



Northern Ireland Report

NCA Summary

April 2024 – September 2024

Statistics and visuals in this report reflect all activity undertaken by the NCA and is assessed to have had an impact in Northern Ireland. In line with NCA Strategy (Upstream, Overseas and Online), not all activity included has been undertaken within Northern Ireland, some will have been assessed as having a broader UK impact, that includes Northern Ireland.

- The NCA was established in October 2013. It is an intelligence led law enforcement agency responsible for gathering intelligence, investigating high end serious and organised crime, and leading the operational system.
- Around 6000 NCA officers work in overt and covert sites across the UK, with NCA officers in Northern Ireland based alongside the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) in Belfast. NCA Officers can be designated with the powers of a Police Constable, as well as those of Immigration Enforcement and HM Revenue & Customs officers. In addition to the powers granted under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (England & Wales) 1984 (PACE), NCA Officers operating in Northern Ireland have additional powers, as they relate to the legislation and orders within the jurisdiction.
- Additionally, we have around 160 International Liaison Officers (ILOs) posted in approximately 70 locations overseas covering up to 60 countries.

- The ambition for Northern Ireland is to take action nationally and internationally to protect its communities from serious and organised crime (SOC). We deliver this by working in partnership with PSNI, under the auspices of the Northern Ireland General Authorisation, as agreed by the Director General (DG) NCA and the Northern Ireland Minister of Justice in 2016, and updated in 2021, taking action in Northern Ireland against SOC to Pursue, Prevent, Protect and Prepare. The General Authorisation is reviewed annually.
- A summary of our compliance with the Human Rights Act 1998 (HRA) within Northern Ireland is at Slide five,

- We work alongside PSNI to identify High Value Targets and tactical vulnerabilities.
- Intelligence and investigative opportunities are jointly developed through collaborative arrangements with the use of niche NCA capabilities being considered as part of this response.
- This work ensures that operations undertaken by the NCA are both visible to PSNI and in line with our shared approach to tackling organised crime through upstream, overseas & online.



NCA Strategy 2023-2028

1. Degrading the most harmful organised crime groups by:

- going upstream to disrupt those at the top of the criminal chain, those who enable their activities, and those who launder the money they make
- taking action overseas, tackling the threat at source and en route to the UK
- increasingly focusing on online crime to combat a critical enabler of the organised crime business model, reflecting the fact that more crime takes place online or is enabled by technology

2. Leading the UK's operational response by:

- improving how the threat is understood and used to prioritise across the system
- strengthening multi-agency 4P (Pursue, Prevent, Protect and Prepare) plans to reduce the harm from each threat
- improving performance measurement across the system
- bolstering the national services and capabilities provided by the Agency to system partners
- strengthening the system response to new and emerging threats

3. Transforming the Agency's capabilities by:

- unlocking the value of data to drive operational effect
- delivering a new approach to capability development
- improving the Agency's situational awareness
- strengthening the foundational capabilities as they relate to data technology and estates

4. Growing a highly skilled workforce by:

- better understanding the skills, the Agency needs to transform workforce planning
- creating career pathways that improve officer experience
- becoming a more attractive employer through reformed pay and benefits
- improving the Agency's learning offer to meet future challenges
- establishing a more diverse workforce and inclusive culture
- embedding smarter working into the Agency's ethos

NCA Strategy – Impact for Northern Ireland

Protecting the Public

Our approach as a National Agency to protecting the public in Northern Ireland from Serious Organised Crime (SOC) is twofold:

1. To take action outside of Northern Ireland, upstream (of senior criminals and their enablers), overseas (in Europe and wider), and online to best protect the public from SOC before it impacts and harms Northern Irish communities utilising niche organisational capabilities. These capabilities such as major investigations, the NCA International Liaison Officer network, our corporate relationship with Social Media companies and industry, or enhanced cyber capabilities, are system capabilities established to support wider UK law enforcement partners.
2. To work collaboratively with the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) and the Public Prosecution Service for Northern Ireland (PPSNI) to take action in Northern Ireland to protect Northern Irish communities from SOC, pulling through niche NCA capabilities to support frontline use in Northern Ireland.

