

# FUTURE DIRECTIONS FOR ORGANISED CRIME RESEARCH



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# Foreword

Organised crime is one of the greatest threats to our society and security, locally and nationally. The social and economic costs of organised crime are substantial, and it has a widespread impact on communities, individuals and businesses.

The Government is committed to tackling organised crime. The organised crime strategy published this year sets out our commitment to:

- *Stem* the opportunities for organised crime to take root;
- *Strengthen* enforcement action against organised criminals; and
- *Safeguard* communities, businesses and the state.

It also highlights the fundamental change in our capabilities to tackle organised crime through the establishment of the National Crime Agency.

One important component of our refocused approach to tackling organised crime is improving our scientific evidence base; this is the foundation to ensure that we have the knowledge and the technologies to tackle organised crime now and in the future.

Scientific evidence and support – across the range of the social, physical, life and information sciences – is



**Stephen Rimmer**  
Director General  
Crime and Policing Group

critical in order to achieve value for money, to drive innovation, to ensure that decision makers are well informed and to ensure that interventions across the Stem, Strengthen and Safeguard themes are effective.

Domestic and international partners in government, industry, academia, voluntary sectors and elsewhere are central to this endeavour and we are taking practical steps to strengthen our working relationships. We are:

- putting in place a strategic vision for future research through the publication of this report *Future Directions for Organised Crime Research*;
- establishing an Organised Crime Virtual Research Network to make it easier for partners to share information and collaborate; and
- strengthening our research relationships with the US and other international partners in the development of an evidence base for organised crime.

The role of partners in producing the high-quality evidence and scientific knowledge needed to tackle organised crime has never been more important. We look forward to developing this work with you.



**Professor Bernard Silverman FRS**  
Chief Scientific Adviser

# Summary overview

1. The Home Office, in discussion with other government departments, agencies and research partners, has identified a range of organised crime research priorities that support the current and future needs of the organised crime strategy *Local to Global: Reducing the Risk from Organised Crime*<sup>1</sup>.
2. A number of research priorities are identified as being particularly critical:
  - improving our understanding and estimates of the scale, impacts, costs and victims of organised crime;
  - developing our knowledge of the organised criminal offending population and their operations, including models of relationships and markets;
  - assessing the implementation and effectiveness of interventions across all three strands of the organised crime strategy:
    - *Stemming* opportunities for organised crime to take root (for example, interventions in source and transit countries as well tackling criminal career pathways in the UK);
    - *Strengthening* enforcement across the breadth of organised crime areas; and
    - *Safeguarding* our communities (developing our understanding of how to reduce our vulnerabilities and build resilience);
  - ensuring continuing technological development to develop our capabilities to prevent and disrupt organised crime.
  - developing the evidence base around drivers and continuing horizon scanning to reflect the dynamic and changing nature of organised criminality.
3. Additionally, we set out priorities for improving communication and co-ordination mechanisms for organised crime research.
  - improving communication and enabling collaboration between organised crime research partners (including academia and other researchers, government and agencies, industry and law enforcement) at local and regional, national and international levels;
  - enabling better dissemination and application of research evidence to support operational partners and policy-makers;
  - ensuring ongoing dialogue to review organised crime research priorities;
  - seeking to improve international linkages with research partners; and
  - supporting linkages and synergies between organised crime research and other research subject areas.
4. Finally, the document provides the new contact point for organised crime research issues: [OC\\_ResearchStrategy@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:OC_ResearchStrategy@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk)

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<sup>1</sup> The organised crime strategy *Local to Global: Reducing the Risk from Organised Crime* is available at <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/crime/organised-crime-strategy?view=Binary>

