



All Wales Environmental Scanning Monthly Bulletin June 2009



The Environmental Scanning bulletin contains data relating to issues that may affect the policing of Forces in the Welsh Region (North Wales; Gwent; South Wales and Dyfed-Powys) in the future. It is designed to assist with project planning and it is for Divisional Commanders and Departmental Heads to decide to what extent they pursue the information within this document.

Why read the Environmental Scan?

- It is a **S**ource of relevant quality information which is up to date
- It means that new **C**hallenges and changes can be known about in advance
- Then an **A**ctivity and action can be for the right reasons and in the right place
- The result being that **N**o-one is left in the dark

The information within the document has been collated using the **PESTELE** model enabling us to identify the specific implication each issue will have on our Force.

- **Political** (including issues of accountability, governance)
- **Environmental** (eco-terrorism, congestion charging)
- **Social** (demographics, family structures)
- **Technological** (communication, internet)
- **Economic** (resourcing, budgetary control, increasing affluence and inequality)
- **Legal** (legislative changes, growth in litigation)
- **Ethical** (Freedom of Information, Human Rights)

Your views on this document would be greatly appreciated. Do you find the document useful? If so for what purposes and can you identify any areas for improvement? We are constantly seeking to improve the document and your views will be valued and will help ensure that we provide the best document to meet your needs.

Should you have any information that you think is pertinent to the bulletin, please email any feedback to your Force contact at:

- ① [North Wales Contact](#)
- ② [South Wales Contact](#)
- ③ [Dyfed-Powys Contact](#)
- ④ [Gwent Contact](#)



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Political

CRIMINAL ASSETS OFFERED FOR LOCAL USE

In his first speech on law and order in nearly two years as prime minister, Gordon Brown will also say that dealing with burglary and robbery is a new government priority. The government will legislate to shift the burden of proof so that convicted criminals have to account for their houses, cars and other assets.

Source: [Police Oracle](#)
For more: [click here](#)

GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES FUND TO CREATE JOBS

Social enterprises in the UK have been urged to bid for Government funding to create thousands of jobs for young people. The Prime Minister held talks with social entrepreneurs and young apprentices at Downing Street this morning as the Government launched a £1 billion Future Jobs Fund to create more jobs for young people.

Source: [Number10](#)
For more: [click here](#)

PM SUPPORTS POLICE CASH POINT INITIATIVE

But the pilot came in for criticism from the Conservatives who said, 'It's troubling to think the government view this as achievable for police officers across the country'. Gordon Brown yesterday urged police across England and Wales to offer to walk the last mile home with people who feel unsafe after they visit the cash point.

Source: [Police Oracle](#)
For more: [click here](#)

CUTTING CRIME - TWO YEARS ON

Speaking at the first conference for crime and disorder reduction partnerships (CDRPs), the Prime Minister unveiled the updated crime strategy and outlined the government's commitment to tackling the new crime challenges the country faces.

Source: [Home Office](#)
For more: [click here](#)

Environmental

WALES IS WORST CARBON EMITTER IN UK

More green fuel production is needed if Wales is to shed its tag as the highest carbon emitter of any of the countries in the UK. The criticism is made today by The National Assembly for Wales's Sustainability Committee which says the Welsh Government isn't

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doing enough to realise the full potential of renewable energy in Wales.

Source: [NewsWales](#)

For more: [click here](#)

PUBLIC GIVEN GREATER SAY AS NEW CRIME STRATEGY IS PUBLISHED

Local people will be able to choose how money from a £4 million criminal assets fund is spent in their area, alongside further targeted work to tackle property-related crime and a tougher approach to dealing with prolific offenders announced by Prime Minister Gordon Brown, Home Secretary Jacqui Smith and Justice Secretary Jack Straw today.

Source: [NDS](#)

For more: [click here](#)

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Social

'SWAP A KNIFE FOR A LIFE' INITIATIVE

The project has been designed to make children aware of the consequences of carrying a knife and getting involved in violence. Westminster officers are joining forces with former offenders to ask local schoolchildren to 'Swap a Knife for a Life' as they launch a new initiative encouraging young people to think twice before carrying a knife and getting involved in youth violence.

