in this tragic way, year after year, and to use our resources in the most effective way to halve accidental drowning fatalities in the UK by 2026. It's an ambitious target, but well worth striving for.”

For more information please visit <http://www.nationalwatersafety.org.uk/>

Criminal Proceedings in Scotland 2014-15



According to National Statistics published by Scotland's Chief Statistician, the total number of people convicted in Scottish courts increased by less than one per cent to 105,607 in the year to 2014-15.

This is the second consecutive annual increase in convictions and is in contrast to the downward trend of the previous six years. The increase was driven by a rise in the number of Breach of the Peace convictions, but offset by a decline in motor vehicle offence convictions.

Other figures in the publications show that the number of custodial sentences fell by one per

cent to 13,977 in 2014-15 and are now at their lowest level in ten years. In 2014-15 the average custodial sentence length, excluding life sentences was around nine and a half months – this is three per cent shorter than in 2013-14, but 25 per cent longer than in 2005-06.

Over the last ten years the people convicted in the courts have been getting older. In 2005-06, 18 year olds had the highest conviction rate at 102 convictions per 1,000 population whereas in 2014-15 the highest rate was for those aged between 26 and 30 years old, standing at 51 convictions per 1,000 population.

For more information and read the statistics in full please visit bit.ly/criminal-proceedings-in-scotland

APPLY TODAY

Closing date for entries for the 2016 Safer Communities Awards is Friday 29 April.

Don't miss out on a fabulous opportunity to let your project shine. Apply today: bit.ly/Safer-Communities-Awards

Funding to develop ground-breaking violence against women toolkit

The Scottish Government is teaming up with the University of Strathclyde to develop a ground-breaking violence against women toolkit to stamp out these behaviours when they happen at home, at work or on university and college campuses.

Statistics show that stalking, harassment, sexual assault and domestic violence are significant issues facing Scottish women today and college age women can be at greater risk, with one in four reporting unwanted sexual behaviour during their studies.

The university has been awarded £300,000 for the first year of an innovative two year project

to produce a resource for all Scottish Higher Education Institutes as part of Equally Safe, the Government's strategy for preventing and eradicating violence against women and girls.

Dr Veena O'Halloran, Director of Student Experience and Enhancement Services at the University of Strathclyde said,

"Universities have a key role to play in helping prevent all forms of gender-based violence, wherever it may occur in our communities. We are delighted with the announcement of funding for this innovative, collaborative project. By working together with other universities, we can ensure the higher education sector contributes substantially to Scotland's progressive, national approach to the long term prevention of gender-based violence."

Check us out on social media



/ScottishCommunitySafetyNetwork



@scsn2

Increased focus on tackling wildlife crime

Recommendations made by the wildlife crime penalties review group have been accepted by Environment Minister Aileen McLeod. Subject to the necessary legislative steps, this could mean fines of up to £40,000 and 12 months imprisonment for certain offences.

Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform, Dr McLeod said,

“Wildlife crime has no place in modern Scotland, this is why I have decided to increase the maximum available penalties to bring wildlife offences into line with other environmental crimes.

It is more important we have appropriate penalties that deter criminality, but also reflect the impact these crimes can have on our environment and Scotland’s reputation as a wildlife tourist destination.”

More information can be found at bit.ly/wildlife-crime-scotland

Launch of new Victims’ Code for Scotland

Minister for Community Safety and Legal Affairs Paul Wheelhouse marked European Day of Victims of Crime by launching a new Victims’ Code for Scotland.

The Code clearly and simply sets out the rights of victims of crime, such as the right to interpretation and translation and information about the release of offenders.

Mr Wheelhouse MSP said,

“Anyone who has been a victim of crime should have confidence that they will receive the right support and advice through the

criminal justice process, which is why we have introduced the Victims’ Code for Scotland. We have long recognised the need to provide the right help, information and support to those affected by crime as this plays a key part in a modern justice system that is fair, accessible and efficient for all.

The new Victims’ Code for Scotland will build on progress already made by clearly and simply setting out the rights of victims in one place. By ensuring their interests remain at the heart of the criminal justice system we can help victims continue to feel supported and informed at every stage of the process.”

The Victims’ Code for Scotland can be accessed in English and other languages online by visiting www.mygov.scot/victim-

More officers trained to help prevent hate crime

Police Scotland is training more than 60 officers to work with the country’s Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) community to help prevent hate crime.

The new training, which is being delivered by Equality Network, Scotland’s national LGBTI equality and human rights charity, on behalf of the Equality and Human Rights Commission, aims to help address this issue and increase public confidence in Police Scotland around the country.

Once they have completed the training,

officers will become part of a new network of LGBTI Liaison Officers who can be contacted by the public. The officers will also be able to help and advise their colleagues across Police Scotland on LGBTI issues.

Superintendent Davie Duncan of Police Scotland’s Safer Communities Department said,

“Tackling hate crime is a priority for Police Scotland. Research and studies show that hate crime against the LGBTI community is often under reported. We hope that these specially trained officers will encourage more LGBTI people to come forward with the confidence in Police Scotland to help reverse this trend.”

