



## All Wales Environmental Scanning Monthly Bulletin October 2008



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

#### **LABOUR MOVES TO TACKLE GANG CULTURE**

A multimillion-pound scheme to help communities turn young people away from gang culture is being unveiled as the Labour Party conference concentrates on crime.

For More: [Click Here](#)

Source: [Police Oracle](#)

#### **GANGS: YOU AND YOUR CHILD**

The Home Office has released a handy booklet of guidance for parents, with information on how to protect children from gangs. The booklet [Gangs: You and Your Child \(new window\)](#) was published today as Home Secretary Jacqui Smith attended the launch of the New Year Shooting Memorial Trust in the West Midlands.

For More: [Click Here](#)

Source: [Home Office](#)

#### **ID SCHEME PLANS 50,000 CARDS BY APRIL (2009)**

The National Identity Scheme will produce just 50,000 cards in its first few months – and has yet to define the role or budget of its commissioner. In response to a parliamentary written question from Liberal Democrat shadow home secretary Chris Huhne, home secretary Jacqui Smith said that about 50,000 identity cards will be issued between the scheme's launch for foreign nationals between November and April 2009.

For More: [Click Here](#)

Source: [Kable](#)

#### **THE HOME SECRETARY HAS ANNOUNCED PLANS TO INVEST £5M TO FUND NEW 'COMMUNITY CRIME FIGHTERS'.**

These 3,600 volunteers will be members of the public who are already involved in helping their communities, but who want to be trained for more advanced work acting as a link between the public and the police.

For More: [Click Here](#)

Source: [Home Office](#)

#### **MILLIONS ALLOCATED TO FIGHT YOUTH CRIME**

Targeted programmes, including after-school patrols and crime prevention teams, will receive a cash injection of almost £60 million. The funding is a major milestone in the [youth crime action plan](#), which launched in July. The plan tackles youth crime through a comprehensive strategy involving early prevention, non-negotiable support and tough enforcement.

For More: [Click Here](#)

Source: [Home Office](#)

#### **EMPLOYERS, GET READY FOR NEW IMMIGRATION CONTROLS**

Business owners must register by October 1 to be ready for the new programme for skilled immigrant workers. Under the new [Australian-style points system \(new window\)](#), businesses that need to employ skilled foreign workers from outside the [European Economic Area \(new window\)](#) will need to apply for



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a licence. Employers planning to recruit skilled workers from outside Europe must register with the [UK Border Agency \(new window\)](#) by 1 October if they want to ensure they are licensed when the programme begins at the end of November.

For More: [Click Here](#)  
Source: [Home Office](#)

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### Social

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### Technological

#### **NEW PLANS TO PREPARE WALES FOR CLIMATE CHANGE FLOOD FEARS**

New plans to prepare Wales for flooding which will become more frequent because of climate change will be revealed by Environment Agency Wales during September. This begins an extensive 3 month consultation process with representatives of those most affected by flooding. The Catchment Flood Management Plans (CFMPs) are long term strategic plans to address the predicted increase in flooding and the serious implications for Wales' homeowners, landowners, economy and environment.

### Economic

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For More: [Click Here](#)  
Source: [Environment Agency](#)

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### Social

#### **WHY HAPPINESS IS A POSTCODE LOTTERY**

They're both in Wales, they're both predominantly hilly areas, and in fact they're next door to each other; but in terms of human happiness, they could not be more different.

For More: [Click Here](#)  
Source: [Independent](#)

#### **IMMIGRATION TO MAKE BRITAIN EUROPE'S MOST CROWDED NATION**

Britain is set to become Europe's most highly populated nation within two generations, driven by immigration. Forecasts [published by the European Commission](#) suggest that Britain will overtake Germany within 50 years as the population rises from 60.9 million today to 77 million.

