



# NBCC NEWS

May 2024 - Issue 18

## Safe Spaces scheme expanded to other sectors

The NBCC Safe Spaces scheme, also known as Operation Portum, continues to go from strength to strength with new organisations and sectors requesting to join the initiative.

Launched last year, the scheme was initially aimed at leading supermarkets and retailers, to make retail outlets a safe space for people in need of help.

The NBCC, worked in partnership with a number of national retailers including Tesco, to develop guidance and a step-by-step process to assist businesses in the planning, creating and implementation of a safe spaces scheme within their business.

Following on from the successful launch with retailers, other industries reached out to the NBCC to see how they could also adopt the scheme and take part. The NBCC has responded to that demand by expanding the scheme to include private security, shopping centres and the wider business community via BCRPs and BIDs.

Tailored guidance has been developed for each sector explaining how to sign up for the scheme, what steps they need to take to implement the scheme and why it is important in helping protect vulnerable people in the community.

The NBCC has a dedicated section on the website for the [Safe Spaces Scheme](#)

Those participating in the scheme to access a training video and branding to demonstrate their support and participation as a Safe Space.

The scheme already has support from the likes of John Lewis Partnership, Waitrose, Coop, Asda, Sainsbury's, Morrisons, Marks and Spencer, Tesco, Next and Boots as well as The Trafford Centre and a number of BCRPs and BIDs.

If you want to find out more, access tailored industry guidance, or view the FAQs, click this link: [Safe Spaces Scheme](#)



## 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](#)

## General Election Called

As everyone is aware by now, the general election will take place on 4 July 2024 which means a number of important pieces of legislation that were still to be adopted, will now be shelved until after the election.

One of the key pieces of legislation expected to pass was an amendment to the Criminal Justice Bill which was going to introduce a new bespoke offence of assaulting a retail worker. This had only just started to be debated in Parliament and will now be in put on hold until after the election.

Further information can be found here: [Separate offence for assaulting store staff looks set to be another casualty of snap election call \(talkingretail.com\)](https://talkingretail.com)

The NBCC will continue their work as normal during the pre election period, however it may be a quieter period in terms of any announcements or publicity whilst the campaigning period is underway.

## NBCC Crime Prevention Series

### Safeguarding Your Business During Public Events

With a general election in June, there is potential for an increase in demonstrations and protests in city and town centres.

Although most protests are carried out peacefully and respectfully, sometimes large gatherings of people can attract a minority of people who use the event as an excuse to cause trouble.

Businesses may face increased risks during periods of public protests and social unrest, which can threaten employees, disrupt operations, and damage property.

The NBCC has produced a comprehensive crime prevention guide to help businesses prepare for protests and take steps to keep their staff and premises protected.

It covers how to prioritise employee protection leading up to the event, or when civil unrest, volatile demonstrations and public disorder are likely.

Practical steps you can take to protect your business premises like minimising the number of entry/exit points.

What to consider when taking the difficult decision to close the business down for the day and when you should call the police.

You can use the guide to train staff and make them aware of what steps they can take to stay safe and help keep the business protected.



**Download the guide here:**

[Safeguarding Your Business During Public Events](#)

## NBCC on the road

### National Retail Crime Steering Group - 9th May

The start of the month saw the NBCC support the National Retail Crime Steering Group, jointly chaired by the British Retail Consortium and the Policing Minister, Chris Philp. The group is made up of a number of retailers and associations such as the Association of Convenience Stores and the British Independent Retailers Association. The focus of the meeting was on the Retail Crime Action Plan and how police forces were working hard to meet the commitment to attend incidents of violence and where an offender had been detained by the store. The early data return from forces showed how well the plan was being supported with good attendance rates by police.

### ORIS Forums - 14th May

ORIS Forums is a not for profit organisation that supports a wide range of businesses across retail and hospitality through networking and the sharing of best practice. Patrick attended their annual conference in Hampshire where he opened the event by giving a presentation to about 180 people on the current work of the NBCC and provided an update on the progress of the Retail Crime Action Plan. During the event Patrick also hosted four round table sessions with different groups discussing police engagement.

