

News story: Fall in moped crime as multi-agency taskforce produces results

A government-led taskforce, aimed at cracking down on moped crime in London, is to be extended to tackle all theft of vehicles nationwide.

It comes after Metropolitan Police figures reveal that moped offences in London have more than halved as a result of targeted police operations, supported by a range of work driven forward by the taskforce.

There was a 32.6% fall in these crimes in the period from January to August this year compared with the same period in 2017, and compared to July 2017 when the crime was at its peak, the number of offences committed in August this year was 56% lower.

Work undertaken to tackle moped crime includes:

- operational activity led by the Metropolitan Police in hotspot areas
- a government consultation on police pursuits
- developing an industry standard for built-in theft deterrents
- a review of the range of offences, sentences and maximum penalties for these crimes

Chairing today's meeting of the moped taskforce, which brings together representatives from the Metropolitan Police, local government and industry, Policing Minister Nick Hurd said:

Today's figures are testament to the fantastic work achieved by the Metropolitan Police and I'm pleased this crime has fallen by so much, so quickly.

Drawing together existing work by the police, industry and local government and agreeing additional measures has enabled all partners to provide the multi-agency approach tackling a complex issue like this requires.

The Met have done a superb job of targeting hotspot areas and deploying innovative and highly effective methods for stopping moped gangs in their tracks.

I'm excited to see what we can achieve by applying a similar response to vehicle theft.

Deputy Assistant Commissioner Graham McNulty, National Police Chiefs' Council Lead for Vehicle Crime said:

The reductions achieved in this crime type show the encouraging results that can be achieved when there is a strong focus on enforcement complemented with committed partnership working.

I am grateful to our partners in the public, private and third sectors who have all played their part alongside the steadfast and relentless operational teams who have delivered outstanding results.

These reductions are just a start and it is imperative that we continue to work together to ensure that we build on these solid foundations and further reduce harm to the people of London.

Tony Campbell, Chief Executive of the Motorcycle Industry Association (MCIA) said:

We are very pleased to see a significant reduction in the number of motorcycle and scooter thefts in London. The Home Office organised roundtable, which invited all stakeholders to coordinate efforts, has been extremely effective.

The MCIA, along with support from its manufacturer members, have played an active role in this effort and we will continue to do so over the coming months and years.

The MCIA secured initiative announced in June, will go further towards dealing with the problem of theft and enabled crime.

At today's meeting, Jan Hart from Islington Council shared their local strategy which contributed in moped crime falling 60%. The council introduced a range of measures including tactically placed street furniture to block escape routes, new CCTV, and street lighting in key locations and improved security to moped bays.

Following the recent rise in thefts of vehicles, the same strategy will be introduced to tackle this emerging threat which, according to the latest crime statistics, increased 17% in the year ending March 2018.

Speech: Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster speech at the National Cyber Security Centre: 16 October 2018

I am delighted to be here for the National Cyber Security Centre's second

annual review.

The digital revolution has transformed our lives in profound ways.

We can see how much it has changed the world:

Every time we shop...

... every time we need directions...

...and even every time we try to talk to our children!

As our digitally connected world has expanded at an extraordinary rate, so too has the scale of vulnerabilities and the frequency of attacks that we face.

Thousands of public and private sector organisations worldwide are falling victim to ransomware attacks.

Our supply chains are being compromised.

Our critical national infrastructure continues to be a target for attack from nation states and cyber criminals.

... and we are seeing threats to our democracies from attempted outside interference.

It is right that in the face of these shared threats the UK stands strong with its international partners and allies, and that we work alongside them to confront, expose, and disrupt hostile or malicious activity.

You will have seen recently our attribution of a range of malicious cyber attacks to the work of the Russian Military Intelligence. This builds upon a host of cyber attacks we attributed with our international partners – including the WannaCry incident, one of the most substantial to hit the UK in terms of scale and disruption, to North Korean actors.

We will continue to reaffirm our shared vision for an open, peaceful and secure digital world based on the rule of law and norms of behaviour.

Protecting the British people, the systems that we rely upon, and our very democracy itself, is essential.

It is for this reason that cyber security remains a top priority for the government – because it impacts our national security, and our economic prosperity too.

The story so far

This is why we recognised the need for a comprehensive response to cyber security, spearheaded by Government through our [National Cyber Security Strategy](#) launched in 2016.

We set out ambitious proposals to take a more active role to defend our people, to deter our adversaries and develop our capabilities to ensure the UK remains the safest place to live and do business online.

One of the most visible elements of the strategy was the formation of the National Cyber Security Centre...

... to bring together our very best intelligence and technical expertise into a single world leading authority. The NCSC has undertaken some pioneering work in its first two years.

You will hear shortly from Jeremy and Ciaran, who will be highlighting the NCSC's significant achievements shortly...

And as a Government, we have done much more to strengthen the UK's defences and make this country a harder place for adversaries to operate in – setting clear direction, pushing innovation, and building capabilities and partnerships.

