



College of  
Policing

# Brief

[Durham congratulated](#) →

[NCA people smuggling toolkit](#) →

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ISSUE 11 | DECEMBER 2021

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



**PC Karpal Kaur Sandhu** celebrated by the Met →

**Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill** →

**Pension scheme amendments** consultation →

**White, R. v [2021] EWCA Crim 1511** →

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](http://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 December edition of College 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.

In this month's edition:

- Police hire more women than ever before
- Consultation on police pension scheme amendments
- HMICFRS recognises good performance at Durham Constabulary

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 please [get in touch](#) if you have any feedback or ideas for future content.

Thank you for reading,

**The Legal Services Team**

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# College news

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## CPD in focus 2021

Continuing professional development (CPD) comes in a variety of formats, from formal courses and qualifications to informal learning outside the classroom.

This informal learning is increasingly recognised as critical in supporting professional development. During the last week of November, the College's CPD in focus 2021 event explored these different forms of learning in greater depth to ensure the approaches taken by the College meet the evolving needs of learners and the new and emerging challenges faced in policing.

The College hosted two webinars during the week, which were available to everyone in policing:

- 24 November: Learning from social media
- 26 November: Learning to lead

The webinars explored the social media 'tweetchat' forum used to develop and share knowledge and best practice. They also examined using platforms such as YouTube, TikTok and Instagram to successfully engage hard-to-reach communities and discussed recent success in using these platforms to reach modified car and vulnerable road users. The webinars further explored how police leaders have created supportive environments for their teams to positively take part in CPD to support their individual professional development.

Replays of these webinars are available to watch. To access these, please sign up using the link below.

Read more: [\*\*Welcome to CPD in focus 2021.\*\*](#)

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## **Recruitment drive offers ‘once-in-a-generation’ opportunity to shape future of policing**

Chief Constable Andy Marsh, CEO of the College of Policing, has outlined how the College can use the current recruitment drive to strengthen public trust in the police.

In an article published on the College website, he discusses how training for new recruits has drastically changed. In particular, he focuses on the enhanced input on ethics and integrity, vulnerability training and new training on crimes committed online and digitally, which is provided at the beginning of new recruits’ careers.

Read more: [\*\*New training an opportunity for culture change in policing.\*\*](#)

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## **Met celebrates the first Asian female police officer 50 years on**

The Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) recently celebrated the legacy of the UK’s first Asian and Sikh female officer, police constable Karpal Kaur Sandhu, who joined the MPS 50 years ago. She served from 1971 until she was killed in the line of duty in 1973. The Met marked her legacy by dedicating a classroom to her memory at the Peel Centre, which is the principal training centre for London’s Metropolitan Police Service.

PC Karpal Kaur Sandhu was born to a Sikh family in Zanzibar, East Africa, in 1943 and came to the UK in 1962 before working as a nurse at Chase Farm Hospital.

She joined the Met at the age of 27, despite objections from her family, where she served at Hornsey Police Station before moving to Leyton.

Sadly she was killed in 1973 by her husband, who objected to her being a police officer.

Ravjeet Gupta, chair of the Metropolitan Police Sikh Association (MPSA) said:

‘PC Karpal Kaur was a trailblazer and pioneer in her own right. She was the first female police officer in the western world, if not globally, coming from a Sikh and Asian background.



‘Sikh officers and staff celebrate her achievement in entering a very different world in the 1970s with the vision to helping others and making a difference in line with Sikh values of sarbat da bhala (equal welfare for all beings).’

Read more: [Celebrating Karpal Kaur Sandhu’s legacy.](#)

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## **Recognising and responding to vulnerability guidelines published**

The College has published new guidelines to help police officers, staff, special constables and volunteers to identify and respond to vulnerable people. They aim to provide practical support to help with the following aims:

- recognition of individuals at risk of harm
- increase opportunities to gather information about a person’s situation
- increase understanding of vulnerabilities

There is also a guideline for chief officers, setting out the organisational support they need to provide for their officers and staff to be effective in their roles.