NCA Northern Ireland

The NCA presence in Northern Ireland consists of officers who are involved in Investigations, Intelligence and Enabling Capabilities. The current NCA operating model within Northern Ireland is predicated on the general premise the NCA will support PSNI, where requested, with capabilities. More specifically the NCA is in collaboration with PSNI within the Paramilitary Crime Task Force (PCTF) to target paramilitary groupings currently on ceasefire. The PCTF is comprised of officers from NCA, PSNI and HMRC and is co-located within the PSNI estate.

The NCA operates under the auspices of the Northern Ireland General Authorisation, which was agreed between the DG NCA and the Northern Ireland Minister of Justice in 2016 and updated in 2021. The DG is also accountable for NCA activity in (or in relation to) Northern Ireland to the Northern Ireland Policing Board (NIPB) and less directly to the Northern Ireland Minister of Justice and Secretary of State for NI (SoSNI). Twice a year we produce a report and the NCA DG appears in front of the NIPB, alongside the Chief Constable PSNI (CC PSNI). The next hearing is in December 2024.

Working Together

We work closely with PSNI in areas including criminal investigations into paramilitary related SOC, the use of civil recovery powers against such criminals, abuse of the Common Travel Area (CTA), the pursuit of Northern Irish fugitives overseas and the provision of a range of major crime investigative support and specialist capabilities. Broadening our collective understanding across all threat areas. The NCAs DG visited Dublin in September and held a positive and constructive meeting with the Gardaí Commissioner, Drew Harris.

In line with the NCAs annual National Strategic Assessment, which provides a baseline of the threat, the NCA regularly engages with a wide range of stakeholders, ensuring there is an understanding of the SOC landscape in Northern Ireland. Members of the NI Policing Board (NIPB) visited NCA HQ in early October, hearing about NCAs work and its impact in Northern Ireland. Other engagements include with the Department of Justice (DoJ), as one of the key partners on the Organised Crime Task Force (OCTF) and the Joint Agency Task Force (JATF) on cross border matters.

NCA and Human Rights

Statutory Underpinning and Ethics

All NCA Officers operating/working in Northern Ireland are required to undertake Northern Ireland Ethics training and must adhere to a range of other relevant standards of conduct and practice, including the NCA's Code of Ethics, NCA values, Civil Service Code and have due regard to PSNI's code of ethics. Additionally, all officers undergo annual training in First Aid and Officer Safety. This training is comprehensive and ensures their activities, for example in relation to their use of force, complies with ECHR. Annual e-learning on a range of topics which may be relevant from a human rights perspective are mandatory requirements for all our officers.

We work closely with the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) to produce Overseas Security and Justice Assessments (OSJAs) which review the potential impact on human rights and international humanitarian law prior to providing any justice or security assistance overseas. When sharing intelligence internationally, either in relation to an NCA matter or on behalf of PSNI, we adhere to the 'Principles', which ensure that the passing and receipt of intelligence is consistent with the UK's Human rights obligations. The Investigatory Powers Commissioner's Office (IPCO) oversee and report on these 'Principles'.

Covert Surveillance

The NCA undertakes covert surveillance in accordance with the Regulatory Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA), Investigatory Powers Act 2016 (IPA) and the Police Act 1997 as do other law enforcement agencies across the UK. Applications are made and authorised internally by an NCA Senior Manager independent to the investigation and must supply detailed evidence that the application complies with UK legislation and guidelines, specifically the Human Rights Act 1998 (HRA) which brings into direct force the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). Reference to HRA/ECHR is contained within NCA policies and operating procedures to minimise, and where possible remove, the risk of non-compliance.

Directed Surveillance in Northern Ireland does not require additional authorisation, but just as with other covert techniques, the Agency must liaise with the PSNI before any surveillance is conducted in Northern Ireland. Oversight and governance of the Agency's use of covert investigating powers is through the Investigatory Powers Commissioner's Office (IPCO), who carried out five annual inspections in 2024 covering specialist areas of compliance with legislation and guidance. Through these reviews, IPCO found the NCA to be acting lawfully and for the correct statutory purposes. NIPBs Human Rights Advisor (HRA) has viewed the 2023 IPCO reports as they relate to the NCA, providing an additional layer of confidence. We will continue this dialogue with NIPBs HRA as part of our routine engagements.

