



College of  
Policing

# Brief

Test for 'dishonesty' redefined →

Special constables: new training →

Race discrimination in focus →

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ISSUE 6 | JUNE/JULY 2020

Updates in police law, operational policing practice and criminal justice, produced by the **Legal Services Department** at the College of Policing



Stop and Search  
(Repeal) Bill

→

Fatigue research  
prioritised

→

Mike Cunningham  
to retire from  
policing

→

Domestic abuse  
record high calls

→

The College of Policing Brief is a scanning publication intended to capture and consolidate key criminal justice issues, both current and future, impacting on all areas of policing.

During the production of the Brief, information is included from governmental bodies, criminal justice organisations and research bodies. As such, the Brief should prove an invaluable guide to those responsible for strategic decision making, operational planning and police training.

The College of Policing is also responsible for Authorised Professional Practice (APP). APP is the official and most up-to-date source of policing practice and covers a range of policing activities such as: police use of firearms, treatment of people in custody, investigation of child abuse and management of intelligence. APP is available online at [app.college.police.uk](https://app.college.police.uk)

Any enquiries regarding this publication or to request copies in accessible formats please contact us at [brief@college.pnn.police.uk](mailto:brief@college.pnn.police.uk)

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# Editorial

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Dear readers,

Welcome to the Brief, your monthly update of what's new in the policing and criminal justice field, produced by the Legal Services team at the College of Policing.

Within this month's edition:

- College and Oscar Kilo to prioritise research into combatting fatigue amongst officers and staff
- Legal test for 'dishonesty' redefined by the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS)
- State of Policing: The Annual Assessment of Policing in England and Wales 2019

To find out more about the College and what we do, including information on the Policing Education Qualifications Framework (PEQF) training, please visit the **College of Policing website**.

We hope that our publication supports police officers and staff in their work. We are always looking for ways to get better at what we do, so if you have any feedback or ideas for future content, **get in touch**.

Thank you for reading,

**The Legal Services Team**

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For subscription requests, further information or to send us ideas about what you would like to see in upcoming editions, please email us at:

**[brief@college.pnn.police.uk](mailto:brief@college.pnn.police.uk)**

# College news

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## **Mike Cunningham to retire from policing**

The College of Policing's Chief Executive, Mike Cunningham, has announced that he intends to retire from policing at the end of 2020. Mike joined the College in January 2018 and has overseen the implementation of new training and recognition for police officers. The process to identify and appoint a successor will now commence.

Mike has said that he is 'extremely proud of what colleagues in the College have achieved over the last few years and what will be delivered over the rest of 2020'.

Read more [here](#).

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## **Special constables: new training**

The College of Policing has announced that special constables will be able to develop their career path at their chosen pace. In a first for policing, the new training will be aligned to the training given to police constable recruits.

Specials will undertake some of the same training given to first-year PC recruits, meaning that specials will not have to repeat this training if they join the service. For forces wishing to adopt this training, it provides a clear route from SC to PC.

In the College's recently published report, new police recruits describe an overall positive experience. Some of the cited benefits include a deeper knowledge and understanding of policing and critical thinking.

Read more about the training [here](#).

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## Have your say on LEDS

The Law Enforcement Data Service (LEDS) is being developed by the Home Office to bring together the existing Police National Computer (PNC) and Police National Database (PND) information on one modern and secure platform.

LEDS will ensure that police and other agencies can quickly and safely access the necessary information to better protect the public and to safeguard children and vulnerable people. A phased launch of the LEDS system will begin by the end of 2020. The College of Policing is writing the LEDS Code of Practice for forces, which sets out ten clear principles to ensure the ethical, fair, diligent and impartial use of the system. Other organisations may only have access to LEDS on condition that they adopt the requirements of the Code and the supporting guide.

The College is also developing guidance on the Code of Practice to help officers and staff understand their roles and responsibilities around using the new system. Both the Code of Practice and the guidance document will be subject to a three-month public consultation.

LEDS will also develop a new National Register of Missing Persons (NRMP), which will support police and other agencies in building a more complete picture of a person reported missing, to help assess their risk of coming to harm. Anyone wishing to take part in the consultation on the LEDS Code of Practice and the guidance document should visit the College of Policing website.

