



Community Safety



Media Monitor

March 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.

Cybercrime and Online Safety

Sending threatening posts among offences in revised online safety bill

Joining digital pile-ons, sending threatening social media posts and deliberately posting hoax bomb threats are among the new criminal offences that could result in jail sentences under proposed online safety laws.

Tech firms will also be required to prevent users from being exposed to content such as revenge porn, fraud and the sale of illegal drugs, or face the threat of substantial fines under the proposed changes. - Read more [here](#).

Tech giants targeted in harmful content crackdown

Sending "genuinely threatening" or "knowingly false" messages are among new criminal offences being added to proposed online safety laws.

If passed, the government's online safety bill could see social networks fined 10% of their global turnover if they fail to remove harmful content. The changes mean they will also have to proactively remove harmful content. - Read more [here](#).

Automatic police referral software for social media abuse to Scottish MSPs to be trialled

Abuse towards MSPs on social media could result in automatic referrals to police as part of a new safety measure in Holyrood. Many MSPs [face vile threats and abuse](#) from often anonymous social media accounts on a daily basis, with the police often called into investigate.

The plans form part of the Scottish Parliament's fresh approach to safety following a review of the procedures in place after the death of Conservative MP Sir David Amess last year. - Read more [here](#).

How the growing Russian ransomware threat is costing companies dear

The January snow lay thick on the Moscow ground, as masked officers of the FSB – Russia's fearsome security agency – prepared to smash down the doors at one of 25 addresses they would raid that day.

Their target was REvil, a shadowy conclave of hackers that claimed to have stolen more than \$100m (£74m) a year through "ransomware" attacks, before [suddenly disappearing](#). - Read more [here](#).

Crime/Criminal Justice/Policing

Under-18s should not go to jail, says prison chief

No-one under 18 should be put in jail in Scotland, the chief inspector of prisons has said. Wendy Sinclair Gieben has written to ministers calling for urgent legislation to end imprisonment of 16 and 17-year-olds by the end of March.

The chief inspector said the young offender institution at Polmont was in effect an adult prison. The Scottish government has already committed to reducing the number of under 18s in prison. - Read more [here](#).

The Tories' 'tough on crime' stance has only led to misery and death in prisons

More prisoners are dying in England and Wales than ever – but the government is too busy posturing to do anything about it.

or a man currently under investigation by the police, Boris Johnson has quite the interest in law and order. Throughout his premiership, the government has used the rhetoric of being "tough on crime" as a pillar of its populist appeal, epitomised by the home secretary, Priti Patel, turning up to a photo-op last year in a personalised police vest. This would be nauseating at the best of times, but when combined with their attempts to curb protest, it has deeply worrying authoritarian undertones. - Read more [here](#).

New drive launched to fill 'evidence gaps' on scale of extremism in Scotland

The Scottish Government found gaps relating to the "nature, reach and scale of extremism" north of the border, as well as a lack of concrete data.

A £50,000 research contract has now been posted as part of the first phase of efforts to address the problem. According to tender documents, government analysts previously reached the "tentative conclusion" that "the threat landscape in Scotland may be different from that of the wider UK in some respects". - Read more [here](#).

Edinburgh Council set to invest in state-of-the-art security and surveillance technology for new CCTV Control Centre

Edinburgh Council are set to invest £2.6 million in a new CCTV Control Centre, which will use the latest surveillance technology to improve security in the city.

This investment is part of Edinburgh Council's aim to create a Smart City Operation Facility, which will provide "a holistic view of the city". The council plans to "revolutionise security and surveillance" with the new Control Centre, which will employ high-definition CCTV cameras and expanded security coverage. The new facility will also utilise artificial intelligence, which will predict new and existing threats and alert authorities. - Read more [here](#).

Violence Against Women & Girls

Call for new law to tackle misogyny in Scotland

A new law aimed at tackling misogyny should be created in Scotland, according to a [report by a group of experts](#). The report said the new law should treat violence and abuse targeted at women as an aggravating factor.

It also called for a new offence of stirring up hatred against women and girls to be created. And it said there should be specific crime of threatening to commit sexual assault or rape. - Read more [here](#).

Misogyny in police forces: understanding and fixing 'cop culture'

The Metropolitan Police are under fire after an official investigation by the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) revealed details of officers exchanging discriminatory and misogynistic messages. These included discussions about hitting and raping women, with reference to specific female colleagues, which officers involved dismissed as "banter".

The report comes at a time of intense focus on how women are treated by police and within their ranks. - Read more [here](#).

General Community Safety

Scotland a 'less welcoming place' for trans people amid hate crime rise

SCOTLAND is becoming a "less welcoming place to live" for transgender people as figures show a staggering rise in the number of hate crimes committed against them in the past year, campaigners have said.

Police Scotland's quarterly performance report revealed that there has been a "significant" increase in reports of hate crimes with transgender, ableist and sexual orientation aggravators. - Read more [here](#).

'No viable alternative': UK must introduce road pricing, MPs say

Motorists will have to pay by the mile to make up a £35bn tax shortfall that will arise from the shift to electric vehicles, MPs have warned, calling on the government to act urgently to bring in a national road pricing scheme.

The cross-party Commons transport select committee said it saw "no viable alternative" to road pricing and work should start immediately on creating a replacement for fuel duty before it dwindled away with the transition. - Read more [here](#).

Scots drank less during pandemic but harms increased for hazardous drinkers, study finds

The proportion of people dying due to hazardous alcohol consumption rose over the course of the pandemic despite a decrease in the amount of alcohol being consumed across the population as a whole, analysis from Public Health Scotland has confirmed.

In a report released today, Public Health Scotland noted that off-sales were up by 13 per cent between 2019 and 2020 and by 15 per cent between January and May 2021 compared with the average for the same period over the previous three years. - Read more [here](#).



Climate Crisis Corner

Climate change: IPCC report warns of 'irreversible' impacts of global warming

Many of the impacts of global warming are now simply "irreversible" according to the UN's latest assessment. But the authors of a new report say that there is still a brief window of time to avoid the very worst. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change says that humans and nature are being pushed beyond their abilities to adapt. Over 40% of the world's population are "highly vulnerable" to climate, the sombre study finds. - Read more [here](#).

Britain's weather is becoming ever more extreme. Why are we failing to prepare?

We are still building hundreds of thousands of homes that will be unfit for purpose by 2050 due to flooding and heatwaves. Arwen, Barra, Malik, Corrie, Dudley, Eunice, Franklin. The storms that have hit the UK since late November 2021 have caused huge disruption. We are just two months into 2022, and before the end of the year we may have to endure one or more storms Gladys, Herman, Imani and Jack, the next few names on the Met Office list.

This season is by no means unique. In the winter of 2019-2020, storms Ciara, Dennis and Jorge cost the insurance and reinsurance industries [nearly £800m](#), largely as a result of disastrous flooding. - Read more [here](#).

Prepare for mass migration to cities in climate crisis, UK mayors warn

Two of the UK's leading mayors are calling for urgent action to prepare for mass migration to cities due to the climate emergency, as a [major report](#) into the issue launches at the UN headquarters in New York on Wednesday. Mass migration to some of the world's cities due to the climate emergency is already under way and the World Bank has [estimated](#) that unless significant action is taken, 216 million people could be on the move by 2050. - Read more [here](#).

Call for Glasgow's M8 to be scrapped and turned into people-friendly green zone

SCOTLAND'S most used motorway should be scrapped and replaced with a people-friendly green zone, activists are urging. The campaigners want the M8 to be removed from Glasgow city centre and transformed into an area that will promote walking, cycling and public [transport](#). - Read more [here](#).

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