Source: [Police Oracle](#)

For more: [click here](#)

60% RISE IN YOB CRIME

The number of yobs repeatedly committing crimes has soared by 60% since Labour came to power, new figures reveal.... Ministry of Justice figures revealed that the number of Persistent Young Offenders (PYOs) in England and Wales increased from 9,868 in 1997 to 15,819 last year.

Source: [Police Oracle](#)

For more: [click here](#)

MPS WARN OF 'SLAVE TRADE' IN UK

Britain is the destination for what amounts to a modern-day "slave trade", the Home Affairs committee has warned. The cross-party group of MPs, which is tasked with scrutinising the Home Office, said there are at least 5,000 human trafficking victims in Britain.



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Source: [BBC News](#)
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INCREASING TREND OF DOGS BEING USED AS WEAPONS

The use of dogs as weapons has increased, the RSPCA has said, as it named this as the cause of two-thirds of all dog-fighting reports received by the charity. The Royal Society of Protection of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) has released figures that show 66 per cent of calls it received about dog fighting in the last year related to instances where youths mentioned fighting their animals in public places, an increase from 37 per cent in 2007.

Source: [Police Professional](#)
For more: [click here](#)

PROBABLE SWINE FLU CASE IN WALES

The first probable case of swine flu has been identified in Wales, according to health chiefs. A 31-year-old man from the Caerphilly local authority area is being investigated. The Chief Medical Officer for Wales said it is likely further cases will continue to emerge. He urged people to be vigilant.

Source: [BBC News](#)
For more: [click here](#)

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Technology

NEW KITT COULD IMPROVE OFFICERS' DRIVING

KNIGHT Rider-style technology that sends comments on how well police officers are driving back to their control rooms could be introduced to the service next year. Four forces are on a trial that could result in cars being equipped with 'one-box' technology - computers that give feedback on driving skills, blue light use and fuel efficiency.

Source: [Janes](#)
For more: [click here](#)

ILLEGAL DOWNLOADS USED BY SEVEN MILLION IN BRITAIN

At least seven million people in Britain use illegal downloads, costing the economy billions of pounds and thousands of jobs, according to a Government backed report.

Source: [Telegraph](#)
For more: [click here](#)



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Economic

PAUL MURPHY WELCOMES FUTURE JOBS FUNDING FOR YOUNG JOBSEEKERS IN WALES

Around 7,500 jobs could be created for under-25s in Wales as part of a new £1 billion UK-wide initiative, Secretary of State for Wales Paul Murphy said yesterday. Welcoming details of the new Future Jobs Funding scheme from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), Mr Murphy said the new fund will provide funding for around 150,000 jobs or work-focused training across the UK. It is aimed at the young and disadvantaged before they reach the 12 month stage of a Jobseekers Allowance claim.

Source: wired-gov.net

For more: [click here](#)

POLICE OPS 'FORCE UP COCAINE PRICE'

Drug busts by the UK's organised crime fighting agency have helped to force dealers to hike their wholesale cocaine prices to record levels, its boss has claimed. Trevor Pearce, head of enforcement at the Serious Organised Crime Agency (Soca), said prices per kilo had jumped from £39,000 last year to more than £45,000 as a result of undercover work and seizure operations.

Source: [Police Oracle](#)

For more: [click here](#)

FEDERATION DEMANDS EXTRA COPS FOR RECESSION CRIME WAVE

THOUSANDS of extra police officers will be needed to cope with a recession crime wave, the national press reported on 12 May. The Independent reported that Paul McKeever, chairman of the Police Federation of England and Wales, told officers at the annual Police Federation conference that 2,000 more officers are required over the next three years if police chiefs want to maintain the current frontline service.

Source: [Janes](#)

For more: [click here](#)

COURT ON CAMERA COULD SAVE JUSTICE CASH

FORCES in England and Wales could save more than £10 million a year by introducing 'virtual courts' to police stations, according to the Ministry of Justice. Virtual courts, where offenders are tried from within the police station by video link with the courts, are being tested in Medway in Kent and Charing Cross in London.