Read more: [Identifying vulnerability - new guidelines to support police.](#)

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# Legal updates

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## Bills

### **Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill**

The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill aims to make widespread changes across the criminal justice system. These include changes to police powers, judicial procedures and offender rehabilitation.

The Bill has recently passed the committee stage where the Lords undertook a line-by-line examination of the Bill and amendments were discussed. Proposed amendments so far include:

- examining the penalties for causing death or serious injury by dangerous or careless driving and driving when under the influence of drink or drugs
- changes to prevent a lone arresting officer requiring a person subject to arrest to enter a vehicle or premises other than a police station
- changes to criminal trespassing
- the deployment of drones and new surveillance and weapons technology

The Bill will now move from the committee stage to the report stage for further scrutiny by the Lords. This next stage begins on 6 December.

Read more: [\*\*Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill\*\*](#).

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## Statutory instruments

### **The Terrorism Prevention and Investigation Measures Act 2011 (Continuation) Order 2021**

The Home Secretary's powers under the Terrorism Prevention and Investigation Measures (TPIM) Act 2011 ((Continuation) Order 2016) expires on 13 December 2021. An extension was laid in parliament and approved on 2 November 2021 to continue to require the powers conferred on the office of the Home Secretary in the TPIM Act 2011.

The Order is made providing for the continuation of the powers for a maximum of five years until the end of 13 December 2026.

This Order may be cited as the TPIM Act 2011 (Continuation) Order 2021 and comes into force on 13 December 2021. This Order extends to England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Read more: [\*\*The Terrorism Prevention and Investigation Measures Act 2011 \(Continuation\) Order 2021\*\*](#). See also: [\*\*Statutory Instrument SI 2021\*\*](#).

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### **The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 (Commencement No. 2) Regulations 2021**

On 1 November 2021, the following provisions of the Act came into force:

- section 3 (children as victims of domestic abuse) only for the purposes of section 79 (grant of secure tenancies in cases of domestic abuse)
- Part 2 (the Domestic Abuse Commissioner)
- section 79 (grant of secure tenancies in cases of domestic abuse)
- section 84 (power of Secretary of State to issue guidance about domestic abuse, etc)

The regulations follow the Family Procedure (Amendment No. 2) Rules 2021 and the July 2021 Family Procedure Rules (FPR) Practice Direction (PD) update, which make amendments to align the FPR and accompanying PDs with the Domestic Abuse Act (DAA) 2021.

The regulations also follow the Home Office consultation on draft statutory guidance to implement the definition of domestic abuse (Part 1, DAA 2021), which closed on 14 September 2021.

Read more: [\*\*The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 \(Commencement No. 2\) Regulations 2021.\*\*](#)

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## Circulars

### **Circular 007/2021: The Firearms (Amendment No. 2) Rules 2021**

This circular sets out changes to the Firearms Rules 1998, which came into effect on 1 November 2021. The following amendments have been made.

1. The introduction of s changes to the prescribed forms for applying for a firearm and/or shotgun certificate or to be registered as a firearms dealer.
2. Section 53 of the Firearms Act 1968 gives the Secretary of State a power to make rules prescribing the form of certificates and other things that need prescribing under the Act. The rules made under section 53 are the Firearms Rules 1998 ('the Firearms Rules').
3. The prescribed forms for applying for a firearm or shotgun certificate, or to vary a certificate, are Forms 201 and 201V. The prescribed form to apply to be a registered as a firearms dealer is Form 116.
4. The Firearms (Amendment) (No. 2) Rules 2021 make provision to enable chief officers of police to process applications for a firearm certificate, shotgun certificate or registered firearms dealer's certificate, which are made using the old forms that are to be replaced. The applications necessary for this closed on 1 December 2021.

Read more: [\*\*Circular 007/2021: The Firearms \(Amendment No. 2\) Rules 2021.\*\*](#)

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## Before the court

### **White, R. v [2021] EWCA Crim 1511**

This application was made by the previous Solicitor General (Michael Ellis QC MP) for leave to refer the sentence passed on Horace White ('the offender') on 18 August 2021 in the Crown Court at Inner London by Recorder Daniel Fugallo. A community order of 18 months was imposed on the offender for an offence of harassment causing fear of violence.

