



All Wales Environmental Scanning Monthly Bulletin May 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

PUTTING WALES IN THE DRIVING SEAT

The Welsh Assembly Government is resorting to 'hitching a lift' aboard Westminster legislation in order to extend its powers rather than promoting its own legislative agenda. This is a major finding from a new IWA report, *Putting Wales in the Driving Seat*, commissioned by the All Wales Convention.

The report says that, if it were to acquire primary legislative powers under Part 4 of the 2006 Wales Act, the Welsh Government should be able to follow the Scottish Government in developing a more strategic approach to such areas as health, transport, and the environment.

Source: iwa.org
For more: [\[click here\]](#)

£8 MILLION FUNDING FOR ROAD SAFETY

The Minister for Economy and Transport, Ieuan Wyn Jones has today (Friday, 3 April) announced grants of £8.1million for road safety projects across Wales.

Local authorities will receive a share of the money to allow them to deliver road safety projects including 20mph zones, local road safety co-ordinators and educational initiatives.

Mr Jones said: This money will allow local authorities to continue their good work in improving road safety throughout Wales.

For Wales as a whole in 2007, the number of people fatally or seriously injured in road collisions was 30% lower than the average for 1994-98, which is good progress towards the 40% reduction target set for 2010.

From the analysis undertaken, it is fair to conclude that the measures introduced by local authorities through the road safety grant have substantially contributed to this casualty reduction.

Source: wales.gov
For more: [\[click here\]](#)

PLANS FOR TITAN PRISONS TO BE ABANDONED BY JACK STRAW

The hugely controversial £1.2 billion programme, to build 2,500-place jails, has been ditched as ministers face a huge spending squeeze.

Mr Straw will make the announcement to Parliament next week.

Reports said he would announce plans for five smaller prisons, of which only two would be built immediately.

A Ministry of Justice spokesman said total prison capacity would still increase as planned.

Source: telegraph
For more: [\[click here\]](#)



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Environmental

NEW FLOOD FORECASTING CENTRE OFFICIALLY OPENED

The new joint Environment Agency and Met Office Flood Forecasting Centre for England and Wales will be officially opened today by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Hilary Benn MP.

The Flood Forecasting Centre (FFC) has been created to forecast river and coastal flooding as well as extreme rainfall which may lead to flooding from surface water. It will help provide earlier warnings of floods to local authorities and the emergency services, to give them more time to prepare for floods and reduce the risk of loss of life and damage to property.

Source: [nds.coj](#)

For more: [\[click here\]](#)

BUDGET 2009: £1.4BN PACKAGE TO CREATE LOW-CARBON ECONOMY IS INADEQUATE, CAMPAIGNERS SAY

Chancellor, Alistair Darling has allocated £375m for home energy efficiency, £525m support for offshore wind power and £405m to develop low-carbon technologies. £1.4bn package to reduce UK [carbon emissions](#) and create a low-carbon economy was criticised by environment and business groups as inadequate in delivering the huge greenhouse gas cuts the government embraced in the [budget](#), though they welcomed support for [renewable energy](#).

Funding announced by the chancellor, Alistair Darling, included £375m for home [energy efficiency](#), £525m support for offshore [wind power](#) and £405m for the development of low-carbon technologies.

Initial analysis of actual government spending – rather than support – for green measures suggests it totals £510m over the next two years - 9.6% of the chancellor's total spending commitments. This appears to be a higher proportion than in November's pre-budget report, but Wednesday's budget was widely viewed as a missed opportunity to match other countries' multibillion dollar "green new deals" designed to create millions of new jobs and significantly reduce emissions. As part of the budget, the government accepted a recommendation to cut 34 % of UK emissions by 2020.

Source: [guardian](#)

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Social

DARLING SLAPS 2% ON BOOZE DUTY

The Government will go ahead with an increase in alcohol duty of 2 per cent, Chancellor Alistair Darling announced in the Budget.

The increase will anger the ailing beer and pub industry which had called on Mr Darling to scrap plans for the tax rise.

Source: [itn](#)

For more: [\[click here\]](#)

BUDGET WILL NOT LIFT ENOUGH CHILDREN OUT OF POVERTY TO REACH GOVERNMENT'S TARGET OF HALVING CHILD POVERTY BY 2010

Julia Unwin, Chief Executive of the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, said:

"Research we published earlier this year showed that, without new policies, the government would miss its target of halving child poverty by 2010 – with child poverty falling to 2.3 million, 600 000 short of the target. Today's Budget does not appear to have greatly changed this situation.

