



NBCC NEWS

February 2025 - Issue 25

New offence of Assault on a Retail Worker to be Introduced

Last month the Crime and Policing Bill was released. The Bill includes a number of areas that will affect business crime, including the introduction of a specific offence of Assault of a retail worker:

Section 14 - Assault of a retail worker

A person who assaults a retail worker commits an offence under this section.

Retail worker:

- (a) is working on or about retail premises, and
- (b) is working there for or on behalf of the owner or occupier of those 30 premises or is the owner or occupier of those premises.

Retail premises are described as:

- (a) premises used wholly or mainly for the purposes of the sale of anything by retail, or
- (b) premises used mainly for the purposes of the wholesale of anything, if the premises are also used for the purposes of the sale of anything by retail, and here "premises" include a stall or vehicle;



Section 15 - Assault of retail worker: duty to make criminal behaviour order (CBO)

In certain circumstances, the introduction of this section will put an obligation on the court to make a CBO on the offender where they are found guilty of assault on a retail worker.

Section 16 - Theft from shop triable either way irrespective of value of goods

This removes the legislation that refers to low-value shoplifting i.e. less than £200. In 2020 the NBCC ran a survey across forces and found no evidence that £200 was being used to determine a police response, however we are aware of cases where the offender does, thinking that they won't face police action, so its removal will be a positive step.

Section 93 - Electronically tracked stolen goods: search without warrant

This section allows the police to force entry to without the need for a warrant in certain circumstances. In a retail environment we often have cases where tobacco or cash have been stolen along with a tracker and recovery by the police can be delayed due to the need for a warrant.

Further details of the Bill can be found here:
[Crime and Policing Bill 2025 - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/bills-2024-25/crime-and-policing-bill-2025)

Retail Crime Problem Solving Workshop

On the 12th February the NBCC hosted a Retail Crime Problem Solving workshop. The workshop was led by Professor Stuart Kirby, a retired Police Chief Superintendent.

The aim of the workshop was to use problem-solving methodology to better understand the issues surrounding retail crime and associated incidents thereby creating proposals to impact on the problem in a sustainable way.

The event was supported by over 50 people from across policing, retail, BCRP leads, private security and academia. The objectives of the session were:

- To better understand the frequency and pattern surrounding retail crime and associated incidents.
- To define the role of stakeholders in tackling the problem
- To identify individual and situational factors underpinning the rise in retail crime and incidents.
- Consider knowledge gaps or current blockages which hinder the reduction of the problem.
- Explore current responses and areas of good practice.
- To devise and consider multi-faceted interventions that can reduce the level of retail crime and associated incidents.

The SARA model used focusses on the following elements:

- Scanning - identification of a specific problem
- Analysis - thorough analysis to understand the problem.
- Response - development of a tailored response to the problem
- Assessment - assessment of the effects of the response

The scanning element in particular highlighted the importance of reporting crimes, as this data provides police with the understanding of what is happening, where, when and committed by who.

The feedback from attendees was excellent with talk of some introducing the approach into their own organisations.

A report has been produced highlighting a number of areas, the NBCC are currently reviewing this and will develop an action plan.



BCRP Accreditation

On the 28th February the NBCC ran a webinar with support from Sophie Jordan, manager of the National Association of Business Crime Partnerships (NABCP) and Professor Emmeline Taylor, from City, University of London, author of this report: [Report and recommendations to enhance BCRPs released by NBCC](#)

There were around 130 people on the call, which was set up to explain the new BCRP accreditation process.

The new process includes:

- A new standards form which has been re-designed to reduce some of the repetition of the last document.
- The standards document now clearly sets out expectation of what is required in each section, allowing BCRPs to self-audit before they start the process.
- The NABCP is now the single assessing body, making the process accreditation process simpler.
- Accreditation will now last for 3 years, rather than 2, although any change in leadership will mean that a review is needed.
- New branding for accreditation, including a new BCRP 'accredited' logo
- A new Standards Board, chaired by Prof Taylor. Membership includes police, BCRPs, BIDs and retailers.
- Updated policies and procedures document.
- Updated NBCC web pages hosting the Standards document, policy and procedures as well as a range of supporting documents e.g. how to set up a BCRP, what to expect from an Accredited BCRP and the role of the NABCP. Updated web pages are [here](#).

The accreditation is awarded by Police Crime Prevention Initiatives, providing an independent assessment of the evidence before the accreditation is given.

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Retail crime arrests made

Police forces are getting some great results tackling retail crime in their areas. The three examples below all make the use of tools available to police officers, such as traffic stops and vehicle searches.

More importantly though they all make use of partnership agency working which is key to tackling retail crime offences.

[Joined-up police approach cracks down on retail crime in City West | Nottinghamshire Police](#)

[More than 40 suspects charged in Maidstone as drive to tackle shoplifting continues | Kent Police](#)

[Five men convicted as the Met's shoplifting crackdown continues | Metropolitan Police](#)

BCRP Awareness Week

The National Association of Business Crime Partnerships has announced the first ever National Business Crime Reduction Partnership (BCRP) Awareness Week, which will take place from 17th to 23rd March 2025.

The week will provide BCRPs with the opportunity to showcase the complex, holistic approach to business crime prevention, partnership work, to safeguard the people who live, work and socialise in our towns and cities across the UK, to better understand the issues affecting them and work in collaboration to develop long term solutions.

During the week BCRPs are being encouraged to work with partners to show how BCRPs use a variety of tactics to target high harm and prolific offenders through exclusions, warning letters, sharing of data, briefings and intelligence sharing meetings.

They are also being encouraged to hold training or networking events for local businesses, using resources available on the NBCC website such as ShopKind, shop worker training videos and setting up a Safe Spaces scheme if one does not already exist in their area.

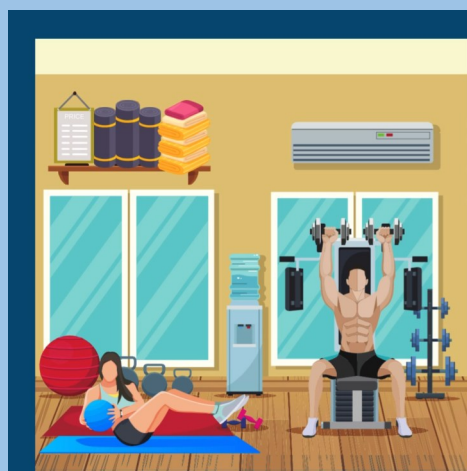


New Crime Prevention Video

There are many incidents of gyms being targeted by individuals and criminal enterprises. Most gym thefts are targeted towards high value items such as watches, jewellery and bank cards, which are later used to commit fraud.

The impact of these crimes can lead to operational disruption, reputational damage and can impact upon customer confidence. This video provides top tips to make gyms more secure.

Click the image to watch the video:



**NATIONAL BUSINESS
CRIME CENTRE**
Reducing crime through partnership and prevention

**Health and
Fitness clubs
Top Tips**