The offender and the victim, Gwa Corbett, were neighbours for about 10 years. Relations were initially amicable until the victim asked the offender to turn down his music one day, resulting in abusive and aggressive behaviour from the offender. The victim is a trans, bisexual woman, and the offender was transphobic and homophobic towards her, frequently, beginning in late 2019 and lasting for a lengthy period of time.

The offender would regularly threaten and act aggressively towards the victim and make sexually inappropriate comments. The offender threatened to kill the victim, remove her house door and smash her CCTV camera. Regular homophobic and transphobic remarks were made to the victim by the offender and, on occasion, by his friends. Offensive music was also repeatedly loudly played containing threatening messages.

The offender was arrested on 10 July 2020 and released on police bail the day after. He subsequently breached the bail conditions imposed through his continued behaviour towards the victim. The threats and abuse made the victim scared and fearful for what the offender might do to her, and she believed he would carry out these threats. This caused her great distress and fear. On 22 July 2020 the offender was charged with harassment putting a person in fear of violence. He was found guilty on 15 June 2021 at the magistrates' court and the case was committed to the Crown Court for sentencing.

During the sentencing hearing the victim explained that she was in fear of being in her own home. During lockdown she had been unable to get away from the offender and had had to endure abuse from him most days. Her mental health had suffered as a result and she had been made to feel subhuman and scared in her own home. The offender claimed that the allegations against him were false and denied holding any discriminatory views. However, he accepted making one offensive comment during an argument and playing homophobic music.

The Recorder imposed an 18-month community order with two requirements: a rehabilitation activity requirement and 200 hours of unpaid work. A restraining order was also imposed for five years.

The Court of Appeal held that this sentence was unduly lenient. As a result, the original community order was quashed and substituted with a sentence of 12 months imprisonment, suspended for two years, together with the original rehabilitation and unpaid work requirements.

Read more: [\*\*White, R. v \[2021\] EWCA Crim 1511.\*\*](#)

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# Policing

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## News

### **Consultation on police pension scheme amendments**

The 'McCloud/Sargeant judgment' refers to the Court of Appeal's ruling that the Government's 2015 public sector pension reforms unlawfully discriminated against members based on age. The government accepted that this applied across all public sector pension schemes, including the police pension scheme.

To enact the first phase of the remedy in the McCloud/Sargeant judgment, the Home Office is undertaking a consultation on the Public Service Pensions: Police Pensions (Amendment) Regulations 2022. The consultation is now open and closes at 3pm on 2 January 2022.

This consultation will address elements of the prospective remedy, including moving all members to the reformed scheme ('the 2015 scheme') from 1 April 2022 and closing the legacy schemes to future accrual from 31 March 2022.

This will mean that all members are treated equally in respect of any pensionable service rendered after 31 March 2022. There will be an additional consultation in due course on the deferred choice underpin, to address those elements of the remedy that will be retrospective in effect (relating to the remedy period, 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2022).

Read more: [\*\*Amendments to police pension schemes in England and Wales 2022\*\*](#). See also [\*\*McCloud/Sargeant cases\*\*](#).

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## Police hire more women than ever before

The Home Office reported an increase in women joining the police between July and September 2021.

In total, 11,053 officers have been hired across England and Wales as part of the Police Uplift Programme. Female officers accounted for 45% (1,451) of all new joiners between July and September last year. Moreover, over the last year, eight forces – Derbyshire, Lancashire, Greater Manchester, Staffordshire, Sussex, Thames Valley, Kent and Suffolk – have hired more women than men. The police force is the most diverse it has ever been in its history, with Black, Asian and ethnic minority officers making up 7.9% of all officers.

Chief Constable Andy Marsh, CEO of the College of Policing, welcomed the new recruitment figures, describing them as ‘extremely positive’.

Read more: [Over 11,000 police hired with more women than ever before.](#)

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## College publishes menopause management guidance

The College of Policing has issued new guidance on how to manage menopause in the workplace. The document provides advice and guidance for women going through the menopause, and to assist managers supporting individuals in the workplace.