# Introduction

## PURPOSE

5. The purpose of this document is to bring together, for academics, industry and other researchers as well as government departments and agencies, a high-level overview of priorities in organised crime research.
6. The priorities described here are not an exhaustive list. The aim is to provide a starting point for dialogue between government and agencies, research councils, universities and industry as well as others with an interest in organised crime research. This document also provides a focal point for government departments and agencies when considering organised crime research needs.
7. Enabling dialogue between government and non-government partners on these questions will ensure we make the most of available skills and expertise, encourage openness and support the national response to tackling organised crime.
10. Research is needed to drive the technological innovation necessary to develop our capability to identify and counter organised criminality, and we need to improve our horizon-scanning abilities so that we can be better at identifying emerging threats.
11. Organised crime poses particular challenges to research. Organised crime is hidden, highly innovative and changeable in nature; it is constantly evolving, and becoming increasingly diverse in its methods, group structures and impact on society. Particular challenges are posed by globalisation and the increasingly international nature of organised crime. Many of these developments in organised crime require cutting-edge technological responses.
12. For research to meet these challenges we must:
  - cross disciplinary boundaries and work across the social, physical and computer sciences;
  - be joined up with police, agencies and government and be able to respond rapidly to changing needs;
  - cut across Whitehall barriers and be open to the public, industry and wider research sectors, including international partners, wherever possible; and
  - avoid duplication of effort and focus on priority research gaps.

## BACKGROUND

8. Organised crime presents a major threat to the UK and requires efforts at local to global levels to tackle it. The UK organised crime strategy was published in July 2011; it sets out our approach to:
  - *Stem* the opportunities for organised crime to take root;
  - *Strengthen* enforcement action against organised criminals; and
  - *Safeguard* communities, businesses and the state.
9. Good quality research is fundamentally important to support our efforts. Robust evidence on the nature of organised crime, its scale and the harm that it causes is needed. We also need to understand what works best in tackling it, and where best we should focus our resources.
13. Against this background the current document considers the research needs and priorities for the organised crime policy area.<sup>2</sup> It also describes how we are improving communication between government, practitioners and the organised crime research communities. The publication of the document is also accompanied by the establishment of an Organised Crime Virtual Research Network.

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<sup>2</sup> The document does not constitute a research programme, nor does it have any formal implications for the research funding decisions of departments and agencies. Decisions regarding funding of work will continue to be within the scope of individual departments and agencies.

## Box 1 Definition and scope

### **Organised crime**

*Organised crime is defined as individuals, normally working with others, with the capacity and capability to commit serious crime on a continuing basis, which includes elements of planning, control and coordination, and benefits those involved. The motivation is often, but not always, financial gain. Some types of organised crime, such as organised child sexual exploitation, have other motivations.*

The document takes this definition as its starting point; it will at times take a broader focus, where operational and policy realities or the current state of evidence dictate that a broader approach is appropriate.

### **Science and research**

Science and research cover a range of activities. The document focuses primarily on priorities within the *social sciences*, including economics, operational research, statistics and social research. It highlights some key technological issues that relate to the *computing* and *physical sciences*. There are also some implications for market/customer research.

### **Intelligence**

The scientific research and development priorities discussed here do not include a consideration of UK intelligence needs and priorities. These are informed by the UK Threat Assessment (UKTA) and collection is guided by the National Intelligence Requirement (NIR).

### **Funding**

Funding is not within the scope of this document, which is non-directive in nature. Individual departments and agencies retain control of their own budgets and research programmes. The document provides a starting point for discussion and dialogue – it does not represent a programme of work.

14. The priorities identified here have emerged from a stock take of research amongst UK academics and government departments, and discussion within government departments and agencies and other research partners. The Organised Crime Virtual Research Network will provide a forum to ensure that these discussions are continued.

# Organised crime research priorities

15. The following sets out a brief, high-level assessment of our current position in relation to organised crime research, the directions for future research, and identifies key priority areas. The chapter first considers cross-cutting thematic areas such as scale, harms, costs, offenders, drivers, data and horizon scanning, before considering individual crime types.

## CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES AND TOPICS

### SCALE

16. In some areas of organised crime, such as drug trafficking, the scale of activity is relatively well-understood<sup>3</sup> while in areas such as organised acquisitive crime (for example metal theft) and cyber (or computer-enabled) crime, assessment of scale is often relatively poor or absent. Improving knowledge of scale is important for developing appropriate policy responses and control strategies. Better information is needed on market size, the numbers of individuals and groups involved and their geographic distribution and intensity.
17. Work is currently ongoing to improve our assessment of the overall scale of organised crime markets (Home Office) and of individual crime areas including: scale of fraud (National Fraud Authority (NFA)); scale of illegal waste exports (Environment Agency (EA)).

### IMPACTS AND HARMS

18. The impacts and harms associated with organised crime are generally not well mapped. The impacts of organised crime on particular sections of the population, the nature and relative scale of harms caused by particular types of organised crimes and groups, and the way that organised crime impacts at different levels of the market, are important to

understand. Evidence on the nature of harms is needed to help inform decisions about where and how to focus efforts to tackle organised crime and to strengthen resilience.

19. Current Home Office work on the social and economic costs of organised crime includes mapping organised crime harms. A stock take of cyber crime (Home Office) and work on victims of (all) fraud (NFA) are also taking place. The extent and nature of harms caused by organised crime remains a key priority.

### COSTS

20. The costs of the impacts of organised crime on the UK are important to understand, to ensure that prioritisation and resource allocation takes place on the basis of good understanding of the relative impact of diverse criminal activities. It is also extremely important to have a stronger grasp of knowledge gaps in this area.
21. Our most recent estimates suggest that organised crime costs the UK between £20 and £40 billion a year.<sup>4</sup> These figures are relatively dated. As with evidence on scale, the evidence base on costs in individual crime areas varies in quality. Work on drugs is comparatively strong, while in other areas our evidence is sometimes weak or patchy. We need to improve methodologies and data. Metal theft and other organised acquisitive crime, fraud and other economic crimes, and cyber crime, have all been identified as areas where further work is needed.
22. Work is currently underway to update estimates of the social and economic costs of organised crime (Home Office) and to improve our estimate of what proportion of fraud losses were perpetrated by organised crime (NFA).

<sup>3</sup> Pudney, S. *et al.* (2006), "Estimating the size of the UK illicit drug market", in Singleton, N., Murray, R. and Tinsley, L., *Measuring different aspects of problem drug use: methodological developments*, Home Office Online Report 16/06.

<sup>4</sup> Cabinet Office and Home Office (2009) *Extending our Reach: A comprehensive approach to tackling serious organised crime* available at [www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm76/7665/7665.pdf](http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm76/7665/7665.pdf)



## VICTIMS AND VULNERABLE GROUPS

23. Development of our knowledge of victims and vulnerable groups is critical to improving resilience and safeguarding communities. Organised criminals can target vulnerable individuals or groups to pursue their activities, including grooming, exploitation and trafficking. Improving our knowledge of the at-risk population in relation to a range of crime types, from sexual exploitation to fraud and cyber crime, will be an important focus for research.
24. More work is needed in this area. Work being taken forward by the Home Office to map organised crime harms will provide an important starting point for consideration of victims and vulnerable groups. The Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) carry out work into victims, for instance of online grooming.

## OFFENDERS

25. Understanding the organised crime offending population and the proportions of harms and costs caused by particular sub-groups is important for the development of tailored law enforcement approaches (Strengthen) as well as policies to support the Stem strand of the organised crime strategy, for example to disrupt pathways into organised crime. Research is needed to better map the role of specialists and enablers (for example, corrupt professionals or specialist money launderers) as well as the characteristics of offenders responsible for particular crime types (such as child sexual exploitation). We need to have a better grasp of the psychology of offenders, including decision making, perceptions and risk management strategies of those involved in organised crime.
26. Key priorities include segmenting the offender population to improve our knowledge of the proportion of organised crime offenders and groups accounting for the majority of organised crime harms and costs. In addition, we need to better understand the relationships between different types of criminality (for example, drugs, fraud, cyber crime, terrorism) as well as the role of gangs.
27. Whilst intelligence analysts will often have sophisticated and in-depth knowledge and understanding of individual offender groups, little has been done so far by social scientists in order to

provide an overarching picture. Substantial gains can be made through better use of existing data (both intelligence, such as organised crime group mapping (OCGM) data and administrative, such as criminal convictions data) for research purposes. Overlaps with research in counter-terrorism should also be better exploited.