Read more about the new system [here](#).

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## **College, NPCC and CPS respond to ICO report on digital evidence in criminal investigations**

On 18 June 2020, the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) published an investigation report on the use of mobile phone extraction by police forces when conducting criminal investigations in England and Wales.

In response, the College of Policing, the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) and the CPS have issued the following statement:

'Police investigators must balance the need to follow all reasonable lines of enquiry, guaranteeing a fair trial, with the need to respect privacy. We thank the Information Commissioner for this detailed and thoughtful report which acknowledges the complexity of this issue, and the growing volumes of data which exist in criminal cases. We will now carefully consider the recommendations of the report.

We note that the Commissioner recognises the need for consistency in how digital evidence is processed for use in criminal investigations. We have all committed to working with stakeholders to get this right and will be continuing this work in light of the recommendations in this report.'

Read more about the joint statement [here](#).

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## **Force-wide approach to post-incident procedures following death or serious injury**

The College has introduced new national guidance that will ensure forces take a consistent approach when responding to, and investigating, deaths or serious injuries following police contact.

The Death or Serious Injury Authorised Professional Practice (APP) will set out the steps that a force should take when reviewing serious incidents involving members of the public. Greater support for officers and staff in England and Wales will be provided through the APP, as well as clearer guidance.



The College's guidance acknowledges the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) document and mirrors the post-incident procedures carried out in armed policing incidents. Considerations will be set out regarding officer and staff welfare, as well as guidance supporting forces in complying with legal and procedural requirements.

These principles would apply to incidents investigated by the force's professional standards department or by the relevant independent investigative authority.

Read more about the APP [here](#).

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# Coronavirus legislation

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## **The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Wearing of Face Coverings in a Relevant Place) (England) Regulations 2020 – reasonable excuse breakdown**

There have been many mixed messages released over the past few weeks about who must wear a face covering, and who has a reasonable excuse to not wear one. Government guidance has often been confused with law, and certain legislative amendments have not been widely publicised.

Under The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Wearing of Face Coverings in a Relevant Place) (England) Regulations 2020, Regulation 3(1) states that ‘no person may, without reasonable excuse, enter or remain within a relevant place without wearing a face covering’.

It must be noted that the requirement under Regulation 3(1), **does not apply** to:

- Children under the age of 11
- Certain employees
- A constable or police community support officer acting in the course of their duty
- An emergency responder (other than a constable) acting in their capacity as an emergency responder
- A relevant official acting in the course of their employment or duties.

Any individual mentioned in the list above are not exempt from wearing a face covering because they have a reasonable excuse, but because the requirement to wear a face covering under Regulation 3(1) **does not apply to them**.

Regulation 4(1) lists all reasonable excuses under the regulation. If you fit within any of the below listed reasonable excuses, you will have a legal excuse **to not wear a face covering** in a ‘relevant place’. Regulation 4(1) states:

For the purposes of regulation 3(1), reasonable excuses include:

- Circumstances where an individual cannot put on, wear, or remove a face covering:
  - Because of any physical or mental illness or impairment, or disability (as defined within section 6 of the Equality Act 2010), **or**
  - without being caused severe distress.

An individual does not need to satisfy both of the above requirements. An individual has a valid legal excuse to not wear a face covering if they cannot put on, wear, or remove it because they have a physical or mental illness/impairment/disability **OR** are caused severe distress by doing so.

If you have a hidden disability and are concerned about not wearing a mask, you can find further information about hidden disability lanyards [here](#).

In addition to the above, Regulation 4(1) lists further reasonable excuses, these include:

- An individual (A) has a reasonable excuse if they are accompanying, or providing assistance to, another person (B), who relies on lip reading to communicate with A
- If an individual removes their face covering to avoid harm or injury, or the risk of harm or injury, to themselves or others
- If an individual is entering, or is within, a relevant place to avoid injury, or to escape a risk of harm, and does not have a face covering with them
- If it is reasonable necessary for an individual to eat or drink, and they remove their face covering to do so
- If an individual removes their face covering to take medication
- If a person responsible for a relevant place, or an employee of that person acting in the course of their employment, requires an individual to remove their face covering in order to verify the individual's identity
- If in a registered pharmacy, an employee acting in the course of their employment, requires an individual to remove their face covering in order to assist in the provision of healthcare, or healthcare advice to the individual

- If a relevant person requests that an individual remove their face covering.

