



*Celebrating*  
25 YEARS  
1997-2022

## COMMUNITY SAFETY MEDIA MONITOR



### July 2022

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

Some 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 & Justice

#### **Rape victims get help to meet their attackers in restorative justice reform**

Victims of rape and other sexual offences are to have the option to formally meet their attackers in a new restorative justice scheme. A "safe, trauma informed service" will offer face-to-face meetings with convicted perpetrators through a specialist Thriving Survivors hub to be set up by the Scottish Government.

The process allows voluntary meetings between victims and perpetrators and can also take the form of facilitated letter writing. Offenders must acknowledge the harm caused and take responsibility in order to proceed. - Read more [here](#).

#### **Police unable to explain surge in Scottish voyeurism crimes**

Police Scotland is unable to explain a "significant increase" in voyeurism in Scotland. Figures obtained by The Herald on Sunday reveal there were 547 voyeurism crimes recorded by police in 2022, compared to 394 in 2020/21 and against a five-year average of 248.6. - Read more [here](#). (Requires subscription)

#### **Sir Cliff Richard urges anonymity for sex offence suspects**

Sir Cliff Richard has made an impassioned plea to MPs and peers to grant anonymity for sexual offences suspects before they are charged. At a meeting in the House of Lords, he spoke of "how desperate it is to be accused of something you never did". And he urged politicians to back a change in the law to protect people who are wrongly accused. - Read more [here](#).

#### **Criminals 'using drones to scout areas', Police Scotland warn**

"PINCER movements" of organised crime groups – some utilising drones – are targeting rural communities in the Borders, a police chief has revealed. Travelling criminals from Midlothian and County Durham are heading to the region to carry out crimes such as stealing quad bikes and livestock offences. - Read more [here](#).

## **Grenfell, five years on: 'We know who the guilty are but they remain free'**

The families of the victims are still no closer to getting answers as to what happened – no one has been charged for any crime

The pain is still raw; the anger undiminished. Marlene Anderson breaks down in tears as she remembers watching Grenfell Tower burning, the white ash floating out of the sky and landing on her hair and clothes, while inside the building her father – although she wouldn't officially know it for another two months – had perished in the blaze. - Read more [here](#).

## **Violence Against Women & Girls**

### **Scottish Government supports nationalising anti-abortion buffer zones in U-turn decision**

The Scottish Government now supports a national approach to deter anti-abortion protesters from gathering outside hospitals and clinics in a U-turn decision.

Nicola Sturgeon said it was "her preference" to "legislate nationally" to ensure a "consistency of approach". However, in November, Maree Todd, the women's health minister, told MSPs the Government does not consider that imposing "blanket buffer zones" around "all abortion clinics" would be "appropriate". - Read more [here](#).

### **Ofcom urges tech firms to step up to protect women against online abuse**

Media regulator Ofcom has said tech companies must do more to protect women on the internet after a study into the nation's online lives revealed they are disproportionately affected by online abuse.

In its annual Online Nation report, the watchdog found that women are less confident about their online safety than men, more negatively affected by discriminatory, hateful and trolling content, and feel less able to have a voice and share opinions online. - Read more [here](#).

### **Met officers 'feared Sarah Everard vigil had become anti-police protest'**

Attendees at Sarah Everard's vigil were arrested by police officers who feared the event had become an "anti-police protest", according to reports. Officers claimed in witness statements first reported by [the Evening Standard](#) that they were branded "murderers" by those in attendance. - Read more [here](#).

## **Alcohol & Other Drugs**

### **Minimum alcohol pricing: Is Scotland's flagship policy a failure?**

Scotland's minimum unit pricing for alcohol has been branded a failure by some commentators after a report found evidence of some dependent drinkers cutting back on food and bills rather than alcohol because of the measure. The Public Health Scotland (PHS) report also failed to find clear evidence that the policy led to less alcohol consumption among harmful or dependent drinkers.

But health experts have continued to support the policy, and said the findings are not a damning criticism. The report's lead investigator, John Holmes, a professor of [alcohol](#) policy at Sheffield University, said it should be taken in context of a series of PHS investigations into different aspects of minimum unit pricing (MUP). - Read more [here](#).