For More: [Click Here](#)  
Source: [Times](#)

#### **STOP AND SEARCH MAKES GANGS STRONGER, SAYS FORMER MET POLICE BOSS**

The former head of the Metropolitan police's murder prevention unit today said the force's use of stop and search to tackle knife crime could make gangs stronger.

For More: [Click Here](#)  
Source: [Guardian](#)



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#### **WOMEN HELP ABUSED MEN**

Rhyl Women's Aid has taken the unprecedented step of extending their support to male victims and is to set up two safe houses in coming months. It is estimated that between 15 and 20 % of domestic abuse cases will involve a man as the victim. Denbighshire Community Safety Partnership has agreed to assist with the funding for security equipment at the houses to maximise the safety of those seeking refuge.

For More: [Click Here](#)

Source: [NewsWales](#)

#### **DIAZEPAM NOW STREET DRUG OF CHOICE**

According to an authoritative drug survey, published today, diazepam, as it is properly known, is being used by class A drug users as a cheap alternative to heroin. The 2008 Druglink magazine street drug trends survey published today says the increased popularity of diazepam in the last 12 months reflects a drop in the quality and availability of street heroin in some parts of the country.

For More: [Click Here](#)

Source: [Police Oracle](#)

#### **HALF OF ALL CRIMINALS RE-OFFEND WITHIN A YEAR**

Nearly half of all criminals released from jail reoffended within a year of being let out, figures have disclosed. The number of crimes committed by serial offenders who have just left prison or begun a community punishment has risen to more than half a million a year, according to data from the Ministry of Justice.

For More: [Click Here](#)

Source: [Telegraph](#)

#### **YOUNG WELSHMEN MOST AT RISK**

More male drivers under 25 in Wales have crashes involving death or serious injury than in England and Scotland, says a new report.

For More: [Click Here](#)

Source: [NewsWales](#)

#### **WALES CRACKS DOWN ON DRUGS AND BOOZE**

The harmful use of alcohol in Wales is far more widespread than that of illicit drugs or other substances. This was the message today of Minister for Social Justice and Local Government, Dr Brian Gibbons.

For More: [Click Here](#)

Source: [NewsWales](#)

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## Technology

### **POLICE HAIL 'BLACKBERRIES' SWITCH**

North Wales Police say the policy of issuing each officer with a hand-held computer had saved hundreds of thousands of pounds in man-hours. Chief constable Richard Brunstrom said the Blackberries meant officers had access to the police national computer and spent less time behind desks.

For More: [Click Here](#)

Source: [BBC News](#)

### **WILL CRIME MAPS WORK?**

Last month the Home Office announced that everyone in England and Wales will have access to crime maps of their local area by the end of this year. But will they help cut crime, or could they have unforeseen consequences? Today the world is at your fingertips and so is your neighbourhood. Five minutes spent Googling can reveal a whole catalogue of information that you didn't know about your local area. Typing my neighbourhood into Google spills out 136,000 hits for everything from the rugby club to the local sewage station.

For More: [Click Here](#)

Source: [BBC News](#)

### **FORENSIC SCIENCE FIRMS TO SEEK EARLY VALIDATION ON NEW PRODUCTS**

FORENSIC science companies have agreed to tell their industry's regulator about new products they are developing confidentially, so they can be validated before being used in real criminal cases. Andy Rennison, the UK's forensic science regulator, said companies have agreed to trust him to keep the commercially sensitive information confidential in order for it to go through a validation process.

For More: [Click Here](#)

Source: [Janes](#)

### **FIRST 24 HOUR ENGAGEMENT VEHICLE LAUNCHED**

Colchester in Essex will become the first town in England to operate a new 24 hour mobile medical and community engagement vehicle. It will provide first aid and medical care late at night in the town centre which can then be used during the day for promoting a range of medical services including healthy eating, health screening, combating drug or alcohol misuse and many other health issues.