What came across strongly is that the police don't highlight their successes as well as they might. Here at the NBCC we often see and hear examples of how offenders have been brought to justice with many receiving custodial sentences and being given Criminal Behaviour Orders, thereby protecting local shops and shopworkers when they are released. We will be looking to see how we can better share these success stories to increase the business confidence in policing.



### Knowledge Sharing Event - 16th May

The College of Policing run Knowledge Sharing Events whereby they bring together police officers and staff to discuss topical areas and share best practice. Given the increased interest in retail crime Patrick arranged for the College to run an event on the Retail Crime Action Plan. The event saw in excess of 140 officers and staff attend the virtual event where Patrick was able to highlight the work of the NBCC and listen to some of the great work taking place by police forces to protect local businesses and bring offenders to justice.

### NICE User Group - 20th May

NICE provides the IT system that allows many of the forces to manage their collection and management of CCTV through a Digital Evidence Management System (DEMS). Patrick attended their recent Police User Group meeting in Warwick to discuss the work the NBCC was doing to increase the use of sharing of CCTV electronically from retailers, which is far more efficient and allows the police to respond quicker. This work includes engagement with CPS to develop some template statements which retailers can use when submitting evidence such as CCTV to the police. The plan is to host these statements on the NBCC website so that they are freely available to be used by all.

For more information in relation to CCTV and DEMS please follow the link.

[Can your CCTV transfer digital evidence to police? \(nbcc.police.uk\)](https://nbcc.police.uk)



## NABCP activity to support SaBA Month

The National Association of Business Crime Partnerships (NABCP) has released a roundup of some of the activity and results from the month of action, with some impressive stats and results.

The document runs to 19 pages and highlights the activity led by local Business Crime Reduction Partnerships and Business Improvement Districts in supporting the activity in March when over 400 SaBA Days took place.

Click here to download it: [SaBA Month Roundup](#)



**NEWSLETTER**

**SABA MONTH**

**NABCP**  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BUSINESS CRIME PARTNERSHIPS

March 2024 was the first ever National Safer Business Action Month, following the success of past SaBA Weeks and Days across the UK.

BCRPs and BIDs have achieved outstanding results, community engagement and partnership work to prevent and deter crimes, as well as working together to bring perpetrators to justice.

This newsletter showcases the results that our member BCRPs and BIDs have submitted - excellent examples of the activity and accomplishments of over 300 Safer Business Action Days carried out in March 2024 across the UK.

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## Ongoing work of the NBCC

Here is summary of some of the work the NBCC is currently working on. Updates next month.

**Tobacco Track and Trace** - June will see the publication of a report by Professor Emmeline Taylor which has been commissioned by the NBCC and funded through the Home Office. The report explores how the legislation designed to target counterfeit tobacco can be used to target the sale of stolen tobacco, therefore reducing the rewards for those who steal tobacco, which as the report highlights, takes place in a number of ways.

**Preventing Energy Crime** - this is an area of work that the NBCC has been supporting for a number of years. The NBCC are working with the industry, Ofgem and HM Courts to design some bespoke guidance to tackle energy crime, which presents a number of safety risks putting lives at risk. The NBCC is also presenting on the subject at an industry conference later in June.

**Data sharing** - critical to successful partnership working, data sharing needs to take place, but to do it without due regard for the legislation and people's rights risks undermining confidence in the police. The NBCC is working with police partners to develop an open and transparent process that provides the relevant safeguards yet ensures that we can share information on those who cause our businesses the most harm.

**BCRP Accreditation** - following the publication of this [report](#) the NBCC have been working with a range of partners including the NABCP, retailers and the accrediting body [Police CPI](#), to meet the recommendations in the report to improve the accreditation process. When the new process is launched it will encourage more BCRPs to become accredited so giving reassurance to business members, police and other stakeholders.