## **Hundreds of Scots escape drug-driving charges as testing backlog branded 'serious failure'**

Hundreds of drug-driving cases will not be prosecuted due to a backlog in tests in what has been described as "a serious failure". More than 5,600 drug-driving blood samples have been tested since 2019 when new legislation was introduced in Scotland making it an offence to drive while under the influence of certain drugs, including cocaine, morphine and cannabis. - Read more [here](#).

## **Brexit helping cause harmful increase in fake ecstasy, study warns**

Summer festivalgoers are being warned that an "unprecedented shift" in the drug market caused by a combination of [Brexit](#), Covid lockdowns and police operations against supply chains has led to a sharp and potentially harmful increase in fake MDMA. - Read more [here](#).

## **What is drink spiking? How can you know if it's happened to you, and how can it be prevented?**

[Recent media reports](#) suggest drink spiking at pubs and clubs may be on the rise. "Drink spiking" is when someone puts alcohol or other drugs into another person's drink without their knowledge. Alcohol is actually the drug most commonly used in drink spiking. - Read more [here](#).

## **Road Safety**

### **Fears for road safety as many remain unaware of changes in new Highway Code**

Do you know where a cyclist should position themselves on the highway when they're approaching a junction, on a quiet road, or in slow moving traffic? Most people we surveyed either did not know the answer to this question, or they got it wrong. - Read more [here](#).

### **Should cyclists face compulsory training and need a licence?**

A Scotland Tonight debate saw a motoring journalist and blogger go head-to-head on whether road cycling should be regulated. Alan Douglas believes there should be a "compulsory training programme" and licences for cyclists. But keen rider Diana Farrell failed to be convinced that such a move would make the roads safer. - Read more [here](#).

### **The people making a difference: meet Mr Pothole, the campaigner fixing Britain's roads**

Mr Pothole is the scourge of council do-nothings and lackadaisical Highways England engineers. As well as motorists, he worries about cyclists, motorcyclists and people with limited mobility, unable to travel because [their roads are pockmarked and lumpy](#). - Read more [here](#).

## **Gas & Electrical Safety**

### **Fatal gas explosion raises concerns over aged pipes serving British homes**

At least 12 people have died in domestic gas explosions in the past five years in Great Britain and 178 more have been injured amid concern at the risk posed by corroding service pipes, some laid at the time of the second world war. - Read more [here](#).

### **Call to extend electrical safety checks to social housing**

Electrical safety checks should be mandatory for social housing after thousands of hazards were uncovered in private rentals, a charity has said. Five-year mandatory checks were introduced in the private rented sector in England in June 2020, mirroring an existing scheme in Scotland. - Read more [here](#).

## Climate Crisis Corner



### **Carbon dioxide levels are now 50% higher than during the pre-industrial era**

CO<sub>2</sub> has not been so high since before hominids walked upright – and are not dropping fast enough to avert catastrophe. The level of carbon dioxide in the world's atmosphere is now more than 50% higher than during the pre-industrial era, further pushing the planet into conditions not experienced for millions of years, well before the emergence of humans, US government data shows.

The latest measurements showing the relentless upward march of CO<sub>2</sub> follows scientists' new warning that the world may still barrel into disastrous climate change even if planet-heating emissions are drastically cut, which governments are still failing to achieve. - Read more [here](#).

### **Car tyres produce vastly more particle pollution than exhausts, tests show**

Almost 2,000 times more particle pollution is produced by tyre wear than is pumped out of the exhausts of modern cars, tests have shown.

The tyre particles pollute air, water and soil and contain a wide range of toxic organic compounds, including known carcinogens, the analysts say, suggesting tyre pollution could rapidly become a major issue for regulators. Air pollution causes [millions of early deaths](#) a year globally. - Read more [here](#).

### **River Clyde to have steel boom to collect plastic waste and litter**

A STEEL boom is set to be built on the River Clyde – with the device designed to catch litter as it flows out towards the sea. A new scheme will see the large boom suspended across part of the river to catch plastic and litter pollution in an effort to limit Glasgow's environmental impact. - Read more [here](#).

### **I never thought I could face arrest and imprisonment campaigning for climate action**

Fire, floods and other natural disasters are increasing, but the people trying to prevent the climate crisis face jail and fines simply for sitting on roads. I spent eight years as a high school geography teacher. Many times, I would be talking to kids about the climate crisis. I used to say, "We need to be doing something about this – this is getting really bad and it's going to affect people in our lifetimes". - Read more [here](#).

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