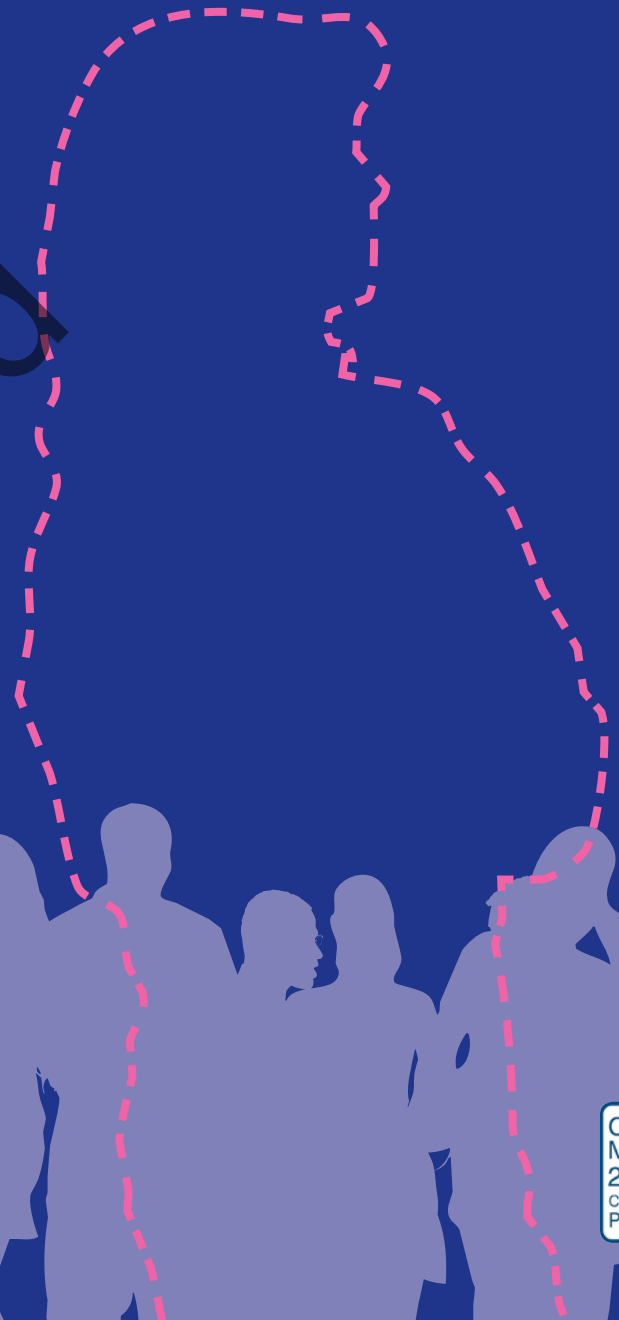


# Have you got what it takes?

Tackling organised crime

archived



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## Tackling organised crime

### Important facts

#### The UK Organised Crime Strategy – Local to Global

Organised crime poses a risk to the UK's national security. Its effects are felt each day by individuals, communities, businesses and our economy.

Organised crime has a local effect, but is a worldwide problem. To tackle it effectively, we need a strategic, co-ordinated response operating at every level from community policing through to international partnership.

The estimated cost to the UK itself is believed to be around £20 to £40 billion a year. Work is currently underway to update our estimates of the social and economic cost of organised crime to the UK.

*Local to Global: Reducing the Risk from Organised Crime* sets out the Government's plan for tackling organised crime. It fulfils a commitment in the Strategic Defence and Security Review and is a key part of the Government's overall approach to fighting crime.

The strategy is making a real difference by further improving a co-ordinated national approach across Government, law enforcement, security and intelligence agencies.

### Background

Organised crime is a real problem that affects real people. It is a worldwide threat, carried out by criminals who do not care about geographical borders. *Local to Global: Reducing the Risk from Organised Crime*, published in July 2011, sets out the Government's plan for tackling organised crime from 2011 to 2015.

This new strategic approach aims to reduce the risk to the UK from organised crime by reducing the threat from organised criminals and the opportunities they exploit. It is based on the following themes.

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

The strategy places new emphasis on preventing organised crime alongside a greater push to make sure that more prosecution and disruption activity takes place against more organised criminals, at a reduced cost.

It will make sure we have a co-ordinated national approach across government, law-enforcement, security and intelligence agencies. It also paves the way for the National Crime Agency (NCA) in 2013. This will set the national operational agenda for fighting serious and complex crime and organised crime.

From 2012 police forces will have to answer directly to elected police and crime commissioners (PCCs). PCCs will have to make sure that their police forces carry out the full range of their responsibilities effectively. The Home Secretary will issue the strategic policing requirement (SPR) to support PCCs in balancing their local and national priorities effectively.

#### Why is the strategy needed?

Too many organised criminals have, for too long, kept more than one step ahead of UK law enforcement. Through the strategy, the Government will provide national leadership, making sure work is co-ordinated effectively.

The strategy also sets out how the public and businesses have a vital role to play. There needs to be a shift in understanding the effect and cost of organised crime, and how people and businesses can protect themselves and support law enforcement organisations.

## More information

### What is the risk from organised crime?

Organised crime poses a risk to the UK's national security. However, unlike other national security threats, the effects of organised crime are felt each day by individuals, communities, businesses and our economy.

The view from law enforcement is that there are around 30,000 organised criminals affecting the UK, involving over 7,000 criminal groups.

Organised crime is also behind the trade in people smuggling and human trafficking, fraud against individuals, business and the state, the supply of illegal firearms, and cyber crime.

### What role do police forces have in tackling organised crime?

The strategy sets out the important role which all forces have in tackling organised crime. The shadow SPR, published in November 2011, lists organised crime as one of the national threats to which forces are expected to respond. Chief constables and PCCs have to 'have regard to' (take account of) the SPR.

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### What are the main types of threat from organised crime?

The UK's threat assessment identifies the main threats as:

- **trafficking controlled drugs;**
- **firearms;**
- **organised immigration crime (people smuggling and human trafficking);**
- **financial crime (fraud and money laundering);**
- **cyber crime; and**
- **organised acquisitive crime (for example, armed robbery, metal theft, road freight crime and organised vehicle theft).**

### Who is responsible for protecting people, communication and businesses from organised crime?

We all have a responsibility to take steps to make sure we – people, communities, voluntary organisations and businesses – reduce our vulnerability to organised crime. This is happening already.

The Government wants to encourage more of this by improving knowledge of the threat and creating better co-operation between law enforcement and communities, voluntary organisations and businesses.

### How will the success of the response to organised crime be measured?

No country has yet cracked how to measure the success of the response to organised crime. But the Government is committed to making sure that the public can measure the effectiveness of our approach.

Our Business Plan said we would publish information on the size, value and nature of organised crime and our success in reducing it and its profitability. Information on our website covers:

- **size – number of known organised criminals and number of organised crime groups (OCGs);**
- **coverage – percentage of organised crime groups covered by law enforcement action; and**
- **disruption – numbers of substantial disruptions to organised crime groups.**

To support these three strands we are carrying out work to review the social and economic costs of organised crime.

You can find more information on the Organised Crime Strategy at: [www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime/organised-crime-strategy/](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime/organised-crime-strategy/)