



College of  
Policing

# Brief

Non-molestation orders →

Appeals laws reviewed →

Funding for safer streets →

college.police.uk ISSUE 9 | SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2022

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



**Queen's funeral**  
policing operation



**New police lead**  
serious organised  
crime



**Productivity**  
in policing



**CPS new chapter**  
in prosecution  
guidance



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 September and October edition of Brief, your update of what's new in the policing and criminal justice field, produced by the Legal Services team at the College of Policing. You'll be aware this edition covers a longer period of content due to the recent mourning period which led to a pause on communications.

Within this edition:

- new National Police Lead for Serious Organised Crime appointed
- productivity in policing
- Crown Prosecution Service introduces new chapter to their prosecution guidance dealing with public sexual abuse
- laws governing appeals to be reviewed by The Law Commission
- further funding to communities announced to make the streets safer

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

Thank you for reading,

The Legal Services Team

# College news

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## **Non-molestation orders: Effective practice published**

The College has published [\*\*effective current practice for using non-molestation orders\*\*](#), which supports the police to use the orders to protect victims of abuse. Non-molestation orders, also known as civil court orders or injunctions, prevent abusers from using or threatening violence against a victim and from intimidating, harassing or pestering victims.

The publication of the current practice follows an investigation into a super-complaint submitted by the Centre for Women's Justice, which highlighted inconsistent and ineffective use of non-molestation orders across forces.

Read more: [\*\*Non-molestation orders - effective practice published\*\*](#)

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## **College introduces its custody learning pack**

The College has launched a brand-new immersive training package for custody sergeants and detention officers. With this training, the College aims to reduce the risk of death and adverse incidents in custody. It will immerse learners in a live custody environment alongside multi-agency partners. They will be presented with real-life scenarios, dilemmas and decisions that affect the safety and wellbeing of detainees.

The College invites force custody leads and learning and development trainers to one of the five 'train the trainer' events, where they will learn how to run immersive learning sessions and train custody officers. The event dates and locations are as follows:

- Tuesday, 4 October - Ryton (Hydra)
- Tuesday, 18 October - Ryton (classroom)
- Tuesday, 1 November - Harperley Hall (classroom)
- Tuesday, 13 December - Harperley Hall (Hydra)
- Tuesday, 31 January 2023 - Ryton (Hydra)

Register your interest here: [\*\*Custody immersive learning package launched\*\*](#)

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## **Outcomes for police misconduct proceedings**

Updated guidance on outcomes in police misconduct proceedings is now available. This guidance is for chief officers and independent legally qualified chairs, who must be appointed to chair most misconduct hearing panels. It supports:

- assessing the seriousness of officers' actions, including the broader impact on public confidence in policing
- consistency and transparency when considering the appropriate outcome

The guidance states that chairs of misconduct hearings should consider the impact on public confidence in policing, even where there has been no harm caused and where the incident is not in the public domain.

The update includes a new section on police misconduct proceedings related to violence against women and girls, which says that the outcome is likely to be severe.

Read more: [\*\*Outcomes for police misconduct proceedings - updated guidance\*\*](#)

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## **Career development guiding principles and diagnostic tool for forces**

The College released a set of revised guiding principles for career development, alongside an organisational diagnostic tool.

These resources are for force leads in human resources, organisational development, and learning and development. Together, they support forces to:

- understand their strengths and weaknesses in career development

- develop consistent policies and processes
- understand their responsibilities in training employees
- develop and retain their police officers and staff

Read more: [\*\*Career development guiding principles and diagnostic tool for forces\*\*](#)

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# Legal updates

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## Bills

### **Data Protection and Digital Information Bill**

A Bill to:

- make provision for the implementation of agreements on sharing information for law enforcement purposes
- make provision for the regulation of the processing of information relating to identified or identifiable living individuals
- make provisions about the disclosure of information to improve public service delivery
- establish the Information Commission
- make provisions for oversight of biometric data

The Bill is now due to have its second reading on a date to be announced.

Read more: [\*\*Data Protection and Digital Information Bill - Parliamentary Bills\*\*](#)

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### **Public Order Bill**

This Bill makes provisions for new offences relating to public order, stop and search powers, the delegation of police functions relating to public order, and serious disruption prevention orders.