28. Work is being taken forward by the Home Office to improve our understanding of offender characteristics and their offending patterns, the composition of organised crime groups, links with the legal economy, as well as the roles of specialists and connections and recruitment between illicit and licit actors.

## INTERVENTIONS: IMPLEMENTATION AND EFFECTIVENESS

29. Understanding the effectiveness of interventions – the evidence on ‘what works’ – is at the heart of policy research and is a central priority for organised crime research.
30. Interventions to tackle and prevent organised crime take place across all areas of the economy and society and are implemented by organisations that operate at all levels, from local to global.
31. Interventions range from information sharing, prevention and education, to enforcement in source and transit countries or on the streets of the UK. Decision makers need evidence on the relative impact of interventions, for example having clearer understanding of the impacts of upstream and downstream interventions in the drugs trade so that resources can be allocated as effectively as possible; or the relative effectiveness of education and awareness-raising campaigns in preventing organised online fraud.
32. Methodological challenges mean that we need genuine innovation to strengthen our knowledge in this area and exploit synergies and read-across to other areas such as international development, counter-terrorism, and social marketing, as well as other crime areas. Development of metrics for harms and impacts will be important to support work in this area.
33. The strands of the organised crime strategy approach (Strengthen, Stem and Safeguard) set the framework for priorities in this area. Priorities to support the strategy relate to:



- strengthening the broader evidence base in key enforcement areas (including economic crime, drugs, trafficking, money laundering, cyber, etc.) (*Strengthen*);
- assessing and demonstrating the impacts of other intervention types around desistance, deterrence and prevention (including overlap with youth crime, terrorism, preventative work in source countries etc.) (*Stem*); and
- establishing what works in building defensive measures and resilience amongst communities (including through public awareness, influencing behaviours, and technological approaches to safeguarding) (*Safeguard*).

34. Major developments in the new enforcement landscape, such as the National Crime Agency and the Integrated Operating Model, will need access to robust evidence on ‘what works’. Similarly, work to stem the opportunities for organised crime and to safeguard communities needs to be informed by access to the best possible evidence on effectiveness in order to ensure best value for money.

35. Systematising our understanding of effectiveness in tackling organised crime is a key priority and the virtual research network will provide a valuable forum to take this forward.

## MODELLING AND UNDERSTANDING THE NATURE OF ORGANISED CRIME MARKETS

36. Critical to the ‘what works’ priority around ‘Interventions’, is the improvement of our understanding of how organised crime networks and markets work, illustrating and conceptualising the inter-linkages between global/international, national, regional and local levels of activity and how these change over time.

## FACILITATORS AND DRIVERS

37. We will continue to need to understand the conditions that facilitate organised crime in source countries<sup>5</sup> and in the UK. Factors such as war, economic instability and weak governance in source countries can affect organised crime in the UK. The security services, military and enforcement agencies have good understanding of individual areas and issues, but social scientists

and other researchers need to support the development of an overarching picture of the issues and how these change over time. Better use needs to be made of synergies between the counter-terrorism and organised crime research agendas to support this area.

38. Current work by the Stabilisation Unit (which works across the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Department for International Development and the Ministry of Defence) will examine the role of organised crime in stabilisation operations.

## HORIZON SCANNING

39. Horizon scanning will need to continue to identify and explain emerging challenges and our areas of potential vulnerability – such as the challenges to national jurisdictions and criminal justice systems posed by the increasingly globalised nature of organised criminal activities, and changes in use of technologies including information and communication technologies.

