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# **NCA Performance in Northern Ireland**

## **Q4 2021/22 (January – March 2022)**

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## **Introduction**

### **About the NCA**

The NCA leads the UK's fight to cut serious and organised crime (SOC), a chronic and corrosive threat, affecting UK citizens more often than any other national security threat. The most recent National Strategic Assessment assessed that the overall SOC threat to the UK has continued to increase and has been largely resilient to the impacts of the global COVID-19 pandemic. Global networks, the UK border, and current and emerging technology, all play key roles as enablers of SOC offending. The latest estimated social and economic cost of SOC to the UK (approximately £37 billion<sup>1</sup>) is assessed to be a significant underestimate of the true cost.

Our approach is to identify and disrupt high-harm, high-impact criminals (and organised crime groups), diminishing their capability, infrastructure and influence. In particular, we target those who:

- Exploit the vulnerable through child sexual abuse and exploitation, trafficking, servitude, fraud and other forms of abuse.
- Dominate communities, and chase profits, in the criminal marketplace - through criminal reputation and/or the use of violence in the supply of drugs and firearms.
- Undermine the UK's economy, integrity, and infrastructure and institutions, through their criminality.

Meeting the challenges of the changing nature of the SOC threat, where substantial developments in SOC's complexity, scale, and volume have been observed, is a critical objective for the NCA, and wider law enforcement community.

### **The NCA's 2021/22 Performance Ambitions**

The NCA's Senior Leadership Team, and Board, are responsible for setting annual ambitions. These are tracked in our operational and strategic governance forums. In 2021/22 the NCA retained the ambition to deliver exceptional services and results across the Devolved Administrations, setting the goals to:

1. *Maintain the volume of branch-led disruptions in Northern Ireland and Scotland in line with our achievements in 2020/21.*
2. *Maximise the impact of our capability deployments in support of the SOC response in Northern Ireland and Scotland.*

During 2021/22, these goals were actively pursued with the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), Police Scotland, and other partners, demonstrating the NCA's commitment to build even stronger relationships with our partner agencies. The Agency will continue to actively pursue these goals for 2022/23 and support wider agency performance ambitions at the high end of high harm in the Devolved Administrations.

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<sup>1</sup> Home Office, 'Understanding Organised Crime: Estimating the Scale and the Social and Economic Costs', November 2018.

**About this report**

The aim of this report is to summarise Agency performance and activities within Q4 2021/22 (January – March 2022 inclusive) related to Northern Ireland and the resulting impact on protecting communities from SOC. This includes the work of the Paramilitary Crime Taskforce (PCTF).

The Agency develops, deploys and maintains a range of national capabilities and provides them to police forces and other partners. These capabilities create opportunities to identify and take action against those engaged in SOC, as well as providing specialist expertise to support broader law enforcement activity. Examples of support provided to PSNI are included within Annex A and throughout the narrative. The report also considers wider NCA activity where its global nature is likely to have had some impact in Northern Ireland. The OFFICIAL classification of this report prevents the detailed inclusion of live operational activity and tactics.

The PSNI will also be submitting a report to the NIPB setting out its performance against SOC during this period. The two reports can be read in conjunction to give an overview of law enforcement activity impacting Northern Ireland. In certain instances, there may be some overlap between cases reported in the two products, reflecting the close working relationship between the two agencies.

We have responded to feedback from recent Board meetings and made NCA and PSNI reports easier to read alongside each other. The structure of the reports has changed slightly so that the threat areas follow the same reading order in both documents. We will continue to work alongside PSNI colleagues to ensure that both reports are aligned as closely as possible.

**Our impact in Northern Ireland**

Disruptions impacting on Northern Ireland							
Disruption Assessment	Apr 20- Mar 21		R12	Apr 21- Mar 22		R12	▲ ▼
	Lead	Support	Total	Lead	Support	Total	
Major	9	1	10	5	0	5	▼
Moderate	29	1	30	33	6	39	▲
Minor	48	18	66	86	16	102	▲
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>146</b>	▲

Figure 1: NCA Disruptions with Impact in Northern Ireland April 2020 to March 2022

The number of reported disruptions impacting upon Northern Ireland has increased by 38% (40) overall in the last 12 months. This was boosted by an increase in activity under the 'who undermine the UK's economy, integrity, infrastructure, and institutions' threat pillar compared to Q4 2020/21.

