



Community Safety



Media Monitor

May 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.

Poverty

'Shock absorbers of poverty': women's lives cut short by their unequal position in society

Women who speak out about gender inequality are often dismissed, especially in [England](#). After all, women here are lucky – we are much better off than in other countries. Aren't we?

The short answer is, only some of us. Devastating [new data analysis](#) from the Health Foundation has revealed – on the starkest measure – that for many women in England, that is far from being the case. Life expectancy for women in the poorest parts of England is less than the overall life expectancy for women in every [OECD](#) country in the world besides Mexico. Let that sink in for a second. Lower than every other country in that club, bar one. - Read more [here](#).

New figures show 200,000 Scots relied on food banks last year

New figures reveal a food bank network in Scotland provided more than 197,000 food parcels from April 2021 to March 2022 - with more than 70,000 parcels provided for children.

The figures show that need for emergency food across the Trussell Trust's network has decreased in comparison to the same period in 2019/20 (17% lower), with significant numbers of people being helped in the last year by other food aid providers and community-based groups which emerged during the pandemic. - Read more [here](#).

Two-child policy has made UK families poorer, finds report

It was one of the [Conservatives'](#) most controversial cuts: waging war on the UK's "benefit culture" by restricting social security payments that supposedly enabled "welfare scroungers" to have large families they could ill-afford. The two-child policy – which limits [benefits](#) payments to the first two children born to the poorest households – would, proponents argued, cut the welfare bill and bring "feckless" parents to heel by – as one minister put it – teaching them "[the reality that children cost money](#)." - Read more [here](#).

Price rises will be horrific says Scottish Power boss

The chief executive of Scottish Power has said energy price rises later this year are going to be "horrific". Keith Anderson told MPs at Westminster "so many people are really going to struggle". He said the 54% increase in the energy price cap was already affecting customers and another steep rise is expected in October. Mr Anderson said his company had 8,000 calls last week to a hotline for people worried about their ability to pay. - Read more [here](#).

Criminal Justice & Policing

Police Scotland plan to ditch holding cells for criminals and create 'modern, safe places' in stations

Police chiefs plan to stop sending criminals to cells and hold them in "modern, safe places" instead. The Scottish Police Authority (SPA) wants to revamp holding facilities and change their image from being bare and dingy.

The plans were revealed in the SPA's annual Police Plan, which says custody areas will change "from places of detention to modern, safe places and gateways for the delivery of wellbeing, diversion and transformation services." - Read more [here](#).

Urgent action call over prisoners' mental health

A watchdog has called for urgent action to improve mental health treatment and services in Scotland's jails. A Mental Welfare Commission investigation found staff wanted more training, and many felt support for inmates was inadequate. Smuggled psychoactive drugs and their impact on mental health were also found to be a big concern. - Read more [here](#).

Covid Scotland: Longer time limits for court cases should not be the new normal, say MSPs

MSPs on the Scottish Parliament's Criminal Justice Committee said they were "very concerned" at the prospect that legal powers to enable longer waits for trials could be in place until 2025. If the extended time limits were to remain in place until then, there would need to be "detailed scrutiny with sufficient time for the committee to take evidence", they said.

The MSPs spoke out after temporary changes to the length of time the courts have to bring an accused person to trial were introduced in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic. - Read more [here](#).

Concerns over closure of 140 police stations in Scotland since 2013

Concerns have been raised over new analysis showing 140 dedicated police stations and offices have been shut since Police Scotland was created in 2013. The figures were compiled by 1919 magazine, which focuses on justice and social affairs and is funded by the Scottish Police Federation (SPF). Calum Steele, general secretary of the SPF, which represents rank and file officers, said the closures were having a "detrimental impact" on rural areas. - Read more [here](#).

Fears public could be put at risk as police record hundreds of call-room failures

Police Scotland has recorded 330 failures by its call handlers and control rooms in the last three years, new figures show, sparking fears the public could be put at risk. Statistics obtained by the Scottish Conservatives include 53 incidents of missing or incorrect information.

The figures refer to "notable incidents", which are defined as those likely to have a "significant impact" on the reputation of the force or its partners. There were 341 such incidents between April 2019 and February 15 this year, but 11 were "positive". - Read more [here](#).