Read more: [\*\*Public Order Bill - Parliamentary Bills\*\*](#)

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## Statutory instruments

### **Football Spectators (Relevant Offences) Regulations 2022**

The draft Football Spectators (Relevant Offences) Regulations 2022 were laid before Parliament under section 14(11) of the Football Spectators Act 1989.

The instrument has not yet been considered by the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments.

These regulations amend Schedule 1 to the Football Spectators Act 1989 (c. 37) to add the offences of supply and possession of Class A drugs to the list of relevant offences that may prompt a court to issue a banning order.

A banning order, made under section 14A of that Act, prevents the person who is subject to the order from entering premises in England and Wales to attend a regulated football match, as prescribed in article 3 of the Football Spectators (Prescription) Order 2022 (SI 2022/617).

These regulations do not apply to an offence committed before the day the regulations come into force.

Read more: [\*\*The Football Spectators \(Relevant Offences\) Regulations 2022\*\*](#)

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### **The Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999 (Commencement No. 28) Order 2022**

Section 28 of the Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999 (c. 23) ('the Act') provides that where a video-recorded interview of a witness has been admitted as their evidence-in-chief under section 27 of the Act, the court may also direct that any cross-examination and re-examination of the witness should be video-recorded and that recording should also be admitted as evidence.

Article 2 of this Order makes provision for the coming into force of section 28 of the Act on 9 September 2022, for the purposes of proceedings before the crown court sitting at Ipswich, Luton, Maidstone, Oxford and St Albans, where a witness is eligible for assistance by virtue

of section 17(4) of the Act (complainants in respect of a sexual offence or modern slavery offence who are witnesses in proceedings relating to that offence, or that offence and any other offences).

Read more: [\*\*The Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999 \(Commencement No. 28\) Order 2022\*\*](#)

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## **The Slavery and Human Trafficking (Definition of Victim) Regulations 2022**

The Slavery and Human Trafficking (Definition of Victim) Regulations 2022 were introduced as secondary legislation to the Nationality and Borders Act, effective from 28 July 2022. The regulations narrow the definition of a victim of trafficking and modern slavery, clarifying who the UK considers to be a victim of human trafficking.

Read more: [\*\*The Slavery and Human Trafficking \(Definition of Victim\) Regulations 2022\*\*](#) and [\*\*New draft regulations risk excluding survivors from identification and support | Focus on Labour Exploitation \(FLEX\)\*\*](#)

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# Policing

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## News

### **The Queen's funeral was the biggest policing operation the UK has ever seen**

World leaders, dignitaries and other VIPs attended the Queen's state funeral, which involved more than 10,000 officers from every force in the country, making it the largest ever global police protection operation. In the course of the operation, motorbike escort riders, mounted branches, firearms officers, dog teams and the marine unit were all involved, and at least 67 people were arrested as a result.

According to Deputy Assistant Commissioner Stuart Cundy of the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS), the state funeral marked the beginning of the 'final and most complex phase' of the operation following the death of the monarch.

Read more: [\*\*The Queen's funeral marked 'final and most complex phase' of UK's biggest policing operation\*\*](#)

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### **New National Police Lead for Serious Organised Crime appointed**

Chief Constable Steve Jupp has been appointed as the National Police Lead for Serious Organised Crime. He will coordinate national police action to tackle criminal gangs, working closely with the National Crime Agency to deliver the strategic policing plan to support national priorities in tackling serious and organised crime.

Read more: [\*\*New national police lead for serious organised crime appointed\*\*](#)

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## Thin Blue Paw Awards 2022

Thin Blue Paw has announced the winners of the 2022 Thin Blue Paw Awards, which celebrate the remarkable work and achievements of serving and retired police dogs across the United Kingdom. The award categories are as follows.

- Outstanding Bravery – for a serving police dog who has shown extraordinary bravery in the line of duty.
- Lifesaver – to celebrate a serving police dog whose work was invaluable in a life-threatening incident.
- Crime Fighting Duo – for a serving police dog and handler team who are constantly achieving outstanding operational results.
- Rising Star – to celebrate the achievements of a newly licensed serving police dog, within the first 18 months of service.
- Lifetime Achievement – to celebrate a retired police dog who made an exceptional difference during their service.