For More: [Click Here](#)

Source: [Police Oracle](#)

### **TASER ADDS SHOCK AND AWE TO EVERY BOBBY'S ARSENAL**

FRONTLINE police officers across the country are to go on patrol armed with the controversial Taser stun gun under plans to be announced by ministers later this year. A stockpile of the weapons, which fire a 50,000-volt charge, will be kept at each police station so that patrolling officers can use them if required, Whitehall officials said. Although details have not been finalised, the stun guns are expected to be made available to each of the 43 police forces in England and Wales by the end of the year, officials say.

For More: [Click Here](#)



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Source: [Times](#)

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#### **HOME OFFICE YOU TUBE CHANNEL LAUNCHED**

The Home Office channel on YouTube links to videos on countering terrorism, securing the UK's border, providing effective policing and reducing crime.

For More: [Click Here](#)

Source: [Info4local](#)

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### Economic

#### **CRIME WARNING RAISES PRESSURE ON BROWN**

An autumn offensive by Gordon Brown to revive his premiership with a package of economic measures risks being overshadowed by the leak of a Home Office document which spells out how the downturn will lead to an increase in crime and greater support for extremist political parties.

Days after Alistair Darling [warned in Saturday's Guardian](#) that the economic conditions are "arguably the worst" in 60 years, the Home Office paper gives an insight into the government's detailed preparations for the downturn.

For More: [Click Here](#)

Source: [Guardian](#)

#### **COURTS FACE CLOSURE AS JUDGES ARE TOLD OF £90M SHORTFALL IN COLLECTION OF FEES**

The criminal courts are facing their biggest cash crisis in decades after a warning to judges and magistrates of a £90 million shortfall in the budget for the justice system. Judges and magistrates in England and Wales have been told of the emergency, which is likely to result in trial delays, cancelled court sittings and redundancies.

For More: [Click Here](#)

Source: [Times](#)

#### **WALES WORKERS EARN WORST PAY**

Welsh workers are set to be hardest hit by the credit crunch because of a widening pay gap with the rest of Britain, Welsh Conservatives claimed today. They said figures obtained by the party reveal that employees in Wales earn the lowest average weekly wage of any part of the United Kingdom.

For More: [Click Here](#)

Source: [NewsWales](#)

#### **GORDON BROWN: VIOLENCE CRIME AND THEFT WILL RISE DURING SLOWDOWN**

Violent crime and robbery will become more common as the economy slows down, Gordon Brown has said.

For More: [Click Here](#)

Source: [Telegraph](#)



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#### **FIGURES CONFIRM 'RECESSION CRIME WAVE'**

Predictions by the government that deteriorating economic conditions will send crime rates spiralling are borne out by an Observer analysis of official police figures which reveals a significant increase in burglaries across England and Wales. In many cases, the percentage rise was in double digits and in most it was more than 5 per cent.

For More: [Click Here](#)

Source: [Police Oracle](#)

#### **TESCO BRINGS NEW JOBS TO WALES**

Tesco, Wales's biggest retailer, today announced a 14.1 per cent increase in first-half group sales to 28.1bn pounds, with a pre-tax profit of 1,453m - up 10.3 per cent on the same period last year.

For More: [Click Here](#)

Source: [NewsWales](#)

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### Legal

#### **MAN GUILTY OF MAKING BOYS FLOG THEMSELVES WITH BLADES IN MUSLIM RITE**

Muslim man was found guilty of child cruelty today in a British legal first after forcing two boys to beat themselves during a centuries-old Shia religious ceremony.

For More: [Click Here](#)

Source: [Guardian](#)

#### **PROPOSALS CONFER NEW POWERS ON OFFICERS IN PACE SHAKE-UP**

OFFICERS would be allowed to question suspects after they have been charged and community support officers could detain registered sex offenders under a massive shake-up of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE). Proposals published following a review of the legislation include allowing officers to question juveniles without their parents or guardian being present and replacing written stop and search records with a receipt from officers' hand-held computers. The proposals are now out to public consultation until 28 November.

