



Home Office

# A NEW APPROACH TO FIGHTING CRIME





# CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION BY THE HOME SECRETARY	1
WHY? THE NEED FOR CHANGE	3
WHAT? A NEW APPROACH TO FIGHTING CRIME	5
WHO? WHAT THIS APPROACH MEANS FOR YOU	7
HOW? WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN PRACTICE	10



# INTRODUCTION BY THE HOME SECRETARY



In my [first speech](#) as Home Secretary, I addressed the Police Federation and said: “I’m not interested in running the police.” That principle – that we are best served by a police force run by professionals rather than politicians – is at the heart of this Government’s plan to cut crime.

For the first time in a generation, we are restoring the independence of the police to allow them to use their discretion and professional judgement. The Policing Pledge, the national targets, the initiatives, the diktats and the red tape are all going. In their place, I have set the police one simple mission: to cut crime.

Instead of leaving the politicians in charge, we are giving power to the people. We will restore the link between the public and the police by making the police accountable to the people they serve, through the election of Police and Crime Commissioners, the publication of the most transparent local crime data in the world, and mandatory beat meetings.

This document is designed to give clear direction to the public, the police and their partners in four key ways. First, it sets out the case for change. Second, it sets out the new approach to fighting crime. Third, it sets out what the approach means for each of the key people and organisations involved in the fight against crime. Fourth, it sets out how it will work in practice.

The police now have just one clear objective: to cut crime. But the police can’t cut crime on their own. Local councils, health services, probation and fire and rescue services all play a vital role too in keeping communities safe. They all do an amazing job, but in the past their activities have been hindered by reporting burdens, unnecessary rules and a lack of discretion. Instead, we will allow local professionals to focus on local priorities and work with the police to cut crime.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Theresa May'.

RT. HON THERESA MAY, MP



# WHY? THE NEED FOR CHANGE

Despite having one of the most expensive criminal justice systems in the world, Britain remains a high-crime country. More than four million crimes – almost a quarter of which are violent – are recorded each year<sup>1</sup>. Only half of the public trust our criminal justice system to protect them from criminals<sup>2</sup>.

## A. CRIME-FIGHTERS, NOT FORM-WRITERS

In recent years, we have had a record number of police officers, but according to Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC), only eleven per cent of them are visible and available to the public at any one time<sup>3</sup>. The police do an excellent job but the rise in bureaucracy, targets and paperwork under the last Government turned the police into form-writers instead of crime-fighters. At the same time, as the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) has said, the obsession with overall police numbers has led to warranted officers filling backroom roles, which could and should be performed by police staff.

## B. BUREAUCRATIC ACCOUNTABILITY INSTEAD OF DEMOCRATIC ACCOUNTABILITY

Increasing government interference in recent years has changed the focus of the police. They have become responsive to targets and bureaucracy rather than to people. They have become disconnected from the public they serve. Only seven per cent of the public know to go to their Police Authority if they have a problem<sup>4</sup>. This has left communities feeling disempowered from the fight to cut crime. People no longer feel that the law will be on their side if they try to do the right thing. In Germany, two thirds of people said they would intervene to stop anti-social behaviour; in the UK two thirds would not<sup>5</sup>.

1 *Crime in England and Wales 2009/10*. Home Office Statistical Bulletin 12/10. Flatley, J. Kershaw, C. Smith, K. Chaplin, R. and Moon, D. July 2010.

2 41% of people are confident that the Criminal Justice System as a whole is effective. *Crime in England and Wales 2009/10*. Home Office Statistical Bulletin 12/10. Flatley, J. Kershaw, C. Smith, K. Chaplin, R. and Moon, D. July 2010.

3 *Valuing the Police: Policing in an age of austerity*. HMIC. July 2010.

4 Cabinet Office Review. 2007.

5 *Anti-social behaviour across Europe*. ADT. 2006.

