



NBCC NEWS

June 2024 - Issue 19

Report on tobacco theft to be released soon

The NBCC, in partnership with the City University of London, commissioned a report, funded by the Home Office, to look at the severity of tobacco theft, how it manifests, its far-reaching consequences and how the utilisation of Track and Trace Technology could prove to be a game changer in tackling organised criminal activity and provide law-abiding businesses with the protection that they deserve.

Emmeline Taylor, Professor of Criminology at City, University of London, authored the report, which makes a number of recommendations including awareness training for police about the existence of TT&T and how it can help them in the identification, investigation and prosecution of serious and organised criminals.

The full report has been finalised and should be released in July.

Home Office

NATIONAL BUSINESS CRIME CENTRE
Reducing crime through partnership and prevention

Lighting Up:

How Tobacco Track and Trace Could Help Illuminate Stolen Goods Markets and Other Serious Crimes

CITY
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON
EST 1834

Professor Emmeline Taylor
City, University of London
2024

The NBCC wants to hear from you

The NBCC Safer Business Action Week 2024 will take place the week commencing Monday 14th October and we want to hear your thoughts on how we can improve it.

We have put together a short feedback survey and would ask you to spare a few minutes to complete it so we can understand how to make the SaBA Week even better and provide any additional support to forces and partners taking part.

Please click the link to access to survey:

<https://forms.office.com/e/dPu5wm135a>



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](#)

Private security industry backs the national Safe Spaces Scheme

The National Business Crime Centre (NBCC), is delighted to announce that 12 of the largest private security companies have pledged their support for the NBCC Safe Spaces scheme otherwise known as Operation Portum.

The Safe Spaces scheme is an overarching scheme that businesses can sign up to and support to create safer spaces in cities, town centres and retail parks for employees, customers and people in the community that feel vulnerable.

A large number of national retailers have already signed up, but the NBCC recognised that private security also operates within this space and play a significant role in keeping customers safe and secure.

NBCC lead Supt Patrick Holdaway said: "The response we have had from the private security industry to the scheme has been tremendous. With so many of the large security companies joining the scheme, there will be thousands of security staff up and down the country given training on the scheme and know what to do if someone is feeling unsafe and asks for their help. By working together we can help people feel safer in their communities."



Assistant Chief Constable Samantha Millar, National Police Chiefs' Council lead for violence against women and girls added: "There are many reasons why someone may feel vulnerable or unsafe when they are out. Private security staff can provide a reassuring presence as someone in a uniform that can be trusted to help someone in need of help. I am pleased that so many private security companies have signed up the NBCC's Safe Spaces scheme working collaboratively to protect any individual who requires support."

By signing up for the scheme, the private security companies have made a commitment to raise awareness amongst security officers of Operation Portum and its principles and provide guidance on how private security officers can use the principles to support and assist those who feel vulnerable.

The Safe Spaces scheme has received backing from the Security Industry Authority (SIA), who are responsible regulating the private security industry. Paul Fullwood, SIA Director of Inspections and Enforcement commented: "The NBCC Safe Spaces scheme provides the security industry the opportunity to further contribute to public protection and community safety. Security companies provide services to the business sector across the UK's towns, cities and local communities and are a reassuring presence to staff and members of the public as well as those who may be vulnerable or need assistance. It is great to see the support from the security industry for the NBCC Safe Spaces Scheme. I encourage them explore with their clients how they can implement the Safe Spaces scheme to increase the network of support across the UK".

The NBCC has developed specific guidance for private security companies wanting to sign up to the scheme and has a short video on the website which includes 'do's and do not's'.

David Ward, founder of the City Security Council, a collective of premier security companies, added: "We encourage private security companies to join this scheme, as it demonstrates how they can help further support local communities and keep people safe. Security staff already play a key role in protecting vulnerable people, and this scheme provides a framework for building on their great work."

To find out more information and to sign up to the scheme, click this link: [Safe Spaces \(nbcc.police.uk\)](https://nbcc.police.uk/safe-spaces)

You can also download the Op Portum guidance for Security Staff here: [Op Portum - Safe Spaces for Private Security](#)

NBCC on the road

Westminster Online - 10th June

Patrick was a presenter on an online debate hosted by Westminster Legal Policy Forum called “**Next steps for tackling shoplifting and retail crime in England and Wales**”. The event included a wide range of speakers including senior leads from police, security, retail and academia, and was an opportunity to discuss key issues at a time of heightened focus on this area of policy in the run up to the General Election. A key focus was on managing prolific offenders in the face of a limited prison spaces and the need to tackle the underlying causes of crime, often related to addictions.

UK Revenue Protection Association - 12th June

Another area supported by the NBCC is energy crime. The UK Revenue Protection Association is a member led organisation and this was their biannual conference held in Warwickshire. Patrick was asked to update on the work he is doing to raise the profile of energy crime with police colleagues and the creation of bespoke guidance. It is estimated that the cost of energy crime is up to £1.4 billion every year, this takes place through a variety of methods with the most common being the bypassing of gas and electricity meters. This activity is very dangerous as safety measures are ignored putting peoples lives at risk.



Birmingham - 24th June

Patrick met with a number of senior hotel security leads to discuss the work being done to safeguard children from sexual exploitation where hotels are used as a meeting point. Many of the hotels have extensive plans in place, supported by staff training, to identify and safeguard any children thought to be at risk. The meeting was designed to build upon the work already in place and to share the best practice across the sector.

HMS Belfast - 26th June

On a particularly hot day in London attended a thought leadership hosted by Asel on HMS Belfast, moored on the River Thames. Patrick gave presentation on the Retail Crime Action Plan highlighting recent successes as well as the challenges that lay ahead. Patrick then joined Mathew Barber, PCC from Thames Valley Police and retail leads on a panel for questions chaired by Lord John Stevens.



Appeal to reunite tools worth one million pounds with owners

Kent Police have seized over 3,500 suspected stolen items for which officers would now like to identify owners.

Officers have finished cataloguing the items since recovering them on 26 April 2024, and the latest estimate of their combined value is believed to exceed one million pounds.

A tracker on a stolen drill led officers from Kent Police's Rural Task Force to obtain and execute a warrant, assisted by colleagues from Thames Valley Police, at an address in Swattenden.

In the search for the tracked item, officers uncovered a large haul of suspected stolen goods, including a quad bike confirmed to be stolen from Ashford, and six caravans stolen from locations nationwide including Bristol, Wales, Southampton, Staffordshire and Sussex.



Full details about the items seized and how to claim the item if you believe it is yours can be found here: [Appeal to reunite tools worth one million pounds with owners | Kent Police](#)

The NBCC have produced a crime prevention guide to help prevent the theft of tools which can be downloaded via our website: [tool-theft-crime-prevention.pdf \(nbcc.police.uk\)](#)

Get ready for the summer shut down

Over the summer months many businesses and premises shut down for a period of time which can leave them vulnerable to crime.

Schools can be at risk as they shut down for the summer break so it is essential that premises are as secure as they can be.

If you own property as part of your business, whether it is open to the public or not, it will often contain your assets and needs to be secure.

Having a tidy, professional and secure premises is often enough to deter a thief and at least move them on, however, there are many different layers to premises security.

The NBCC crime prevention guide on premises security will take you through the practical steps you can take to make your business premise as secure as possible, click on the link below to download your copy:

[Premises security crime prevention guide](#)



Security Measures



Locks and Smart Access



Doors, Glazing & Windows



Lighting and Security Fog



Alarms, CCTV and Remaining Vigilant



Online and Cyber Security, and Hiring Guards



Always Report Crimes to the Police

What the guide covers