"Today's announcement of a rise of £20 per year in the child element of the child tax credit will add approximately 38p per week to families' incomes. Our research shows that a rise of £12.50 per week would be needed to meet the target of halving child poverty by 2010. The final opportunity for the government to make further progress towards the 2010 target will be in the Pre-Budget Report this autumn.

Source: [josephrowntreefoundation](#)

For more: [\[click here\]](#)

HARMAN TO MAKE PUBLIC BODIES CUT CLASS INEQUALITIES

[Harriet Harman](#), the [Labour](#) deputy leader, will today follow the 50p new tax rate on the wealthy by disclosing that she is imposing a duty on public bodies to help reduce inequality caused by class disadvantage.

It is the first time any government has made it an objective of all public bodies to reduce inequality. She told the Guardian: "We are putting our stake in the ground saying that having a more fair, a more equal, a less divided society is better, not just for the individual, but the economy and society as a whole."

Source: [society.guardian](#)

For more: [\[click here\]](#)

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Technology

ELECTRONIC APPLICATIONS MEAN FASTER CRIMINAL RECORD CHECKS

A new electronic application system bringing faster results to its largest customers was



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The bulletin is not exhaustive and relies on assistance from Division to maintain its validity. It is a monthly document and should you have any information that you think is pertinent to the bulletin, please email any feedback to Stewart Blythe in Corporate Services.

launched today by the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB).

Customers who make more than 3,000 checks a year can now use e-Bulk to send multiple applications and receive the results electronically.

Annually the CRB completes more than 3.5 million checks against criminal records and lists of those barred from working with the vulnerable, with 50 per cent of applications coming from just 265 organisations.

Source: wired-gov.net
For more: [\[click here\]](#)

SOARING ONLINE CRIME HITS CONSUMER CONFIDENCE

Unisys report finds three-quarters of UK citizens worried about ID theft

Nearly three-quarters of UK consumers believe that the recession has put them at greater risk of identity theft and related crimes, according to the latest biannual Security Index report from Unisys.

The software and services firm surveyed nearly 1,000 UK citizens, and found that 88 per cent are worried about criminals obtaining and using their credit card or bank details, or gaining unauthorised access to or misusing their personal information.

Source: vunet
For more: [\[click here\]](#)

THE NATIONAL FOOTWEAR REFERENCE COLLECTION (NFRC)

The National Footwear Reference Collection (NFRC) is launched this month and represents a successful collaborative project between the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) and Bluestar Software.

Providing a new 'nationally agreed language' for coding footwear patterns, the NFRC is a national footwear reference library that uses a single common coding system for identifying different types and models of footwear and their associated footprint templates. The NFRC has been fully funded by the NPIA and will be available free to all police forces across England and Wales.

Source: egovmonitor
For more: [\[click here\]](#)

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BRITAIN "MUST INVEST IN DIGITAL FUTURE"

The PM has said Britain must invest in the digital future as it is fundamental to the productivity and innovative capacity of so many other sectors.

Gordon Brown was speaking at the Digital Britain Summit which brings together key organisations and individuals to debate how best to equip Britain for a digital future.

Source: number10
For more: [\[click here\]](#)

NPIA AWARDS CONTRACT TO IMPROVE NATIONAL INFORMATION SHARING IN THE



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POLICE SERVICE

The National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) has awarded a contract to Siemens Enterprise Communications Group (SEN Group), to provide forces with an identity-based access capability.

This contract is for an enabling infrastructure known as Identity and Access Management Central Services (IAM CS). The infrastructure will be delivered and operational in January 2010.

IAM CS will allow police officers and support staff to access police information systems across the country securely. When implemented within a force a single user will be able to access different national police systems potentially from any location. This will reduce the time spent returning to police stations to access vital policing information and so increases the time spent on frontline policing.

Source: [npia](#)

For more: [\[click here\]](#)

Economic

UNEMPLOYMENT 'WILL PEAK AT 3.2M'

Unemployment will reach 3.2 million next year, business leaders have warned as they say the UK recession is "likely to continue for some time".

Source: [BBC](#)

For more: [\[click here\]](#)

£5.5M SEIZED FROM CRIMINALS GIVES NEW YEAR CASH BOOST TO POLICE

Police forces across England and Wales are to receive a £5.5 million cash boost from assets seized from criminals, the Home Office announced today.