## C. INCREASING NATIONAL THREATS

While the Government has interfered too much in local policing, it has not paid nearly enough attention to serious and organised crime that can be attacked effectively only by a co-ordinated effort that brings together policing services at local, regional and national level. Organised crime costs the UK between £20 billion and £40 billion every year<sup>6</sup>. Currently there are too many agencies working disjointedly on border controls and security with no strategy, streamlined process, or clear accountability about how goods and people move through checks and controls. There has been insufficient co-ordination of policing serious and organised crime from local to regional to national level.

## D. A FAILURE TO GET TO GRIPS WITH THE CAUSES OF CRIME

Too often efforts to get to grips with the symptoms of crime and reoffending have ended up masking the causes instead. Increasing tax credits has lifted families from just below the poverty line to just above it, but has failed to deal with the underlying problems of worklessness and benefit dependency. Almost half of prisoners said they have no qualifications and thirteen per cent have never had a paid job<sup>7</sup>. Drug-related and alcohol-related crime remains a serious problem: offenders using heroin, crack and cocaine are estimated to commit between a third and a half of acquisitive crime<sup>8</sup> and nearly half of violent crime is fuelled by alcohol<sup>9</sup>. The UK has amongst the highest rates of young people's cannabis use and binge drinking in Europe<sup>10</sup>. The licensing regime introduced

6 *One Step Ahead: A 21<sup>st</sup> Century Strategy to Defeat Organised Crime*. London: Home Office. 2004.

7 *Compendium of Reoffending Statistics and Analysis*. Ministry of Justice, 2010.

8 *Measuring the harm from illegal drugs using the Drug Harm Index*. Home Office Online Report 24/05. MacDonald, Z. Tinsley, L. Collingwood, J. Jamieson, P. and Pudney, S. 2005.

9 There are strong links between alcohol and violent crime. In half of all violent incidents the victim believed the offender to be under the influence of alcohol: *Crime in England and Wales 2009/10*. Home Office Statistical Bulletin 12/10. Flatley, J. Kershaw, C. Smith, K. Chaplin, R. and Moon, D. 2010.

10 *The 2007 ESPAD Report. Substance Use Among Students in*

in 2003 undermined efforts to tackle binge drinking and fight alcohol-related crime.

### **E. HIGH REOFFENDING**

Instead of providing effective protection to the public and the punishment and rehabilitation of criminals, our prison and justice system has failed to break the cycle of crime and reoffending. Around half of prisoners commit offences within a year of leaving prison<sup>11</sup>. The National Audit Office has estimated that the social and economic costs of these reoffenders alone are between £7 billion and £10 billion per year<sup>12</sup>. An effective approach to cutting crime must ensure that prison, community sentences and rehabilitation work better.

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<sup>35</sup> *European Countries*. Hibell, B. Guttormsson, U. Ahlstrom, S. Balakireva, O. Bjarnason, T. Kokkevi, A. and Kraus, L. 2009.

<sup>11</sup> Around half of adult prisoners are reconvicted for an offence committed within a year of leaving prison. *Compendium of Reoffending Statistics and Analysis*. Ministry of Justice. 2010.

<sup>12</sup> Costs of reoffending by short-sentenced prisoners alone are between £7 billion and £10 billion per year. *Managing offenders on short custodial sentences*. National Audit Office. March 2010.



# WHAT? A NEW APPROACH TO FIGHTING CRIME

The Government's approach to fighting crime involves a radical shift in power from Whitehall to local communities. The police and their partners will be given far greater freedom to do their jobs and use their discretion. The public will have more power to hold the police and Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) to account and feel empowered to reclaim their communities. This shift will be accompanied by a new and overdue focus on serious and organised crime at a national level. Success will not be judged by a myriad of centrally mandated targets. It will be judged by the public on the simple fact of whether crime has fallen.