We have invested in our cyber capabilities within law enforcement, such as the National Crime Agency's Cyber Crime Unit and the Regional Organised Crime Units, so we can pursue those who persist in attacking us, wherever they are.

We have developed early intervention programmes to divert those at risk of going down the wrong path.

And we are inspiring more potential cyber security experts and entrepreneurs...

... through our programmes in schools and universities, and through our work with industry to retrain.

We are also working with our world-class universities and stimulating ground breaking research, to establish a pipeline of cutting-edge cyber security companies.

We have launched a range of initiatives to incubate and scale-up, including our new cyber accelerator in London, so we can turn many more great ideas into global businesses,.

And in April, we published a new [Cyber Security Export Strategy](#), setting out how we'll help the UK's world leading cyber companies sell their innovative capabilities overseas.

Underlining the fruits of those efforts, the UK cyber security industry is now generating over £5 billion for the economy.

Rising to the challenge

At this half way point in the delivery of our National Cyber Security Strategy, we have put in place many of the building blocks to transform the UK's cyber security and resilience. These are demonstrating clear results.

But we can never become complacent. Just as the threat from cyber criminals

and hostile nation states continues to evolve, so too much we continue to innovate, and to re-focus our efforts to bring about a step-change in our response.

In government we are stepping up our protection of crucial public sector systems. I can today announce that we are launching a scheme to test and improve our own ability to identify and act against sophisticated and persistent cyber-attacks.

The new scheme – called GBEST – is based on the successful CBEST model developed by the financial sector.

It uses cutting-edge intelligence to determine the objectives of our cyber attackers, their priorities for attack, and the techniques and vulnerabilities they may attempt to exploit.

By taking the best from the private sector and adapting it to meet our own needs, we improve our resilience against attacks in the future. Each year we will be running exercises to test and improve our protection and response.

Our ability to succeed in the face of these challenges also relies on the strength of the partnerships we create.

And our ability to demystify what cyber security actually is.

While it's difficult to avoid headlines about attacks and breaches, doing something about it is still often seen as too technical.

Or too difficult.

Or someone else's problem.

Cyber security is everyone's responsibility. We consider it vital that all organisations must embrace and embed cyber security, starting from the boardroom down.

This is why we have targeted our efforts at driving long-term change, by helping boards to better understand the risks that they face and to invest appropriately.

This year's survey of cyber breaches revealed only 30% of businesses have a board member with responsibility for cyber security. This is not good enough.

We need to ensure that boardrooms provide active leadership to ensure cyber security is ingrained into organisational cultures and models. Indeed we need to affect the mind-sets of those leading our companies.

The same survey highlighted that only 10% of businesses require their suppliers to adhere to any cyber standards.

With the implementation of new Data Protection laws earlier this year, it is more important than ever for organisations to understand the data they have, to know who it is shared with and how it is protected.

Yes, cyber security can be complex...

... but it should not be beyond the capability of any board member to understand the basics and ensure an organisation has a strong risk management regime in place.

So the government will be stepping up its efforts to encourage – and challenge – companies to put proper cyber security arrangements in place.

I will be writing to all FTSE 350 Chairmen to highlight the a new Board Toolkit that NCSC is developing, to help them understand cyber risk, and will be meeting a number of them in the coming months to understand their plans.

And this isn't just about minimising operational, financial and reputational risk. Building resilience amongst employees and customers can also be a catalyst for far greater change.

Our Cyber Essentials scheme extends our influence to those organisations that provide products and services to government.

We are specifying standards that will improve their cyber security...

And also ensure they use these contractual arrangements to ensure they help those in their supply chains – often smaller companies – be more secure.

I am encouraged that firms like Barclays, Astra Zeneca and Airbus and are already encouraging their suppliers in turn to adopt Cyber Essentials.

But, we can do more...

... Which is why the government is also partnering with more than 500 private sector organisations through our national Cyber Aware campaign.

..to encourage citizens and businesses to take the really simple protective steps that can prevent the majority of high volume, low sophistication attacks.

Together, these measures will equip UK organisations with the right mentalities and skill sets to harden their defences, delivering long-term, cultural change.

Looking ahead

We've made good progress since we launched the strategy...

... but there's much still to do to keep pace with our adversaries.

We need to ... forge closer partnerships with industry and academia...

... and develop the cyber security profession to create clear career pathways and a more diverse and inclusive workforce.

We are supporting Cyber Security Challenge UK as they launch Cyber Re:coded –

Europe's biggest cyber careers show in London yesterday and today. To help attract new starters into the industry.

And, in December this year, we will publish our comprehensive cyber skills strategy that will set out proposals to take us to 2021 and beyond.

Our cyber security science and technology strategy – due to be launched in the new year – will look into the future, to identify a clear direction for how we make the most of the opportunities that new and emerging technology brings us...

...from AI to quantum computing and smart cities, whilst at the same time seeking to minimising its risks.

As Government, we also want to underline our ambition in going after one of the biggest prizes – to make all products and services secure by design.

As the internet of things continues to expand, it can't be right that consumers are simply left to secure their own products.

The challenge is to encourage manufacturers to help consumers by building protections into their design.