Criminal assets confiscated by police forces and other asset recovery agencies between October and December 2008 totalled £31.8 million, half of which is to be shared between police, prosecutors, courts and other agencies.

A total of £5.5 million will be given to police forces in England and Wales, compared with £5.14 million paid out in the same quarter last year.

Source: [wired-gov.net](#)

For more: [\[click here\]](#)

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES £5M EXTRA FUNDING TO PROTECT CROWDED PLACES FROM TERRORIST ATTACKS

HOME OFFICE News Release (068/2009) issued by COI News Distribution Service on 20 April 2009

An extra £5million to protect the public from the threat of terrorist attacks in crowded places was announced by Security Minister Lord West today.

The funding comes as a public consultation is published on how local authorities, businesses, the police and communities can work together to better secure the places



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Source: wired-gov.net

For more: [\[click here\]](#)

DARLING SLASHES ECONOMIC FORECASTS

Chancellor Alistair Darling has slashed economic forecasts as he accepted that Britain faces its deepest recession since the Second World War.

Delivering his second Budget, Mr Darling warned that output would shrink by 3.5 per cent this year - more than doubling his previous forecast.

Source: itn

For more: [\[click here\]](#)

ASSOCIATION OF POLICE AUTHORITIES COMMENTS ON 2009 BUDGET

Association of Police Authorities Chairman, Bob Jones, said:

"We welcome confirmation by the Chancellor of the police funding settlement for 2010/11 but today's (22/4/9) announcement of an increase in the efficiency target from 3% to 4% will be extremely challenging to deliver.

Source: apa.police

For more: [\[click here\]](#)

RECESSION BITES

The downturn in the global economy has caused an increase in financial crime. Max Blain looks at what lessons the City of London Police's economic crime department has learned over the past year.

Considering the recent downturn in the global economy and the focus on all things financial, the decision to boost the size of City of London Police's economic crime department a year ago this month seems quite insightful.

In April 2008, the department received an extra £1 million from the Home Office and the City of London Corporation to allow it to take the national lead force role for economic crime.

The money was used in part to employ 22 more police officers, who have been kept more than busy as reported incidents of financial crime to the department have risen 72 per cent compared to the previous financial year.

However, the rise in economic crime is not only being seen by City of London Police. The Met's annual crime statistics, released last week, show crimes, such as shoplifting, have risen 10.9 per cent to 11,653 between April 2008 and March 2009 (compared to 10,383 the previous year). This is compared to an overall drop in crime rates of more than two per cent.

Source: janes

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Legal

ASSOCIATION OF POLICE AUTHORITIES WELCOMES HMIC REPORT 'PLANNING TO PROTECT'

The APA has responded to today's publication of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC)'s report 'Get smart- Planning to protect'. This report reveals deficiencies in some police forces' plans to ensure the public are protected from threats including serious and organised crime, disasters and public order problems.

Source: [apa.police](#)
For more: [\[click here\]](#)

COMMITTEE REPORTS ON POLICING AND CRIME BILL

New powers proposed in the Policing and Crime Bill remain overbroad and lacking in safeguards and, despite the Government's intentions, could risk criminalising rather than protecting some of the most vulnerable members of society, says the Joint Select Committee on Human Rights.

Source: [parliament](#)
For more: [\[click here\]](#)

NEW MEASURES TO SUPPORT RAPE VICTIMS

New measures have been introduced to improve the investigation and prosecution of rape and to provide support to victims. These include more funding for Sexual Assault Referral Centres and Independent Sexual Violence Advisers.

Source: [direct.gov](#)
For more: [\[click here\]](#)

MINISTERS TO REVIEW COUNCILS' SURVEILLANCE POWERS

The government will review councils' use of surveillance, after some authorities spied on people who put their bins out on the wrong day. Jacqui Smith, the home secretary, announced a review of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (Ripa), which the government says is designed to stop the powers being used for "trivial" purposes, reports [The Guardian](#).

Ministers proposed that senior officials, such as council leaders, should be able to authorise the use of the powers and said the review would look at which public bodies could use them.

Smith said the powers were vital to keeping the public safe not just from serious crime, but also from rogue traders and fly-tippers.