## A. LOCAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Central to our approach to fighting crime is police reform. Central to that reform is the replacement of bureaucratic accountability – and with it, the whole machinery of targets, performance management and initiatives – with local, democratic accountability. This will put the public in charge, making the police directly accountable to their communities through the election of Police and Crime Commissioners and mandatory local beat meetings. From May 2012, Police and Crime Commissioners will have real powers to make a difference – setting force budgets<sup>13</sup> and the police and crime plan, holding Chief Constables to account and able to appoint and dismiss them.

## B. INCREASED TRANSPARENCY

To facilitate democratic accountability, we will improve radically the provision of crime data to local communities. New street level crime and anti-social behaviour maps give the public up-to date, accurate information on what is happening in their area so they can challenge the police, and get involved in the policing of their area. At a national level the National Statistician is leading an [independent review](#) to restore public trust in official crime figures. A strengthened HMIC will shine an independent light on police performance.

<sup>13</sup> The first financial year that Police and Crime Commissioners will have complete control over force budgets will be 2013/14.

## C. ENGAGED AND ACTIVE COMMUNITIES

Public cooperation, not just passive consent, is vital for the police to do their job well, so we will help the public to become more involved in keeping their communities safe. People do have a desire to get involved: the new street level crime and anti-social behaviour maps on [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk) had 310 million hits in its first week and 75% of people who do not have a neighbourhood watch scheme in their area are interested in joining one<sup>14</sup>. We will encourage the public to participate in Neighbourhood Watch schemes and volunteer as special constables, magistrates and victim support volunteers.

## D. LOCAL, PROFESSIONAL DISCRETION

The end of bureaucratic accountability enables central government to remove the machinery that comes with it. We have already scrapped the last remaining national police targets, the Policing Pledge and the stop and account forms, and we have cut back on the reporting requirements for stop and search. The last two measures together will save up to 800,000 hours of police time per year. Restoring discretion on certain charging decisions to officers could save nearly 40,000 hours of police time a year. We will give greater discretion to the police to use community and restorative justice responses. These changes will allow officers to show more discretion, innovate, and tailor their approach according to local circumstances. Crucially this means that officers will be freed to police the streets instead of filling in forms.

## E. IMPROVING EFFICIENCY IN THE POLICE

By cutting out unnecessary costs and scrapping bureaucracy we will save hundreds of millions of pounds and hundreds of thousands of man hours – so we do not expect the police spending settlement to lead to any reduction in police officers visible and

<sup>14</sup> *Circumstances of crime, Neighbourhood Watch membership and perceptions of policing: Supplementary volume 3 to Crime in England and Wales 2006/07. Home Office Statistical Bulletin 06/08. Nicholas, S. et al. 2008.*

available on the streets. We will do more to encourage and help the police to make savings and make sure that resources are focused on the front line. Joining up police procurement and IT nationally could save £380 million. Freezing pay for two years at the end of this deal could save £350 million<sup>15</sup>. Modernising police pay and conditions could save millions more - [Tom Winsor's independent review](#) into police pay and conditions is already underway and the first part of this will report shortly.

## F. PREVENTION AS WELL AS CURE

We have given the police one simple mission: to cut crime. But crime cannot be cut by focusing solely on catching and convicting those who have already committed crimes, vital though that is. It is also cut by preventing crime in the first place by tackling the risk factors that can drive it across society: from poor parenting and education to dealing with drug abuse and problem drinking. This is where effective policing tactics and CSPs can make a big difference. The Government is providing a £2 billion Early Intervention Grant to local areas to support this work. The first phase of Community Budgets for families with multiple needs is also demonstrating how intensive and co-ordinated interventions can deliver better outcomes for families and substantial savings in public expenditure. At national level, we will work to reduce the opportunities to commit crimes, by learning from behavioural science and 'designing out' crime through the manufacture and design of goods, services, and towns.

