



# NBCC NEWS

January 2024 - Issue 14

## Sign Up To Receive the NBCC Newsletter

Be the first to find out the latest news, campaigns, crime prevention guidance and support for businesses by signing up to receive the NBCC newsletter straight to your inbox.

[Click here to sign up](#)

## NBCC launches national month of action to tackle retail crime

Following the success of their week of action in October, the NBCC has announced a month of action in March where every police force in the country will be encouraged to hold at least one Safer Business Action Day (SaBA Day) in their area.

The targeted week of action last year saw police and partners across the country joining together to tackle business crime in their communities and resulted in over 300 arrests and thousands of positive interactions with local retailers and businesses.

The SaBA month in March will once again see police work with retailers and private security in a defined area for a day of targeted activity, which will include joint high visibility patrols, proactive activity against known offenders and crime prevention campaigns.

NPCC Business Crime lead Paul Betts, Assistant Commissioner, City of London Police and NPCC Retail Crime lead Chief Superintendent Alex Goss, North Wales Police and have personally written to all Chief Constables asking for their support. Each force is being asked to hold a SaBA Day in March working with their local Business Crime Reduction Partnerships and Business Improvement Districts, highlighting the important role they play in our town and cities in preventing crime.

Several forces have already conducted SaBA Days and they have proven to be an effective and popular activity to engage with retailers to tackle offenders, protect businesses, their staff and increase business confidence. The initiative is also recognised as best practice by the College of Policing and is included in their Practice Bank.

NBCC lead Supt Patrick Holdaway said: "Traditionally we start to see a rise in retail crime in the spring, therefore, we have proposed a targeted month of action in March. Using the whole month it allows forces to better plan resources and gives the retailers and private security opportunities to support in multiple locations. We have had great support with over 40 forces confirmed as taking part."

Current guidance and branding can be accessed via the website:

[SaBA Days \(nbcc.police.uk\)](https://nbcc.police.uk)



**SAFER BUSINESS  
ACTION MONTH**

Avon and Somerset Police
Bedfordshire Police
British Transport Police
Cambridgeshire Constabulary
Cheshire Constabulary
Cleveland Police
City of London Police
Cumbria Constabulary
Derbyshire Constabulary
Devon & Cornwall Police
Dorset Police
Durham Police
Essex Police
Gloucestershire Constabulary
Greater Manchester Police
Gwent Police
Hampshire & IOW Constabulary
Humberside Police
Kent Police
Lancashire Police
Leicestershire Police
Lincolnshire Police
Merseyside Police
Metropolitan Police Service
North Wales Police
Northamptonshire Police
Norfolk Constabulary
Northumbria Police
North Yorkshire Police
Nottinghamshire Police
Police Service of Northern Ireland
South Wales Police
South Yorkshire Police
Staffordshire Police
Surrey Police
Sussex Police
Thames Valley Police
Warwickshire Police
West Mercia Police
West Midlands Police
West Yorkshire Police
Wiltshire Police

## Co-op join the Safe Space scheme

The NBCC is delighted that the Co-op has this week added its stores to the Safe Spaces scheme which aims to provide provision in the retail sector for anyone feeling unsafe or vulnerable when out and about on the UK's streets.

Also known as Operation Portum, the NBCC Safe Spaces scheme is dedicated to ensuring communities are places where people feel safe and confident, and is focussed on increasing the number of spaces within the retail sector where people are always welcome to can go safely to seek support.

With around 2,400 stores located at the heart of communities in towns, villages and cities across the UK, Co-op has boosted the number of locations signed up to the scheme to more than 13,000.

Kate McCrae Graham, Co-op Operations Director, said: "Co-op is committed to operating at the heart of local life and, nothing is more important to us than the safety of our colleagues, member-owners, customers and communities. Anyone seeking a safe haven in their local Co-op will always be welcomed, encouraged to report their concerns and, above all, believed - as a convenience retailer, our doors are open from early morning until late into the night, and we want people to know that Co-op is always a welcome light and safe haven for anyone who feels unsafe or in need of support."

Supt Patrick Holdaway, the NBCC lead, said: "We are delighted that Co-op is implementing the NBCC Safe Spaces scheme across its stores. The scheme was designed to provide safe spaces for people in local communities that feel vulnerable or need help and Co-op stores sit at the heart of many of those communities. The NBCC has a long working relationship with the Co-op and know how committed they are to protecting their staff and their customers. We know this will offer reassurance to many people who live or work near to a Co-op store particularly as many stores stay open late at night when people can feel more vulnerable."

