



Community Safety



Media Monitor

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Domestic and Gender Based Violence

New lockdown will be more difficult for 'worn down' victims of domestic abuse, warns charity

Chief Executive Marsha Scott stressed that the new restrictions do not apply to those experiencing abuse, who are free to travel or seek support.

"In the first lockdown we heard stories from all over the country that perpetrators of abuse were using lockdown to exert even more control over women and children, telling them they couldn't leave, or if they didn't live together then through child contact arrangements," she said.

- <https://www.scotsman.com/health/coronavirus/new-lockdown-will-be-more-difficult-worn-down-victims-domestic-abuse-warns-charity-3086367>

Urgent call for new law to tackle non-fatal strangulation in England and Wales

Non-fatal strangulation is a "domestic terror tactic" that urgently requires a change to the law, according to the victims' commissioner for [England](#) and Wales.

A push to make non-fatal strangulation a criminal offence is being led by the former victims' commissioner Baroness Newlove, who is campaigning for the change via an amendment to the domestic abuse bill as it returns to the Lords....

- <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2021/jan/05/urgent-call-for-new-law-to-tackle-non-fatal-strangulation-in-england-and-wales>

Equality

Thousands of racist incidents reported in Scottish schools

MINISTERS have been told to do more to prevent racist bullying and introduce compulsory recording of abuse after more than 2,200 incidents were reported in schools in the last three years.

A freedom of information request by the Scottish Liberal Democrats has found at least 2,251 instances of racism in schools between the 2017-18 and 2019-20 academic years.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18988986.thousands-racist-incidents-reported-scottish-schools/?ref=ebln>

Fire Safety

Grenfell Tower inquiry suspended because of Covid

The Grenfell Tower public inquiry has been suspended until at least next month, due to rising Covid-19 infections in [London](#). The move threatens to delay its conclusions until well into 2022 and slows down the prospect of criminal prosecutions.

The inquiry team examining the 14 June 2017 disaster was hit by a spate of infections before Christmas, but its chairman, Sir Martin Moore-Bick, 74, had planned to resume oral evidence sessions on Monday 11 January. Witnesses for Arconic, the company that made the combustible cladding panels which were the main cause of fire spread were due to be cross-examined. A total of 72 people died as a result of the fire at the west London council tower block.

- <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/jan/06/grenfell-tower-inquiry-suspended-because-of-covid>

'Concern over risks to passengers': Call for probe into a rise in bus and coach fires in Scotland

Calls have been made for an investigation into a rising tide of bus and coach fires in [Scotland](#). The number of bus and coach fires has risen by over 50% over five years with more than 200 incidents in Scotland since 2015, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service statistics have revealed.

The National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers (RMT) has called for the trend to be "thoroughly investigated". - <https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18983157.concern-risks-passengers-call-probe-rise-bus-coach-fires-scotland/>

Covid 19

Coronavirus vaccine scam: Trading Standards issue warning

People in the UK should be wary of fraudulent messages offering them access to coronavirus vaccinations, trading standards authorities have warned.

The Chartered Trading Standards Institute (CTSI) said that text messages had been sent out including links to fake NHS websites that asked recipients for bank details, supposedly for verification purposes. - <https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18990369.coronavirus-vaccine-scam-trading-standards-issue-warning/>

Scots plan defiant demonstration over 'right to protest in lockdown' after 'human stretcher' arrest

ACTIVISTS are planning separate protests in defiance of the Covid-19 lockdown over over how four people were arrested as part of a group gathering in Glasgow.

Police complaints have already been lodged after a man apprehended over Covid-19 rule breaches and resisting arrest was carried like a human stretcher to a police van on December 28. - <https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18992010.scots-plan-defiant-demonstration-right-protest-lockdown-human-stretcher-arrest/>

Mansfield Traquair Centre,
15 Mansfield Place,
Edinburgh, EH3 6BB
0131 225 8700/7772

Email: info@scsn.org.uk
Company Ltd. SC357649
Charity No. SC040464

www.safercommunitiesscotland.org