Disruptions under Fraud (+7) and Money Laundering (+5) threats display substantial increases in Q4. Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) (-3), Organised Immigration Crime (OIC) (-5), and Drugs (-5), have all seen a decline - with OIC (0) disruptions remaining at the same levels as Q3.

There was a 10% increase in major (5) and moderate (39) (higher impact) NCA disruptions in Northern Ireland during 2021/22 (44 compared to 40 in the preceding 12 months). However, the majority of disruptive activity was assessed as minor (70% of 102 of cases).

In addition to the disruptions highlighted above, where an impact on Northern Ireland has been specifically identified, a further 59 disruptions during the last 12 months are assessed as having global/international impact, affecting the UK. The highest number were recorded against the Cyber threat (19).

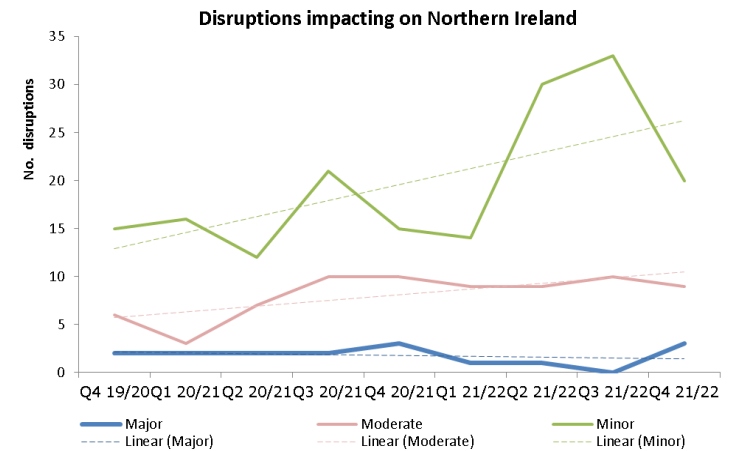


Figure 2: NCA Disruptions with Impact in Northern Ireland by Assessment Level over time

This report will set out examples of NCA activities that, directly or indirectly, have an impact on SOC in Northern Ireland across a range of threats. Updates from our specialist support services are provided in Annex A.

**January – March Operational Highlights**

The examples below depict three major disruptions from Q4 with impact on Northern Ireland given the nature and geography of the criminality:

- A prolific Irish OCG, responsible for importing multi-tonne quantities of drugs as well as firearms globally for more than 20 years, has been met with international financial sanctions leaving their bank accounts frozen and funds inaccessible. The Kinahan crime group has been effectively cut off from the global financial system. Over the last two years, the NCA in collaboration with over nine international law enforcement partners, HMRC and US government bodies, have collated material generated from significant operational activity which shows their involvement in serious and organised crime. The material was submitted to the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) in the United States, who announced in April that the head of the crime group, his two sons and a number of their associates and businesses, will be subject to the sanctions.
- In January 2022, the NCA International network in Nigeria secured evidence on behalf of PSNI in support of the first forced labour prosecution in Northern Ireland. The victim was trafficked to Northern Ireland in 2011 and forced to work with no pay and restrictions on movement for six years. PSNI recently informed the NCA that both defendants changed their pleas to guilty – this was largely based on the evidence secured by the Agency which demonstrated that the victim had been trafficked, and not paid, as the defendants had originally claimed.
- A Spanish national has appeared in court charged with attempting to smuggle cannabis worth £177,000 into Northern Ireland. Border Force officers found eight packages of drugs inside baggage and referred the case to the NCA. A trial at Antrim Crown Court has been set for September 2022.