According to the annual Home Office Police Workforce data return, there were 40,319 female police officers in the 43 police forces as of 31 March 2020, making up 31% of police officers in England and Wales. In relation to police staff, 62% of staff were female as of 31 March 2020. At the same time, 44% of all police officers were over 40 years old, while 22% of all police staff were over 55 years old.

The guidance was developed in collaboration with the National Police Chiefs’ Council (NPCC), the Police Federation, UNISON, police staff and the Menopause Action Group.

It includes:

- signs and symptoms of the menopause
- guidance for women going through the menopause, their partners, managers and occupational health



- guidance on creating strategic policy
- links to additional support, including for those who don't identify as female

Read more: [\*\*Management of menopause transition in the police service 2021.\*\*](#)

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## Reports

### **HMICFRS recognises good performance at Durham Constabulary**

Durham Constabulary has been congratulated by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) for its overall good performance, although improvements are needed in some areas. The constabulary was graded as 'outstanding' in two areas, 'good' in seven areas and 'adequate' in one area. The 'outstanding' areas related to how the force disrupts organised crime and how it achieves value for money.

Durham Constabulary was said to have a clear focus on preventing crime. The constabulary works well to safeguard those who are vulnerable and there is a clear focus on preventing people from being drawn into crime.

In regard to the force's ability to reduce crime, the following areas were flagged for improvement:

- the force doesn't always notify callers if the appointment or scheduled response time changes
- victims of crime are not automatically given written confirmation of the allegations
- victims' needs are not always assessed and recorded

Read more: [\*\*Durham Constabulary congratulated for good performance.\*\*](#)

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## **HMICFRS raises concerns about Gloucestershire Constabulary's performance**

Despite improvements in some areas, concerns have been raised about the overall performance of Gloucestershire Constabulary. HMICFRS graded the constabulary's performance across 11 areas of policing and found the force to be 'good' in four areas, 'adequate' in one area and 'inadequate' in six areas. The 'inadequate' areas included how the force protects vulnerable people and how it investigates crime.

HMICFRS stated that the force works well with communities and is improving the way it uses stop and search. In addition, the force is good at treating people fairly and with respect. It was acknowledged that there had been a significant improvement since the last inspection, with serious and organised crime being prioritised.

In relation to crime identification and safeguarding, recommendations included:

- ensuring all reported crimes were recorded
- ensuring effective assurance frameworks were developed to monitor crime recording standards
- ensuring information reviewed by the multi-agency safeguarding hub is the fullest available and doesn't rely solely on information provided by officers at the scene

Read more: [\*\*Concerns about Gloucestershire Constabulary's performance\*\*](#).

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# Criminal justice news

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## **NCA launches social media toolkit to tackle people smuggling**

The National Crime Agency (NCA) has launched a campaign to tackle people smuggling in HGVs and lorries into and across the UK.

Since the start of the year, the NCA has been involved in approximately 50 ongoing investigations linked to organised immigration crime, which has resulted in more than 140 arrests. This campaign, in collaboration with Border Force, is supported by Crimestoppers and the Home Office. It comes two years after the discovery in Grays, Essex, of 39 Vietnamese migrants who tragically died while being smuggled into the UK.

Border Force Chief Operating Officer Steve Dann said: 'The Grays tragedy revealed the terrible dangers people face being hidden in the backs of lorries by criminals who put profit over safety without a care for who they hurt.'

As part of the campaign, the NCA published a social media toolkit to raise awareness to those in the transport sector of the dangers of organised immigration crime; how to spot people smuggling; where to report suspicious behaviours; and the consequences of facilitating illicit activity.

The NCA is also seeking to capture the attention of organised criminal groups and to disincentivise criminal activity. To achieve this, the NCA is encouraging the downloading and use of their campaign images and suggested social media posts to further drive the spread of their critical campaign message in the hope that this will help reduce people smuggling in the UK.