## G. CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM REFORM

As around half of all crime is committed by people with a previous conviction<sup>16</sup>, any plan to cut crime must also cut reoffending. Our reforms to the criminal justice system will mean that criminals can expect more effective, tough punishments. Prisons will become places where they will learn the discipline of

work, enabling them to make reparation to victims and gain job skills to help them resettle in the community and avoid committing further crimes. We will also rehabilitate offenders to tackle the problems which fuel their criminal activity by getting drug dependent offenders off drugs and into recovery and tackling mental health problems. More information on criminal justice reform was set out in [the Ministry of Justice Green Paper: Breaking The Cycle: Effective Punishment, Rehabilitation and Sentencing of Offenders](#).

## H. A NEW FOCUS ON SERIOUS AND ORGANISED CRIME

We will create for the first time a National Crime Agency: an integral part of UK policing with a senior Chief Constable at its head and accountable to the Home Secretary. The NCA will strengthen the operational response to serious and organised crime and better secure our borders. Consisting of a number of operational commands and harnessing synergies between them to get the best outcomes, the NCA will exploit the intelligence, analytical and enforcement capabilities of the Serious Organised Crime Agency and will establish a Border Policing Command. The NCA will connect its capabilities to those in police forces, HM Revenue and Customs, the UK Border Agency and a range of other criminal justice partners. More detail on the NCA will be published shortly.

<sup>15</sup> Subject to any recommendations from the Police Negotiating Board and agreement on staff pay.

<sup>16</sup> Home Affairs Committee - Tenth report: The Government's Approach to Crime Prevention. Session 2009-10.

# WHO? WHAT THIS APPROACH MEANS FOR YOU

Everybody involved in the fight against crime – the public, the police, and their partners – has been bossed around for too long by government. That approach undermined public confidence in the police, left officers paralysed and unable to use their professional judgement, and quite simply did not work. The new Government's approach is to trust the professional judgement of the police and their partners, and put the public – rather than the Home Office – in charge.

## A. THE PUBLIC

Reconnecting the public and the police is at the heart of our reforms. From May 2012, the public will elect Police and Crime Commissioners making the police accountable to the communities they serve. The public now has access to the most transparent data in the world on crime and anti-social behaviour. Local beat meetings will be mandated so the public can challenge the performance of their neighbourhood policing teams. We will make it easier to report crime and disorder to the police through a national 101 non-emergency number.

We will encourage the communities who live with the consequences of crime to get more involved in tackling it and recognise the hard work and dedication of those making a real difference. [Baroness Newlove](#), the Government's champion for active, safer communities, is working with communities across the country to share good practice, learn about barriers and provide Government with recommendations about how we can enable active citizenship. Neighbourhood Policing will continue in every neighbourhood, problem solving and engaging communities to tackle crime.

## B. BUSINESS AND THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR

Business and the voluntary sector can play a more important role in the fight against crime, and can often reach parts of communities that statutory bodies cannot.

The voluntary sector will benefit from more open commissioning. Police and Crime Commissioners will have the freedom to make specific grants to voluntary organisations that make a contribution to cutting crime.

We will learn from behavioural science to work with business, local authorities and others to ensure that products are manufactured in a way that reduces the opportunities for crime, the places where we live and work are designed to make it harder to commit crime, and people are better able to protect themselves from crime. We will establish a new Forum for Innovation in Crime Prevention to bring together experts from science, academia and business and stimulate new innovations to help cut crime. We will support the take-up of the Community Safety Accreditation Scheme by businesses – allowing them to help tackle low level crime and anti-social behaviour. We will do more to encourage employers to give staff days off for community work.

## C. THE POLICE

The Home Secretary has set the police one simple mission: to cut crime. How police forces pursue that mission will be left to their professional discretion, and from 2012 they will be accountable to their communities through Police and Crime Commissioners, instead of the Home Office.

By stripping back the red tape and reporting requirements, we are freeing police officers and police community support officers to become more visible and more available to the public and empowered to use their professional judgement. Police forces will be able to tailor their approach according to the needs of their community.