Read more: [Thin Blue Paw Awards 2022](#)

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## Commonwealth Games 2022

Police dogs and handlers from the Civil Nuclear Constabulary were on duty before and following the Commonwealth Games. Officers searched hotels, conference facilities, bus stations, train stations, stadiums, the National Exhibition Centre, Coventry City football grounds, and Alexander Stadium in Birmingham. In total, 90 days of operational searches were conducted.

Read more: [CNC assist at Commonwealth Games 2022](#)

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## Concerns over data relating to the MPS strip-searching of children

Following the strip search of a child (Child Q) in east London in 2020, which was made public earlier this year, the Children's Commissioner for England requested data from the MPS, which revealed it was not an isolated incident, and that searches have increased each year since 2018.

City and Hackney Safeguarding Children Partnership (CHSCP) concluded that the strip search in 2020 should never have happened, that it was unjustified and that racism 'was likely to have been an influencing factor'.

The Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) has confirmed they are investigating a further four strip searches of children.

The data obtained also revealed that, out of 650 strip-searches of children aged 10 to 17 between 2018 and 2020, almost 25% were done without an appropriate adult present, which is required by law except in urgent cases.

The Children's Commissioner for England said:

'I am not reassured that what happened to Child Q was an isolated issue, but instead believe it may be a particularly concerning example of a more systemic problem around child protection within the Metropolitan Police. I remain unconvinced that the Metropolitan Police is consistently considering children's welfare and wellbeing.'

The MPS spokesman said:

'The Metropolitan Police is progressing at pace work to ensure children subject to intrusive searches are dealt with appropriately and respectfully. We recognise the significant impact such searches can have. We have already made changes and continue to work hard to balance the policing need for this type of search with the considerable impact it can have on young people.'

Read more: [New data reveals extent of child strip-searches by MPS](#)

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## **Investigation underway into use of force by Sussex Police on elderly man in care home**

An IOPC investigation is taking place in regard to the use of force by two Sussex police officers on an elderly disabled man at a care home.

Officers were called to the care home following a report that an elderly male resident with dementia had a knife and was threatening staff. On arrival, officers were taken into a room where the man, who was in a wheelchair and had one leg, was holding a knife. Officers briefly engaged with the man, before one officer used a PAVA spray, followed by a baton. The second officer deployed a Taser before removing the knife from the man and handcuffing him. The man was taken to hospital for medical treatment following the incident, where he remained for three weeks before being pronounced dead.

The IOPC investigation follows a voluntary conduct referral by the force, concerning allegations of excessive use of force. Gross misconduct notices have been served on the two officers, along with letters advising them that they are under criminal investigation for manslaughter.

Read more: [\*\*Investigation underway into use of force by Sussex Police on elderly disabled man in care home\*\*](#)

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## **IOPC Investigate fatal MPS police shooting of a man in Lambeth**

Chris Kaba, aged 24, was fatally shot on 5 September 2022 by an MPS officer in Streatham Hill. The Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) announced that they are conducting a criminal investigation into this police officer concerning Mr Kaba's death. The homicide investigation will require investigators to compile and analyse large amounts of evidence.

The law requires the IOPC to conduct a wide-ranging independent investigation when a person dies in these circumstances. Therefore, they will explore all of the circumstances surrounding Mr Kaba's death, including how the officers came to be aware of the vehicle Mr Kaba was driving, whether they had any prior knowledge of Mr Kaba, and their decision-making and actions on 5 September. The IOPC will

also investigate whether any police actions were influenced by Mr Kaba's race.

Read more: [Update on fatal police shooting of Chris Kaba](#)

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## **Productivity in policing**

The former Home Secretary asked the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) to lead a review into the operational productivity of policing. The NPCC Chair, Home Office, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS), College of Policing, Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC) and external experts will provide oversight and challenge. They will also work alongside external police forces.

Read more: [NPCC to oversee a review of productivity in policing](#)

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## **Recommendations for police officers' pay published by the Police Remuneration Review Body**

The Police Remuneration Review Body published an independent report on 19 July 2022 setting out their recommendations for police officers' pay in England and Wales.

The government, including the former Home Secretary, have responded to the report.

