



Community Safety



Media Monitor

February 2022

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.

Road Safety

Do you know the Highway Code changes now in force?

Motorists, cyclists and pedestrians are affected by the new rules, which aim to create a "hierarchy" on the travel network. There are [fears of an increase in road accidents because of a lack of awareness around the changes](#). [Not enough is being done to publicise the new rules, road users have warned](#). - Read more [here](#).

Highway Code: 'Dutch reach' rule change to Highway Code welcomed

A method known as the "Dutch reach" is to be introduced to the Highway Code in the UK after years of campaigning. The practice is used widely across Europe and encourages people to open vehicle doors with their opposite hand to avoid injuries to passing cyclists. - Read more [here](#).

Safety fears as it emerges nearly half of speed cameras don't work

Almost half of speed cameras are broken, an investigation has found. Of 1,092 permanent speed cameras in 26 police force areas, 523 are broken. Some areas, such as North Yorkshire, Durham and Northamptonshire, have no working cameras. - Read more [here](#).

How can Britain become a 'great cycling nation' when it's so scary to ride a bike? (Comment Piece)

There is a pothole on the Bristol Road just north of Nailsea, north Somerset, which I cycled over at about 30mph back in June. It casually blew out both my tyres; somehow I managed to skid, on my two flats, to a stop. It is in moments like this that your vulnerability as a cyclist comes into focus, and you realise how little there is between you and death: a bit of plastic on your head, a thin bit of Lycra, your wits and skill on the bike. - Read more [here](#).

Fireworks & Pyrotechnics

Fireworks and Pyrotechnic Articles (Scotland) Bill

This Bill would seek to restrict the supply and use of certain kinds of fireworks and pyrotechnic articles. An example of a pyrotechnic article would be a distress flare.

The Bill impacts businesses and individuals. It creates a new licensing system which means that:

- members of the public will need a licence to buy, possess or use certain fireworks,
- businesses supplying fireworks will need to confirm that the people getting the fireworks either have a licence or don't need one.

Read more [here](#).

Fire Safety

Scottish government announces extra funding for smoke alarms ahead of new laws

The Scottish government has announced an extra £500,000 to help vulnerable people install fire alarms, two days before new rules come into force. From Tuesday, every home in Scotland will be legally required to have interlinked smoke alarms. However ministers said people would not be penalised if they needed more time to install the alarms. - Read more [here](#).

Crime & Policing

Glorification of Plymouth shooter by 'incels' prompts calls for action

The man who gunned down seven people, killing five, in a rampage in [Plymouth](#) is being lionised by an online "incel" community, with some ironically venerating him as a "saint" and celebrating the attack as an aid to their recruitment drive. - Read more [here](#).

MPs' safety not being taken seriously enough, says Kim Leadbeater

Westminster is failing to take MPs' safety seriously enough despite public anger over the coronavirus pandemic, lockdowns and Brexit, according to Kim Leadbeater, the sister of [Jo Cox](#). The [Labour](#) MP for Batley and Spen believes not enough has changed to protect parliamentarians since Cox was murdered while representing the West Yorkshire constituency in 2016. In October, Sir David Amess, the MP for Southend West, was stabbed to death while he held a constituency surgery. - Read more [here](#).

New police bill is a threat to young people's mental health and minority ethnic communities, say experts

Hundreds of [mental health](#) experts have expressed "grave concern" over the Government's new policing bill, saying it will have a "profound negative impact" on young people. More than 350 clinical psychiatrists and psychologists signed a letter urging their political representatives to oppose the bill that limits protesting rights and expands [police stop and search powers](#). - Read more [here](#).

Almost two million calls to Police Scotland discontinued within two minutes

Data obtained by the Scottish Conservatives reveals that 1,862,957 calls to 101 were discontinued by the caller after they failed to get through. These figures represent calls between January 2018 and the end of November 2021. Every year in this time period, more calls were discontinued than were answered. - Read more [here](#).