## DATA

40. There is a wealth of intelligence data on organised crime, and a wide variety of other data sources that can be used to support research.

41. An important exercise will be to map the data that we have across the organised crime research priorities, and to identify and understand the gaps. In addition, it is a priority to increase collaboration between intelligence data-holders and researchers in academia and industry, where possible, to support better exploitation of data.

42. Some work is underway in relation to mapping data where work is being taken forward on individual crime types (Home Office, British Transport Police, NFA, EA). Improving knowledge about available data will be supported through the development of the Organised Crime Virtual Research Network.

## TECHNOLOGIES

43. Technological development is critical to the success of enforcement against organised crime.

5 DfID, FCO and MOD (2011) *Building Stability Overseas Strategy* available at: <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Documents/publications1/Building-stability-overseas-strategy.pdf>

Technological development has particular potential to enhance enforcement capabilities at all stages from investigation, surveillance and tracking as well as data analysis capacity and data-mining and automated analysis systems. Priorities include strengthening capacity to tackle cyber crimes such as some sexual exploitation and organised fraud, as well as detection capabilities to support action against contraband (drugs, people, bulk cash etc.). Also important in this regard is the need to understand social aspects of technologies in order to support implementation.

automated analysis systems and audio research is being taken forward by the Home Office (Centre for Applied Science and Technology), Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (DSTL) and others.

### INDIVIDUAL CRIME TYPES INCLUDING 'FACILITATING' CRIMES

45. The range of gaps and priorities across organised crime types and issues is vast. A few are considered here, broadly reflecting the main Threat Reduction Board categories as well as including enablers of organised crime.

44. A broad range of work on drug detection,

**Table 1 Crimes and priorities**

#### **Priorities and gaps**

<b>Criminal finances</b>	Money laundering is an enabling crime that all organised crime groups (and many terrorist groups) are to some extent linked to. Data on money laundering are weak, as is evidence on the effectiveness of anti-money-laundering measures. There is little research about the organisation of markets for laundering e.g., Alternative Banking Platforms and Money Service Businesses. Nature, scale, offenders, informal value transfer systems (IVTS), professional enablers, electronic currencies, money mules and drop accounts, cash smuggling, are all aspects of criminal finance that are priorities for organised crime research. Understanding the recycling of criminal assets more generally into legitimate assets is also a priority.
<b>Drugs</b>	There are a range of useful data available in relation to drugs research including seizures <sup>1</sup> , prevalence <sup>2</sup> and convictions data. We also have a relatively good understanding of the social and economic costs of drugs, though these figures are somewhat out of date. <sup>3</sup> There are important evidence gaps in relation to evidencing the effectiveness of enforcement initiatives, with scant evidence on the long-term impact of enforcement on the price or prevalence of drugs. In addition, more systematic understanding of the offender base is a gap.  Priorities for research include: evidence on the effects of enforcement interventions at all levels, mapping and conceptualising the market (particularly the links between the international market and the UK), impact of enforcement on new substances, the scale of 'legal highs' and emerging drugs, the role of online sales and emerging drugs, the overlaps with other organised crime areas including terrorism, roles of money launderers, the involvement of young people and gangs in organised crime, and understanding the offender base. Detection technologies are a priority.
<b>Gun crime, kidnapping, violent crime and gangs</b>	We have reasonable data (from e.g. recorded crime figures) for gun crime and other violent crime. Priority research questions include: understanding offenders' characteristics, understanding harm (scale and cost) relative to other forms of violence and organised crime activity, evidence on hidden violence as well as overlaps between organised crime and gang violence. Data are poor on levels of gang violence or gang-related crime, and the relationship between gang and organised crime is not well understood.
<b>Fraud/economic crime Counterfeiting and intellectual property theft</b>	The costs of economic crimes are vast but little is known about the impact this form of organised crime has on business (in particular, small and medium-sized), the not-for-profit and the public sector; this is a key area for further research. The mapping of fraud loss attributable to organised crime has improved and there is more work ongoing. Some work has been carried out on costs of fraud data tax gaps <sup>4</sup> , fraudulent online payments, staged motor accidents <sup>5</sup> and mass marketing fraud <sup>6</sup> .  Additional research priorities that have been identified include victims, and benefits of educational campaigns; characteristics of offenders, links with organised crime groups operating in other crime areas including terrorism. Counterfeit currency, product counterfeiting, general abuse of all aspects of intellectual property rights as well as improved evidence on food fraud, counterfeit alcohol and issues such as organised illegal slaughter.