Read more: [Police Remuneration Review Body report: 2022 England and Wales](#)

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## Reports

### **Forensic researchers partner with North Wales Police to tackle livestock attacks**

Forensic researchers from Liverpool John Moores University (LJMU) are collaborating with North Wales Police to provide support to future livestock attack investigations.

There are approximately 120 dog attacks on livestock per year in North Wales. In most cases, these attacks are committed by dogs that have escaped their homes, and many of them are committed against sheep. It is estimated that dog attacks on livestock cost British farmers £1.52 million last year, according to industry data.

Identifying dogs in animal-based crimes can be challenging, but research and knowledge exchange concerning DNA recovery techniques could provide a breakthrough in the fight against these rural crimes nationally.

PC Dave Allen, the North Wales Rural Crime Team Officer and NPCC Secretary for Livestock Offences, hopes that his team's work with LJMU will yield positive results and that other forces can adopt the same processes in future investigations.

Read more: [\*\*Forensic researchers partner with North Wales Police to tackle livestock attacks\*\*](#)

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### **Warwickshire national child protection inspection report published**

HMICFRS has published the summary of their findings of their inspection of police child protection services in Warwickshire, which took place in February 2022. The main findings from the inspection are as follows.

- The chief constable, her senior team and the police and crime commissioner (PCC) are committed to protecting vulnerable people, including children. This is reflected in the PCC's draft police and crime plan and in the force's priorities.

- The force is effective in its professional relationships and contributions to multi-agency work. It works with other safeguarding organisations at both a strategic and practitioner level.
- Senior leaders understand how well officers and staff carry out their work. There is a regular and thorough internal inspection programme. Findings are reported back through force governance processes and used to inform business planning.
- The force needs to improve some of its responses to children who need help and protection. It has made protecting children a priority and senior leaders are clearly committed to this. However, decisions about children at risk aren't yet consistently better as a result. To improve this, the force should make sure that there is appropriate and effective supervision of child protection work.

Read more: [\*\*Warwickshire national child protection inspection report published\*\*](#)

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## **Report on an inspection at the MPS**

In a recent inspection, HMICFRS graded the MPS's performance across nine areas of policing.

The report found that the force performed well in one area, adequate in two areas, needs improvement in five areas, and inadequate in one area (responding to the public). According to HMICFRS, there is a need for improvement in the areas of investigating crime, protecting vulnerable people, managing offenders, creating a positive work environment and making effective use of resources. The MPS was moved into the HMICFRS Engage monitoring process in June 2022, which provides additional scrutiny and support to assist forces in making improvements.

Read more: [\*\*Concerns raised over Metropolitan Police's performance\*\*](#)

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## **Report on an inspection visit to police custody suites in Lincolnshire**

As part of the programme of inspections covering every police custody suite in England and Wales, an inspection of Lincolnshire Police custody facilities was conducted in May 2022. HMICFRS and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP) released a report describing their findings.

Read more: [\*\*Report on an inspection visit to police custody suites in Lincolnshire\*\*](#)

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# Criminal justice

## News

### **Barristers vote to suspend strike**

On 5 September 2022, the Criminal Bar Association began indefinite weeks of action. The Criminal Bar Association and the Bar Council met Brandon Lewis CBE, the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor, on 20 September 2022. Following this constructive meeting, a demonstration planned for 22 September 2022 was postponed. According to the Ministry of Justice, the discussion focused on the impact of the barristers' strike. The Lord Chancellor stressed the need to return to work to ensure victims received the justice they deserved. In October 2022, the Criminal Bar Association voted to accept the proposal made by the government, suspending strike action.

Read more: [\*\*Ballot Results - October 2022 - Criminal Bar Association\*\*](#)

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### **Amendments to sentencing guidelines - consultation 2022**

The Sentencing Council seeks views on a series of proposed changes to existing guidelines. The proposed changes apply to both magistrates' courts and crown courts, and are intended to provide greater clarity and consistency while taking into account changes in legislation. The Council considers the changes to be significant enough to warrant consultation, but not so significant that new guidelines need to be drafted.