The legislation can be accessed [here](#).

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# Legal updates

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## Statutory Instruments

### **SI 2020/637 - The Crown Court (Recording and Broadcasting) Order 2020**

This Order sets out the conditions under which visual and sound recording and broadcast of the sentencing remarks of specified judges of the crown court may take place.

This Order will allow the recording and broadcast of sentencing remarks made by specified judges in the crown court when sitting in open court. Such recording or live broadcast can only be done by people who have been given specific permission by the Lord Chancellor. In addition, the recording or live broadcast in any specific case may only take place with the permission of the relevant judge. Only the judge sitting in the case will be filmed. Normal reporting restrictions will continue to apply to protect victims or witnesses involved in the case.

The policy aim of court broadcasting is to increase transparency in the justice system, as well as public engagement with, and understanding of, what happens in courts.

Read more about the SI [here](#).

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### **SI 2020/839 - The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Wearing of Face Coverings in a Relevant Place) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2020**

This instruments amends the Face Coverings Regulations which require members of the public to wear a face covering when in a 'relevant place', unless they have a reasonable excuse to not wear one.

Regulation 2(8)(b) of this instrument adds further places into the definition of 'relevant place' where face coverings should be worn. These include: indoor places of worship, crematoria and burial ground

chapels, museums, galleries, cinemas, public libraries, public spaces in hotels (such as lobby areas), and community centres.

Regulation 2(8)(d) inserts a new Schedule 2 into the Face Coverings Regulations, which lists premises exempted from the definition of 'shop'. Therefore, you do not need to wear a face mask if you attend premises offering certain medical services, gyms, or photography studios.

Read more about the instrument [here](#).

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## Bills

### **Coronavirus Inquiry Bill 2019-21**

A Bill to require the Prime Minister to establish a public inquiry into the government's handling of the coronavirus and restrictive measures implemented as a result of the virus.

The next stage for this private members' Bill is the second reading, scheduled to take place on Friday 11 September 2020.

Read more about the Bill [here](#).

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### **Counter-Terrorism and Sentencing Bill 2019-21**

A Bill making provisions about the sentencing of offenders convicted of terrorism offences, or offences with a terrorist connection. This includes the removal of early release for 'dangerous terrorist prisoners'.

This Bill has now completed all its stages in the House of Commons and will be passed to the House of Lords for consideration.

Read more about the Bill [here](#).

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### **Police Stop and Search (Repeal) Bill 2019-21**

A Bill to repeal sections 60, 60AA and 60A of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, insofar as they apply to England and Wales.

The next stage for this Private Members' Bill, second reading, is scheduled to take place on Friday 11 September 2020.

Read more about the Bill [here](#).

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### **Sexual Offences (Sports Coaches) Bill 2019-21**

A Bill to amend the Sexual Offences Act 2003 to make 'sports coach' a position of trust for the purposes of child sex offences.

The next stage for the Bill is the second reading, scheduled to take place on Friday 11 September 2020.

Read more about the Bill [here](#).

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# Before the court

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## **Archer v The Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis [2020] EWHC 1567 (QB)**

On 17 February 2012, when the Claimant was 15 years old, he and two friends were involved in an incident in Woolwich whereby the Claimant was struck on the head and received stab wounds to his back and head, requiring him to have hospital treatment. The Claimant described his perpetrators as members of a local gang. On 22 February 2012 at 6:50am, he was arrested at home on suspicion of violent disorder and possession of an offensive weapon. He was placed in a cell at 7:25am. At 7:45pm, the Claimant was charged with the two offences for which he had been arrested.