**Those who dominate communities and chase profits in the criminal marketplace (Drugs & Firearms Activity)**

The updates below incorporate our most significant operational and partnership activity from Q4 against **Firearms** and **Drugs**-related criminality within, or related to, Northern Ireland:

- In March 2022 a subject travelling from Spain, into Belfast International Airport, was detected with 16.4KG of Herbal Cannabis in vacuum bags. The subject was arrested, interviewed, and charged with three offences regarding importation of controlled drugs under CEMA<sup>2</sup>, possession of Class B and possession of Class B with intent to supply. He was remanded in custody while a full file was submitted to PPS on 26/04/2022 and the defendant was further remanded in July 2022.
- In December 2021 two subjects were arrested in Antrim following the detection of two kilograms of cannabis and £20,000 cash. A further one kilogram of cannabis, a small quantity of suspected cocaine, and a loaded firearm (with a small quantity of ammunition), was recovered from the home address of one subject. Both subjects were charged, one with possession of a firearm and ammunition with intent to endanger life as well as drug possession with intent to supply. The second subject was charged with drug possession with intent to export and concealing criminal property. Both were granted bail and a file was submitted to the Public Prosecution Service for Northern Ireland (PPSNI) in March.
- An investigation commenced in October 2019 concerning lorry drivers suspected to be moving illicit commodities. Following the recovery of 21kgs of cocaine, a number of suspects were arrested. Two subjects were interviewed in Northern Ireland on in June 2021. On 14/02/2022, one of the subjects was further interviewed, along with his partner, as a voluntary attender in relation to money laundering offences. On 30/03/2022 a full file was submitted to CPS for consideration regarding prosecution action.
- During an operation relating to the seizure of a handgun and ammunition, from a package sent via the postal system from outside the UK, two subjects from Northern Ireland were arrested in October 2020. A small quantity of Cannabis and Class C drugs were also seized. On 10/02/22 one of the subjects was sentenced to a custodial period of five years and four months in relation to the attempted possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life and 3 years for possession of Class C Drugs with intent to supply; the sentences are to run concurrently. Sentencing of the second subject has been further delayed.

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<sup>2</sup> Customers and Excise Management Act 1979

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- Following a long term investigation related to the wholesale production, importation, and distribution of illicit anabolic steroids into the UK, a confiscation order was secured from Southwark Crown Court in March 2022. During the course of the operation, NCA Investigations Northern Ireland identified bulk shipments destined for Belfast. Two of these were seized and contained in excess of two tonnes of illicit pharmaceuticals including steroids. The order was for a subject whose criminal benefit was determined to be £14M (and realisable property at £3,000). Later in March, a high value Restraint Order was granted at the Central Criminal Court in relation to a further subject of the investigation.
- The NCA is managing the risk from Top Venting Blank Firing (TVBF) weapons through a project initiated in February 2021 in response to a significant rise in the number of UK-specification TVBF handguns being recovered in criminal circumstances. To date three subjects have been identified as being located in Northern Ireland and intelligence packages have been disseminated to PSNI. In many cases in the UK these are in a state whereby they have been converted to enable firing of a live round or projectile. A firearms licence is not required to make a purchase of a TVBF weapon within the UK and they can be obtained over the counter or online. The NCA is working to identify criminal gangs involved in the purchase of these weapons for the purpose of conversion and supply to criminal markets. Details of individuals making these purchases continue to be shared across all UK police forces for further investigation or to ensure public and officer safety.
- Intelligence obtained by the NCA led to the investigation of a Northern Ireland resident who was believed to have successfully ordered/received two Front Venting Blank Firing (FVBF) handguns from Europe. A search took place at the subject's home address in July 2021, with the assistance of PSNI. Firearms, combat weapons, cannabis, and drug dealing paraphernalia, were seized. The subject was arrested and an admission of guilt was made during interview. On 24/01/22 the subject was re-arrested for possession and supply of Class B drugs.