They include amendments to the following:

- motoring offences, magistrates' court
- criminal damage
- bladed articles offences
- drug offences
- burglary
- unlawful act manslaughter

Individuals and organisations who represent anyone who could be affected by the proposals, as well as those who use sentencing guidelines in their work, are encouraged to participate

Read more: [\*\*Miscellaneous amendments to sentencing guidelines – consultation 2022\*\*](#)

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## **CPS introduces new chapter to their prosecution guidance dealing with public sexual abuse**

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has updated their prosecution guidance on public order offences to highlight that street harassment can, and will, be prosecuted. The guidance now includes a specific chapter on charges relating to public sexual abuse.

The specific offences include exposure, up-skirting, cyberflashing and section 4A of the Public Order Act 1986.

Siobhan Blake, CPS national lead for Rape and Serious Sexual Offences, said: 'It is sickening that seven in 10 women – almost three quarters – have been subjected to this disgusting behaviour.

'It is equally concerning that so few incidents of sexual harassment in public are reported. The law is clear that if someone exposes themselves, tries to take inappropriate pictures or makes you feel threatened on the street, these are crimes and should not be dismissed.'

Read more: [\*\*CPS sets out the law on street-based sexual harassment\*\*](#)

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## **HMCTS single justice procedure notice pilots assessment**

Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS) have presented the government's findings from pilots of the redesigned single justice procedure notice. They redesigned the template using behavioural insight techniques and stakeholder feedback, then ran pilots with two prosecutors, the MPS and TV Licencing in the Midlands region, between December 2019 and February 2020. They monitored and assessed the outcomes associated with prosecutors adopting the redesigned notice.

They found that online plea rates increased following the introduction of the new notice and that form completion improved. Based on the findings and recommendations, they agreed to roll out the revised notice to all prosecutors who use the single justice procedure.

Read more: [HMCTS single justice procedure notice pilots assessment](#)

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## **Draft sentencing guidelines for child cruelty offences**

The Sentencing Council is consulting on updated sentencing guidelines for offenders convicted of child cruelty offences in England and Wales. The Council is seeking views on the proposed revisions from judges, magistrates, prosecution, defence advocates and others with an interest in this area. The consultation is open until 27 October 2022.

New maximum sentences will be introduced by the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022, which will be reflected in the draft guidelines.

The Council's proposals would also introduce a new 'very high culpability' level for two of the most serious crimes:

- causing or allowing a child to die or suffer serious physical harm
- cruelty to a child, including ill treatment, abandonment or neglect

This new guideline takes into account the increased statutory maxima and is higher than the current guideline's sentence ranges.

Read more: [Draft sentencing guidelines for child cruelty offences published](#)

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## **Laws governing appeals to be reviewed by The Law Commission**

A review by The Law Commission of England and Wales has been launched to look at the laws governing appeals for criminal cases.

The review follows calls from various bodies to improve the laws relevant to appeals. The effectiveness of the current legislation will be scrutinised, as well as any inconsistencies and gaps within the current law.

Some of the areas that will be covered within the review include:

- the powers of the Court of Appeal
- whether there is evidence that the ‘safety test’ may make it difficult to correct any miscarriages of justice
- the test used by the Criminal Case Review Commission
- the Attorney General’s powers to refer a case to the Court of Appeal because the sentence is ‘unduly lenient’

Professor Penney Lewis, the Law Commissioner for Criminal Law, said:

‘The appeals system has faced calls for reform in recent years – often marked by conflicting views on the areas of law that should be changed.

‘Our wide-ranging review of appeals will look at the evidence behind competing arguments for reform. We will closely scrutinise where the law is working well, and where it may be falling short.’

The next step in the review process will be an initial scoping and pre-consultation engagement with stakeholders.

Read more: [\*\*Law Commission to undertake review of the appeals system\*\*](#)

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## **Construction begins at revolutionary first secure school**

Construction has begun at the country's first secure school, a new custodial facility for young people. The school, based on the site of the now-closed Medway Secure Training Centre in Kent, will allow young offenders to enrol in formal education or training and to be encouraged into further learning or employment on release.

It will be run by education provider Oasis Restore, rather than Her Majesty's Prison Service, and it will be designed like a school within the prison walls. Ofsted inspectors will hold the establishment to the same standards as all other schools nationwide, ensuring the education on offer is of the best possible standards. Young people will also participate in a weekly programme of rigorous physical education and will have the opportunity to work towards sports and leisure qualifications.