At 7:53pm, the custody officer refused bail. The bail refusal was subject to the belief that detention was necessary for the claimant's own protection. It was feared that if he were released on bail, there would be repercussions where the Claimant may sustain further injuries or inflict violence upon his original intended victims.

On the morning of 23 February 2012, the Claimant was taken to Bexley Youth Court, where he was remanded in custody. He was detained at Medway Secure Training Centre until 30 March 2012, when he was granted bail by the crown court. The trial was set for 13 April 2012 but the case was discontinued.

The Claimant's claim was issued against the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis and the CPS. However, the claim against the CPS was discontinued in October 2018. Permission was granted in November 2019 to claim a declaration of incompatibility under s 4 of the Human Rights Act 1998 in respect of s 38(1)(b)(ii) of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE), as well as a declaration that the Claimant's detention by the police on 22-23 February 2012 violated his Article 5 rights, and compensation for the breach pursuant to Article 5(5).

The claim was transferred to the High Court. It was concluded that the continued detention of a person held on suspicion of having committed an offence is, in principle, capable of being justified under Article 5(1)(c) and (3) of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), on the basis that it is necessary for his own protection. Custody officers are, however, obliged to exercise the discretion conferred on them by



s 38(1)(a)(vi) and (b)(ii) of PACE subject to these limitations. If they do not, the detention will be unlawful. It was held that the reason for the Claimant's detention, for his own protection, was compatible with Article 5. Due to this, there was no need to address the issue of damages. The claim was dismissed.

Read more about the judgment [here](#).

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### **Unlicensed and uninsured hit-and-run biker sentenced**

Jerome Cawkwell, 24, has been sentenced to three years' imprisonment at Hull Crown Court, as well as a driving disqualification requirement for five and a half years. Cawkwell, who was unlicensed at the time of the incident, collided with a 9-year-old boy while riding a motorbike on a public footpath on 25 May 2020. The boy, who was with his family at the time, suffered life-changing injuries in the incident, and has since undergone a medical amputation of his leg, below the knee.

Cawkwell was seen driving at estimated speeds of up to 40mph on the public footpath. He was not wearing a crash helmet and the motorcycle has since been found to be dangerous and unroadworthy, with defective front brakes. Cawkwell collided with the 9-year-old boy, whose leg become entangled in the machine, meaning that the boy was dragged along, before being propelled into the air and hitting his head on the ground. Cawkwell fled the scene on his bike, and later tried to avoid detection by concealing the motorcycle.

Jeremy Evans from the CPS has said that 'Cawkwell's reckless and cowardly behaviour that day has resulted in a young boy's life, and that of his family, being forever changed. It is hard to put into words the agony and trauma this incident has caused'.

Read more about the sentencing [here](#).

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# Policing

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## News

### **College and Oscar Kilo to prioritise research into tackling fatigue among officers and staff**

The College of Policing and Oscar Kilo, the National Police Wellbeing Service, have committed to prioritising research into ways of tackling fatigue among officers and staff, following the results of the first ever **national police wellbeing survey**.

More than 34,000 police officers and staff across England and Wales responded to the survey, which ran for eight weeks between November 2019 and January 2020. Almost half of police officers who responded told us they were having less than six hours of sleep a night, with shift workers more likely to experience poor sleep quality.

As a result, the National Police Wellbeing Service team will carry out research with experts in police fatigue from around the world, together with UK practitioners and staff associations, to look at ways to reduce the growing issue of officer and staff fatigue.

The wellbeing survey also found that police officers working in safeguarding and investigations reported lower levels of wellbeing, while police staff reported lower levels of wellbeing in areas such as custody, contact management and incident management. There were, however, many positive findings from the survey, including the following.

- 65% of respondents reported feeling satisfaction in their work.
- The majority of officers and staff reported that they felt trusted in their roles and were able to act and make choices that reflected their own personal beliefs and values.
- Both police officers and staff reported that they felt high levels of competence in their work, meaning that they felt valued by their co-workers and supervisors, and felt that they could be effective and make important contributions.