Specific Human Rights issues encountered during this reporting period

No issues encountered during this reporting period and there have been no instances referred to the Police Ombudsman NI (PONI).

NCA impact in Northern Ireland – Disruptions

Impact Measurement

As part of the NCA five-year strategy we continue to operate at the high end of high harm of serious and organised crime. This strategy commits us to focus on activity that will degrade the most harmful organised crime groups. The success of this strategy is principally measured using 'pursue' disruptions that are NCA led and assessed as having a major or moderate impact on P1/ P2 investigations (a prioritisation framework of four descending levels (1-4)). These are referred in the following data slide as high impact disruptions. Another crucial component of the NCA strategy is how we support the response to serious and organised crime in the devolved administrations and ensure that we work collaboratively, supporting PSNI to tackle the most significant threats facing the public. One way in which this will be measured is through support disruptions, where we provide our capabilities to enhance operations led by partners such as PSNI. The National Audit Office (NAO) gave a broad and tentative explanation of 'disruptions' as being interventions that *'lead to an organised criminal or group being unable or less able to operate'*.

Practical application

Practically a disruption could result in a range of outcomes. Some of these are obvious, for example court proceedings or assets being seized but other disruptions less so, for example restrictions on offenders through court granted orders such as unexplained wealth or serious crime prevention orders.

Disruptions Definition

A disruption has been achieved when an agency takes action in response to a threat which has an impact.

It is a measure of impact, and not a measure of activity or effort and should only be recorded when the agency can clearly articulate the threat, the action taken and the resulting impact.

Disruptions may impact upon an Organised Crime Group (OCG) or individual, resulting in them being unable to operate at their usual level of criminality. A disruption may also relate to a specific threat, resulting in a reduced threat level.

There are two roles' agencies can take in a disruption. A lead disruption is recorded by the agency achieving the impact and are likely tasked with responding to the OCG, individual or threat. A support disruption is recorded by an agency that has provided some form of resource or capability to assist another agency in achieving a lead disruption.

Disruptions Impact Assessment

The impact of each disruption is categorised under one of the below three criteria:

Major Impact – A significant and/or long-term disruptive impact on the capability of the OCG, individual or vulnerability.

Moderate Impact – A noticeable and/or medium-term disruptive impact on the capability of the OCG, individual or vulnerability.

Minor Impact – A minimal and/or short-term disruptive impact on the capability of the OCG, individual or vulnerability.

NCA impact in Northern Ireland – Data summary

Performance data, relating to the NCAs impact in Northern Ireland for the period April 2024 – September 2024 is provided at Slide eight,. Key highlights are summarised below.

Key Highlights

- NCA Performance overall in Northern Ireland has increased by around 25% compared with the same period last financial year (FY). NCA lead disruptions has also increased by 25%.
- Threat areas with the highest outputs (as a combination of NCA lead and support disruptions) this period are Drugs (24%) and Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) (19%).
- Compared with the same period (April-September) last FY there has been a significant increase of around 26% (38 in 22/23 and 48 in 23/24) of major and moderate disruptions, where NCA is the lead agency. This demonstrates NCAs ongoing commitment to operate at the high end of high harm of serious and organised crime (SOC) and tackle the most significant threats facing the public in Northern Ireland. A snapshot of some of these operational successes are highlighted at Slide nine.
- In relation to Organised immigration Crime (OIC) in Northern Ireland there continues to be strong operational collaboration across Law Enforcement to ensure disruptions at the earliest possible stage. For example, over a three-day period in September NCA supported a multi-agency Operation aimed at tackling people-smuggling gangs and those exploiting the CTA. This resulted in fourteen individuals being arrested for a range of immigration offences across Northern Ireland including at ports, airports and road networks.