HMICS unveils first three-year plan for 'independent scrutiny' of policing

Domestic abuse, online fraud, missing persons, legitimacy and organisational culture are among the key areas of policing in Scotland that will be under "independent scrutiny" over the next three years. HM Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS) said its planned inspections aim to "add value and strengthen public confidence in Scottish policing". - Read more [here](#).

VAWG & Equality

Social media culture has led to increase in misogyny offline, Helena Kennedy QC says

Social media has created a toxic environment of "disinhibition" which has led to an increase in face-to-face misogynistic abuse of women and girls, a human rights lawyer told MSPs. Baroness Helena Kennedy QC authored a radical report calling for [world-leading misogyny laws to be introduced in Scotland](#). - Read more [here](#).

Gender Recognition Act: Bid to criminalise misogyny should not affect reform, says lawyer

The introduction of new legislation to criminalise misogyny should not be impacted by the Scottish Government's attempts to reform the Gender Recognition Act, a lawyer has said. Baroness Helena Kennedy QC was tasked to develop a report on the Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Act 2021, with a view to either amending the legislation to include sex as an aggravator, or to develop a stand alone offence of misogyny. - Read more [here](#).

Boris Johnson's LGBT adviser calls for commission to 'detoxify' trans discussion

PRIME Minister Boris Johnson's [LGBT](#) adviser has said he is "dismayed" by the decision not to include transgender people in a ban on conversion therapy, while describing the cancellation of the UK Government's landmark equality conference as an "act of self-harm by the LGBT lobby". Nick Herbert also called for a royal commission to "detoxify" and take the politics out of the trans discussion. - Read more [here](#).

'Being spiked has stopped me from going out again'

The evening of 17 January 2020 was supposed to be a normal Friday night out for Mia Doshi Prichard, not a life-changing one. It should have been drinking, dancing and fun with friends. Instead, she had her drink spiked. Over two years on, she no longer goes on nights out. - Read more [here](#).

General Community Safety

Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service support 'Biker Down' safety campaign

Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service are supporting the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC)'s 'Biker Down' motorbike safety campaign. Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) hope the week of action can contribute to reducing the number of riders injured and killed in motorcycle incidents on the roads. Despite motorcycles making up around 1% of vehicle traffic, in 2020 they accounted for 20% of road fatalities and 12% of road injuries in Great Britain. - Read more [here](#).

Urgent action demanded over Edinburgh Sick Kids hospital's cladding

Urgent action to ensure a flagship children's hospital's cladding is safe for visitors, patients and staff must happen as soon as possible, the Scottish Liberal Democrats have urged. The Edinburgh facility has components in its cladding which were also used on Grenfell Tower, where 72 people died in a fire in 2017. - Read more [here](#).



Climate Crisis Corner

Final warning: what does the IPCC's third report instalment say?

The world has only a narrow chance of limiting global heating to 1.5C above pre-industrial levels, and is falling far behind on making the changes needed to transform the global economy to a low-carbon footing.

Overshooting 1.5C is now "almost inevitable", but the overshoot could be temporary and temperatures could be returned to 1.5C by the end of this century if countries seek to reduce greenhouse gas emissions drastically this decade. - Read more [here](#).

UK 'too slow' over climate crisis despite stark IPCC report

The UK government is moving too slowly to tackle the climate emergency, leading scientists have said in the wake [of the latest IPCC report](#). This comes after [Jacob Rees-Mogg](#), the Brexit minister, declared that he supported "exploiting every last cubic inch of gas from the North Sea" the day the report was released. - Read more [here](#).

The key to winning the climate debate isn't economics: it's health

The environment ranks low in polls of the public's fears, while sickness ranks top. Yet we will all get more ill as the planet heats. When it comes to debating climate change, the key argument is not "the economy, stupid", or the decline in biodiversity. The answer is to focus on pollution and its impact on everyone's health. - Read more [here](#).

Charities demand millions as they call Government's bluff on rainforest restoration

ENVIRONMENTALISTS are demanding a £500 million commitment from the Scottish Government to make good its pledge to save the country's unique rainforest. Key green charities are -ramping up the pressure on the -Scottish -Government to make good a COP26 pledge to save the -temperate -rainforest, ahead of a keynote speech tonight on the topic by -Mairi -McAllan, Scotland's minister for -environment, biodiversity and [land reform](#). - Read more [here](#).

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