For More: [Click Here](#)

Source: [Janes](#)

#### **UNINSURED DRIVERS RISK HAVING CARS CRUSHED**

A clampdown on uninsured drivers to be launched autumn (2008) could help cut premiums for other motorists, ministers will claim this week. Ministers will this week unveil plans for a new offence of keeping a car uninsured, which will allow police to match insurance industry databases against DVLA records and identify cars which do not appear to be covered. The owners will receive warning letters and if they do not take out insurance will be fined £100 and may have their vehicles seized and crushed even if they have never left the garage.



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### Political

For More: [Click Here](#)  
Source: [Guardian](#)

### Environmental

#### **REVEALED: UK'S FIRST OFFICIAL SHARIA COURTS**

ISLAMIC law has been officially adopted in Britain, with sharia courts given powers to rule on Muslim civil cases. Rulings issued by a network of five sharia courts are enforceable with the full power of the judicial system, through the county courts or High Court. Previously, the rulings of sharia courts in Britain could not be enforced, and depended on voluntary compliance among Muslims.

For More: [Click Here](#)  
Source: [Times](#)

### Legal

#### **NEW PROSTITUTION RULES WILL PROTECT TRAFFICKED WOMEN.**

The Home Secretary has announced plans to shift legal responsibility to those who pay for sex when the prostitute involved has been forced into that role. In a speech in Manchester, Home Secretary Jacqui Smith said the changes will make it illegal to pay for sex with someone 'controlled for another person's gain'.

For More: [Click Here](#)  
Source: [Home Office](#)

### Ethical

### Organisational

#### **LAW ON ASSISTING SUICIDE TO BE REWORDED**

Government to target suicide websites by clarifying law, though scope of complicity offence will remain unchanged. The offence of assisting suicide is to be reworded in order to reassure people that it applies to the internet, the Ministry of Justice has announced.

For More: [Click Here](#)  
Source: [Telegraph](#)

#### **TERRORISM REFRESHER MAY HELP OFFICERS ACT**

OFFICERS could soon be issued with memo cards to remind them of their anti-terrorism stop and search powers. The National Policing Improvement Agency, on behalf of ACPO, is currently revising advice for bobbies on stop and search in relation to terrorism - which covers sections 44 to 47 of the Terrorism Act 2000.

For More: [Click Here](#)  
Source: [Janes](#)

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### Ethical

#### **CRIMINAL RECORDS ON SALE FOR JUST £37**

Police files that were opened up with the aim of helping to protect children from sex offenders are being sold for as little as £37 to employers who simply want to find out more about job applicants.

For More: [Click Here](#)  
Source: [Times](#)



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#### **SCHEMES FOR GIVING PUBLIC INFORMATION ON PAEDOPHILES ADD TO RISK, SAYS BARNARDO'S**

A pilot scheme that will allow the public to seek information about paedophiles may put youngsters at greater risk of attack, a leading children's charity has cautioned. Barnardo's and probation officers said that the scheme, which begins today in four parts of the country, could push sex offenders into hiding. Martin Narey, the former head of the Prison Service, who is now chief executive of Barnardo's, said: "Disclosing the whereabouts of sex offenders will not necessarily make children any safer. We still remain concerned that this is not the best way to protect children.

For More: [Click Here](#)

Source: [Times](#)

#### **FEARS OVER PRIVACY AS POLICE EXPAND SURVEILLANCE PROJECT**

The police are to expand a car surveillance operation that will allow them to record and store details of millions of daily journeys for up to five years. The project relies on automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) cameras to pinpoint the precise time and location of all vehicles on the road. But it has raised concerns from civil rights campaigners, who question whether the details should be kept for so long, and want clearer guidance on who might have access to the material.