Read more: [\*\*New campaign appeals to lorry drivers in crackdown on people smuggling.\*\*](#)

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## **Barnardo's calls for children to be protected from harmful online pornography**

The UK's leading children's charity, Barnardo's, revealed that 26% of its frontline workers working directly with children have said that accessing pornography has a hugely damaging impact on them.

Workers said that despite feeling uncomfortable or scared, children are participating in acts they have seen in pornographic videos, and see these acts as being an expected part of a relationship. They also believe if they feel otherwise then there must be something wrong with them, rather than identifying it as abusive.

When asked about the effect of viewing pornographic material when under the legal age of 18, 32% of workers said it had led to the children they support developing unrealistic expectations of sex and relationships, while 28% said it led to children displaying inappropriate sexualised behaviour. A further 22% said underage viewing of pornography negatively affected mental health and wellbeing, while 12% said it normalised abusive or exploitative behaviour.

Read more: [\*\*Barnardo's survey reveals the harm done to children by harmful pornography.\*\*](#)

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## **Biometrics Commissioner responds to DCMS consultation**

The independent Commissioner for the Retention and Use of Biometrics Material and Surveillance Camera Commissioner, Professor Fraser Sampson, has issued a formal response to the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) consultation paper 'Data: a new direction'. The consultation proposed the absorption of the functions of the Biometrics and Surveillance Camera Commissioner's role into the Information Commissioner's Office.

Personal data intersects with many aspects of police work and functions. The recent consultation paper by the DCMS has raised issues around the appropriate regulation and oversight of police use of biometrics and surveillance, a vital area of police work that has been under consideration by both the government and Parliament for several years now.

Notably, key functions of the Biometrics Commissioner include determining police applications to retain biometric material of people who have been arrested for serious offences, such as assault and sexual offences, but where they could not be charged. It also includes reviewing the retention and use of DNA samples, profiles and fingerprints by the police, including arrangements for exchanging biometric material with other countries.

Critical functions under the Surveillance Camera Commissioner's role include chairing the independent advisory group on automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) and working with the surveillance camera industry to explore the accountable and responsible use of new technology to enable the police to harness new tools. Finally, this role also entails visiting police forces to meet officers, staff and elected local policing bodies to understand how to collectively enable the responsible, proportionate and accountable exploitation of emerging tactical options.

In response to the proposed changes to absorb these roles into the ICO, Sampson highlighted that 'both functions are about much more than upholding data rights. Proposing their absorption by the ICO is to misunderstand the specific nature and importance of both.' Alternatively, Sampson advocated that there were more compelling destinations for these functions. He added that he would work closely with the Home Office to explore the relevant issues, benefits and risks to ensure 'public accountability emerges stronger and clearer for us all'.

Public consultations on reforms to the UK's data protection regime closed on 19 November 2021. These consultations mark the first step of reforming the UK's regime for the protection of personal data and a shift to meet the government's vision for a pro-growth and innovation-friendly regime that underpins the trustworthy use of data.

Read more: [\*\*'Data: a new direction': commissioner's response.\*\*](#)

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## Sentencing Council's strategic objectives 2021-2026

The Sentencing Council has launched its strategy for the next five years, committing itself to five objectives.

These were decided following a public consultation in 2020 to seek views on where its future priorities should lie. Producing and revising guidelines will remain the Council's core focus.

The five objectives are as follows.

1. Promoting consistency and transparency in sentencing.
2. Ensuring all work is evidence-based and working to strengthen the data and evidence that underpins it.
3. Exploring and taking action on equality and diversity issues.
4. Considering evidence on the effectiveness of sentencing and raising awareness of relevant issues.
5. Working to strengthen confidence in sentencing by improving public understanding, including among victims, witnesses and offenders.

Lord Justice Holroyde, Chairman of the Sentencing Council, said: 'It was clear from the overall response to our consultation that the Council is seen as an important and integral part of the criminal justice system. There was broad support for our own view that producing and revising guidelines should remain our primary focus but some respondents felt we could add more value by placing more emphasis on other aspects of our work.'

'The strategic objectives we have set ourselves for the next five years reflect the statutory duties of the Council, responses to the consultation and the resources we have at our disposal.'