NCA impact in Northern Ireland – April 2024 – September 2024

Disruptions

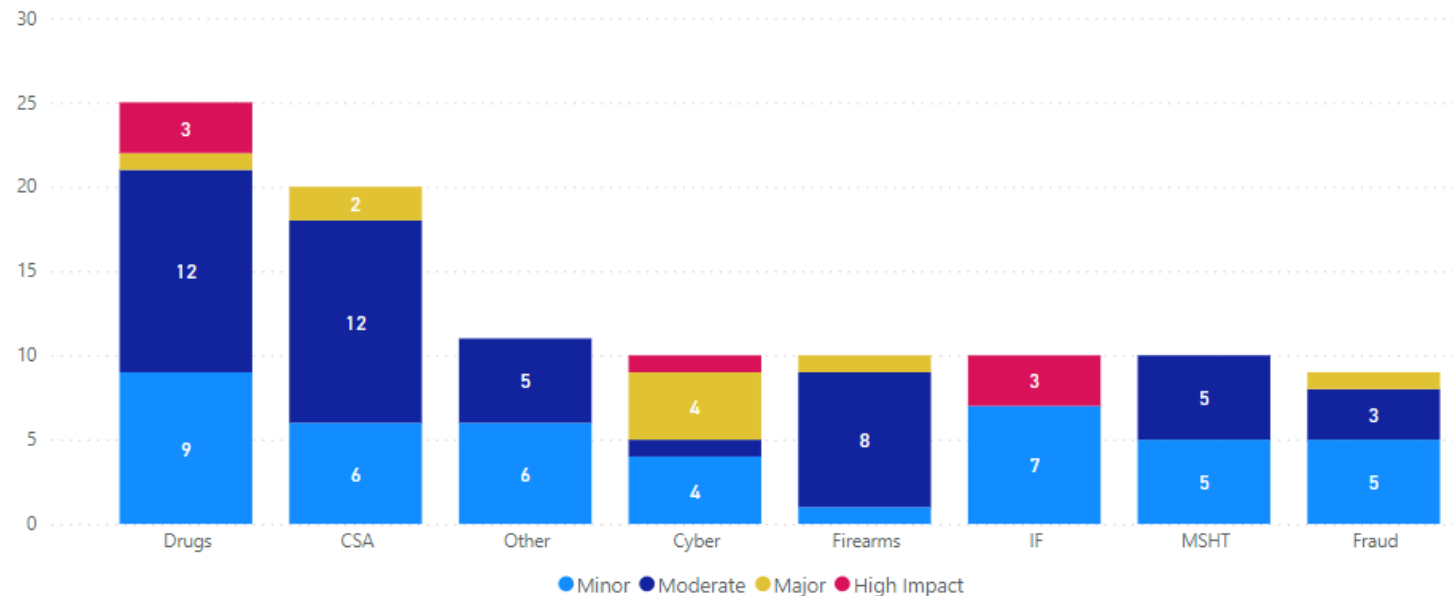
- In the six-month period of April 2024 to September 2024 there were 105 NCA disruptions impacting on Northern Ireland.
- Consisting of 75 lead and 30 support disruptions, this is an increase of 21 (25%) compared with the same period in 2023/24.

Fiscal Year	2023/24			2024/25			Change
Impact	Lead	Support	Total	Lead	Support	Total	
Major	7	1	8	7	4	11	+3
Moderate	31	5	36	41	10	51	+15
Minor	22	18	40	27	16	43	+3
Total	60	24	84	75	30	105	+21

Disruptions by Threat

- This chart shows how NCA disruptions impacting on Northern Ireland are distributed across threats.
- The totals are those achieved between April 2024 and September 2024 based on their level of impact.
- High impact disruptions are included (in red) within overall totals.
- CSA disruptions have increased through pursue activity and increased prevention measures against sextortion crime. While Drugs have seen a number of criminal justice outcomes, such as arrests and sentencing of drug suppliers and couriers.

Disruptions impacting Northern Ireland by Threat



NCA Impact: Cases of note

Cyber

The NCA supported a PSNI investigation that led to an arrest of a Northern Ireland based individual suspected of being the administrator of the world's largest DDoS-as-a-service platform, DIGITAL STRESS. Through a collaborative approach, NCA provided intelligence, access to technical capability and enabled international coordination in support of the PSNI investigation. Further leads are being developed.