For More: [Click Here](#)

Source: [Guardian](#)

#### **TASER ROLL OUT WOULD HELP KEEP PUBLIC SAFER, SAY BEAT BOBBIES**

GIVING Taser to every bobby on the beat in England and Wales would give them a valuable alternative to bashing people with a baton, operational officers have said this week. Cops contacted by Police Review generally said they would want to carry Taser, as long as suitable training was provided. They added that more widespread use of the less-lethal weapon would help keep both the public and police officers safe.

For More: [Click Here](#)

Source: [Janes](#)

#### **SURGE OF UNDER-14'S IN CUSTODY**

More children aged between 10 and 14 are being locked up in England and Wales - increasingly for more minor offences - than in any western European country, the charity Barnardo's warns today.

For More: [Click Here](#)

Source: [Police Oracle](#)

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### Organisational

#### **ACPO COMMENT ON COMMUNITY SAFETY ACCREDITATION**

The Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (CSAS) allows the Chief Officer in each force area to decide whether to accredit persons working in a community safety function to exercise certain powers in cooperation with police officers and PCSOs.

For More: [Click Here](#)

Source: [ACPO](#)



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#### **PICTURE CARDS HELP POLICE TO COMMUNICATE WITH IMMIGRANT CRIME VICTIMS**

Sussex Police say the cards allow officers to discuss crimes quickly, cutting out the need to wait for a translator to arrive. Last year it emerged that the force spent £102,000 on interpreters. Now its officers will be equipped with more than a dozen of the cards, which include descriptions of offenders' appearances, attached to their belts. Sergeant Danny West, leading the trial scheme in Arundel, Bognor and Littlehampton, said: "Within a week of me putting it out to a selection of officers a Polish woman tried to tell us she had been assaulted in very limited English.

For More: [Click Here](#)

Source: [Telegraph](#)

#### **DOGS WITH A NOSE FOR PIRATE DVDS TAKE THE LEAD IN POLICE CAMPAIGN**

Sniffer dogs trained to detect the plastics used in DVDs are spearheading the police's fight against the flourishing £200 million trade in pirated films.

For More: [Click Here](#)

Source: [Times](#)

#### **POLICE HUNTING CRIMINALS WILL HAVE ACCESS TO CHILD DATABASE**

Police are to be given access to the Government's new children's database, which is designed to protect every child in England from the risk of harm or abuse, in order to search for evidence of criminal activity. ContactPoint, due to be launched this autumn, will hold information on all under-18s in England and was set up to allow social workers, schools, GPs and other professionals to share information if they suspect a child is in danger. It will not include case information on children but will record whether they have contact with a Youth Offending Team or services such as drug rehabilitation.

For More: [Click Here](#)

Source: [Times](#)

#### **MERSEYSIDE RECRUITS FORENSIC NURSES**

Merseyside Police has recruited a team of seven Forensic Nursing Practitioners (FNPs) to provide around the clock healthcare from three of Merseyside's busiest custody suites.

For More: [Click Here](#)

Source: [Police Oracle](#)

#### **FORCE LAUNCHES DEDICATED FACEBOOK PAGE**

Users of Facebook can now access some of Avon and Somerset Constabulary's services via a dedicated force page on the social networking site.

For More: [Click Here](#)

Source: [Police Oracle](#)

#### **CRIME SURVEY 'NOT A TRUE MEASURE OF CONFIDENCE'**

During a facilitated discussion panel at this week's Excellence in Policing Conference, many delegates expressed frustration with the fact that the British Crime Survey (BCS) does not provide a true



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reflection of public confidence.

For More: [Click Here](#)

Source: [Police Professional](#)

### **CANNABIS CO-ORDINATOR SPEARHEADS DRIVE**

The new post has an innovative role in sharing intelligence and good practice among law enforcement agencies. Detecting and disrupting organised criminals who supply cannabis are the aims of the new Cannabis Co-ordinator, former Chief Superintendent Mark Matthews, the Home Office and Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) has announced.

For More: [Click Here](#)

Source: [Police Oracle](#)

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### **Home Office Publications**

[\*Research Development Statistics\*](#)

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