### **Those who seek to exploit the vulnerable**

The updates below incorporate the Agency's most significant operational and partnership activities this quarter relating to **Child Sexual Abuse (CSA)**, **Organised Immigration Crime (OIC)** and **Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking (MSHT)** in or related to Northern Ireland:

- As a result of disseminations from the NCA CSA Referrals Bureau, PSNI reports that during Q4 2021/22 13 arrests were made, eight suspects attended voluntarily for interview, and 38 children were safeguarded, in relation to.
- During Q4, the CSA Referrals Bureau made **168** disseminations to PSNI, which is an increase on Q3 (which saw 147). These included a number of high-priority referrals relating to self-generated Indecent Images of Children (IIOC).

**Undermining the UK's economy, integrity, institutions and infrastructure**

The updates below incorporate the Agency's most significant operational and partnership activities across **Economic Crime** and **Cyber Crime** in, or related to, Northern Ireland:

**Economic Crime**

- There were 239 Defence Against Money Laundering (DAML) requests received under the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) 2002 related to Northern Ireland. These were subsequently allocated to PSNI, and NCA Belfast, for advice (based on the location of the suspect, victim or other geographical factors). PSNI took action to restrain £6,868 and deny assets of £29,343.
- In February 2022 two defendants were sentenced at Antrim Crown Court in relation to an underground banking case, having pleaded guilty. The two received sentences of 18 months (suspended for two years) for Fraud by Abuse of Position and two years' imprisonment (suspended for two years) for Conspiracy to Convert Criminal Property, to be served concurrently. They also received a £2,500 fine. A further subject received 12 months imprisonment (suspended for two years) for entering into an arrangement to acquire criminal property and 12 months imprisonment (suspended for two years) for conspiracy to convert criminal property, which was also concurrent. Confiscation proceedings were also concluded. The investigation was assisted, at court, by the Expert Laundering Evidence (ELE) team.
- The investigation relating to the sale of the Northern Ireland loan book belonging to the Irish Government's National Asset Management Agency (NAMA) continues. At the Crown Court arraignment in January 2022, one subject was charged with two counts of fraud by false representation. The second subject was charged with two counts of fraud by false representation, possession of articles used in fraud, removing criminal property, and transferring criminal property. Two further production orders have been obtained by the investigations team. In March 2022 an addendum file and International Letter of Request (ILOR) relating to evidence held overseas were submitted to PSNI.
- Investigators in Northern Ireland are seeking to develop new opportunities to target illicit finance following the enablement of the Criminal Finances Act 2017. These powers will enhance Northern Ireland's disruptive capability against organised crime. The NCA's Proceeds of Crime Centre (PoCC) team, with responsibility for Northern Ireland, has been working closely with the Northern Ireland devolved administration Department of Justice to ensure that all applications fall in line with the Northern Ireland Criminal Procedure.



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- The second phase of an NCA-led public awareness campaign on fraud was launched in March 2022. This was supported by a wide range of partners across the public and private sectors. Messaging aimed to raise awareness of payment diversion fraud, how it is perpetrated, and associated protect messaging. The campaign targeted small and medium-sized businesses, with particular focus on those with authority to make payments, and information for members of the public in the process of buying and/or selling property. Materials were distributed via City of London Police (CoLP) to all forces' communications contacts. The conveyancing flyer was sent to PSNI and shared with the Law Society of Northern Ireland on our behalf.
- In January 2022 the High Court in Belfast granted a Civil Recovery Order, by consent, under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002. NCA officers seized two properties, with a combined value of £150,000, from a man with alleged links to a paramilitary organisation. The NCA alleges that both properties were acquired with the proceeds of money laundering and fraud offences. The NCA will now work with partners to realise the value of the properties.
- The NCA Asset Denial team continues to progress three investigations with links to Northern Ireland under the auspices of the Cross Border Joint Agency Task Force. In the last quarter, the first in a series of Disclosure Interviews under POCA 2002 was carried out on one of these investigations, the subject of which is suspected of being engaged in fraud offences and money laundering.