Read more: [Sentencing Council - the next five years](#). Also read: [Strategic objectives 2021-2026](#).

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## England's second 'super courtroom' opens in Loughborough

A 'super courtroom' opened in Loughborough in November, designed to accommodate criminal cases with multiple defendants.

Such cases accounted for almost a fifth of all trials waiting to be heard in mid-October. During the COVID-19 pandemic, a backlog of cases has built up as they have been harder to hear due to social distancing measures being in place.

The new courtroom creates much-needed space, freeing capacity elsewhere in the court system and allowing for an additional 250 cases a year to be heard across England and Wales.

The court is the second of its kind after the first opened in Manchester in September 2021. The facility allows vulnerable witnesses and victims to relay their evidence from outside the courtroom, reducing the distress caused by being in the same room as defendants.

Read more: ['Super courtroom' opens in Loughborough.](#)

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## Met officers jailed over inappropriate photos misconduct

Former PCs Jamie Lewis and Deniz Jaffer were both jailed for two years and nine months at their sentencing hearing at the Old Bailey on 6 December after previously entering guilty pleas to the charge of misconduct in public office on 2 November. They admitted taking photographs at the scene of Nicole Smallman and Bibaa Henry's murders and subsequently sharing them.

Commenting on the convictions, Independent Office for Police Conduct Regional Director Sal Naseem commented: 'The actions of PC Jamie Lewis and former officer Deniz Jaffer were sickening. They should have been protecting a crime scene but instead they treated it with contempt and disrespect.' He added: 'There can be no place in policing for anyone behaving this way.'

On 8 June 2020, PC Jaffer took four photographs on his personal mobile while positioned on the cordon in Fryent Country Park, Wembley. He subsequently sent the photographs to PC Lewis who used a mobile app to superimpose his face onto one of the images, which showed the



sisters in the background. After sharing the photographs taken at the crime scene in a WhatsApp group, PC Lewis used degrading and sexist language to describe the victims at the scene.

In outlining the gross misconduct of the officers, Naseem also outlined separate investigations into six constables. These found that three additional officers must also answer for misconduct due to being aware of or receiving and viewing the inappropriate photographs and failing to challenge or report them.

Naseem added that ‘a culture where some officers do not see anything wrong with sharing deeply offensive messages, and where others feel unable or unwilling to challenge this, has to change. And it has to change now.’

Read more: [\*\*Metropolitan Police Service officers admit misconduct in public office in connection with crime scene photographs.\*\*](#)

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## **England football fan jailed for 10 weeks over racist rant after Euro 2020 final**

A football fan who livestreamed himself racially abusing England players after the Euro 2020 final has been jailed.

Jonathon Best, 52, livestreamed himself racially abusing Marcus Rashford, Jadon Sancho and Bukayo Saka, who missed penalties in the shootout against Italy which England lost. Best was sentenced to 10 weeks in prison on 2 November at Willesden Magistrates’ Court.

He had previously pleaded guilty to sending by public communication network a grossly offensive or indecent or obscene or menacing message or matter.

Elaine Cousins, from the Crown Prosecution Service, said: ‘While the majority of the nation took great pride in the Three Lions reaching their first international final in more than 50 years, Jonathon Best took to Facebook to livestream a barrage of racist abuse at the three players who missed penalties during the game.

‘He used social media to publicly vilify these three young men who tried to score for England. When approached by a Facebook friend asking

him to remove the grossly offensive content, Best replied: 'it's my profile, I can do what I want'.

'There is absolutely no room in the game, nor elsewhere, for racism. The CPS is committed to bringing perpetrators of hate crime to justice where there is the evidence to do so.'

Read more: [\*\*Football fan jailed for 10 weeks after Euro 2020 rant on Facebook.\*\*](#)

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## **Dark web administrator ordered to hand over proceeds of crimes**

In 2019, Thomas White pleaded guilty to drug trafficking, money laundering and making 464 category A indecent images of children. He is currently serving a sentence of five years and four months.

Since his arrest, officers at the National Crime Agency (NCA) have investigated White's finances.