Drugs

On 03/05/24, an NCA Belfast investigation into an NI based OCG caused an HGV to be stopped and searched on the A1/M1 in Doncaster. A quantity (70kg) of cannabis, with a street value of £2.1m was recovered from a concealment within the trailer floor. We assess the drugs were destined for NI/ROI and our disruption removed the opportunity for these drugs being distributed to local OCGs. The driver was charged with intent to supply and possession of Class B drugs. He later pled guilty at court and is now awaiting sentencing.

Illicit Finance

An investigation into assets held by individuals potentially linked to a paramilitary grouping, led to disruptive action in March 2024 and the service of multiple proceeds of crime (POCA) investigative orders. This enabled the recovery of significant volumes of financial material which included identifying around 300 bank accounts. The forensic analysis of these accounts is ongoing, with a view to identifying the source of funding for the properties under consideration and the potential for further enforcement action.

Drugs

In late September, an 18yr old Irish woman was arrested at Belfast City Airport after travelling from Thailand, via Doha and London with 48 Kg of cannabis, estimated to be worth more than £950,000, in her hold luggage. She was charged with offences under the Customs and Excise Management Act as well as Possession of Class B drugs with intent to supply and has been remanded in custody.

International

On 21/08/2024 an Irish national was arrested in Ireland on a TaCA warrant issued by PSNI. The subject was accused of the murder of three police officers in 1982. Intelligence suggested the subject was residing in Republic of Ireland and the Irish authorities were expecting the warrant. Following NCAs engagement with the Irish Department of Justice (DoJ IE) the individual was successfully arrested on 22/08/24 within the Republic of Ireland (ROI).

Drugs

On 04/05/24, an NCA Belfast investigation into an NI based OCG resulted in drugs being recovered from an HGV that had disembarked from a ferry at a port in Lincolnshire. A search identified a sophisticated concealment within the floor that contained three sliding drawers each with five metal trays filled with 31 kilos of cannabis (street value £620,000). The driver, a Bulgarian national, had driven the vehicle from Europe was later sentenced to 2.5 years in prison. We assess the drugs were destined for NI/ROI and on the day of the recovery, as part of a wider disruption strategy by NCA officers within NI, two further persons from the OCG were arrested and £27,960 in cash was recovered during a house search.

International

On 27/06/2024 a Hungarian national was arrested in Hungary on a TaCA warrant issued by PSNI. The subject was wanted for 10 offences of possessing indecent images of children and 2 offences of driving whilst disqualified. The NCA circulated requests, in mid-June, to European and international partners and shortly afterwards the subject was arrested. This successful outcome demonstrates the breadth of NCAs international capability and relationship with European partners.

Firearms

In late May 2024, a Northern Ireland based man who purchased convertible blank firearms from Spain and had them shipped to Northern Ireland, was sentenced to 2.5 years' imprisonment, suspended for 3 years. The investigation, led by officers from NCA Belfast, identified and recovered over 50 Front Venting Blank Firing (FVBF) weapons readily convertible to fire live rounds and illegal in the UK.

Illicit Finance

In May 2018, a former Dublin airport police officer, believed to have laundered millions of pounds on behalf of OCGs and been criminally active for many years was stopped at Belfast International airport (BIA). He had been attempting to leave NI with €180,550 in cash, disguised in folders made to look as if they contained legal documents. He was charged and released on bail but subsequently fled the jurisdiction. He was later convicted of similar offences in ROI, pleading guilty to the BIA incident whilst serving that sentence. In July 2024, following the end of his sentence in ROI he was extradited to NI to serve 10 months in custody.

Firearms

A Northern Irish based male, following a trip to the United States (US), later illegally imported several lethal weapons to NI from the US. The weapons included handguns, firearms paraphernalia and a military style (AR-15) rifle were successfully interdicted by NCA officers. Working with international partners we established the point of sale and material suggesting the individual had acquired them as a collector, rather than for any nefarious purpose. The weapons were all recovered, ordered to be destroyed and the individual received a suspended sentence by the court.

