



November 2023: Edition 2

The SCSN Media Monitor provides a snapshot of Community Safety related media/press stories from across Scotland, the UK and sometimes internationally.

Some of the stories are not from Scotland, but are included as developments in the rest of the UK and internationally may be relevant to community safety here in Scotland and we hope will be of interest and contribute to sector conversations.

We will only source articles from media/press sources that correspond with our values as an organisation and that refrain from using stigmatising language or images.

Anti-Social Behaviour

Scottish Stories

Bonfire Night violence in Niddrie and Glasgow was organised, say police

Eight police officers have been injured in what police described as organised Bonfire Night clashes in Scotland.

The most serious disorder took place in the Niddrie area of Edinburgh, where a group of 50 youths threw fireworks and petrol bombs at riot police. Police Scotland said officers faced "unprecedented levels of violence". Assistant Chief Constable Tim Mairs said the actions of adults caught on camera directing children to commit crimes was tantamount to "child abuse". - Read more [here](#).

Arrests made over Bonfire Night disorder

Eight police officers suffered minor injuries in Edinburgh and Glasgow on Sunday, and incidents were reported in other parts of Scotland. Community Safety Minister Siobhan Brown told MSPs that more arrests were expected in the coming days. Justice Secretary Angela Constance has said she is "open to discussion" about a ban on fireworks. She said ministers lacked the powers for a ban but that she was "open-minded" about the idea. - Read more [here](#).

UK Wide Stories

'We go to work to serve customers, not to be abused'

Jo Crumplin, a team leader at a convenience store in Northumberland, says she and her staff experience threatening, abusive behaviour from customers week in, week out. "I've been told, 'I hope you get cancer and die,'" she says. Some two in five retail workers face abuse from customers on a regular basis, new research suggests. The Retail Trust, the charity behind the research, said that staff were being shouted at, spat on or hit. - Read more [here](#).

Road Safety

Scottish Stories

E-bike legislation 'a must' says Scots motoring expert

Italian track rider Simone Consonni's [world](#) championships was brought to an abrupt end after a collision with one. He left Glasgow with a broken collarbone rather than a medal after colliding with an e-bike laden with panniers on a cycle path. - Read more [here](#).

Edinburgh to be first Scottish city to ban pavement parking

Edinburgh is set to become the first city in Scotland to completely ban cars from parking on the pavement. Under plans drawn up by the city council, drivers who mount the kerb will face a £100 fine.

Double parking and parking at dropped kerbs will also be banned - although there will be an exemption for delivery drivers. National regulations will come into force on 11 December, with Edinburgh's enforcement to start in January 2024. Across the UK, parking on the pavement is only currently illegal in London, although police can take action if a driver is causing an obstruction. - Read more [here](#).

UK Wide Stories

Illegal e-motorbike riders 'goaded' police, force says

Electric motorbikes may be an increasingly popular way to get around but have been blamed for terrorising neighbourhoods with anti-social and dangerous riding. They have also been involved in two high-profile incidents in Cardiff and Salford in which young people have died. The BBC has been out on patrol with police officers in Bristol to see how they are tackling the rise in illegal use. - Read more [here](#).

E-scooters stuck in legislation limbo as mood sours among Britons

Some champion their environmental impact, others point out potential dangers – but most agree regulation is needed

"The scooter was coming down the road at about 20 or 30mph on the pavement and then bang ... he hit my daughter," said Ashe Medforth. Two years ago, Medforth was parking up his electric cargo bike, which he rode with his five-year-old daughter, Holly, in north London when the collision happened. - Read more [here](#).

Hate Crime/Equalities

Scottish Stories

Inaccurate commentary can leave everyone feeling confused on trans rights - Vic Valentine

Trans people's legal rights have been in and out of the news most months for the last few years, with varying degrees of accuracy.

Understandably, this isn't something most people know much about – why would they! For the overwhelming majority, it is never going to affect them. Yet this lack of knowledge combined with the intense spotlight on trans people's lives and rights can cause real problems. - Read more [here](#).

Scotland plans new misogyny offences to better protect women

NEW offences related to misogynistic conduct are set to be created as part of reforms planned by the Scottish Government.

The Vision for Justice Delivery Plan published on Monday sets out a raft of changes to be introduced by March 2026 including a new Misogyny Bill to better protect women and girls from abuse. - Read more [here](#).

UK Wide Stories

Avon and Somerset chief apologises for treatment of LGBT+ people

A chief constable has apologised for her force's past treatment of the LGBT+ community. Sarah Crew issued the apology on behalf of Avon and Somerset Police as part of Peter Tatchell Foundation's #ApologiseNow campaign. The campaign, which began in June, aims to build better relationships between the LGBT+ community and police forces.

Peter Tatchell praised Ms Crew's apology, describing it as "a proactive initiative to get things even better". Avon and Somerset Police is the seventh force to engage with the campaign. - Read more [here](#).

Antisemitic hate crimes in London up 1,350%, Met police say

There has been a 1,350% increase in hate crimes against Jewish people as the Middle East crisis erupted, the [Metropolitan police](#) have said, with no arrests so far in nine out of 10 alleged offences.

Figures from the Met covering [London](#) show that 218 antisemitic offences were recorded from 1 October to 18 October this year, compared with 15 in the same period last year. Ade Adelekan, the deputy assistant commissioner, described the rise as "significant" and said [Islamophobic offences in London were up](#) 140% over the same period, from 42 in 2022 to 103. - Read more [here](#).