### **Cyber Crime**

- In response to the continual increase in online fraud targeting individuals and businesses in the UK, the NECC has forged a partnership with the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC), commissioning it to deliver a significant uplift in the UK's response to the threat. The NECC worked closely with NCSC to design the uplift (back in mid-2020) and it ran from November 2020 through until March 2022. It was funded by the NECC. This has entailed a significant investment into a pilot programme to harness private sector online brand protection capabilities to deliver an enhanced response to online frauds. Under this programme, over four million pieces of criminal infrastructure such as websites, email addresses, web shells, and servers used in frauds, were identified and taken down. This included delivering an enhanced takedown response to infrastructure reported by the public (via the NCSC's suspicious email reporting service at [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk)). The broader protective impact from this programme extended across the UK and internationally.
- The National Cyber Crime Unit (NCCU) leads the National Cyber Crime Network (NCCN) in delivering the response to multiple high-impacts and extremely prevalent ransomware strains actively targeting victims in the UK. Working closely with international partners to build our collective understanding of the ransomware strains and the actor(s) involved, and to identify and implement collective threat response solutions.

- Under this lead, the NCCU coordinates the national response, with PSNI leading investigations and supporting victims in Northern Ireland. The NCCU has tasked investigations relating to specific strains of ransomware across Team Cyber UK. Coordinating the collective response and centrally assessing and sharing intelligence and investigation dividends across our operations.

**Our wider impact against SOC**

The NCA’s work is aligned to threat, risk, and harm and is agnostic of geography. The criminals the NCA target operate across the UK and internationally. Aside from our work in Northern Ireland, the NCA continues to lead other activities which we assess will have an impact on protecting communities in Northern Ireland. Examples include: removing dangerous content from the internet, closing down distribution channels for drugs and guns, creating a hostile environment for SOC criminals to operate in, raising public awareness, and driving policy changes to provide greater resilience to fraud.

The table below presents headline figures incorporating both NCA-led activity and activity in support of our Law Enforcement (LE) partners, working together to tackle SOC in communities across the UK and further afield.

Total NCA Disruptions							
Disruption Assessment	Apr 20- Mar 21		R12	Apr 21- Mar 22		R12	▲ ▼
	Lead	Support	Total	Lead	Support	Total	
Major	110	53	163	105	65	170	▲
Moderate	560	273	833	701	569	1270	▲
Minor	1140	917	2057	1484	969	2453	▲
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1810</b>	<b>1243</b>	<b>3053</b>	<b>2290</b>	<b>1603</b>	<b>3893</b>	▲

Figure 3: Total NCA Disruptions, April to March 2020 - 2022

The total number of NCA disruptions between April 2021 and March 2022 were **28% (840) higher** than in the preceding 12 months. The proportion of disruptions categorised as Major (highest level of impact) decreased to 4%. However, there has been an increase in moderate disruptions in the last 12 months (+52%, 437).

**International**

NCA International recorded 1,281 disruptions at the end of the 2021/22. These represent disruptions led, or supported by, the International department of the Agency. This was a 34% increase in comparison to the previous end of year. The top three threats were Drugs (36%), OIC (15%), and CSA (10%). NCA International resources contributed to a combined total of **231** tonnes of class A drugs being seized (heroin and cocaine). The top three regions for the reported seizures were South America, Pakistan/Afghanistan and Africa.

**Cyber Crime**

NCCU's Ransomware project continues to develop capabilities which disrupt and attribute ransomware operations, and their operators. The output of this is upgrading and introducing new technical capabilities to the operational 'toolkit'. In 2021-22, of the 215 NCA Cyber disruptions, 43 were against "Ransomware and Extortion". The aim of the project is to increase the number of ransomware referrals to the NCA and subsequent operational activity.

