

# A safer and more competitive Northern Ireland to do business

Business Crime Action Plan  
May 2018





## Background

The Business Crime Partnership, which consists of representatives from the Department of Justice, Northern Ireland Policing Board, the Police Service of Northern Ireland and the business community, is responsible for taking forward actions relating to business crime.

In 2016 the Justice Committee held a business stakeholder event which reinforced the clear message that business crime has a significant impact on businesses, but also on the economic wellbeing of Northern Ireland and those personally affected.


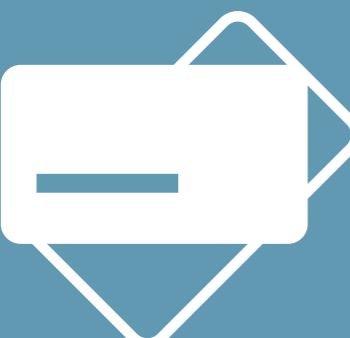

The Business Crime Partnership invested significant effort and resources to identify and address the key issues affecting businesses in Northern Ireland. In doing so it helped shape and determine how collaborative partnership working could effectively tackle crime against the business community. The result of these partnership efforts was the launch of Northern Ireland's first Business Crime Action Plan, in May 2016.

The plan set out an agreed partnership approach between the business community, PSNI, NIPB, PCSPs<sup>1</sup> and the DoJ on how they would work together to prevent and tackle business crime.

<sup>1</sup> Policing and Community Safety Partnerships

# What we've achieved

The Action Plan launched in May 2016 has three strands. The following table illustrates some of our achievements to date:

<h2>1 Prevention &amp; Protection</h2>	<h3>Reducing Victimisation</h3> <p>The PSNI have tailored their crime reduction advice to focus on those businesses most vulnerable. This entails identifying businesses subject to repeat incidents over a specific time period and being offered a variety of interventions in a bid to remedy any potential issues. This may include bespoke retail advice through the Safe Shop Scheme, Environmental considerations through the Crime Prevention Design Advisers (CPDAs) or cyber advice.</p>	<h2>2 Information &amp; Reassurance</h2>	<h3>Accurate recording of crime</h3> <p>This has been achieved through an IT system upgrade and PSNI-wide adoption of a business crime definition on 1 October 2017.</p>	<h2>3 Enforcement</h2>	<p>Production of analytical profiles to support the identification of cross-cutting business crime themes and crime trends</p> <p>PSNI are producing analytical products as a matter of course and these are available on the PSNI website. Bespoke products such as the Business Crime forecast are produced for the business community as well as face to face briefings around emerging trends.</p>
<h3>Promoting Awareness of Cybercrime and cyber threat to individuals and business</h3> <p>The PSNI updated their website with direct linkage to relevant websites and promoted the "Cyber Essentials"<sup>2</sup> scheme.</p>	<h3>Promotion of business crime risk reduction self-assessment</h3> <p>Through the expertise of CPDAs, PSNI are keen to ensure the design of new areas is right first time. Through considered environmental alterations, propensity for crime can be reduced significantly. This is further supplemented by completion of business crime self-assessment, whereby areas of weakness are identified by businesses for self-remedy.</p>	<h3>An effective targeted media strategy delivered crime reduction advice in partnership with other statutory and non-statutory partners</h3> <p>Business Crime Partnership branding has also been created to provide a single identity for the work of the partnership.</p> <p>In addition to this, the Business Crime Partnership has supported three events for the business community, each of which focused separately on one of the three strands of the Action Plan. The events provided an opportunity for the Partnership to update delegates on progress to date and also provided an opportunity for delegates to hear from experts in the field of cyber-crime and retail security.</p>	<h3>Programme of Action on Sentencing</h3> <p>The Department of Justice is currently undertaking a review of sentencing policy guidelines, and the views of the business community have been, and will continue to be reflected during the consultation.</p>	<h3>PSNI/PPS project 'working together'</h3> <p>Several initiatives are ongoing to streamline the criminal justice pathways, reducing bureaucracy, whilst providing an acceptable outcome for victims in a timely manner. The DoJ and PSNI are also working towards the implementation of a business crime impact statement.</p>	<h3>Increased visibility and engagement in identified hot-spot areas</h3> <p>PSNI continue to deploy resource according to crime trends, utilising analytic products to inform patrol strategies, which is overseen by a co-ordination and tasking unit. This is further measured when required through police systems such as LOCATE<sup>3</sup>.</p>
<h3>Fraud/financial scams</h3> <p>We continue to raise awareness through campaigns, including the multi-agency campaign ScamwiseNI.</p> <p>The PSNI also continues to liaise with partners to identify new trends, intelligence and information and provide appropriate notifications to the public as promptly as possible.</p>	<h3>PSNI Business Crime Lead to engage with PCSPs in relation to the crime prevention initiatives in their business communities</h3> <p>Collaborative working between Chief Inspectors and PCSP managers is promoted around the issue of business crime. PSNI have provided a briefing pack that will allow PCSPs to implement 'off the shelf' practical initiatives around business crime and include these in local policing plans as required.</p>		<h3>Robust criminal justice practices including rigorous enforcement of bail conditions and ancillary orders</h3> <p>PSNI have reviewed enforcement of offenders on bail/wanted on warrant and these have been graded in terms of THRO<sup>4</sup>. Work is ongoing to actively reduce the number of persons wanted.</p>	<h3>Updates for victim of crime</h3> <p>The PSNI endeavour to keep victims of crime updated on the progress of investigations, with updates scheduled at 10, 30 and 90 days. Outside of this victims can also directly contact the investigating officer, should any further contact be required.</p> <p>The number of victims receiving an update within 10 days increased by 35.1% over the comparable figure from 2016/17, rising from 49.5% to 85%. This was achieved via an increased focus on this area from the beginning of the financial year, together with the introduction of the daily management meetings and the appointment of a Service lead to drive performance in this area.</p>	<h3>Exploration and adoption of "what works" technologies and initiatives in tackling business crime</h3> <p>PSNI are now partners in a number of Business Improvements Districts (BIDs) and are continually scoping initiatives that could be utilised in effectively dealing with business crime. Connections have also been made between the Business Crime Partnership in Northern Ireland and the UK's National Business Crime Centre which will provide the BCP with access to best practice and their intelligence and information exchange.</p>
			<h3>Promotion of information sharing and enforcement schemes, such as Retail Crime Watch, to police districts</h3> <p>PSNI have recently reviewed Information Sharing Agreements with retail umbrella groups to ensure a corporate position is taken with these organisations. This collaborative working has been bolstered by a pilot project involving images of offenders of retail theft being shared with retail umbrella groups in a bid to identify these persons.</p>		