[Safe Spaces \(nbcc.police.uk\)](https://nbcc.police.uk)



Operation Portum

**Creating Safe  
Spaces in Retail**

## The NBCC SaBA Days backed by College of Policing

The College of Policing has published information and guidance about holding a Safer Business Action Day (SaBA) on the new College of Policing Practice Bank.

The Practice Bank is an open resource hosted on the College of Policing website which allows any organisation with an interest in policing/reducing crime to share practice and as a growing resource for people working in community safety and crime reduction.

It can be used to address specific crime problems or organisational change and suggests potential interventions for problem solving which now includes SaBA Days.

The information can be accessed here:

[Safer business action days | College of Policing](#)

[College of Policing Practice Bank.](#)



College of  
**Policing**



## NBCC on the road

In the 17<sup>th</sup> January, Patrick supported the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Retail Crime and Sustainable High Streets, led by Steve McCabe MP. In attendance was a number of retailers and politicians from across the parties, including Alex Norris MP, the Labour Shadow Policing Minister, who has along standing interest in preventing retail crime. A focus of the APPG will be to explore the range of options available to the courts when dealing with those who commit retail crime.



The evening of the 18<sup>th</sup> January saw Patrick attend the West Midlands PCC's annual Business Summit in Birmingham where Patrick gave a presentation and answered questions from the audience.

PCC Simon Foster pledged that he is committed to ensuring that the business community are supported by West Midlands Police, to prevent, tackle and reduce crime – whether that is action to keep shop workers safe, standing up for retailers or improving the response to fraud.



On the 22<sup>nd</sup> January, the Thames Valley Police PCC, Matthew Barber, launched his Retail Crime Strategy. As part of the launch Patrick gave a presentation on the work of the NBCC as well as what is happening nationally, in particular on progress around the Retail Crime Action Plan.

Here is a link the strategy TVP Strategy.

<https://www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Retail-Crime-Strategy-PUBLICATION-VERSION-FINAL.pdf>

Developed jointly with retailers, business groups and Thames Valley Police, the PCC's Retail Crime Strategy sets out tangible actions to tackle shoplifting, retail crime and violence towards shop workers.



## Force Focus - Greater Manchester Police



Greater Manchester Police has seen a flurry of activity around retail crime over the past few months, as part of the force's commitment to tackling the problem across every district.

From corner shops to sprawling shopping centres, operations across every town, city and village have seen a raft of activity and countless arrests, charges and sentencings.

GMP welcomed a range of visitors from across the retail industry in early January as part of the force's renewed commitment to tackling business crime.

The Retail Crime Symposium was set up to help forge stronger connections between GMP, partners and key retail stakeholders. Alongside newly embedded police Retail Crime SPOCs, representatives from various stores attended, including guests from the Retailers Against Crime organisation, the National Business Crime Solution, and other retail groups including Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers and the Federation of Independent Retailers.

The event, which was organised by the crime prevention team, underlines the commitment of policing teams across Greater Manchester to tackle retail crime – from shoplifting to assaults on shopworkers.

As part of the 2024 Retail Crime Delivery Plan GMP is trialling a new pilot whereby any non-urgent reports of shoplifting are dealt with by the centrally coordinated Initial Investigation Unit, with a view to providing a more consistent, swift investigation, improved victim service and better identification of any emerging crime trends.

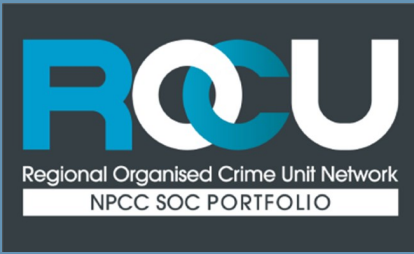
While 2024 is set to see continued work and action, this follows a trend firmly established throughout 2023.