Read more: [\*\*Construction begins at revolutionary first secure school\*\*](#)

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## **£24 million invested to support female offenders**

The government announced additional funding aimed at women whose crimes were fuelled by addiction, mental health issues and domestic violence. The funding forms part of a targeted effort to reduce reoffending.

Government figures indicate that 60% of women in prison have experienced domestic violence and 50% have drug addictions.

Support, ranging from job placement assistance to substance abuse counselling, can provide the stability that offenders need to rebuild their lives. Statistics show that half of the women who have been in prison will re-offend without specialist support in the community, contributing to the taxpayer's £18 billion reoffending cost. Some of the funding will be allocated to local services that work closely with female offenders. To provide better services, local coordinator positions will be funded, which will help to bring together government and third-sector organisations.

Read more: [\*\*Millions invested to support female offenders\*\*](#)

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## CPS publish latest statistics

The CPS have published statistics on all types of crimes. According to this data, the number of rape convictions has steadily increased. From Q3 to Q4 2021-22, the following changes were noted:

- a 7.7% increase in pre-charge rape referrals from the police, up from 1,097 to 1,182 (including both requests for early advice and charging decisions)
- the volume of suspects being charged for rape this quarter rose from 550 to 643, a 16.9% increase
- the volume of completed rape prosecutions this quarter increased from 661 to 675, a 2.1% increase
- overall, a 62.9% increase in the volume of rape prosecutions from 1,557 in 2020-21 to 2,537 in 2021-22

Read more: [CPS publishes latest statistics on all crime types showing steady increase in rape convictions](#)

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## Further funding to communities announced to make the streets safer

The former Home Secretary announced on 25 July that a further £50 million will be given to communities through the Safer Street Fund to continue making the streets safer, and to combat violence against women and girls. The total funding awarded through this fund and the Safety of Women at Night Fund is now £125 million.

The funding is awarded nationwide to police forces, local authorities, British Transport Police and community groups. Some of the money has previously been spent on home security, community outreach and initiatives such as football and boxing. It is expected that the funding provided will also enable extra CCTV and streetlighting, alongside work around changing attitudes and behaviours.

The former Home Secretary, Priti Patel, said:

‘It has been one year since I launched our dedicated violence against women and girls strategy and in that year I have overseen incredible work to support victims, prevent violence against women and girls, protect citizens and deliver justice.’

The most recent round of funding is the first time that bids have been accepted from civil society organisations. One of the successful bidders includes a London-based charity called Her Centre, which provides counselling, advice and training relating to domestic abuse, rape and sexual abuse, among other relevant issues.

The CEO of Her Centre, Stacy Smith, said:

‘Her Centre want to see more focus on making men stop harassing and threatening women. We are pleased that this grant allows us to take forward work to educate the community in simple ways they can be active bystanders so that men who are abusive and violent become the target of attention, rather than saying women have to keep themselves safe. These attitudes should be the outliers and not the norm.’

The government is also taking further steps to fully implement the Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy, which was published a year ago. There will be a consultation concerning whether a new offence of public sexual harassment should be introduced, and the Home Office has funded the Early Awareness Stalking Intervention programme, overseen by the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner.

Read more: [Safer Streets Fund continues to make streets safer](#)

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## **Crown Court sentencing remarks to be broadcast for first time**

An Old Bailey sentencing has been broadcast for the first time on television, two years after the law was changed to allow cameras into the crown courts of England and Wales. The BBC and Sky News showed Her Honour Judge Sarah Munro QC deliver sentencing remarks on 28 July 2022 in the case of Ben Oliver, who pleaded guilty to the manslaughter of his grandfather in South London.

Under the Crown Court (Recording and Broadcasting) Order 2020, broadcasters may film High Court and senior circuit judges sitting in the crown court. Broadcasters must still apply to film the sentencing remarks and the judge will decide whether to grant the request. To protect the privacy of victims, witnesses and jurors, only the judge must be visible in the broadcast. Journalists can already apply to record and broadcast certain hearings in Scotland’s higher courts.