Chief Constable Andy Rhodes, NPCC wellbeing lead and Service Director for Oscar Kilo, has said:

‘It’s clear that many people feel valued by their peers and supervisors – but less so by the organisation and the public – a gap we see in every survey that is directly linked to trust. Fatigue also leaps off the page, and this has a lot to do with our cultural acceptance in relation to things like disrupted sleep and all the risks it can bring to our health and operational decision making.

Read more about the research [here](#).

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### **IOPC – race discrimination made area of focus**

On 10 July 2020, IOPC Director General Michael Lockwood announced that race discrimination would be launched as a thematic area of focus, in order to identify trends and patterns, which may help to lead to a ‘real change in policing practice’.

Michael stated that ‘evidence of disproportionality in the use of police powers has long been a concern which impacts on confidence in policing, particularly in Black, Asian, and minority ethnic communities’. Over the next few months, the IOPC will be investigating race discrimination, including stop and search data, and what can be done to address the imbalance.

The investigation ‘is about identifying where we are seeing good and bad practice, and where there are then opportunities to drive real learning and change.’

Read the full statement [here](#).

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### **Police Foundation – ‘Understanding the lessons of policing the Covid-19 pandemic’**

New research carried out by the Police Foundation and Crest into how UK policing has coped with the coronavirus is currently being

undertaken. The research will be carried out in four phases, and the teams will work closely with an appointed expert advisory group.

The final report which is scheduled to be published at the end of 2020, will make recommendations for improvements ahead of the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice. Additionally, the findings will also inform the Strategic Review of Policing in England and Wales.

If you would like to share your experiences for the project, full details can be found [here](#).

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## Reports

### **PSA: 2019/20 annual report published**

The Police Superintendents' Association (PSA) has published its annual report for 2019/20, which outlines the association's priorities for the year ahead (2020/21), and how it worked towards achieving its strategic priorities for the current year.

Strategic priorities for 2020/21 include:

- maintaining the high quality of representation and support to members 'at risk', through the association's professional standards co-ordinator and the Panel of Friends
- promoting wellbeing and influence work, to support and improve the physical and mental health and wellbeing of members
- championing the benefits of diversity, equality and inclusion within the service, particularly among the PSA's membership, and working to bring about positive change in these areas
- supporting and influencing the national policing response to measures implemented as a result of the coronavirus

Read the full report [here](#).

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## Police Federation: quick reference guide on regulations

The Police Federation has produced a quick reference guide in line with their current understanding of the Police Regulations 2003 and determinations, Police (Conduct) Regulations 2012, Police (Complaints and Misconduct) Regulations 2012 and Police (Performance) Regulations 2012, as at November 2019.

Their reference guide comprises a summary of officers' main terms and conditions. It is not intended to be exhaustive or a substitute for the original regulations and determinations. The guide is aimed primarily at local Police Federation secretaries and other representatives dealing with pay and condition queries raised locally.

Read the full reference guide [here](#).

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## HMICFRS: State of Policing assessment 2019

Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary's report 'State of Policing: The Annual Assessment of Policing in England and Wales 2019' has been published. The assessment begins with initial observations on the quality of the police response to the public health emergency, and the wider demands faced by the police in 2019.

The report is broken down into three parts.

- **Part 1** – this part contains Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary's assessment of the state of policing. It draws on findings from inspections carried out between May 2019 and March 2020, as well as reports from other organisations.
- **Part 2** – this section provides an overview of findings carried out by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) between 3 May 2019 and 30 March 2020, including the PEEL inspections.
- **Part 3** – this sets out the complete list of HMICFRS' inspections and other work.

The report is provided in a variety of formats. You can find the different options to view it [here](#).

Deputy Chief Constable Bernie O'Reilly, who is currently seconded to the College, has **responded** to the report by saying that it is 'further testament to the outstanding work done by police officers across England and Wales when responding to the coronavirus pandemic'. Although challenging, 'greater co-operation between forces and police leaders' has become apparent throughout the pandemic, and Bernie has stated that he hopes 'to see the ongoing benefits of this in the future'.