<b>Cyber/computer-enabled crime</b>	Cyber/computer-enabled crime has been identified as a major risk to national security; there are a range of gaps. Key priorities that have been identified include horizon scanning, the role of social network media, the role of cyber crime in relation to fraud, online theft, hacking (especially into corporate-sensitive information). Also, there is a requirement to better understand the overlap with terrorism issues and the need for research to support the mainstreaming of cyber crime and information and communication technologies research issues into all organised crime areas. Identifying populations most at risk and evidence on what works in preventing and tackling this form of crime have also been raised as research priorities.
<b>Organised acquisitive crime</b>	Key research priorities include: harm, scale and costs of metal theft, plant machinery theft, organised shoplifting, armed robbery (such as Cash and Valuable in Transit robberies), organised burglary and organised road freight crime and vehicle crime. Haulage crime: nature, extent, scale, cost, impacts, geographic hotspots. Tracking technologies are a priority.
<b>Environmental crime</b>	Key research priorities are to better understand effectiveness of interventions to tackle trafficking in natural resources, the illegal trade in wildlife, illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing and illegal exploitation of and trafficking in minerals and precious stones and waste crime (organised illegal dumping of waste and illegal waste sites in the UK and trafficking of illegal exports of waste). Also, the impact of waste crime on legitimate business, communities and the environment; and the scale and nature of illegal waste exports need to be established. We need to identify trends in waste crime and the causes of them.
<b>Organised immigration crime, human trafficking and exploitation, organised exploitation of children</b>	There are a number of gaps in our understanding of organised immigration crime; the scale and costs, the characteristics of offenders, as well as the impact of interventions are priorities across human trafficking, people smuggling and organised activities such as forged travel documentation, supporting documentation, bogus colleges or sham marriages. Routes and methods of entry for trafficking into the UK are another priority.  Psychological profiles of perpetrators, the role of peer exploitation, data on sexual exploitation of boys and young men and other less visible groups, the modus operandi of traffickers, scale and nature of trafficking for labour and the use of emerging technologies for the online exploitation of children are all also gaps and priorities for future research. Characteristics of offenders, including e.g. for child sexual exploitation.
<b>Enablers</b>	Critical enablers for organised crime include: identity crime; cross-border movement; criminal use of technology; kidnap and extortion; corruption; violence; use of legitimate businesses.  Evidence is needed on the role played by enabling activities, in particular the proportion of harm caused by key enabling factors, emerging threats (horizon scanning), technological response needs, and the interrelationship between them. Evidence on the scale and impact of some activities such as corruption is lacking.

Notes:

- 1 Mulchandani, R., Hand, T. and Panesar, L. K., Seizures of Drugs in England and Wales, 2009/10 Home Office Statistical Bulletin 17/10.
- 2 Smith, K. and Flatley, J. (2011) Drug Misuse Declared: Findings from the 2010/11 British Crime Survey England and Wales. Home Office Statistical Bulletin 12/11.
- 3 Cabinet Office and Home Office (2009) Extending our Reach: A comprehensive approach to tackling serious organised crime available at [www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm76/7665/7665.pdf](http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm76/7665/7665.pdf).
- 4 See e.g. HMRC (2009) Protecting Tax Revenues 2009.
- 5 See NFA (2011) Annual Fraud Indicator 2011 available at <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/agencies-public-bodies/nfa/annual-fraud-indicator/>.
- 6 See NFA (ibid.) and also Levi, M. *et al.* (2007) "The Nature, Extent and Economic Impact of Fraud in the UK" Report for the Association of Chief Police Officers' Economic Crime Portfolio February 2007.