NCA wider support to Northern Ireland

Drugs

- The NCA's work internationally to disrupt the drugs trade continues. During the reporting period, PSNI have been fully engaged with the bi-weekly National Senior Investigation Officers (SIO) forum and the monthly Project HOUSEBUILDER co-ordination meeting, the NCA-led whole system operational response to elevated drug related deaths and overdoses impacting the UK as a result of high strength synthetic opioids known collectively as "nitazenes". HOUSEBUILDER also encompasses xylazines and increasingly pills such as benzodiazepines as fortification of illicit drugs spreads from heroin powder into pills. The overall strategy remains to vigorously pursue all lines of enquiry to prevent nitazene supply becoming endemic and to suppress the supply and consequently near-fatal overdoses and fatalities. The system response includes setting up systems to enable the early identification of incidences of high overdose rates requiring emergency medical attention and policing interventions which is now firmly established across the UK.
- SIOs from PSNI and other relevant staff have participated in the UK wide consultation on the HOUSEBUILDER Potency Risk Assessment Matrix, aimed at providing a safe means of handling nitazenes in operational scenarios. It will be published with additional guidance to support frontline investigators deliver consistent standards of investigation when dealing with nitazene related deaths and seizures. As of 26th September 2024, 3 drug-related deaths (since 1 June 2023) where a nitazene was present, none of which also included xylazine have been recorded in NI. It has recorded no deaths in NI where xylazine was present with no presence of a nitazene. In addition, PIP4 National Investigator advice and specialist support continues to be available to PSNI officers.

Child Sexual Abuse

- PSNI continues to be fully engaged in the strategic governance arrangements to tackle child sexual abuse (CSA), including regular submission of management information to the Online CSA Pursue Threat Board. PSNI is also engaged in the NCA chaired working groups' developing online CSA risk assessment tools and to develop prioritisation. There is ongoing discussion with PSNI about how we can support them operationally.
- There has been a significant increase of 'Financially Motivated Sexual Extortion' (FMSE) reporting across the UK and overseas in the last few years. In April 2024, we issued an alert to UK education settings to raise awareness, increase understanding, deliver effective prevention education and support victims of FMSE. It also included a template letter for parents and carers to ensure settings avoided delivering alarmist messaging and provided practical steps for families to take. Distribution of the alert to education settings in NI was supported by the Online Safety Committee and a tailored version of the alert was published on Safeguarding Board Northern Ireland's (SBNI's) Online Safety Hub, co-branded with SBNI, PSNI, and Education Authority Northern Ireland (EANI). There were 861 downloads of the alert in NI.
- A report published in April 2023 by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS), aims to improve consistency of the law enforcement response to online CSA by setting minimum standards of investigation. Whilst limited to police forces in England and Wales, the NCA continues to work closely with PSNI to ensure that any useful learning is shared. This includes the collection of robust management information to adequately understand the scale and severity of the threat.
- The CSE Referrals Bureau (CSERB) is the central point within the NCA for receipt of industry referrals relating to online child sexual abuse, predominantly via the US National Centre for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) who provide a centralised mechanism for public and electronic service providers to report suspected sharing of indecent images of children (IIOC) and other forms of CSA offending. They send all referrals relating to UK suspects to the CSERB. In Q1 & Q2 2024-25, the CSERB made 324 disseminations to PSNI. Actionable referrals from the US continue to be 25% higher than the 2021 and 2022 levels. In Q1 PSNI reported 31 suspects were attested or attended voluntary interviews, 34 children were safeguarded in relation to all CSA workstreams, and 21 victims were identified from indecent images of children and notified to the NCA Victim Identification Team

NCA wider support to Northern Ireland

Firearms

- In September 2024, NCA circulated an alert, including to the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and the Magistrates Association, in respect of the threat of 3D printed firearms. The alert will be circulated within both organisations and will be included in the Magistrates' crime newsletter and a Legal bulletin for legal advisers.
- As part of the system response to the continuing threat of top venting blank firers, the NCA shared information regarding individuals who had purchased examples of these weapons with PSNI for their consideration. An Assistant Chief Constable (ACC) from the PSNI has recently joined the national Criminal Use of Firearms Strategic Governance Group. This is attended by law enforcement representatives across the UK and will enable the different nature of the firearms risk to be considered at a strategic level.
- Under Project INTERKNOW, the response to the threat of 3D printed firearms, NCA has offered support relating to any case in Northern Ireland where required.