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JOBS THREAT FOR VOLUNTARY GROUPS

The voluntary sector is warning it faces "hundreds, if not thousands" of job cuts as the recession hits its fundraising, investments and grants. Leaders of Wales' 30,000 voluntary organisations and charities said for many, money is already running out. They warn service cuts for many people worst affected by the recession could be inevitable.

Source: [BBC News](#)
For more: [click here](#)

CHILDREN LIVING IN POVERTY IN WALES IS HIGHEST IN THE UK

THE Assembly Government's core aspiration to conquer child poverty has been blown seriously off course, according to new official figures. Statistics released by the Department for Work and Pensions show that the number of children living in poverty in Wales is the highest of any UK nation – and is rising. After housing costs are taken into account, 32% of children in Wales were in poverty in 2008, defined as living in households with less than 60% of the UK median income.

Source: [Wales Online](#)
For more: [click here](#)

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Legal

TOUGH NEW POWERS TO TACKLE ALCOHOL-RELATED CRIME

Tough new powers and mandatory code to tackle irresponsible alcohol sales, and comments on the proposals by ACPO. A ban on irresponsible drinks promotions including "all you can drink for £10", speed drinking competitions and "dentist's chairs" - pouring alcohol directly into people's mouths - are among the conditions of a proposed new mandatory code on alcohol sales launched for consultation by Home Secretary Jacqui Smith this week.

Source: [Police Oracle](#)
For more: [click here](#)

ACPO NATIONAL STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT - 2009

The ACPO National Strategic Assessment (NSA) provides a comprehensive picture of current, emerging and longer term policing issues. It is designed to inform the strategic planning processes of the police service, the Government and policy-makers, as well as the National Community Safety Plan.

Source: [NPIA](#)



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Ethical

POLICE MUST IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH PEOPLE WITH MENTAL DISABILITIES

Better liaison between neighbourhood police teams and those with mental health problems and scrapping the use of police custody as a place of safety are among the recommendations made to police in Lord Keith Bradley's report on policing those with disabilities in the criminal justice system. Released this week, *The Bradley Report* is the conclusion of an independent inquiry into the diversion of offenders with mental health problems or learning disabilities away from prison into other more appropriate services.

Source: [Police Professional](#)

For more: [click here](#)

DNA DATABASE POWERS CONDEMNED

The judgment of the European court of human rights declared that the current legal framework for the DNA database amounted to a violation of fundamental rights. In one of the clearest ever condemnations of UK law, the court's grand chamber of 17 judges said it had been "struck by the blanket and indiscriminate nature" of the government's powers to take and keep DNA samples and digital profiles from anyone arrested in the UK (except Scotland) – a policy that has so far led to almost a million innocent people's details being entered on a national DNA database.

Source: [Police Oracle](#)

For more: [click here](#)

BULLETPROOF TURBANS FOR POLICE

Boffins are making bulletproof Turbans so Sikh officers can become gun police..... Scientists are developing the sturdy turbans made from Kevlar-like material to act as a shield – because the Sikh religion prevents adult males from removing their headpieces.

Source: [Police Oracle](#)

For more: [click here](#)

NEW UNIFORM FOR PREGNANT OFFICERS

North Yorkshire Police and a group of students have joined forces to design a maternity uniform. Although they cannot perform frontline duties while pregnant, a growing number of female officers are opting to remain in uniform.

Source: [Police Oracle](#)

For more: [click here](#)



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SMITH CHALLENGES CHIEFS ON DRIVING DEATHS

EVERY police force in England and Wales must prove it has measures in place to protect police officers from driving home overtired before the rules about injury on duty benefits are changed, the Home Secretary has told Police Review.

Source: [Janes](#)
For more: [click here](#)

FORCES SHOULD HELP DEBT-RIDDEN OFFICERS WITH MONEY PROBLEMS

'SIGNIFICANT levels of debt' among police officers and staff are forcing more of them to look for help with money problems. Allyn Thomas, an assistant chief constable of Kent Police, told Police Review this week that the service should help people in debt by promoting a culture of honesty so they feel they can ask for help.

Source: [Janes](#)
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