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### **Police control rooms – danger of being overwhelmed**

HMICFRS has published a report titled 'A call for help', based on its 2018/19 inspections. Within the report, it is stated that police control rooms are hindered by inconsistent management systems, and are increasingly dealing with calls that are neither emergencies nor routine police work, and which could be better dealt with by other agencies. Due to this extra demand, calls from vulnerable people can go unanswered or unassessed.

The report also found:

- inconsistencies in how forces manage complex demand and how they resolve calls without deploying officers
- many forces didn't have effective systems in place to manage the risk and volume of work that the increased demand creates
- inconsistencies in how the police respond to vulnerable people
- some forces did not offer trauma support to call handlers

Read more about the report [here](#).

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# Criminal justice news

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## **CPS case redefines legal test for ‘dishonesty’**

The definition of dishonesty in criminal law has been clarified, following on from a CPS case regarding a dishonest care home owner who defrauded wealthy residents of more than £4m.

David Burton has been sentenced to 17 years’ imprisonment at Liverpool Crown Court, following a year-long trial and appeal. Barton manipulated those in his care, making the residents believe that he was the only person who cared about them, and isolating them from their friends and family. He managed to persuade them to pay him excessive amounts to cover care fees, and to make him a beneficiary in their wills.

In May, a judgment heard at the Court of Appeal has clarified the legal test for dishonesty in criminal law. This ruling now means that juries must consider all the facts in the case, including the defendant’s knowledge or belief in the facts, before deciding whether the defendant’s behaviour is dishonest by the standards of ordinary, reasonable people.

Previously, to prove an act of dishonesty, the jury had to find both of the following.

- The defendant’s conduct was dishonest by the standards of ordinary, reasonable people.
- The defendant appreciated that what they did was dishonest by the standards of those ordinary, reasonable people.

## **The judgment**

On 20 and 21 January 2020, the Court of Appeal heard appeals against the convictions of David Barton and Rosemary Booth, for their sustained frauds against older people. HHJ Steven Everett presided over the trial and directed the jury to consider the behaviour of the defendants according to their own standards of what was honest or dishonest, and not to speculate whether the defendants appreciated that people would find their behaviour dishonest.

Barton and Booth appealed their convictions on the basis that HHJ Everett’s direction contradicted the proper legal test for dishonesty.

On Wednesday 17 June, the Court of Appeal refused permission for the case to be heard at the Supreme Court. This means the redefined test for dishonesty in criminal law will stand for years to come.

Read more about the case [here](#).

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### **Emergency coronavirus funding for sexual violence and domestic abuse charities**

Victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence will benefit from £22 million of emergency funding to help organisations that are providing support during the pandemic. Social distancing measures have meant that some charities can no longer offer face-to-face support, and have consequently moved over to remote services to provide victims with the practical and emotional help they need.

584 charities across England and Wales are now receiving funding to maintain their live-saving counselling and advice services. The funding will allow them to employ more staff, keep helplines open for longer and fund the technology needed for other forms of contact with victims, such as video calls.

Work has also been carried out to ensure that the funding is proportionately distributed between general support services and those tailored to victims of abuse who are Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME), disabled or LGBT+.

Read more about the funding [here](#).

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### **Calls about domestic abuse highest on record**

Calls to the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) Helpline about the impact of domestic abuse on children have increased by 32% since the start of lockdown, to an average of one an hour. Increased risks during the pandemic have further highlighted the need for there to be an amendment to the law to recognise how violence



and coercive control can affect children, and to ensure that children are entitled to access specialist support to recover.

The NSPCC states that the Domestic Abuse Bill, in its current form, fails to recognise the needs of children affected by domestic abuse, despite repeated calls from experts to amend it. An analysis of 11 serious case reviews submitted to MPs in June 2020 shows that children have been seriously harmed, or have died, because domestic abuse was not always considered to be a child protection issue.

Since the lockdown was implemented, 1,500 adults have contacted the NSPCC Helpline regarding risks to children who are ‘trapped behind closed doors’. 58% of these calls led to referrals or a referral update to the local authority. In certain cases, ‘fears’ about the virus were exploited to cut off the child’s contact with family and friends, and to monitor movement under the pretext of keeping them safe from the virus, making it extremely difficult for victims to leave or speak out. You can read the full statement from the NSPCC [here](#).