White was an administrator of the website Silk Road. This site used technology to allow users to anonymously buy and sell class A and B drugs, computer hacking tools and other illegal goods using the digital currency bitcoin. The FBI shut this site down. Within a month of its closure, he launched Silk Road 2.0.

At a recent confiscation hearing at Liverpool Crown Court, HHJ Teague QC ordered White to repay £493,550 from his bitcoin holdings. In addition, White forfeited the electronic items used in the commission of these offences.

Tyrone Surgeon, branch commander at the NCA, said: 'This has been a complex, international investigation and highlights that we will use every tool at our disposal to disrupt organised criminals from profiting from their crime.'

Read more: [\*\*Notorious dark web administrator ordered to hand over more than £490k amassed from criminal activity.\*\*](#)

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## **Man guilty of grooming has sentence tripled**

On 11 August, James Rampton, 36, was found guilty of grooming and was sentenced to two years' imprisonment at Gloucester Crown Court.

Rampton had met the victim at a youth support group for those in the LGBT+ community in 2010. Later that year, Rampton started to communicate and groom the victim over Facebook Messenger, which subsequently led to the victim travelling and staying at the offender's house for two successive days.

However, on 2 November after a re-examination of the facts of the case, the Court of Appeal found Rampton's original sentence to be unduly lenient and subsequently increased his sentence to six years' imprisonment.

Commenting on the new sentence, the Solicitor General, Alex Chalk QC MP, stated: 'The offender took advantage of a young boy who was in the process of coming to terms with his sexuality. It is only right the sentence has been increased to reflect the lasting impact the offender's actions have had on the victim. I hope it can help to bring him some closure.'

Read more: [Man who groomed teen has sentence tripled](#).

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## Reports

### **Northern Ireland criminal justice report shines light on females in conflict with the law**

For the first time, the Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland report has explored how female offenders are treated by the police, prosecution, courts, prison, probation and youth justice services and how offenders are managed.

In response to the report, the Chief Inspector of Criminal Justice in Northern Ireland, Jacqui Durkin, said: 'Women and girls are more likely to receive short prison sentences, but their impact can be far reaching. A short prison sentence for a mother can be life changing for her child.'

Durkin further called for criminal justice organisations to improve how they respond to the specific needs of women and girls under the age of

18 suspected or convicted of committing a criminal offence. She added: 'The treatment of females by the criminal justice system must take account of the specific issues and sensitivities affecting women and girls to deliver outcomes that are equitable.'

The report set out three strategic and five operational recommendations for improvement. These include:

- the need to develop cross-cutting expectations for working with females in custody and the community
- developing a framework to ensure the best interest of children impacted by parental involvement in the criminal justice system
- the development of policies, guidance, training needs and materials to ensure the alignment with all international standards and support staff to meet the needs of women and girls, including special groups such as transgender people, foreign nationals and those from ethnic minorities

Although Northern Ireland's criminal justice system is separate from the criminal justice system of England and Wales, which the College operates under, this report provides interesting insight into wider aspects of criminal justice and females in conflict with the law more generally.

Read more: [How the criminal justice system in Northern Ireland treats females in conflict with the law.](#)

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## **Mental health in criminal justice: report identifies the broken system of data sharing**

Between April and May 2021, six regulatory bodies conducted a joint thematic inspection on mental health in the criminal justice system. These bodies were Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation; Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services; Her Majesty's Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate; Care Quality Commission; Healthcare Inspectorate Wales; and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons.

The inspection tracked the journey of individuals with mental health needs and disorders throughout the criminal justice system. They started from first contact with the police to release from prison.

The report describes a 'broken' system of information sharing between agencies, confusion over data protection laws, incomplete and inaccurate records and delays. Furthermore, police, prosecutors, prisons and probation services evaluate individuals differently, creating gaps and inconsistencies.

The report makes 22 recommendations, including creating a memorandum of understanding on information sharing to promote better joint working and finding agreement on standard definitions of mental health problems.

Read more: [\*\*A joint thematic inspection of the criminal justice journey for individuals with mental health needs and disorders.\*\*](#)

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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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