Crime and Justice Survey reveals fear of crime is falling

According to the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey 2014-15 the majority of adults (74%) felt very safe or fairly safe walking alone after dark, up from 66% in 2008/09 and 72% in 2012-13.

The likelihood of becoming a victim of crime in Scotland has also fallen to 14.5%, meaning one in seven adults are now at risk, lower than the equivalent in England and Wales. The estimate number of crimes also fell by around a third since 2008-9 from 1,045,000 to 688,000 in 2014-15.

Other key findings include;

- One in seven adults were a victim of crime in 2014-15 compared to one in six adults in 2012-13 and one in five adults in 2008-09
- People's perception that they could be a victim of crime continues to be higher than the actual risk – for example nearly

- four per cent of people their vehicle being stolen while the risk is 0.1 per cent
- Confidence in police remains strong, with 70 per cent of people reporting confidence in police to investigate incidents
- Although the risk of crime in deprived areas has fallen from 26% in 2008-09 to 21% in 2014-15 it remains higher than in the rest of Scotland

Cabinet Secretary for Justice, Michael Matheson said,

"It is extremely encouraging to see that the risk of becoming a victim of crime in Scotland continues to fall. The country is becoming a safer place thanks to the continued efforts of our community and law enforcement agencies and I am glad this message seems to be getting through to the public, with those surveyed claiming to feel safer in their neighbourhood than in previous years."

To read the survey results in full, please visit bit.ly/crime-and-justice-survey

New £17 million CashBack funding announced



Some of the country's most disadvantaged young people will benefit from a further £17 million seized from criminals.

The money will be used to provide activities and opportunities as part of the next phase of CashBack for Communities which will run from 1 April 2017 until 21 March 2020 – with applications for funding opening early in the summer.

Justice Secretary Michael Matheson said,

"I am extremely pleased to be able to announce a further £17 million of funding for

the unique CashBack for Communities programme. This substantial amount will go a long way to changing the lives of our young people and it seems only fitting that this money seized from criminals who seek to peddle misery in some of our most disadvantaged communities is reinvested back in to those same areas."

Application packs will be available from early May.

For more information please visit the CashBack for Communities [website](http://www.cashbackforcommunities.org) (www.cashbackforcommunities.org) or [Twitter feed](https://twitter.com/CashBackScot) (<https://twitter.com/CashBackScot>)



Investment to help domestic abuse survivors into work

An investment of £190,000 will help women who have suffered violence or abuse at the hands of a partner to get back into work.

The funding will allow Scottish Women's Aid, in partnership with local domestic abuse services, to work directly with women to give them the opportunity to get back into the job market and ensure that they receive vital support and

guidance.

Dr Marsha Scott, Chief Executive of Scottish Women's Aid said,

“Scottish Women's Aid is absolutely delighted to receive funding for ‘Building Equality: Employability and Domestic Abuse.’ For the first time, we are seeing serious efforts to move beyond crisis interventions to real prevention by addressing the drivers of women's inequality.”

New legislation aims to strengthen community justice

The Scottish Parliament has passed a Bill aimed at strengthening the community justice system. The Community Justice (Scotland) Act supports the Scottish Government's commitment to significant reform of penal policy in Scotland; aimed at reducing reoffending and moving away from ineffective short term prison sentences, in favour of more effective community sentences.

The Act gives responsibility for planning and monitoring community justice services to local partners, and also creates a national body to provide leadership, promote innovation and give assurance on improved outcomes for Scotland's communities.

Minister for Community Justice and Legal Affairs, Paul Wheelhouse said,

“Our vision for a fairer justice system in Scotland reflects the values of a modern progressive nation. We are working towards a position where prison sentences, and particularly short term sentences, could be used less frequently, with a stronger emphasis on effective community sentences to address the underlying causes of offending and being able to demonstrate their effectiveness to communities. I believe the proposals contained within the Community Justice Act will instil our communities and Scotland's judiciary with greater confidence in community justice, through stronger leadership and better strategic direction.”

New campaign urges drivers ‘In town, slow down’



The Scottish Government and Road Safety Scotland have launched a new campaign to raise awareness that simple mistakes in town centres can have serious consequences.

The In Town Slow Down campaign will target drivers in Glasgow, Aberdeen and Dundee and will see impactful and creative chalk stencils adorn city centre car parks alongside a multi-channel advertising campaign in the national media.

The campaign will clearly communicate and reinforce the importance of driving at an appropriate speed in our town and cities. For more information please visit dontriskit.info/in-town-slow-down/

- You are seven times more likely to kill a pedestrian if you hit them at 30mph than 20mph
- 95% of injury accidents involving pedestrians happen in built up areas
- Less than half of drivers look out for pedestrians at junctions
- Half of pedestrian casualties occur at junctions
- Adult pedestrian casualties peak between 4-6pm on weekdays and between midnight and 2am at weekends

Consultation on a draft code of practice for stop and search



The Scottish Government is seeking views on whether any changes should be made to the draft Code of Practice for Stop and Search before it comes into force.