Alcohol & Other Drugs

Nitrous oxide: Laughing gas possession becomes illegal

Possession of nitrous oxide, also known as NOS, has become a criminal offence in the UK. Now categorised as a class C drug, possession of laughing gas for its "psychoactive effects" will carry a sentence of up to two years in prison.

The government says the ban will combat anti-social behaviour and reduce damage to users' health. Experts previously warned against a ban saying it would be disproportionate to the level of harm it causes. - Read more [here](#).

How banning laughing gas will just make things worse (Comment)

Nitrous oxide, more commonly known as [laughing gas](#), has surged in popularity in recent years and is now second only to cannabis as the drug of choice among those aged 16 to 24. The government has announced it is to be banned from the end of this year, becoming a class C drug. The crackdown will see those caught selling the drug facing up to 14 years in prison. Possession of nitrous oxide could result in a two-year prison sentence, an unlimited fine or both. But as an expert in addiction, I believe the government is seriously misguided in its approach. - Read more [here](#).

The UK must prepare for a fentanyl crisis

Fentanyl, a synthetic opioid, was first synthesised in 1959. Like its naturally occurring opioid counterparts, morphine and codeine, it was introduced for pharmaceutical purposes as a potent and effective treatment for severe or long-term pain, and used as an intravenous anaesthetic.

But since then, that legacy has taken a dark turn. Originally intended to relieve people from medical distress, the highly addictive and potent drug has become subject to abuse, leading to a significant increase in fentanyl-related overdose deaths. The crisis is most prominent in the United States, which is currently in the grip of a deadly opioid epidemic. - Read more [here](#).

General Community Safety

Scottish Stories

City of Edinburgh Council declares housing emergency

The City of Edinburgh Council has formally declared a housing emergency. Councillors voted to back a motion by housing convener Jane Meagher highlighting a "crisis" in both the public and private sectors. It cites the city's record homelessness figures along with a severe shortage of social rented homes and spiralling private rental costs. - Read more [here](#).

XL Bullies Scotland: Dogs Trust pauses breed rescues

The [Dogs Trust](#) has paused rescuing XL American Bulldogs in [Scotland](#) after the breed was banned south of the border. The animal charity said it made the "difficult decision" to suspend intake of dogs suspected to be an [XL Bully](#) breed while it awaits an update from the Scottish Government. - Read more [here](#).

UK Wide/International Stories

'Failure to act' on suicide website linked to 50 UK deaths

British authorities failed to act on multiple official warnings about a website promoting suicide that has been connected to at least 50 UK deaths, the BBC has found. The online forum, which we are not naming, is easily accessible to anyone on the open web, including children. Our investigation has identified multiple warnings to government by coroners and a number of police investigations, but the forum still remains active. - Read more [here](#).

France is reckoning with the harms of online porn. But will anything change? (Comment)

Online pornography has become inescapable. Hundreds of millions of people watch it every month. The global industry makes vast amounts of money every year. Countries and governments constantly debate its practices, excesses and dangers, yet nothing meaningful ever happens. Can it be stopped or curtailed? Should it? It is France's turn to agonise over adult content, how it's produced, what it leads to and whether it should be banned. - Read more [here](#).

Longer sentences? Overcrowded UK prisons are already failing society

The UK government plans to impose tougher sentences on those convicted of serious crimes, [it announced](#) via this year's king's speech at the state opening of parliament. Political pundits reacting to the speech [on the BBC](#) immediately questioned the rationale behind potentially putting more people in prison, when UK prisons are struggling to accommodate those already under their purview. - Read more [here](#).

Climate Crisis Corner



Children at 'existential risk' from climate crisis, UK's top paediatrician says

The climate crisis poses an "existential risk" to the health and wellbeing of all children and action to tackle it is needed immediately, Britain's most senior paediatrician has said.

In a major intervention, Dr Camilla Kingdon, the president of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child [Health](#) (RCPCH), said every adolescent was at grave risk from the physical and mental effects of the climate crisis. Healthcare professionals were already seeing its impact first-hand, she added. Air pollution, extreme weather and unprecedented energy costs were having a very real and detrimental effect on millions of children, she said. - Read more [here](#).

How criminalisation is being used to silence climate activists across the world

Guardian investigation finds growing number of countries passing anti-protest laws as part of playbook of tactics to intimidate people peacefully raising the alarm

As wildfires and extreme temperatures rage across the planet, sea temperature records tumble and polar glaciers disappear, the scale and speed of the climate crisis is impossible to ignore. Scientific experts are unanimous that there needs to be an urgent clampdown on fossil fuel production, a major boost in renewable energy and support for communities to rapidly move towards a fairer, healthier and sustainable low-carbon future. - Read more [here](#).

Northern Ireland floods: What can we do to prevent more devastation?

"An exceptional natural event" is how Stormont's Department for Infrastructure described flooding in Downpatrick this week. Also badly affected were Newry, Kilkeel, Portadown and Templepatrick, with many roads closed and waterlogged fields a common sight. As the clean-up begins, we ask: is flooding becoming more common in Northern Ireland and what can we do about it? - Read more [here](#).

Sea-level rise: West Antarctic ice shelf melt 'unavoidable'

Increased melting of West Antarctica's ice shelves is "unavoidable" in the coming decades, a new study has warned. These floating tongues of ice extend from the main ice sheet into the ocean, and play a key role in holding back the glaciers behind. But as ice shelves melt, it can mean that the ice behind speeds up, releasing more into the oceans. - Read more [here](#).

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