Source: [kablenet](#)
For more: [\[click here\]](#)

SPEED LIMIT TO BE CUT ON A-ROADS IN BID TO SAVE 1,000 LIVES
LAUNCH OF AMBITIOUS ROAD SAFETY STRATEGY

The speed limit on many A-roads will be reduced to 50mph under plans aimed at cutting



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the number of road deaths by a third. Drivers also face limits of 20mph in residential zones, random breath tests and tougher fixed penalties for offences such as passing too close to a cyclist.

Source: [timesonline](#)
For more: [\[click here\]](#)

CRIMINAL JUSTICE GROUP BUSINESS PLAN 2009/10

The Criminal Justice Group's business plan for 2009/10, setting out the group's objectives for the next year and how it plans to achieve them.

The Criminal Justice Group is one of the five business groups of the Ministry of Justice. It was created in April 2008 as part of the process to establish the new ministry, to ensure that the Criminal Justice System (CJS) works well for victims, witnesses and the public.

This plan sets out our programme of work for 2009/10. The group needs to transform the CJS into a more public-facing service, so communities can see justice in action in their neighbourhoods.

The group has the opportunity to make a real difference to the experience of the CJS for victims, witnesses and offenders and to contribute to reducing the levels of crime and reoffending in our communities.

Source: [cjsonline](#)
For more: [\[click here\]](#)

STOP COURT BLAME GAME TO CATCH CRIMINALS

POLICE officers and Crown Prosecution Service lawyers must stop blaming each other for losing cases and start working together better, the director of public prosecutions said this week.

Keir Starmer told Police Review that for the first time national standards on charging are being drawn up to clarify what the police service and the CPS can expect from each other. He said this should 'cut across' a lot of issues.

Source: [janes](#)
For more: [\[click here\]](#)

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Ethical

GENETIC PIONEER ATTACKS GOVERNMENT DNA POLICY

The inventor of genetic fingerprinting has criticised the government's management of the national DNA database.

Professor Sir Alec Jeffreys has expressed concern over the size of the database and



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insisted that the samples of innocent people should be removed.

In an interview with [The Guardian](#), he said: "I have significant concerns there (about the size of the database). That database is currently populated by an unknown number of entirely innocent people. It is not possible to get an accurate number but it appears to be hundreds of thousands.

"My view is very clear that if you have been convicted of a crime then you owe it to society to be retained on that database for catching in the future should you reoffend. But the retention of entirely innocent people is a whole different issue. There is a sort of presumption here that if they haven't committed any crime now, then they will in the future."

Source: [kablenet](#)

For more: [\[click here\]](#)

POLICE HR CHIEF AIMING TO BRING DOWN EQUALITY BARRIERS

A culture of equality is vital in ensuring police officers enjoy their careers to the full, the leading HR expert in the field claims.

Angela O'Connor, the National Policing Improvement Agency's chief people officer, tells Criminal Justice Management magazine that her major goal in the near future is for more people within the police to feel "very comfortable to stand up and have the ability to talk about really rewarding careers within policing where they don't feel there are barriers due to gender, their age, their face, ethnicity or sexual orientation".

Source: [govnet](#)

For more: [\[click here\]](#)

PROMOTING MINORITIES NEEDS RADICAL IDEAS

A 'RADICAL push' will be required to change the make-up of the police service and get more minority officers into senior posts, the Home Secretary's most senior adviser on policing has said.

Denis O'Connor, acting HM chief inspector of constabulary, was responding to the news that the latest round of applicants for assistant chief constable and commander posts in England and Wales consisted of 49 white men and five white women. The officers formed the majority of the 67 graduates from the strategic command course in February.

Speaking at the Association of Police Authorities' annual council meeting last week, Mr O'Connor said: 'I do think the mix [of applicants] was disappointing. It does not reflect life outside the service and it needs to move on. It probably is going to need a bit of a radical push in the end to change that shape, which will be a political decision.'

Source: [janes](#)

For more: [\[click here\]](#)

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION: ANNUAL PLEDGE REPORT 2007/08

A report monitoring the effectiveness of the government's commitment to using alternative dispute resolution across government departments and agencies.

On 23 March 2001, the Lord Chancellor published a formal pledge committing government departments and agencies to settle legal cases by alternative dispute



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resolution techniques in all suitable cases whenever the other side agreed to it. These annual reports summarise the effectiveness of that pledge. During 2007/08, alternative dispute resolution has been used in 374 cases with 271 leading to settlement, saving costs estimated at £26.3 million. This is a higher settlement rate than in 2006/07.

Source: [cjsonline](#)

For more: [\[click here\]](#)

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