Cybercrime

- Regular and consistent ad-hoc support is provided via NCA's National Cyber Crime Unit (NCCU) in relation to operational requirements, for deconfliction checks as well as support and advice to on-going cyber dependent and cyber related enquiries taking place within PSNI's jurisdiction.
- Within this reporting period this has included providing support in respect of preservation requests as well as international assistance requests under the Mutual Legal Assistance (MLA) Treaty framework.
- In addition, NCCU has also supported a PSNI investigation related to a high-profile NI based cyber actor suspected as being the administrator of world's largest DDoS-as-a-service platform; DIGITAL STRESS and supporting a separate PSNI investigation into DDoS attacks against NI businesses including providing deconfliction checks, advice and engagement with the wider international partners via Europol.

OIC

- Additional funding received as part of the newly established Border Security Command (BSC), will bolster the UK's border security and disrupt the criminal people smuggling gangs. A top priority for the Government, this investment will further strengthen efforts to tackle Organised Immigration Crime (OIC) across all regions of the UK and abroad.
- In Northern Ireland, this includes collaboration through the Joint Fusion Cell (JFC), enabling intelligence coordination and developing more effective targeting across all tiers of the OIC threat. Engagement across a range of multi-agency forums such as the Common Travel Area (CTA) Steering or Tactical Group; and co-chairing the Inland Clandestine OIC Group ensures strategic alignment.
- Since December 2021, more than 13,500 posts, pages or accounts advertising OIC services have been removed from social media platforms. Working with international partners, the Online Communications Centre (OCC) is developing intelligence around the organised criminals engaged in promoting OIC material online, with a view to proactive investigations leading to judicial or other disruptive outcomes in all regions of the UK and abroad.

NCA wider support to Northern Ireland

The National Economic Crime Centre (NECC) focuses on the primary ML/B&C vulnerabilities impacting on the UK – these are not generally linked to specific geographical locations and therefore not unique to Northern Ireland. The below highlights activity being undertaken by the NECC and partners to reduce these vulnerabilities, which will impact on Northern Ireland or have Northern Irish links.

- **Tech Enablers/Crypto-assets** In line with ECP2 ambitions, we are building capacity and capability to meet the threat posed by the criminal use of crypto-assets. Examples of this include a whole system strategy, designed in consultation with partners across HMG including PSNI, the private sector and overseas which seeks to create a joined-up system, educating and protecting the public and effectively disrupting criminal actors; cohering a system-wide agreement on upskilling officers in relation to crypto-assets and their use. This includes an online training course which will be made available to partners throughout law enforcement and HMG and will also upskill officers on the use of the new civil crypto forfeiture powers recently introduced by the Economic crime and Corporate Transparency Act.
- **Professional Enabler Strategy** We have set professional enablers as a priority for the system, and partners across the system are focusing efforts against the enabler threat. This has led to the NECC developing the cross-system strategy with partners including HM Government, PSNI, Police Scotland, supervisory bodies, Crown Prosecution Service and the private sector and is starting to define and implement the action points that underpin each of the six identified pillars. We are focused on delivering a step-change in the UK's response to the professional enabler threat and building a culture where there is no room for enabling activity in the UK.
- **Corporate Transparency** The National Assessment Centre (NAC) has assessed that more than £100 billion is laundered through UK companies and financial institutions. This represents the proceeds of crime generated in the UK and from overseas. The NECC and NCA have worked closely with Companies House, LE and HMG partners to lead the response and develop a suite of key reforms.
- **Post Offices** We continue to work with the FCA, Financial Sector, the Post Office and LE/HMG partners to drive a cross-system response to the threat of cash-based money laundering through the Post Office. This includes Project ADMIRALTY II, a public-private partnership tasked with assessing the impact of the limits and controls to cash deposits imposed by the banks and the FCA. The cell gathered data and intelligence from the cell members to increase understanding of the threat and to highlight risks and typologies used by OCGs to exploit this vulnerability. In August 2024 the NECC published a JMLIT+ Amber Alert under the ADMIRALTY II PPP Cell to a variety of law enforcement, government and private sector partners including PSNI and Police Scotland. The cell pooled data, intelligence and experience to re-assess the threat posed by money laundering through cash deposits at the Post Office since the implementation of limits and controls introduced by banks and the FCA. The alert provides useful case studies, risk indicators and behavioural insights which should inform banks risk tolerance levels and provided geographical hotspot data of suspicious activity which can be used to drive operational activity within force regions against those high-risk Post Office branches.
- **Co-operation** between NCA in Northern Ireland and PSNI resulted in a cash seizure of £394,000

