

## OFFICIAL

### Annexe A - NCA Northern Ireland Performance Narrative Quarter Three

#### NCA Northern Ireland Performance Narrative Quarter Three (October – December 2015)

##### Summary

The NCA have continued to operate against serious and organised threats impacting upon Northern Ireland and working in close partnership with operational partners including the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) to keep people safe through preventing crime, protecting communities and detecting offenders. The NCA continues to be extremely appreciative of the ongoing and invaluable support of our operational partners within the jurisdiction.

##### Highlights

The NCA has recorded 35 disruptions in 2015/16 against Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) operating in Northern Ireland and against high priority threats; with six occurring in Quarter three (Q3). Four of these related to Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) (three arrests and one conviction/sentencing under Operation JARRA). A further two disruptions occurred under the Drugs threat with convictions and sentences being secured under Operations DEFORMABLE and PREWILLING. This is an increase on the previous quarter (four disruptions in Q2). The markedly higher figure of 25\* for Q1 was due to a surge of CSE activity in Northern Ireland under Operation JARRA. The branch continues to be heavily involved with ongoing investigative work on the original cases and Q3 (December) saw the first conviction achieved under Operation JARRA.

\*The report, produced at the time of the previous NCA appearance at the Northern Ireland Policing Board, showed 26 disruptions for Q1. This was due to a large submission of disruptions and arrests relating to Operation JARRA immediately prior to the production of the Q1 data. After submission, Planning Performance and Risk (PPR) found that one disruption originally shown as June related to an arrest in July and so this was moved into Q2. This is standard practice as the corporate database is subject to ongoing data cleansing and adjustments are made as and when anomalies come to light.

##### NCA Investigations

NCA officers in Northern Ireland have continued to undertake a range of criminal investigations. Collaboration with PSNI on these investigations continues to be successful. In addition, the wider capabilities and resources across the NCA have been well used to progress these investigations where needed. While all investigations are progressing, priority has primarily been focused around Operation JARRA and Operation PUMPLESS.

Leading the UK's fight to cut serious and organised crime

## OFFICIAL

- **Operation JARRA** - A significant joint PSNI/NCA investigation into the accessing and sharing of indecent images of children (IIOC) by individuals within Northern Ireland continued in the reporting period. In Q3, two people were charged and unusually four adult victims were identified and safeguarded. December 2015 also saw the first sentencing under JARRA - to a two year Sexual Offenders Programme, based on a guilty plea relating to 11 charges linked to IIOC. This investigation is on-going and the case files are being led by NCA Northern Ireland officers. PSNI and CEOP's Child Protection Advisers are providing assistance around child safeguarding matters arising.
- **Operation PUMPLESS** - An ongoing investigation into allegations of financial irregularities and corruption arising from the purchase of the Irish National Asset Management Agency's Northern Ireland loan book. NCA is leading this investigation and has received support from PSNI, who have attached a number of officers to the case team.
- **Operation ITALICI** - NCA has an on-going investigation into the international trade in steroids and illicit pharmaceuticals. There have been five arrests by NCA to date. We are in case preparation and reporting phase.
- **Operation DEFORMABLE** - Following the seizure of in excess of 45kg of various class A drugs and precursor chemicals, capable of producing £10m worth of amphetamine sulphate, NCA officers in Northern Ireland have been leading this investigation. Some of these drugs were destined for the region. NCA has made two arrests and received support from PSNI, An Garda Síochána and other European partners. One of the arrested parties pleaded guilty to assisting importation of Class B drugs into UK and was sentenced to two years at Leeds Crown Court on 22 December 2015. NCA is currently seeking to locate other parties in this criminality.
- **Operation TORCEL** - An NCA investigation into the postal importation of high-purity cocaine into Northern Ireland. Three subjects were arrested, one is awaiting arraignment, one is currently wanted and no action was directed against the third.
- **Operation CONJOINED** - An NCA investigation into the importation of controlled drugs into the UK. NCA and PSNI Officers seized 167kg of cannabis resin that had been smuggled into Northern Ireland. Four arrests have been made to date. We are in case preparation and reporting phase.