#### **D. COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIPS<sup>17</sup>**

CSPs, made up of the police, local authorities, the NHS, probation officers and fire and rescue services are where decisions should be taken about how to tackle the crime issues that matter most locally. They have made a significant contribution to making communities safer - at best, they can be dynamic, setting clear priorities and leading to real action. But at worst, they can be little more than talking shops, hindering the fight against crime rather than helping it.

Partnership working is not an end in itself. The role of CSPs is to make sure that offenders are properly targeted, that victims are supported effectively, local public spaces are safe, and that local operational partners on the ground are working together with neighbourhood policing teams. CSPs need to empower front line staff to address problems and issues quickly and effectively.

We will not tell CSPs how to operate or manage their performance. We have already removed the reporting requirements, such as Public Service Agreements, and unnecessary rules placed on them by central government so that they can focus on local priorities. CSPs should look to their communities rather than Whitehall for advice on what crime issues to prioritise. They should design and commission services that meet the needs of their community.

The joint [letter from the Secretaries of State](#)<sup>18</sup> clearly set out their expectation that CSPs should ensure partners can do better with less.

<sup>17</sup> Whilst policing and crime are non-devolved matters, many of the factors which can influence levels of offending and criminality - health, substance misuse, education and housing - are matters for which responsibility in Wales is devolved to the Welsh Assembly Government. In addition, three of the six CSP statutory partners - Local Authorities, Local Health Boards and Fire and Rescue - are devolved in Wales. We will work closely with the Welsh Assembly Government and partners in Wales to free partners from bureaucracy and enable locally determined partnership arrangements.

<sup>18</sup> Home Secretary, Secretary of State for Health, Secretary of State for Justice, Communities Secretary and Secretary of State for Education in England. Home Secretary and Secretary of State for Justice in Wales.

We will help by providing CSPs with access to the practical support they want. Schemes such as the [Tilley Awards](#) will continue to recognise and promote effective practice and we will develop new online systems to make finding and sharing such examples easier. All this will complement sector led approaches to sharing and spreading good practice such as [www.community-safety.net](http://www.community-safety.net) and [www.idea.gov.uk](http://www.idea.gov.uk).

#### **E. CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROFESSIONALS**

We will seek new service providers from all sectors to work alongside staff in the criminal justice system and they will be paid by results. Local justice partners, who in some areas come together to form Local Criminal Justice Boards, and Police and Crime Commissioners will be under a duty to cooperate to cut crime. Local approaches where police and partners manage the most harmful and prolific offenders, such as Integrated Offender Management and Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements schemes, will continue to be vital. For those in the community, our criminal justice reforms will mean more robust and rigorous punishments for offenders that force them to repay their debts to society.

#### **F. POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONERS**

Police and Crime Commissioners are the centrepiece of the new policing model. Elected once every four years with a mandate to hold the police to account on behalf of the public, they will change the face of policing. They will have the power to hire and fire Chief Constables, to set the policing budget and produce the police and crime plan. They will consider data from CSPs, be able to bring them together and call them to account, driving action against anti-social behaviour, crime and reoffending. They will have responsibility for all crime in their area and need to ensure their force works collaboratively with other forces and national bodies to tackle cross border threats and counter-terrorism supported

by a new Strategic Policing Requirement<sup>19</sup>. Their success – and their re-election – will depend on their track record in cutting crime.

Police and Crime Commissioners will be scrutinised by Police and Crime Panels, drawn from locally elected councillors and independent lay members. The panel will have powers to hold the Police and Crime Commissioner to account, including asking them to appear to answer any questions at any time. The Panel will be able to veto the Commissioner's proposed precept level and a proposed candidate for Chief Constable appointment. If the Panel objects to any of the Commissioner's decisions, they will be free in the interests of transparency, to make their concerns public. In cases of misconduct, they will be able to ask the Independent Police Complaints Commission to investigate the Commissioner.