I'm a police officer, and I fear increased powers of stop and search will undermine public trust (Comment Piece)

I wonder how many times you've been "stopped" in your life. I wonder what comes to mind when I ask that. The chances are it depends on your race. Black men will know exactly what I'm talking about, and for all too many, being stopped and searched by police is a routine element of their daily lives. One young boy from south London has been stopped and searched [30 times over two years](#). That's more than once a month. He is only 14. - Read more [here](#).

LGBT Rights

Council of Europe condemns 'virulent attacks on LGBT rights' in the UK, Hungary and Poland

The [Council of Europe](#) has approved a report condemning "extensive and often virulent" attacks on LGBT+ rights that singles out the UK for criticism alongside Hungary and Poland. The UK appears to have been criticised in the report, penned by General Rapporteur on LGBT+ rights Fourat Ben Chikha, due to the growth in what the council says is "highly prejudicial anti-gender, [gender-critical](#) and anti-trans narratives which reduce the fight for the equality of LGBTI people to what these movements deliberately mischaracterise as 'gender ideology' or 'LGBTI ideology'." - Read more [here](#).

LGBT Foundation cuts ties with equalities watchdog

LGBT Foundation has [severed all ties with the Equality and Human Rights Commission](#) (EHRC), with the charity saying recent statements were "extremely damaging".

EHRC had called for "more detailed consideration" on the proposed reforms to the Gender Recognition Act in Scotland. - Read more [here](#).

Violence Against Women & Girls

Spiking by injection Scotland: Police say 'no forensic evidence' to support claims

POLICE investigating claims of spiking by injection in Scotland have found no forensic evidence to support any allegations, according to reports. Detectives across the country witnessed [a surge in alleged spiking cases last autumn](#) – with Police Scotland receiving dozens of complaints from people who said they had been spiked by injection. It came following an initial story in October of a 19-year-old girl in Nottingham who said she was "spiked by a needle" on a night out. - Read more [here](#).

'Hi, thanks for calling. Are you OK? How far away are you?'

Women's safety is once again in the spotlight - and walking home at night is often when their fears are most acute. Now a telephone helpline called Strut Safe, launched in Edinburgh last year, is keeping people company when they walk home alone. Alice Jackson still remembers the night she answered that call. - Read more [here](#).

'We can't wait any longer': anger over Priti Patel's 'inaction' on violence against women

Leading campaign groups that have spent years tackling the growing problem of violence against women and girls are becoming increasingly frustrated with an apparent lack of action from the home secretary six months after the government announced a major strategy designed to tackle the issue. - Read more [here](#).



Climate Crisis Corner

Climate change: Global warming 'could reach 4C by end of this century' after COP26 fell short of its aims, say experts

There could be global warming of 4C by the end of this century despite pledges made at the COP26 climate summit, according to a new report.

Researchers from the University of Exeter and the Met Office analysed worldwide policies and found that on the "current trajectory" the [Paris Agreement](#)'s aim of limiting warming to 1.5C above pre-industrial levels is slipping out of reach. - Read more [here](#).

Climate crisis increasing risk of premature birth and childhood illness

Rising temperatures around the world as a result of climate change are having a devastating effect on foetuses, babies and infants, studies have found. [Scientists](#) from six different studies determined that climate change is causing – among other adverse outcomes – the increased risk of premature birth, increased hospitalisation of young children and weight gain in babies. - Read more [here](#).

Carbon offsetting is not warding off environmental collapse – it's accelerating it (Comment Piece)

There is nothing that cannot be corrupted, nothing good that cannot be transformed into something bad. And there is no clearer example than the great climate land grab.

We now know that it's not enough to leave fossil fuels in the ground and decarbonise our economies. We've left it too late. To prevent no more than 1.5C of heating, we also need to draw down some of the carbon [already in the atmosphere](#). - Read more [here](#).

Ignore reports of low-impact pollution events, Environment Agency tells staff

England's [Environment Agency](#) has told its staff to "shut down" and ignore reports of low-impact pollution events because it does not have enough money to investigate them, according to a leaked internal report. - Read more [here](#).

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