# Government science and the role of partners

46. An important priority for organised crime research is to enable closer working with and between partners outside of central government departments and agencies. The potential for enhancing our knowledge to support operational capability is great.

47. Key priorities include:

- improving communication and enabling collaboration between organised crime research partners (including academia and other researchers, government and agencies, industry and enforcement) at local and regional, national and international levels;
- enabling better dissemination and application of research evidence to support operational partners and policy makers;
- ensuring ongoing dialogue to review organised crime research priorities;
- seeking to improve international linkages with research partners; and

- supporting linkages and synergies between organised crime research and other research subject areas.

## WHO ARE OUR PARTNERS?

48. Government works with partners from across academia and the broader research sector, military, public, private and also VCS sectors to tackle organised crime research issues. The high quality work of researchers from across the UK and abroad is critical to our success in this area. A strong need to improve and extend research links internationally has been identified, and this is particularly critical for EU and US relations. The UK Research Councils and our European, US and other international counterparts are important partners.

49. The range of potential partners is vast and reflects diverse areas of responsibility and geographic remit, reflected in Table 2.

**Table 2 Potential partners for research**

<b>Level</b>	<b>Partners</b>
<b>Local and Regional</b>	Local authorities, community safety partnerships, universities, police and other local enforcement agencies, voluntary sector partners. Police and crime commissioners, regional enforcement analysts including intelligence networks, some VCS partners.
<b>National</b>	All UK Research Councils, including the Global Uncertainties programme; other academic bodies; enforcement partners such as SOCA/NCA, ACPO, CEOP, GCHQ/SIS; the organised crime Threat Reduction Boards; governmental departments and agencies; trade and industry partners across diverse sectors.
<b>International</b>	European Union (EU), Eurostat, the Council of Europe as well as a range of other European expertise such as the International Research Network on Organised Crime. Global partners include the United Nations UNDOC and the Financial Action Taskforce, whilst bilateral and multilateral relationships with the US and other international partners are important.

## WHAT ARE WE DOING TO ENABLE CLOSER WORKING?

50. Alongside the publication of the current document there are a range of steps being taken to enable partners to work better together, with a strong focus on identifying and communicating

shared interests and opportunities. A particularly important element of this is:

- The launch of an outward-facing Organised Crime Virtual Research Network which will provide an opportunity to disseminate research, communicate with and engage partners.

The network will be an avenue to exchange contact details and provide research updates. We will also use the network to disseminate a newsletter on policy and research developments related to organised crime. There will also be an online members' resource where unclassified documents, events and contact points can be publicised.

51. In addition, a range of other activities will be undertaken.

- We will open lines of communication by providing a single point of contact for use where partners are unsure of who to speak to or wish to share research findings: [OC\\_ResearchStrategy@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:OC_ResearchStrategy@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk)
- We will hold and/or host workshops and

seminars to enhance policy-research contact where appropriate.

- We will integrate research responsibilities into the new organised crime Threat Reduction Boards.
  - We will ensure that research governance arrangements are fully aligned with the National Security Council Officials Group on Organised Crime.
  - We will develop and sustain relationships with international partners to share experience, knowledge and insights.
52. Government departments also routinely publish research outputs, calls for bids and information about effective practice on their respective websites.

## Box 2 Science in government

### **Science in government**

Scientists, working as civil servants within government departments and agencies, work across a number of professional groups<sup>1</sup> to carry out a range of activities to ensure ministers and officials have access to the best possible evidence. Government scientists commission research externally and carry out research themselves; they provide ongoing advice to ministers and also develop and quality assure new technologies.

Government researchers also provide an important translation function between the wider research community and the political and policy-making world, and are well placed to support policy makers, enforcement partners and agencies to engage with the wider research community.

