

Crime and Courts Bill

Fact Sheet 2 of 12 on the National Crime Agency

The National Crime Agency: what it will do and how it will do it

1. The NCA will be a UK wide crime-fighting agency, committed to protecting the public, with a highly visible, national profile. It will lead the UK's fight against serious, organised and complex crime, provide a new focus on economic crime and strengthen policing at the border.
2. Subject to the passage of the Crime and Courts Bill, the National Crime Agency will be established by the end of 2013 and it will be at the centre of the reformed law enforcement landscape. It will build on the strengths of the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) and other precursor capabilities, connecting the efforts of local policing and neighbourhood action to national agencies and action overseas to coordinate the fight against some of the UK's most harmful criminals.

What is the threat from serious, organised and complex crime?

3. It is estimated that around 30,000 criminals across over 7,500 organised crime groups are involved in organised crime, generating an estimated cost to the UK economy of over £20 billion a year.
4. The inescapable reality is that serious, organised and complex crime is causing direct neighbourhood-level damage for all of us, wherever we live. The impacts of this corrosive activity, which may be rooted thousands of miles away or just next door, are felt on street corners and in homes all over the UK. The UK's first ever national strategy on organised crime, 'Local to Global'¹, explicitly recognises that.
5. We need to continually adapt to get ahead of the evolving threats presented by serious and organised crime. And the reality is that no one force or agency can confront them single-handed. The threats are local, regional, national and global – and our response must be too.
6. We must use our law enforcement resources collaboratively and increase the breadth and impact of our collective footprint. The National Crime Agency's core business will be to make sure that police forces and national agencies across the UK complement each other and coordinate their activity in a way which most effectively cuts serious and organised crime and protects the public.

¹ <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/crime/organised-crime-strategy?view=Binary>

What will the National Crime Agency look like?

7. Through its four commands, the NCA will tackle organised crime, strengthen border defences, accelerate efforts against economic crime, and ramp up the fight against child sex abuse and exploitation. It will also consolidate expertise on cyber crime to form the first National Cyber Crime Unit.

8. **The Organised Crime Command** will lead on action against organised crime groups across local, national and international borders. The Command will work with police forces and other agencies to ensure that prioritised and effective action is taken against organised crime groups.

9. **The Border Policing Command** will deliver a new strategy which will strengthen our borders and enable us to better address national security threats. It will bring agencies together, taking the lead role in investigations and intelligence, co-ordinating and tasking the response to threats, and providing specialist knowledge, training and operational assets.

10. **The Economic Crime Command** will use the NCA's intelligence picture to bring about a shared understanding of the threat, of where resources are best applied and where prevention measures will have the greatest impact. It will bring the drive and coordination needed to improve UK law enforcement's collective response by combining the expertise and resources of the NCA with those of our partners to coordinate, direct and support effective action against economic crime under a shared national strategy.

11. **The Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command** will retain CEOP's vital national role, unique identity and capabilities, while benefiting from shared intelligence and operational capabilities across the NCA. Work continues to ensure CEOP's transition into the new Agency is delivered in accordance with the six principles set out in the NCA plan².

12. This will also be the first time that a single agency has been given clear leadership of a national response to serious, organised and complex crime. Subject to the passage of the Crime and Courts Bill, the NCA will be given the authority to lead, align and direct the UK's collective law enforcement response to the most dangerous individuals and criminal groups.

13. Another NCA 'first' will be its single, shared, national intelligence picture of the threat from serious, organised and complex crime. Understanding of the scale and nature of the threat must be consistent. The NCA's intelligence picture, generated by the Intelligence Hub, will enable collective prioritisation of the targets, the activity against them, and the resources to tackle them – locally, regionally, nationally, at the border, and overseas. It will also identify opportunities across the wider landscape, de-conflict multiple sources, and give forces confidence to make their own interventions and allocate resources appropriately.

² <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/crime/nca-creation-plan?view=Binary>

How will the NCA work with its partners?

14. It is vital that the NCA has effective two-way working relationships with its partners in police forces, and in law enforcement, security and intelligence agencies, in order to leverage our collective knowledge and skills to best protect the public and cut crime.

15. The NCA's offer to partners lies at the heart of this. Developed in consultation with those partners, this offer is clear on:

- How the NCA will work with law enforcement partners to protect the public and cut crime;
- How we will work together to determine who is best placed to lead on operational activity; and
- The range of NCA specialist assets and capabilities that will be available to law enforcement partners.

16. Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) will be key strategic partners for the NCA. While the focus will be on building strong working relationships between PCCs and the NCA, the Crime and Courts Bill explicitly provides that the views of PCCs must be sought during the development of the NCA's strategic priorities, and the NCA Annual Plan.

17. The Director General NCA will, under the terms of the Framework Document, be required to notify the Home Secretary and the Police and Crime Commissioner as soon as is feasible if he issues a direction to a police force to perform a task or to provide assistance. This will enable the PCC to hold their chief constable to account.

What will the budget of the NCA be?

18. The NCA will have a wider reach than SOCA and a deeper reach across law enforcement. It will be delivered within the budget of its precursor organisations. It will do this through more effective prioritisation and smarter use of assets; its own and those of others. SOCA (which includes CEOP), will form the largest component of the NCA's budget.

19. In 2014/15, the first full financial year of operations, the NCA's indicative budget for planning purposes is around £407 million, based on budgets agreed at the Spending Review 2010. Although the priority must be to protect frontline operations as far as possible, this figure does not yet allow for the 2% reduction in the Home Office budget for 2014/15 announced in the Chancellor's Autumn Statement 2012. It is intended to scrutinise all Home Office budgets during the next year before determining 2014/15 allocations.

20. It is too early to say what the final NCA budget will be as there will be additional precursor functions which transfer into the agency and other supplementary funding streams which the NCA, like SOCA, is likely to have access to.

What progress has been made on building the NCA?

21. Subject to the passage of the Crime and Courts Bill, progress is on track to have the National Crime Agency fully vested by the end of 2013. Key developments to date include:

- The senior management structure and top team are now largely in place or due to be announced;
- Shadow Border Policing Command, Economic Crime Command and National Cyber Crime Unit operations are already having an impact;
- The Organised Crime Coordination Centre, the forerunner for the NCA's intelligence hub, is up and running, producing operational assessments and de-confliction reports;
- Six NPIA functions including the Central Witness Bureau have migrated from the NPIA across to SOCA on their way to the NCA.

What is the review that Keith Bristow is leading in North Wales?

22. Keith Bristow was appointed as the Director General designate in advance of the NCA being established, to drive a strong response to serious and organised crime in the form of NCA shadow arrangements.

23. He has also, alongside his ongoing responsibilities relating to 'Operation Sacristy' in Cleveland, been invited by Mark Polin, the Chief Constable of North Wales Police, to lead the review into new allegations of historic child abuse in care in North Wales. To do this, he is drawing on the resources and expertise of a multi-agency team made up of the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) which includes the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP), together with the police and other relevant agencies.

Home Office
January 2013