NCA wider support to Northern Ireland

JICC

- The NCA international liaison officers (ILOs) across the network continue to support a range of activity and requests in support of PSNI. Crimes we have supported include Threats to kill, Murder (including murder of Police Officers), Drugs, Cyber offences and CSAE. Of note, a series of engagements, coordinated by Europol's UK Liaison Bureau intended to assist PSNI's investigation into OCGs operating drug trafficking, extortion and numerous homicides in Belfast. Senior leaders across SOC, including representatives from Sweden, Montenegro, Europol joined NCA to collaborate with significant progress being identified to assist PSNI's complex investigation.
- For Extradition Part 1 during the period April 2024 – September 2024, PSNI made 10 arrests and had 10 surrenders. During the same period for Extradition Part 3, PSNI made 14 arrests, had 15 surrenders and received 13.

UKFIU

- UKFIU continues to conduct work that directly impacts Northern Ireland, assisting PSNI by disseminating high-risk Suspicious Activity Reports (SARs) and requests for Defence Against Money Laundering (DAMLs) directly. UKFIU make all other Suspicious Activity Reports (SARs) relating to Northern Ireland available to accredited financial investigators and intelligence officers. Financial Investigation or Intelligence training has been delivered to around 20 PSNI officers. Engagement continues with a range of stakeholders in Northern Ireland including the Bank of Ireland and the Law Society of Northern Ireland.
- During this period, 294 DAMLs out of an overall total of 29,056 were referred to PSNI, resulting in assets of £1, 225.00 being denied and restraints of almost £215k.
- Around 20 SARS were fast-tracked to PSNI including those relating to vulnerable persons, suspected child exploitation and suspected Human Trafficking.
- The UKFIU also issued 2 international request on behalf of PSNI in relation to Fraud and Money Laundering; 36 counter terrorism (CT) related SARs were disseminated to PSNI.

MCIS

- Between 01/04/24 – 30/09/24 the NCA's Major Crime Investigative Support (MCIS) provided advice and support to PSNI on 25 cases, and deployed officers on 17 occasions. Cases included murder, rape, suspicious/unexplained deaths and missing persons
- We continue to support PSNI with the high-profile medical investigation into the actions of a Neurologist in Northern Ireland.

NCA wider support to Northern Ireland

UKNCO

- The UK National Central Office (UKNCO) for Counterfeit Currency continue to provide support for a number of counterfeit currency seizures, submitted by the PSNI. During Q1 and Q2, 11 requests have been processed and analysed, with five expert witness statements (Three in relation to Royal Bank of Scotland, two £20 and one £50 note and two relating to Euros) provided to support Police prosecutions/investigations.

Fraud

- The 10th iteration of the European Money Mule Action (EMMA) a EUROPOL led intensification campaign will run between September to November 2024. EMMA aims to deliver coordinated action against money-muling in all participating European countries. Planned activities include reviewing suspicious activity reports (SARs), resultant home visits which could possibly lead to Account Freezing orders (AFOs) and assets seized or restrained. PSNI have requested a quantity of funding to assist these activities.

UKPPS

- The NCA Central Services Unit provides, as a part of the UK Protected Persons Service (UKPPS), operational support to the PSNI Protected Persons Unit which is aligned to the UKPPS. In Q1 UKPPS provided 102 new instances of support and in Q2 provided 101 new instances of support to PSNI.