### G. THE NATIONAL CRIME AGENCY

In 2013, we will establish a new National Crime Agency, a powerful body of crime fighters, led by a senior Chief Constable. The NCA will consist of a series of operational commands, including a serious organised crime command and a border policing command. It will have the authority to task and coordinate assets across police forces in England and Wales to tackle organised crime and respond to serious crimes that are best coordinated at a national level. The Agency will also be responsible for improving what we know about the threat from organised crime, ensuring more and better law enforcement activity takes place against organised criminals, and strengthening our border policing arrangements.

### H. THE HOME OFFICE

In the new policing landscape, the role of the Home Office will be radically different. Home Office Ministers and officials will no longer encroach and intervene in local matters. Police forces will no longer be accountable to Whitehall for local policing, but to their local communities, via Police and Crime Commissioners.

Instead, the role of the Home Office will be to set the legal, structural, financial and accountability framework within which the police and community safety partnerships operate. Ministers will celebrate best practice and, in conjunction with HMIC, shine a light on the performance of poor performers, but central government will no longer interfere in the operations of the police and CSPs. Ministers will retain powers to direct that corrective action be taken only as a last resort.

<sup>19</sup> The Strategic Policing Requirement will set out the national policing threats, and the capabilities required in response, to which local police forces would be expected to contribute. It will inform the local decision making of Police and Crime Commissioners and their Chief Officers as they deliver their forces' local and national responsibilities.

## HOW? WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN PRACTICE

The new approach will mean that local police forces are more responsive to their communities and their local, specific needs. A new focus on serious and organised crime, led at a national level by the NCA, will ensure that the golden thread of policing remains. From 2012, when Police and Crime Commissioners are elected and local, democratic accountability replaces bureaucratic accountability, the Government will cease ring-fencing all aspects of central police funding except for counter terrorism which is required for national security reasons.

### A. STREET-LEVEL CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR DATA

Our reforms will ensure that the police respond to local needs and demands. By publishing street-level anti-social behaviour and crime statistics, the public will have for the first time enough information about what goes on in their community to hold the police to account and get involved in the fight against crime in their local area. They will be able to use that information to challenge their local policing teams at regular mandatory beat meetings. The police will no longer be distracted by prescriptive demands from central government and will instead be able to police their communities according to local needs.

### B. NEW TOOLS TO TACKLE ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Much of what is termed ‘anti-social behaviour’ is actually crime, and victims rightly expect the agencies who serve them to take it seriously and deal with it properly. That is why tackling anti-social behaviour must be a core part of the business of the police and other local agencies. We will ensure professionals have the tools and support they need to deal with anti-social behaviour, rather than telling them how to do their job. We will replace the numerous and confusing range of powers currently available with a simplified tool kit backed up by meaningful penalties to provide a real deterrent to breach. We will give communities more control over the way anti-

social behaviour is dealt with in their area, with a new ‘trigger’ to force agencies to take action where they have failed to do so. More detail on these proposals is set out in our [anti-social behaviour consultation document](#).

We are also working with the police and their local partners to promote best practice on dealing with reports of anti-social behaviour, particularly from repeat and vulnerable victims. Eight areas are trialling a new approach, with support from the Home Office and others including ACPO, based on spotting and stopping high-risk cases early. This is not a ‘one-size fits all’ solution from the centre – local areas will decide for themselves how to implement five core principles developed from front line experience and we will jointly assess what works best later in the year.

### C. YOUTH CRIME AND VIOLENCE

Too many young people are drawn into a vicious cycle of crime and reoffending. We will nip bad behaviour in the bud - raising standards of discipline in schools by strengthening and simplifying teachers’ powers. We will also issue statutory guidance to extend head teachers’ powers to punish school pupils who misbehave on their way to or from school. New gang injunctions for those aged between fourteen and seventeen will accompany new civil powers for the police and local authorities to manage adult members.