- Operation Rimini, a proactive operation run by Stockport Neighbourhood Team, saw six days of action in in 2023 which secured 39 arrests and 103 charges. £121,000 of illegal vapes were seized and offenders jailed for 57 weeks, while ASB was further reduced by 50%. A combination of policing tactics were used including both high-visibility patrols and plain clothes with extra resources committed to the town centre. Officers used the innovative tactic of blending in with shoppers by posing as shelf stackers and shop workers.
- Bolton's shoplifting team, which is comprised of student officers being tutored by seasoned officers in utilising best practices. The unit allows young officers to learn their trade while providing a dedicated shoplifting team for the town's high street. In the first few weeks of 2024, the team have already secured 26 charges for eight different people, relating to various crimes: shoplifting, theft, and failing to appear at court.
- Leigh's Town Centre operation, which saw five of the six most prolific shoplifters arrested, resulting in charges, prison sentences and criminal behaviour orders. Officers worked closely with the Community Safety Partnership to pool resources and funding, fostering a strong partnership stance that retail ASB and criminality will not be tolerated. Local crime prevention stalls have been staffed and a lot of effort has gone into refreshing the Public Spaces Protection Order to provide a further tool in the local neighbourhood team's arsenal. Problem-solving and prevention has been a running theme with diversionary activities in place to signpost and support those deemed at risk or with substance dependencies.
- The launch of GMP's first privately funded retail crime team at the Trafford Centre.





## National ROCU website goes live



NPCC Serious and Organised Crime Portfolio has announced the launch of a new unified website for Regional Organised Crime Units (ROCU). This milestone marks a significant step forward to enhance transparency, accessibility, and public engagement across all ROCUs.

The new website, [www.rocupolice.uk](http://www.rocupolice.uk), officially launched to the public on Thursday 1 February.

The new website brings together all ROCUs onto one cohesive platform. This unified approach will provide a streamlined experience for the public, making it easier for them to access information and understand the collective impact of our work.

The website serves as a comprehensive hub for information on all ROCUs. Visitors can now explore a wealth of resources, from the latest updates on ongoing investigations to insights into the collaborative efforts driving our success.

While presenting a unified front, the website also showcases the unique contributions and initiatives of each ROCU. Regional spotlights will celebrate the diversity of ROCUs work and highlight the positive impact they have on communities across the country.

The use of Single Online Home, brings the ROCUs in line with other policing websites, ensuring that visitors can easily navigate through different sections, gaining a deeper understanding of the crucial work carried out by ROCUs nationwide.

Over the next few weeks, ROCUs will promote the website across their various channels, including social media, press releases, and internal comms.

Each ROCU has members of their region trained in the functionalities of the website and access to editing their section of the website.

The launch of [www.rocupolice.uk](http://www.rocupolice.uk) represents a collective effort towards a more connected, transparent, and accessible future.

### NPCC Serious and Organised Crime Portfolio

## NBCC launch new look crime prevention guides

The NBCC Crime Prevention Series is a series of guides which businesses can download from the website to help protect them from crime and make their businesses more secure. Each guide features top tips and step by step practical advice focussed on specific industries and crime types.

To make them more accessible and interactive, the NBCC are currently working with an agency to update the design of all the current guides. The first updated is on Cargo Crime and can be downloaded from here: [Crime Prevention Guides \(nbcc.police.uk\)](http://nbcc.police.uk)

The series can be used as quick reference guides and as conversation starters with employees to improve their awareness and training of crime prevention and what they can do to help your business stay better protected from the threats it faces.

The Crime Prevention Series will be updated over the coming weeks and new topics and crime trends will be added - please do let us know if there is an area you'd like us to focus on.

The screenshot shows the cover of the 'Cargo Crime' guide. At the top, it says 'CRIME PREVENTION SERIES' and 'Cargo Crime'. Below that is the 'NATIONAL BUSINESS CRIME CENTRE' logo with the tagline 'Reducing crime through partnership and prevention'. A photograph of a blue truck is on the right. The main text reads: 'Cargo crime is big business and criminals are lured by potentially high rewards, plentiful opportunities and the fact it is perceived as a relatively low risk crime. The true extent and impact of cargo crime is distorted by a lack of reliable and consistent data. It is important that all crimes are reported to the police so that an accurate picture of offending trends and locations can be formed. This guide has been produced in conjunction with the National Vehicle Crime Intelligence Service (NaVCIS)'. There is a 'What's in this guide' section with a list of items: 'Cargo Crime Overview', 'Truck Stops & Secure Parking', 'Hijackings and Theft from Moving Vehicles', 'In the Event of a Hijack', and 'Always Report Crimes to the Police'. At the bottom, there is a 'TOP TIPS' section with a list of five tips: 'Always secure your vehicle', 'Have a security and delivery policy in place', 'Keep delivery details private', 'Do not make unnecessary stops', and 'Always report crimes to the police'.