**Child Sexual Abuse**

The Virtual Global Taskforce board was hosted in London, over three days in May, and developed new work streams which are likely to include; global strategic communications activity (influencing), educational activity, capacity building, international model for Transnational Child Sexual Offenders (TCSO), international (one voice) Industry engagement and CSA Staff wellbeing. In education, resources were deployed to CEOP Education websites. An estimated 62,000 people (children and adults) received NCA's education about online child sexual abuse and 60 child workforce professionals attended an NCA training course. A new resource, (Dark Web Explained), was launched for parents, carers, and professionals and comprises of videos and factsheets to help them better understand this otherwise concealed subject matter.

**Combatting Kleptocracy Cell**

The new Combatting Kleptocracy Cell, announced by the Prime Minister at the end of February, has been stood up in the NCA to investigate, among other things, criminal sanctions evasion and high-end money laundering. It builds on our existing expertise using all source intelligence to disrupt corrupt elites in the UK. For the first time, this work is brought together into an enhanced unit with dedicated funding and sanctions enforcement in its mandate. The Cell is multi-disciplinary, drawing on intelligence and operational expertise of law enforcement and government partners. The focus will be on corrupt elites and their enablers, who we will use all powers available to us to disrupt and punish.

**ANNEX A: Supporting partners with our Specialist Capabilities**

The NCA leads the UK SOC response through a combination of intelligence development, enforcement and investigation. Within this, the Agency has developed a range of niche capabilities - from advanced analysis to technical solutions - that service both our investigations and those of our partners. A snapshot of how these have impacted the SOC threat in Northern Ireland are provided below.

<b>Support Area</b>	<b>Significant Q4 Updates</b>
<p><b>Major Crime Investigation Support (MCIS)</b></p> <p><i>The team provided advice and support to PSNI in 12 instances; deploying officers into force on 27 occasions. These cases included murder, sexual offences and non-accidental injury (NAI).</i></p>	<p>The PSNI had three murder investigations this quarter.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A large scale investigation is being led by the PSNI and assistance provided by several MCIS resources. Formal reports detailing strategic and operational investigative suggestions are already submitted and during this reporting period a National SIO Adviser has directly supported the investigation team in the development of a complex Trace Interview Eliminate strategy.</li> <li>2. The National Injuries Database (NID), Crime Investigation Support Officer (CISO) and National Senior Investigating Officer Adviser (NSIOA) continue to support an investigation and are in the process of assisting the SIO in relation to certain requests from the prosecution QC. Further deployments are anticipated to address the requests and manage expectations.</li> <li>3. NSIOA, CISO, NIA, and Clinical Psychologist are deployed to an investigation and provided advice in relation to further interviews, bad character evidence, and PPS liaison. Support to this investigation continues.</li> </ol>
<p><b>UK Financial Intelligence Unit (UKFIU)</b></p>	<p>UKFIU issued six international requests on behalf of PSNI (relating to drugs, fraud and money laundering investigations). UKFIU identified 23 Suspicious Activity Reports relating to suspected vulnerable persons, 11 relating to suspected child exploitation and one relating to suspected human trafficking for fast-tracking to PSNI.</p>
<p><b>Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP)</b></p>	<p>The Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland (SBNI) E Safety forum has requested feedback from the CEOP Education Team on new PSNI 'Sexting and the Law' leaflets. Feedback has been provided and will be used to update the materials.</p> <p>The CEOP Education Team trained three professionals from organisations in Northern Ireland on the new 'Understanding Online Child Sexual Abuse' course during Q4.</p>
<p><b>Anti-Kidnap &amp; Extortion Unit (AKEU)</b></p>	<p>The AKEU is the national repository for kidnap, blackmail, and sexual extortion complaints.</p> <p>In Q4, the AKEU provided support to PSNI on seven occasions.</p>