Tackling youth crime meaningfully, however, needs more than just new powers and punishments. [Brooke Kinsella’s fact finding review](#) sets out lessons for youth prevention projects to reduce knife and gang violence. Until Police and Crime Commissioners are in place and have the freedom to set their own budgets according to local needs, we will provide £2 million per year to voluntary organisations to divert young people from gang, gun and knife crime and an extra £3.75 million to support the police and partners in our three biggest cities. We will continue to make it clear that any adult who commits a crime

using a knife can expect to be sent to prison and serious offenders can expect a long sentence.

#### D. SERIOUS AND ORGANISED CRIME

Tackling serious and organised crime will continue to be a key responsibility of local police forces, with support from local partners and others. But the Government believes that there needs to be, in addition, an improved national focus. The establishment of the NCA will ensure that there is a crime-fighting agency capable of coordinating this work at a national level.

The Government will also publish an Organised Crime Strategy. This will set out how we will increase our ability to seize and deprive a wider range of criminals of their assets. We will also make performance information on asset recovery more visible at local, regional and national level, so that communities can hold the police to account for their performance. All of this will increasingly ensure that criminals' lives are more difficult and that local communities can see that crime does not pay.

#### E. DRUGS

Almost three million people have used an illicit drug in the last year<sup>20</sup>. Nearly two thirds of newly-sentenced prisoners report using a drug in the run-up to custody<sup>21</sup>. The Government recognises the need to support drug addicted offenders to recover in order to cut crime. We will therefore promote local recovery systems and will introduce six pilots exploring how payment-by-results can work for drugs recovery. Through Police and Crime Commissioners, and through an expanded role for local authorities in preventing the misuse of drugs set out in the Government's [Public Health White Paper](#),

the power to direct action will move to the local level in England. The National Crime Agency (with its remit to tackle serious and organised criminality and strengthen the UK borders) will work with the UK Border Agency, both in the UK and abroad, to deter drug traffickers and stop drugs importation at our borders and in source countries.

As with every area of law enforcement, operational responsibilities for dealing with drugs are for the police and other relevant authorities. But Government has a clear job to do in setting an overall strategy and the framework within which those authorities can act. We have set out in our [drug strategy](#) our plans to reduce demand, restrict supply and help addicts to recover.

#### F. ALCOHOL

Last year, almost one million violent crimes were alcohol-related. We will [reform the Licensing Act 2003](#), giving new powers to local residents to challenge the licences of premises that are causing alcohol-related crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour. We will give local authorities more powers to refuse and revoke licences and deal with the problems caused by late-night drinking. We will introduce a late night levy to allow licensing authorities to collect a contribution from business towards the cost of policing in the night-time economy. We will send a clear signal to retailers and the public that the Government takes the issue of below cost sales seriously by banning the sale of alcohol below duty plus VAT. We will protect children from the harm of alcohol by doubling the maximum fine for persistent underage sales.

<sup>20</sup> *Drug misuse declared: findings from the 2009/10 British Crime Survey, England and Wales. HO Statistics Bulletin 13/10* Hoare, J. and Moon, D. (eds). July 2010.

<sup>21</sup> Nearly two thirds of newly-sentenced prisoners report using a drug in the month before entering custody. *Compendium of Reoffending Statistics and Analysis*. Ministry of Justice. 2010.

## **G. FUNDING FOR CRIME-FIGHTING INITIATIVES**

In addition to core central government funding to police authorities, the police and their partners also receive ring-fenced funding such as the Neighbourhood Policing Fund and the Drug Intervention Programme. From 2013/14, the first financial year that Police and Crime Commissioners will have full control over budgets, we will merge all of these funds with the Home Office police main grant. That way, resources can be directed in a way that suits the needs of the local community. The funds will remain ring-fenced until that time because there will be no adequate mechanism for local accountability, except for the Metropolitan Police Authority in London. There, where the Mayor already has control over policing, the ring-fence for the Neighbourhood Policing Fund has been removed and the other ring-fenced funds will soon go with it.





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