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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.

Crime and Justice

Scottish Stories

XL Bully dogs to be banned in Scotland after influx of the breed north of the border

The SNP Government is to push through a ban on XL Bully dogs after Scotland became a dumping ground for the breed.

The u-turn came after his Government was accused of delays in failing to copy the ban in England. The ban in England and Wales means breeding, selling and advertising XL bullies is illegal south of the Border. - Read more [here](#).

3D printed guns found in Scotland for first time

Guns printed on three-dimensional (3D) printers have been found in Scotland for the first time.

Police Scotland recorded two incidents in Argyll and West Dunbartonshire last year, followed by another in Tayside in May, a freedom of information request by 1919 magazine has revealed. The weapons were sent to police laboratories for analysis. - Read more [here](#).

Scotland's justice system in crisis after 70 defence advocates leave for prosecution roles

The departure of 70 defence advocates has led to a crisis in Scotland's justice system.

Legal experts said they've been enticed away from criminal defence work to take up higher paid roles on the prosecution side. Graduates are also being attracted to well paid jobs on offer at the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS), which has led to a lack of new defence lawyers. - Read more [here](#).

Murder rate in Glasgow drops dramatically - but why?

Glasgow, the headlines kept saying, was the "murder capital of Europe".

Two decades or so ago the city routinely came close to the top of the continent's league tables for homicide. So too did Scotland. - Read more [here](#).

Katie Allan's brother on grief, loss and why he's challenging law

"She was more than my sibling, she was my best friend. Six years older than me, she carved a path, and pointed the way forward." Scott Allan has met me in an Edinburgh cafe to talk about his sister, Katie, who killed herself in Polmont Young Offenders' Institution in June 2018. - Read more [here](#).

UK Wide Stories

Idris Elba warns against mandatory jail for carrying knife

Actor Idris Elba says there is no "one size fits all" answer to tackling knife crime, after victims' families urged mandatory jail terms for possession.

Dr Sinead O'Malley, whose daughter was killed in Nottingham last year, has called for compulsory prison sentences. Elba said deterrents were crucial, but that some people carry knives out of fear. It comes as the government announced plans to close "a legal loophole" to ban the sale of zombie knives. - Read more [here](#).

Prisoners with severe mental health needs spending months in isolation, report finds

A prisoner who repeatedly self-harmed spent more than 800 days in segregation, according to a damning report that reveals that jails are using isolation to manage severe mental health needs.

The inmate, who was detained under the imprisonment for public protection (IPP) scheme, is one of dozens with severe psychological issues who have been held for months at a time in isolation, the Independent Monitoring Board (IMB) has concluded. - Read more [here](#).

Key crime stat excludes rape and other sexual offences

A key crime measure routinely quoted by ministers excludes many crimes that affect women more often than men, the BBC can reveal.

The headline figure from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) shows "total" crime has halved since 2010 - but excludes sexual assault, even rape.

The ONS says it is more challenging to collect accurate data on these kinds of crimes. But critics say the omission hides the extent of violence against women. - Read more [here](#).

The crime hotspot where a community helps ex-offenders go straight

The latest [crime figures for England and Wales](#) once again show the policing area of Cleveland, in the North East, has the highest overall crime rate for its population. BBC News speaks to people in one community there about how they are supporting ex-offenders to help them stay out of trouble. In the Dyke House area of Hartlepool, people fear speaking openly about crime and antisocial behaviour. - Read more [here](#).

Alcohol and Other Drugs

Drone thought to be carrying drugs crashes near Edinburgh prison

An investigation has been launched after a drone thought to be carrying a package of drugs crashed near a prison.

The incident close to HMP Edinburgh was reported to police at around 1.05am on Wednesday. Police Scotland said it was working with partners in the Scottish Prison Service to establish the full circumstances. - Read more [here](#).

Cornwall records highest number of drug-related deaths in one year

Cornwall recorded its highest ever number of drug-related deaths in one year, a council meeting has heard.

Cornwall Council's neighbourhood committee heard in 2022 an increased use of synthetic opioids was a big factor in the number of deaths. The committee was discussing the Safer Cornwall Partnership Plan, including its drug strategy, for the next year. - Read more [here](#).

Spread of gang violence wrecks Sweden's peaceful image

Gangland shootings and bombings that have plagued Sweden's biggest cities have spread to quieter suburbs and towns, shattering its reputation as a safe and peaceful nation.

Half an hour north of central Stockholm, Upplands-Bro features lakeside boat clubs, copper-red wooden villas and apartments flanked by pine and spruce trees.

But a 14-year-old boy was found dead in a forest here in August, and since January there have been several shootings and bombings targeting houses and apartments. - Read more [here](#).

Modern Slavery/Human Trafficking

Modern slavery in social care surging since visa rules eased

Modern slavery is surging in social care since ministers relaxed immigration rules to fill thousands of vacancies, with a growing wave of exploitation leading to workers being ripped off or living in squalor.

Unpublished figures show at least 800 people working in care homes or people's residences were charted as potential victims last year, more than 10 times the number recorded before the government's visa scheme. - Read more [here](#).

Home Office U-turns on policy to restrict help for trafficking victims

The [Home Office](#) has performed a U-turn on a policy to deprive some modern slavery victims of protection from traffickers.

Human rights campaigners and lawyers representing trafficking victims have welcomed the government's change of heart, which they say reinstates vital protections to vulnerable people. - Read more [here](#).

Climate Crisis Corner



UK records warmest ever January temperature, hitting 19.6C

The record for the highest maximum temperature on a January day has just been broken after a provisional record was measured in northern Scotland. The Met Office said they had recorded a 19.6C temperature on Sunday in Kinlochewe, a village in the northwest Highlands about an hour's drive from Inverness. - Read more [here](#).

UN expert condemns UK crackdown on environmental protest

A severe crackdown on environmental protest in Britain with "draconian" new laws, excessive restrictions on courtroom evidence and the use of civil injunctions is having a chilling impact on fundamental freedoms, the United Nations special rapporteur has said.

As the world faces a triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, environmental protesters were acting for the "benefit of us all" and must be protected, Michel Forst, the UN special rapporteur on environmental defenders, said on Tuesday. - Read more [here](#).

Arctic zombie viruses in Siberia could spark terrifying new pandemic, scientists warn

Humanity is facing a bizarre new pandemic threat, scientists have warned. Ancient viruses frozen in the Arctic permafrost could one day be released by Earth's warming climate and unleash a major disease outbreak, they say.

Strains of these Methuselah microbes – or zombie viruses as they are also known – have already been isolated by researchers who have raised fears that a new global medical emergency could be triggered – not by an illness new to science but by a disease from the distant past. - Read more [here](#).

UK floods – and deaths – will keep rising without proper defences and conservation

Large areas of England [are submerged](#) under murky flood water, with homes damaged, farm crops rotting, and rail routes and roads unusable. The UK is a rainy country, and some parts of it are quite used to regular floods, but the situation is worsening. Global climate breakdown caused by the burning of fossil fuels is causing more unpredictable and extreme weather events and the domestic infrastructure is underfunded and cannot cope sufficiently. - Read more [here](#).

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