### **Who in government can I contact about organised crime research?**

If you do not know who to contact directly, or you want to join the Organised Crime Virtual Research Network, you can contact us via the organised crime research email address: [OC\\_ResearchStrategy@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:OC_ResearchStrategy@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk)

#### Note

- 1 See <http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/networks> for an overview of professional groups and <http://www.bis.gov.uk/go-science> for information on the role of Chief Scientists.



# Other relevant information

## GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND RELATED BODIES

The Home Office and several other government departments such as the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Defence, HM Revenue and Customs, and organisations such as the Serious Organised Crime Agency, Association of Chief Police Officers and National Fraud Intelligence Bureau have an important role to play.

Home Office <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/>

Cabinet Office <http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/>

Ministry of Justice <http://www.justice.gov.uk/>

Ministry of Defence <http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/Home/>

Defence Science & Technology Laboratory <http://www.dstl.gov.uk/>

Serious Fraud Office <http://www.sfo.gov.uk/>

Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs <http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/research/>

Serious Organised Crime Agency <http://www.soca.gov.uk/>

Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) <http://www.acpo.police.uk/>

United Kingdom Border Agency <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/>

National Fraud Authority <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/agencies-public-bodies/nfa/>

National Fraud Intelligence Bureau <http://www.nfib.police.uk/>

Secret Intelligence Service <https://www.sis.gov.uk/>

Security Service <https://www.mi5.gov.uk/>

Number 10 Website <http://www.number10.gov.uk/>

Crown Prosecution Service <http://www.cps.gov.uk/>

Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre <http://ceop.police.uk/>

## A SELECTION OF KEY RESEARCH COUNCIL WEBSITES

UK Research Councils play a critical role in funding research that directly impacts on government activities. A number of key websites are referred to here.

The ESRC Global Uncertainties Programme brings together the activities of the UK Research Councils in response to global security challenges including organised crime. This website provides a useful starting point for researchers and also includes information on funding opportunities. <http://www.globaluncertainties.org.uk/>

Research Councils UK is the strategic partnership of the UK's seven Research Councils <http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/Pages/Home.aspx>

Arts and Humanities Research Council <http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/Pages/default.aspx>

Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council <http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/>

Economic and Social Research Council <http://www.esrc.ac.uk/>

Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council <http://www.epsrc.ac.uk/Pages/default.aspx>

Medical Research Council <http://www.mrc.ac.uk/index.htm>

Natural Environment Research Council <http://www.nerc.ac.uk/>

Science and Technology Facilities Council <http://www.stfc.ac.uk/>



## A SELECTION OF OTHER RELEVANT PARTNER WEBSITES

The International Association of Prosecutors (IAP)  
<http://www.iap-association.org/default.aspx>

Europol <https://www.europol.europa.eu/>

INTERPOL <http://www.interpol.int/>

United Nation Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is an important monitor of global drugs and transnational organised crime threats <http://www.unodc.org/>

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) <http://www.fatf-gafi.org>

The European Commission [http://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/policies/crime/crime\\_intro\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/policies/crime/crime_intro_en.htm)

European Commission security research [http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/security/home\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/security/home_en.html)

European Commission social research [http://ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences/index_en.html)

The Council of Europe [http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/cooperation/economiccrime/organisedcrime/default\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/cooperation/economiccrime/organisedcrime/default_en.asp)

The International Research Network on Organised Crime, administrated by the Bundeskriminalamt (BKA) [http://www.bka.de/nm\\_230690/EN/TheBKA/theBKA\\_\\_node.html?\\_\\_nnn=true](http://www.bka.de/nm_230690/EN/TheBKA/theBKA__node.html?__nnn=true)

US Department of Homeland Security <http://www.dhs.gov/index.shtm>

US National Institute of Justice <http://nij.gov/>

## OTHER PARTNERS

Private industry actors play an important part, as do some voluntary sector partners. Universities and independent research institutes are crucial partners. None of these is listed here but information about them may be made available via the Organised Crime Virtual Research Network.



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