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cyberessentials.ncsc.gov.uk>  
<sup>3</sup> LOCATE: Platform utilised by PSNI to monitor resources and offence hotspots.  
<sup>4</sup> THRO: The 'Threat, Harm, Risk, Opportunity' model is used to prioritise activity.

The Business Crime Partnership is centred on the business community and its aims and actions are built upon the needs of the business community. As well as wide engagement with businesses across Northern Ireland from the small independent to the large multinational, the Partnership has representatives from across sectors that represent the views of their members and the wider business community. While the business representatives are a key conduit of information to and from the Partnership they also play a role in keeping the aims and actions of the Partnership tangible, meaningful and realistic for the business community as well as at times challenging the Justice community on delivery.

A significant number of Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (PCSPs) had specific actions/initiatives in their action plans to address business and retail crime.

## Business Crime Action Plan Priorities for the future

Deliverables in the (draft) Programme for Government, Indicator 1 delivery plan, include a focus on people and place based approaches, mobilising communities and developing action plans for specific crime and community safety issues with the overall aim of reducing crime and the harm and vulnerability caused by crime. In this context, business crime remains an issue that continues to require focus and energy, and as such the Business Crime Partnership has tailored and updated the Business Crime Action Plan, which will continue to build on the work achieved to date.

The Business Crime Partnership also recognises that Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (PCSPs) are uniquely placed to identify and support engagement and delivery opportunities with key stakeholders that impact on business crime at a local level, whilst providing two-way information on current and emerging business crime issues and feeding into strategic plans at a Northern Ireland level.

The business crime priorities for the future are a blend of both strategic and local approaches.

# A Safer Northern Ireland to do Business

## Strand 1: Provision of Protective Security and Prevention Advice

### Key Objective:

To maximise awareness and uptake of the crime prevention and protective security measures that are available.

Activity	Timescale	Lead Organisation	Key Partners
Hold an annual Business Crime Conference that focuses on prevailing business crime issues, good practice and new initiatives.	Yearly	DOJ	PSNI, NIPB, FSB, NIRC, BCCM, CCI, RACNI
Ensure all PCSPs consider whether crimes against businesses are a priority and if so, ensure it is reflected as such in their action plans.	Yearly	NIPB	PCSPs
Conduct a scoping exercise with a view to developing IT systems and procedures to support the introduction of Business Crime Evidence Packs.	1-2 years	PSNI	DOJ, NIPB, FSB, NIRC, BCCM, CCI, RACNI
Create a Business Crime Partnership webpage which provides vital advice and information for business to protect them from becoming victims of crime, keep up to date with emerging trends, and information on who they can contact to seek further help, and how they become a member of the Business Crime Partnership Forum.	May 2018	DOJ	PSNI, NIPB, FSB, NIRC, BCCM, CCI, RACNI, Scamwise Partnership
Develop an on-line portal which will provide the business community with tailored training packs designed to upskill retail staff in the prevention and detection of retail crime, and improve understanding of the role of the PSNI and how victims of crime will be updated.	March 2019	DOJ	PSNI, NIPB, FSB, NIRC, BCCM, CCI, RACNI

**FSB** Federation of Small Businesses  
**NIRC** Northern Ireland Retail Consortium  
**BCCM** Belfast City Centre Management

**CCI** City Centre Initiative  
**RACNI** Retailers Against Crime NI  
**NIPB** Northern Ireland Policing Board

**DOJ** Department of Justice  
**PSNI** Police Service Northern Ireland  
**NBCC** National Business Crime Centre

# A Safer Northern Ireland to do Business

## Strand 2: Improved Confidence in the Criminal Justice System

### Key Objective:

To explain the work we do, capture the needs of the business community and ensure the system is as responsive as possible to those needs.

Activity	Timescale	Lead Organisation	Key Partners
Publish PSNI analysis of business crime statistics and victim update figures.	As per PSNI statistics	PSNI	
Develop and conduct a bi-annual business crime survey, which will provide data at local council level.	January 2019	DOJ	PSNI, NIPB, FSB, NIRC, BCCM, CCI, RACNI
Develop a communication strategy to promote the work of the Partnership, developments in best practice, "good news" stories and new initiatives, as well as local PCSP activity.	November 2018	DOJ	PSNI, NIPB, FSB, NIRC, BCCM, CCI, RACNI
Develop an effective model for the implementation of Business Crime Impact statements.	March 2019	DOJ	PSNI, Victim Support, NBCC
Districts to develop a knowledge and understanding of high volume and repeat offenders and ensure that they are targeted in terms of prevention, intelligence and enforcement options.	March 2019	PSNI	
Research best practice nationally, build links with the National Business Crime Centre and attend relevant national events and conferences.	Ongoing	BCP	DOJ, PSNI, NIPB, FSB, NIRC, BCCM, CCI, RACNI, NBCC, An Garda Siochana,

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