**Liberty**, a civil liberties organisation, has also raised concerns about coronavirus legislation, calling for the Coronavirus Act 2020 to be scrapped. They state that the ‘Coronavirus Act has failed to uphold people’s rights whilst leaving the most marginalised worst affected’. They are now calling on MPs to repeal the Act when it next comes up for review.

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## **Reform of family courts to protect victims of domestic abuse**

Victims of domestic abuse and their children will receive greater protections after planned sweeping reforms were announced on 25 June 2020. Separate building entrances and waiting rooms will be provided, as well as protective screens to shield them from their alleged abuser in family courts.

Ministers will also make it easier for judges to issue barring orders, preventing abusive ex-partners from continuously bringing their victims back to court, which can be used as a form of continuing domestic abuse. The reforms come after an expert-led review into how the family courts handle domestic abuse raised concerns that victims

and children were being put at unnecessary risk. The expert panel was comprised of representatives from charities, the judiciary, family law practitioners and academics, who considered the views of more than 1,200 individuals and organisations.

The panel found that an ‘adversarial process in the family courts often worsened conflict between parents, which could retraumatise victims and their children’. The reforms will be trialled as part of the Integrated Domestic Abuse Courts pilot.

Read more about the changes [here](#).

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### **Feuerkrieg Division becomes a proscribed organisation**

As of 17 July 2020, it is an offence to be a member or supporter of Feuerkrieg Division (FKD), a far-right, white supremacist group. This follows on from the Home Secretary, Priti Patel, seeking the permission of parliament to proscribe the FKD. Those found guilty of supporting the FKD can face up to 10 years’ imprisonment and an unlimited fine.

The group, which was founded in late 2018, follows a white supremacist ideology. It encourages the use of violence and mass murder to bring about a ‘race war’ and the fall of existing social and political systems. FKD promote their ideology predominantly online through sharing violent white supremacist propaganda, commonly targeting young people aged between 13 and 25.

In September 2019, UK officers apprehended a 16-year-old member of FKD on terrorism charges. In response, the group distributed a list of police buildings and an image of a senior police officer, with a gun to his head and the words ‘race traitor’ edited across his eyes, in the hopes of encouraging members to carry out attacks.

FKD has become the third Neo-Nazi organisation in six months to be proscribed as a terrorist group.

Read more [here](#).

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## Reports

### **UNODC: COVID-19 and the drug supply chain**

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) have published a research brief titled 'COVID-19 and the drug supply chain: from production and trafficking to use'. Measures introduced as a result of the virus have taken a toll on the global economy, public health and our way of life. International border crossings have been closed and economic activity has significantly declined. As drug trafficking relies on legal trade camouflaging its activities and individuals being able to distribute drugs to consumers, the 'lockdown' measures introduced by governments have disrupted many aspects of the illegal drugs market, including production and trafficking.

The research brief, which can be found in full [here](#), is based on the most recent data from government authorities and open sources. The main points include the following.

#### **Measures implemented as a result of COVID-19 are having mixed impacts on the drug supply chain**

Many countries across all continents have reported an overall shortage of many types of drugs at a retail level, as well as increases in prices and reductions in purity. As a result, drug users have been switching substances and/or increasingly accessing drug treatment.

Some countries, such as Italy and Central Asia, have experienced a substantial decrease in drug seizures, with some countries, such as Niger, reporting a cease in drug trafficking. In contrast, other countries, such as Iran and Morocco, have reported large drug seizures, indicating that large-scale trafficking is still taking place. An example of an increase in drug enforcement is seen in the UK, where an improvement in the interdiction of 'county lines' activities has been reported.

#### **'Lockdown' measures are impeding cocaine production in the short-term**

Colombian reports indicate that law enforcement pressure has increased during the pandemic, and that the coca bush eradication programme has continued as planned. Cocaine production appears to have been disrupted, as producers have a shortage of gasoline (essential in cocaine production), which was previously smuggled from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

However, in the Plurinational State of Bolivia, political turbulence and issues related to the spread of COVID-19 appear to be adversely impacting the ability of state authorities to control coca bush cultivation, which could lead to an increase in its cultivation. Cocaine prices have dropped in Peru due to a lack of trafficking opportunities, which may discourage coca bush cultivation in the short-term. However, the impending economic crisis may push more farmers to increase, or take up, coca cultivation in the main cocaine-producing countries.