Read more: [\*\*Crown Court sentencing remarks to be broadcast for first time\*\*](#) and [\*\*Old Bailey sentencing remarks broadcast on TV for the first time\*\*](#)

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### **Court caseload update from HMCTS Chief Executive**

HMCTS have confirmed that the number of criminal cases in the magistrates' court has almost returned to pre-pandemic levels. There has been a drop in the caseload of 20% from July 2020 to May 2022.

The Chief Executive of HMCTS, Nick Goodwin, provided an update, which also stated that crown court cases reduced from around 60,600 in June 2021 to around 58,500 in May 2022.

Within the update, Nick Goodwin also addressed court room availability, immediate challenges and the courts reform programme.

Read more: [\*\*Magistrates' court caseload down 20% in two years\*\*](#)

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# Criminal justice

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## Reports

### **Centre for Social Justice inquiry into prisoner employment**

A new research and policy project launched by the Centre for Social Justice aims to improve employment outcomes for prison leavers in England and Wales. As part of the research and recommendation process, they seek to gain insights from people who provide education and employability support in prisons or the community, or who work in policy.

Having employment after leaving custody reduces the likelihood of reoffending by up to nine percentage points. However, recent data show that only 16% of prisoners who are released from prison have jobs six weeks after they are released. In addition, only 23% have jobs six months after leaving prison. As a result, 96% of prisons miss their employment targets completely, according to 2019-20 data.

The government is also establishing Employment Advisory Boards and groups of local business experts. These boards will work with prisons to provide prisoners with the skills and opportunities necessary for release. Additionally, the government has committed to allowing prisoners in open prisons across England to apply for apprenticeships so they can earn while they learn and find employment.

Public support for prisoner employment is significant. An analysis of 2,000 UK adults commissioned by the Centre for Social Justice found that 85% agree that prison leavers should be given the opportunity to get a job once released from prison. 76% of adults would be comfortable working with someone who has a criminal record if they were qualified and had passed safeguarding checks.

Read more: [\*\*CSJ launches inquiry into prisoner employment\*\*](#)

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## Discrimination in the use of artificial intelligence

In its 2022-2025 strategy, the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC), Britain's national equality body, announced that addressing the equality and human rights impact of digital services and artificial intelligence will form part of its focus. In September 2022, the EHRC announced that it would monitor the use of artificial intelligence (AI) by public bodies.

From October 2022, the EHRC will work with a cross-section of around 30 local authorities to understand how they are deploying AI to deliver essential services. The EHRC will also explore how it can deploy its powers to examine how organisations are implementing facial recognition technology. This is following concerns that the software may be disproportionately affecting people with ethnic minority backgrounds. The monitoring projects will last several months and will report initial findings early next year.

The EHRC's strategic plan says that it will ensure that:

- improvements in policy and practice reduce barriers to accessing digital services for people with protected characteristics
- people understand how the Equality Act 2010 applies to the design and use of automated decision-making
- people understand how discrimination that might arise through algorithmic biases can be identified and challenged
- there is an improved understanding of how the Human Rights Act applies to the use of new technology in terms of privacy, surveillance and the use of data
- the law is updated in line with the development of cutting-edge technologies to protect people from discrimination and breaches of their rights

They hope to achieve this by:

- supporting service providers to understand how digital exclusion affects people, and how to use technology to make services more inclusive.
- working with expert organisations and regulators to identify and challenge discrimination concerning artificial intelligence and emerging technology – this will enable us to embed fairness and

equal treatment in the design and operation of systems and services

- guiding how the Equality Act applies to the use of cutting-edge technologies in automated decision-making
- working with employers to make sure that using artificial intelligence in recruitment does not embed biased decision-making in practice
- making rights and freedoms in the digital age clearer, including how the Human Rights Act applies to privacy, surveillance and the use of data
- identifying gaps in the law created by the development and use of advancing technologies
- advising on how the law can be updated to protect from discrimination and breaches of rights

Organisations that wish to procure, develop or deploy AI systems should consider compliance with the Equality Act 2010, as well as other laws and regulations. By doing so, they are better equipped to address the risks posed to equality and human rights.

Read more: [\*\*Equality watchdog takes action to address discrimination in use of artificial intelligence\*\*](#)

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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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