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<b>UK National Central Office (UKNCO) for the Suppression of Counterfeit Currency and Protected Coins</b>	<p>The UK National Central Office (UKNCO) for Counterfeit Currency have continued to provide support to a number of counterfeit currency seizures submitted by the PSNI.</p> <p>There were nine submissions to UKNCO from PSNI requesting expert witness statements on counterfeit currency seizures during Q4. Three of these were successfully processed following analysis and assessment.</p>
<b>UK Protected Persons Service (UKPPS)</b>	<p>The NCA Central Services Unit, as a part of the UK Protected Persons Service (UKPPS), provides operational support to the PSNI Protected Persons Unit. This is aligned to the UKPPS. In this quarter, the UKPPS has provided 116 new instances of support to PSNI</p>
<b>UK International Crime Bureau (UKICB)</b>	<p>Evidence secured by NCA International has resulted in the first ever conviction for forced labour in Northern Ireland. The international request for this case had gone un-actioned from 2019 until September 2021 when the PSNI began engaging with the NCA International Liaison Officer (ILO). Since September 2021, the ILO made concerted efforts, with the Nigerian Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), and Nigerian Ministry of Justice, to obtain, verify, and transmit the evidence to the UK Central Authority and PSNI in time for the trial, which began in March 2022.</p> <p>The victim had been trafficked to Northern Ireland in 2011 and forced to work for two Nigerian families with no pay and restrictions on her movement, until 2017 when she was able to report her treatment at a local Police station. An assessment of the victim at the time of her referral to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) put her intellectual age of 3-4 years old. In March 2022, PSNI informed NCA that both defendants had changed their pleas to guilty, largely based on the "invaluable" evidence secured through the International Letter Of Request (ILOR). This case will also be used as a case study during the current review of the MLA process, taking place with the UK Central Authority and the Nigerian MOJ.</p>
<b>Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Unit (MSHTU)</b>	<p>PSNI requested assistance during an operation regarding a visa for a witness travelling from Nigeria to provide evidence in court in Northern Ireland. The advisers liaised with the Home Office, and international assistance, to explore alternative methods for the witness to give evidence through the Embassy. The suspect pleaded guilty following a Rooney Hearing. However, arrangements were in place for giving evidence via video link.</p>

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In an operation focussing on labour exploitation within the fishing industry, a meeting was held with the Modern Slavery Human Trafficking Unit (MSHTU) in PSNI and two MSHT Tactical Advisors, who advised on investigative policy. Consequently, in March a PACE warrant was executed on a vessel in relation to MSHT offences. The owner of the vessel was at the scene and arrested by the PSNI for Human Trafficking and related offences, and subsequently remanded in custody. MSHTU officers conducted safeguarding screening on two Ghanaian fishermen on a second vessel. Although no evidence or disclosure of MSHT offences were identified, the second vessel was served with a notice barring it from going to sea until inspected as seaworthy, which may have prevented a serious risk to life had the vessel been allowed to continue fishing.

**ANNEX B: Data by Threat Area**

Figure 4: Breakdown of NCA Disruptions impacting on Northern Ireland by SOC threat, April 2021 to March 2022<sup>3</sup>

SOC Area	Threat	Q3 2021/22				Q4 2021/22				R12 Total	R12 Total	Trend
		Major	Moderate	Minor	Total	Major	Moderate	Minor	Total	Apr 20-Mar 21	Apr 21-Mar 22	
Those who exploit the vulnerable	Child Sexual Abuse	0	4	1	<b>5</b>	0	4	5	<b>9</b>	28	25	▼
	Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking	0	2	6	<b>8</b>	0	0	3	<b>3</b>	11	26	▲
	Organised Immigration Crime	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	6	2	▼
Those who dominate communities and chase profits in the criminal marketplace	Drugs	0	2	1	<b>3</b>	0	1	2	<b>3</b>	16	11	▼
	Firearms	0	0	3	<b>3</b>	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	7	9	▲
Those who undermine the UK's economy, integrity, infrastructure and institutions	Cyber	0	0	15	<b>15</b>	1	0	3	<b>4</b>	30	30	◀▶
	Fraud	0	0	3	<b>3</b>	2	2	2	<b>6</b>	5	12	▲
	Money Laundering	0	1	2	<b>3</b>	0	0	1	<b>1</b>	0	5	▲

<sup>3</sup> Note that this reflects disruptions against the main SOC threats; there are additional disruptions not shown in this table, categorised as 'other'.