### **Shipments of cocaine are being trafficked by other means**

A reduction in air traffic to Europe due to restrictive measures may have already led to a rise in direct cocaine shipments by sea cargo from South America to Europe. Reports from Colombia indicate an increase in maritime drug trafficking, but a decrease in cocaine trafficking by land.

### **Increasing demand for cannabis**

Large-scale seizures of cannabis products in the Middle East and North Africa suggest that cannabis resin trafficking to Europe has not been disrupted by 'lockdown' restrictions. There are indications that 'lockdown' measures in Europe may lead to an increased demand for cannabis products, which may intensify drug trafficking activities in the future.

### **Enforcement of COVID-19 measures may benefit drug traffickers**

In certain countries with limited law enforcement capacities, enforcing measures linked to countering the spread of COVID-19 may divert resources away from counter-narcotics effort, making drug trafficking and production less risky for organised criminal groups. There have also been indications that drug trafficking groups are adapting their strategies to continue to operate, and that some groups have begun to exploit the situation to enhance their image among the population by providing services, especially to those who are vulnerable.

### **Economic difficulties could change drug consumption for the worse**

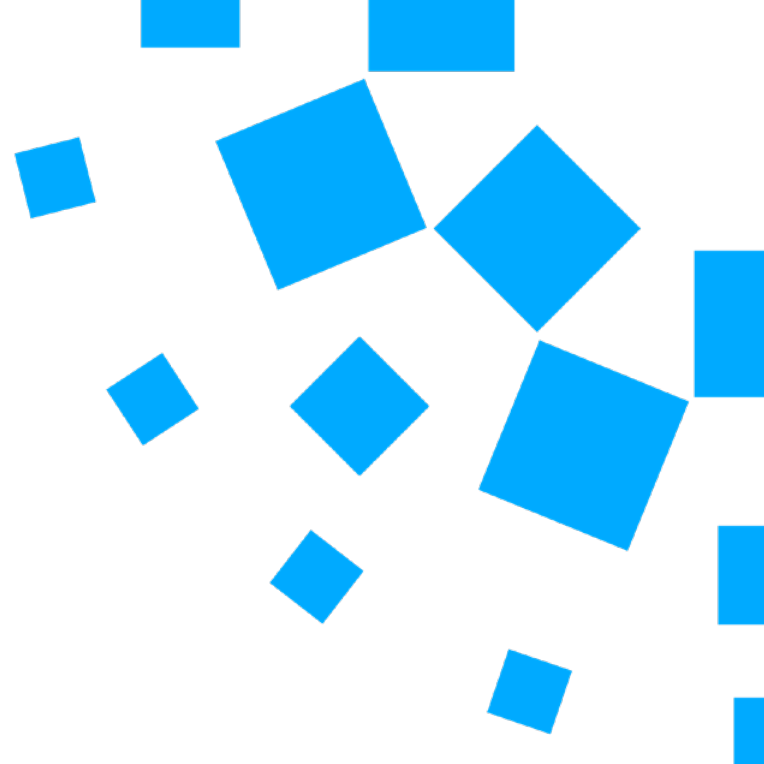
The economic catastrophe caused by measures implemented as a result of COVID-19 has the potential to lead to a lasting transformation of the drug market. The economic difficulties are likely to impact those already in a position of socioeconomic

disadvantage harder than others, which could lead to an increase in the number of people resorting to illicit activities linked to drugs in order to make a living.

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## About the College

We're the professional body for the police service in England and Wales.

Working together with everyone in policing, we share the skills and knowledge officers and staff need to prevent crime and keep people safe.

We set the standards in policing to build and preserve public trust and we help those in policing develop the expertise needed to meet the demands of today and prepare for the challenges of the future.

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