The Code of Practice on Stop and Search will set out rules and guidance on when and how

Stop and Search is used, how the search would be carried out and the type of information that should be recorded.

This consultation will run until 15 July 2016 and can be accessed by visiting the [Scottish Government Consultation Hub](http://bit.ly/stop-and-search-consultation) (bit.ly/stop-and-search-consultation).

Respondents are asked to consider the current draft [Code of Practice on Stop and Search](http://bit.ly/Code-of-Practice) contained within the consultation paper (bit.ly/Code-of-Practice).

Consultation on seatbelt requirements on dedicated school transport



Seatbelts play an important role in keeping people safe whilst travelling in motor vehicles and the Scottish Government has had long-standing intentions to introduce legislation which would require councils to stipulate, within any dedicated school transport contracts with bus operators that the vehicles used must be fitted with seatbelts. Dedicated school transport in the consultation refers to

vehicles provided by the council or independent/grant-aided school provider for transporting pupils to and from school at the start and end of the school day.

In order to help inform and shape any future legislation, the Scottish Government is seeking views from stakeholders with an interest, particularly those in local authorities responsible for education and transport, bus companies, those involved in education, schools, parenting groups and parents themselves on whether seatbelts should become a legal requirement within councils' dedicated school bus contracts.

The consultation is open until 3 June 2016. For more information and to respond to the consultation please visit the [Scottish Government Consultation Hub](http://bit.ly/seatbelt-requirements) (bit.ly/seatbelt-requirements).

– SHARE YOUR –
NEWS

If you would like to include an article, request information or share good practice in our newsletter, please get in touch. Email info@scsn.org.uk

Closing dates for submission are;

26 April for the May edition
27 May for the June edition
27 June for the July edition

Consultation on police powers to search children and young people for alcohol

The Scottish Government is seeking views on whether the police should be given the following search powers;

- The power to search a child or young person under the age of 18 for alcohol, where a constable has reasonable grounds to suspect that the person is under the age of 18 and has alcohol in a public place
- The power to search a person where a constable has reasonable grounds to suspect that the person has alcohol in a public place, and that the person has supplied or intends to supply the alcohol to a person under the age of 18 for consumption in a public place

In March last year, the Scottish Government's Justice Secretary, Michael Matheson asked John Scott QC, Solicitor Advocate, to chair an independent Advisory Group on Stop and Search.

The Advisory Group recommended that non-

statutory (or consensual) Stop and Search should end when a new Stop and Search Code of Practice comes into force next year. From that point on the police will be able to search a person only where they have a specific legal power to do so. In their report, the Advisory Group highlighted a potential legislative gap once consensual search ends, as the police do not currently have a specific legal power to search children and young people for alcohol. However, the Group's members were unable to reach a conclusive view on whether a new search power was desirable or necessary. They therefore recommended that the Scottish Government should carry out this public consultation.

This is a complex issue and the right balance must be struck to ensure that the police have the powers that they need to safeguard and protect the safety and wellbeing of children and young people, while at the same time ensuring that the rights of the individual are protected.

This consultation will be open until 15 July 2016, respondents can access the consultation by visiting the [Scottish Government Consultation Hub](http://bit.ly/alcohol-search-powers) (bit.ly/alcohol-search-powers).

Consultation on age of criminal responsibility

The Scottish Government are seeking views on the principle of raising the age of criminal responsibility from 8 to 12.

The age of criminal responsibility is a significant and complex policy area, which raises sensitivities due to the potential for rare, serious cases involving young children. Children under 12 cannot be prosecuted in court in Scotland, but those aged 8 and over can be referred to the children's hearings system on offence grounds.

The minimum age of prosecution was set at 12 through changes in the Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010, however it has not ended discussions on the issue. In Autumn 2015, the Scottish Government established an Advisory Group to give detailed consideration

to the issues and implications associated with the minimum age of criminal responsibility, and to make sure they could be properly addressed in advance of a consultation. The Advisory Group's report has recommended that the age of criminal responsibility be raised from 8 to 12, and that such a move be accompanied by a number of proposed supporting safeguards.

The consultation runs to the 10 June 2016 and respondents are encouraged to read the Advisory Group [report](http://bit.ly/advisory-group-report) (bit.ly/advisory-group-report) on Age of Criminal Responsibility before responding. Associated documents including [SCRA research](http://bit.ly/SCRA-Research) (bit.ly/SCRA-Research) and the [Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impacts Assessment](http://bit.ly/CRWIA-Report) (bit.ly/CRWIA-Report) provide useful context.

The consultation can be accessed by visiting the [Scottish Government Consultation Hub](http://bit.ly/minimum-age-criminal-responsibility) (bit.ly/minimum-age-criminal-responsibility).



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