Leading the UK's fight to cut serious and organised crime

## OFFICIAL

- **Operation CONNING** - NCA in Northern Ireland are investigating money laundering linked to a UK Border Force (UKBF) seizure of in excess of 30kg of cocaine from an aircraft at Brighton aerodrome in North Yorkshire in November 2014. This investigation has received support from PSNI.

### Civil Recovery Team (CRT)

Q3 saw the first PSNI referral to CRT since the NCA became fully operational in Northern Ireland. This is a significant step and is the result of a continued series of meetings and presentations by CRT to PSNI about civil recovery and tax and the CRT adoption criteria.

- **Op APHROSIDERITE** – This is a civil recovery case into assets alleged to be derived from fraud, with the net value of these assets currently at nearly £400k. This case is just getting started from the civil recovery perspective and will require ongoing collaboration between CRT and PSNI for its duration.
- **Operation BOON** – The operation relates to excise duty evasion (cigarettes) and conspiracy to import and manufacture counterfeit currency. The subject was originally referred by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) to the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) after a failed excise duty evasion prosecution. A Part VI Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) 2002 tax investigation was concluded and the subject was made bankrupt in 2009. A property in Hungary was sold in late 2014. This operation is ongoing as the Northern Ireland based subject was subsequently arrested by the NCA for the importation of counterfeit currency. A charging decision is currently awaited from the Prosecutor. The subject will be considered for further Civil Recovery and Tax proceedings after the criminal proceedings have concluded.
- **Operation FUNGAL** – The subject, who is involved in illegal money lending, was originally referred to the NCA by PSNI. A Recovery Order was obtained in 2010. A new Civil Recovery investigation commenced in 2015 as further recoverable property was identified after the original investigation successfully recovered property in 2010.

### NCA NI PARTNER SUPPORT

The NCA continues to provide investigative and operational support to PSNI activities within Northern Ireland, across the UK and internationally. The nature of this support has included:

Leading the UK's fight to cut serious and organised crime

## **OFFICIAL**

- providing specialist advice and guidance;
- acting as an intelligence conduit;
- brokering the operational support of other UK partners;
- obtaining the support of international partners;
- conducting operational deployments;
- training and continued professional development; and
- intelligence collection and exchange.

PSNI has also provided NCA with support, such as:

- intelligence collection and exchange;
- premises searches;
- custody facilities;
- arrest activities;
- operational deployments; and
- training and continued professional development.

### **CHILD EXPLOITATION AND ONLINE PROTECTION (CEOP)**

NCA-CEOP Command activity relating to Northern Ireland during Q3 included:

#### **Missing Person's Bureau (MPB)**

- PSNI engages with the NCA on an increasing number of missing and found person cases – a total of four for October, November and December combined (five cases in total for the year to date). This engagement is in respect of use of the MPB missing person DNA database.
- MPB, with Organised Crime Command Crime Operational Support, has provided assistance to PSNI in Strabane recently in the case of a missing adult male by providing specialist knowledge to the investigation.
- MPB is working with PSNI to see how relevant data on missing persons can be included within MPB's published strategic assessment documents.

Leading the UK's fight to cut serious and organised crime

## OFFICIAL

### ThinkUKnow

- NCA-CEOP's Education team delivered a ThinkUKnow Ambassador course in Belfast in November 2015. The course saw 58 Ambassadors trained in the nature of online offending against children and how young people use the internet, including risk taking behaviour and school/organisation responses and policies to this threat.

### DEVELOPMENT & JOINT-WORKING

- **National Cyber Crime Unit (NCCU) – PSNI Operation THEOMAR**

The NCCU have provided data analysis assistance to a PSNI investigation of a criminal group engaged in human trafficking for sexual exploitation.

- **NCCU – PSNI Operation WALLIS**

NCCU and NCA International assisted a PSNI investigation into computer misuse and blackmail offences connected to a Northern Ireland company. This involved NCA brokering operational intervention in a European partner state resulting in the suspect's arrest.

- **National Cyber Crime Unit (NCCU) – PSNI Operation SORGH**

The NCCU has worked alongside PSNI and Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) in relation to an industry data breach, providing technical support, intelligence and tactical assistance.

- **NCCU – PSNI Operation HARVEIGH**

The NCCU provided technical support around the examination of log files as a result of the potential compromise of some personal data.

- **NCCU – PSNI Operation SONNAVILLE**

The NCCU provided tactical and technical advice regarding a covert operation.