While this will take global cooperation to fix, I am pleased to say that this last weekend I announced that new Code of Practice for consumer internet connected devices, such as smart home assistants and toys, is being established.

Our commitment is to help manufacturers understand how this code of practice will sit within the broader standards landscape...

... and make it straightforward for them to introduce changes to improve the cyber security of their products...

...so it's easy for consumers to ensure that their devices are as secure as the homes they are in.

Alongside other measures including consumer guidance on smart devices in the home, this world leading approach is trying to shift the burden of security away from consumers.

And help us meet our commitment to make the UK the safest place in the world to be online.

Conclusion

Thank you for listening – I am delighted the strategy is developing and I look forward to working with Jeremy and Ciaran in the years to come.

[News story: Combined Joint Atlantic Serpent 18 follow up](#)

Regular and Reserve personnel from the Defence Medical Services (DMS) have just completed a successful 14 day exercise delivering multinational deployed hospital care at the Army Medical Services Training Centre (AMSTC) in Strensall, York.

The Surgeon General, Lt Gen Martin Bricknell speaks from the exercise:

[Joint Atlantic Serpent](#)

[Joint Atlantic Serpent video transcript](#) (ODT, 5.71KB)

250 medical personnel took part, of which 60 came from the United States, Canada, Germany, Norway and Estonia. The UK Reserve personnel were deployed from 205 Field Hospital and 256 Field Hospital as well as from 612 and 4626 Squadrons from the Royal Auxiliary Air Force. The Defence Medical Group also provided a number of Regular DMS personnel who are currently working within the National Health Service.

The exercise was a combined joint task force scenario with a 4 day assessment phase. This tested the hospital command team fully as it transitioned rapidly from supporting counter-insurgency to war fighting missions. Ex CJAS 18 demonstrated how clinical personnel from multiple nations can come together as equals and to deliver patient care to the same standards you would expect within a purely national facility.

Captain Reinhard, an anaesthetist from the Estonian National Defence College said > I first received the benefit of receiving this training in 2013 when Estonia deployed with the UK hospital in Camp Bastion, I have really enjoyed the opportunity to return to AMSTC on Ex CJAS 18.

Deploying such a large hospital allowed the planners to include additional capabilities that would not normally be exercised in this environment. Some examples included a primary health care, an aeromedical support unit and a critical care in the air support team.

Corporal Neil Hudson, an Exercise Remedial Instructor (ERI) said > The exercise was a good learning experience for me as it showed me a new environment in which I could be utilised as an ERI if there is a requirement for a role 3 theatre hospital

RAF Halton supported the exercise by providing 20 students awaiting trade training (SATT): these individuals worked tirelessly to ensure the hospital personnel received enough casualties to simulate the major joint operation scenario.

Corporal Rourke, the JNCO responsible for the SATTs said > The guys were really chuffed with the thanks... it's been nice to see them enjoy themselves

as part of work away from RAF Halton.

The success of Ex CJAS 18 will encourage future development of the concept allowing UK personnel to increase their exposure to other nations clinical capabilities and some of the more unusual disciplines that are not common within the UK.

*ERI]: Exercise Remedial Instructor *[AMSTC]: Army Medical Services Training Centre

[Press release: Making Tax Digital for VAT pilot open for business](#)

Making Tax Digital for VAT will make it easier for businesses to manage their tax and will save them, and their agents, time which can instead be devoted to maximising business opportunities, encouraging growth and fostering good financial planning.

From 1 April 2019, under Making Tax Digital, around 1 million businesses registered for VAT with a taxable turnover above £85,000 will need to keep their VAT records digitally and file their returns using Making Tax Digital-compatible software.

The pilot opens today for around half a million businesses whose affairs are up to date and straightforward, and will extend to most other business types over the coming months. HMRC has also listened to concerns and will give a small group of customers with more complex requirements a further 6 months to prepare. This will ensure there is sufficient time for testing the service with them in the pilot before they are required to join.

[Mel Stride MP, Financial Secretary to the Treasury](#), said:

HMRC is transforming the tax administration so that it's more effective, more efficient and easier for taxpayers. Today's announcement means that around half a million businesses will be able to join Making Tax Digital and start filing their VAT returns online, making it easier to get their tax right first time.

More and more businesses use digital tools every day to help them operate – tax shouldn't be different. This is a major step towards bringing VAT into the 21st century.

Theresa Middleton, Director for Making Tax Digital for Business, said:

Millions of people are already banking, paying bills and interacting with their suppliers and customers online. Using digital tools to help businesses manage their business income and expenses and get their tax right builds on this momentum and will also help them get more control over their finances.

Eligible businesses and agents shouldn't leave preparations to the last minute and are encouraged to join the pilot as soon as they can. Read [more information on Making Tax Digital](#).

Background

HMRC's ambition is to become one of the most digitally advanced tax administrations in the world and Making Tax Digital is making fundamental changes to the way the tax system works – transforming tax administration so that it is:

- more effective
- more efficient
- easier for taxpayers to get their tax right

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