

The week in review

Our weekly round-up is back with the return of the Scottish Parliament following the summer recess.

Victims at the heart of justice reforms

The highlight of the week has been the launch, by First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, of the [Programme for Government](#) for the new 2018-19 Parliamentary year. As in previous years there was a strong justice reform agenda, both through legislation and wider policy initiatives and investment.

The PfG includes commitments to improve support for victims of crime – among them, developing new support services, giving more victims an opportunity to tell courts about the impact of crimes, improving information for victims and their families around prison release, and consulting on how to make the parole process more open and transparent.

We want improve the experiences of victims and witnesses of crime, including new plans to support engagement between victims and the offender, which we know helps victims and prevents reoffending
[#ScotPFG](#) <https://t.co/Y42VlwVnzU> pic.twitter.com/EBfawXh2jc

– Scottish Government (@scotgov) [September 4, 2018](#)

Focus on rehabilitation paying off

Also on Tuesday, it emerged that [reconviction rates in Scotland have fallen to a 19-year low](#), underpinning the importance of our investments in desistance and rehabilitation work – both in the community and in prison settings – to challenge and support people with convictions to turn away from offending behaviour and fulfil their potential in supporting their families and contributing to society.


Justice Secretary Humza Yousaf welcomes continued reduction in reoffending in Scotland – as reconviction rates fall to a 19-year low, helping keep crime down and communities safe:
<https://t.co/801WIXJTM#smartjustice#rehabilitation#desistance#safescotland#justicepriorities> pic.twitter.com/DQzzlM6aVE

– ScotGov Justice (@ScotGovJustice) [September 4, 2018](#)

Blue-light services go green

The First Minister had begun 'PfG week' with a visit to the Cambuslang headquarters of the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service, which is committed to reducing its carbon footprint with plans to introduce up to 100 ultra-low emission Plug-in vehicles.

Ms Sturgeon heard about the efforts of all of Scotland's blue-light services to invest in more sustainable vehicle fleets, and announced £16.7 million additional Scottish Government funding to help transforming Scotland to a low carbon country.

 We're investing £16.7 million to help Scotland transform into a low carbon country

 <https://t.co/yu29BHC9uj> pic.twitter.com/Hj4E6pMPhC

– Scottish Government (@scotgov) [September 3, 2018](#)

Impact of miners strike policing on local communities

Also on Monday John Scott QC issued a call for anyone affected by the policing of the 1984-85 miners strike to submit evidence to the independent review on the subject, which was announced in June by the then Justice Secretary Michael Matheson.

Submissions can be made up until November 30th, including through an [online portal](#). For further information about the review, visit the [dedicated webpage](#).

The lawyer leading a review into the impact of policing during the miners' strike in Scotland has urged those involved in the protests to speak out <https://t.co/PD8Z2v20h8> pic.twitter.com/v0JifVFrm3

– BBC Scotland News (@BBCScotlandNews) [September 3, 2018](#)

Minister meets 'Fearless' ambassadors

On Tuesday morning Minister for Community Safety Ash Denham joined Crimestoppers Scotland to meet the latest 'Fearless ambassadors' – school pupils who are promoting the [Fearless programme](#) which aims to empower young people to access information and advice about crime and criminality and to help keep themselves and their friends safe.

Big welcome to Minister for Community Safety Ash Denham [@ashtenRD](#) at our East Lothian Schools [@FearlessORG](#) training session [@EastLothPolice](#) [pic.twitter.com/Fkka4Rgu70](#)

– Crimestoppers Scotland (@CrimestopSCOT) [September 4, 2018](#)

Building resilience and a Fairer Scotland in the face of childhood adversity

A few hours after Tuesday's PfG launch in the Parliament, Deputy First Minister John Swinney delivered the Apex Lecture, where he outlined the Scottish Government's commitment to building a fairer Scotland and the critical role of understanding childhood adversity in the development of policy across the portfolios, including through our justice reforms. Find out more about the connections between adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), personal resilience and crime from a [short summary PDF](#), recently prepared by Scottish Government analysts.

This tweet sums up the key message of my [@apexscotland](#) lecture tonight. A very stimulating and encouraging event. Many thanks for the invite and all who came along. <https://t.co/WKZbKSFGCp>

– John Swinney (@JohnSwinney) [September 4, 2018](#)

Scottish Police Memorial Service

On Wednesday the Justice Secretary addressed the gathering of the Scottish Police Memorial Service of Remembrance at Scotland's Police College, Tulliallan. This was the 15th annual Scottish commemoration to honour those police officers who lost their lives in the line of duty.

Cabinet Secretary for Justice [@HumzaYousaf](#) addresses today's guests [@ScotPolMemorial](#) Service. "There is a debt we owe you, that we can never repay." [pic.twitter.com/oNnJ7oMrLm](#)

– Police Scotland (@policescotland) [September 5, 2018](#)

'Promising' findings from problem-solving court pilot

Also this week the Community Safety Minister attended the launch of a research report into the 'Aberdeen Problem-Solving Approach', which aims to reduce the use of custodial sentences and cut re-offending by addressing

underlying problems linked with persistent offending. Read on the [University of Stirling website](#).

Today Community Safety Minister [@ashtenRD](#) launched a new report into Aberdeen Sheriff Court's innovative approach to tackling repeat offending and helping people caught in the cycle.

Read more: [@StirUni](https://t.co/TFgUGVs0tg) [@TheSCCJR](#) [@IpsosMORIScot](#) [@SCTScourtstribs](#) pic.twitter.com/2ZB1siYiBl

– ScotGov Justice (@ScotGovJustice) [September 5, 2018](#)

The post [The week in review](#) appeared first on [Justice and Safety](#).