- **NCCU – Operation AINSELL**

NCCU investigation into three attacks on a telecoms company perpetrated using purchased datasets.

- **Human Trafficking (NCA NTS/15/0295 – PSNI Op LEPINE)**

NCA has continued to provide upstream intelligence support to a PSNI investigation into a criminal network with a European scope, believed to be trafficking females for sexual exploitation.

Leading the UK's fight to cut serious and organised crime

## OFFICIAL

- **Eastern European Criminal Organisation (NCA NT/15/0230 – PSNI Op BERNARD)**

NCA are providing upstream intelligence support to this PSNI investigation concerning a multi-jurisdictional Eastern European criminal syndicate with a Northern Ireland presence.

- **Abuse of Common Travel Area (NT/15/0395)**

This is an ongoing development concerning illegal migration abusing the common travel area and making use of false identity documents.

- **Acquisitive crime Criminal Organisation (NCA Op MIMER)**

Ongoing NCA investigation concerning a criminal organisation engaged in dissipating the proceeds of acquisitive crime. The investigators have been working with PSNI and An Garda Síochána.

- **The NCA Serious Crime Analysis Section (SCAS)** provided one positive report, highlighting potential links or suspects, in relation to 14 PSNI serious sexual offences cases referred to them over the reporting period.

- **The NCA Specialist Operations Centre (SOC) and Crime Operational Support (COS)** provided support and advice to PSNI on 22 instances in the review period, including cases of murder, manslaughter and missing persons with support including access to the Behavioural Investigative Adviser and an expert from the National Injuries database.

- **The Central Bureau of the UK Protected Persons Service (UKPPS)** provides regular, continuous support to the PSNI Protected Persons Unit which in turn supports a number of ongoing and historic Northern Ireland cases. During Q3 support included nine separate requests for assistance relating to protection measures being put in place by the PSNI. The support function the NCA provides also includes acting as the single point of contact (SPOC) for relocations overseas.

- **NCA CSE Referrals Bureau** has continued to provide intelligence leads which may help identify individuals with an apparent sexual interest in children. During the period October – December 2015, 26 disseminations were made to PSNI. All these cases with the exception of one involve the identification of premises where IIOC were uploaded via the Internet. One case disseminated in November involved an urgent Threat to Life.

- Eight extortion cases in Northern Ireland were notified to **Anti-kidnap and Extortion Unit (AKEU)** in Q3, seven of which related to sextortion. There were no kidnap cases or product contaminations reported in the period.

Leading the UK's fight to cut serious and organised crime

## OFFICIAL

- The **UK International Crime Bureau (UKICB)** (hosted by NCA) provided regular assistance relating to Northern Ireland in Q3. This included a Lithuanian drugs investigation with links to Northern Ireland, a missing persons enquiry and four requests from PSNI for assistance from Sirene (Supplementary Information Request at the National Entries) Netherlands, regarding drugs importations. There were 18 inbound alerts and 13 outbound alerts on SISII (Schengen Information System, second generation). This system provides real-time alerts from other EU countries that appear on the Police National Computer (PNC) and on border watch lists. In addition UKICB are currently assisting PSNI with a total number of 283 open cases. There were 61 new cases in Q3.
- The **UK Financial Intelligence Unit (UKFIU)** received 29 consent requests under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 which were allocated to PSNI for advice. Consent was denied in five of these requests allowing PSNI to take action with a total value seized/restrained of £409,169.
- The **UK Human Trafficking Centre (UKHTC)** received 13 requests through the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) during Q3. There were two occasions where tactical advice was given.

In addition to operational and investigative work to counter the threat from serious, organised and complex crime to the communities of Northern Ireland, the NCA also contributes on a more strategic level. The NCA remains a contributor to PSNI's multi-agency Crime Ops Tasking and Coordination Group; Organised Crime Task Force groups and sub-groups; PSNI training and CPD sessions.

The NCA continues to produce and share strategic assessments and threat updates to Northern Ireland law enforcement partners to ensure they are aware of new and emerging trends, criminal modus operandi and the strategic context of UK serious and organised criminality.

NCA Planning, Performance and Risk

16 February 2016

Leading the UK's fight to cut serious and organised crime

