



## All Wales Environmental Scanning Monthly Bulletin October 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](#)

#### **MET CHIEF SIR PAUL STEPHENSON WARNS POLITICIANS TO KEEP OUT OF POLICING**

Britain's most senior police officer warned politicians of all parties today that they must not interfere with the operational independence of the police service. Sir Paul Stephenson's remarks are a response to claims from the Mayor of London's team that it runs Scotland Yard.

For more: [Click here](#)  
Source: [Timesonline](#)

#### **RAPE REVIEW ANNOUNCED**

The Stern Review will look at how the police both respond to rape complaints and then interact with other agencies...Harriet Harman, Minister for Women and Equality, Home Secretary Alan Johnson and Solicitor General Vera Baird have announced a review into how rape complaints are handled from when a rape is first disclosed until the court reaches a verdict.

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

#### **HATE CRIME ACTION PLAN**

On Monday the 14<sup>th</sup> of September 2009, Home Office Minister, Alan Campbell launched the Cross-Government *Hate Crime Action Plan* (HCAP). The HCAP includes 70 short to medium term actions to tackle hate crime being undertaken across government and national criminal justice agencies. It sets out the government's objectives and approach to meeting those objectives and the long-term vision the government is working towards.

This Action Plan sets out the challenges we face in tackling hate crime and how we are going to meet these challenges in the short to medium term. This is the first time all government action to tackle hate crime has been brought together in one place.

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

#### **'LEGAL HIGHS' RISKS EXPOSED**

A new information campaign highlighting the risks of so-called 'legal highs' has been launched by the Home Secretary. The [FRANK campaign \(new window\)](#) highlights the potential danger of these substances, particularly when mixed with alcohol.

The theme is that these are dangerous substances, and you never know what you are taking, or what effect they might have on your body. The campaign, aimed at 18 to 24 year old clubbers, uses the character of 'the crazy chemist' who wants to recruit human



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lab rats to try his latest batch of noxious concoctions.

For more: [Click here](#)

Source: [Home Office](#)

#### **THE RETURN OF THE ASBO**

Gordon Brown's sudden interest in tackling antisocial behaviour by breathing new life into asbos comes after two years during which, in the words of the home secretary, Alan Johnson, the government has been coasting on the issue. New legislation will be introduced this autumn to make asbos easier to get and more user-friendly for police. The move is likely to fail as criminal justice professionals still see the asbo as an ineffective blunt instrument and prefer to use a range of alternative measures that appear to work.

For more: [Click here](#)

Source: [Police Oracle](#)

#### **FIRST MINISTER TO STEP DOWN**

The Right Hon. Rhodri Morgan AM, First Minister for Wales, has announced that he is to stand down as leader of the Labour Party in Wales. For the Welsh Assembly Government, it is business as usual during the leadership selection process which is expected to last around seven or eight weeks.

For more: [Click here](#)

Source: [Welsh Assembly](#)

#### **FOREIGN NATIONAL ID CARDS ROLL OUT SPEEDS UP**

Skilled migrants renewing their visas to stay in the UK will be issued with an ID card from the New Year the Home Secretary Alan Johnson announced today, three months ahead of schedule.

From January 2010 skilled foreign workers under Tier 2 of the Points Based System (PBS) will be issued ID cards. This brings the roll out forward from April 2010 and will add around 30,000 foreign nationals a year to those currently being issued with identity cards. The UK Border Agency is also to trial technology at 17 Crown Post Offices to provide foreign nationals applying for identity cards with alternative and more accessible venues where they can enrol their fingerprints. The trials will start rolling out from October.

For more: [Click here](#)

Source: [NDS](#)

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#### **SWINE FLU VACCINE COULD BE READY BEFORE CHRISTMAS**

One dose of the new swine flu vaccine will be enough to protect people against the virus, research has suggested.

For more: [Click here](#)

Source: [Wales Online](#)

#### **REAL ALTERNATIVES TO CAR USE**

Better public transport and walking and cycling facilities are making it easier for people in Wales to get into town without their car. Ieuan Wyn Jones said: "Making public transport easy to use is essential if we are to encourage people to cut down on car use. That is why we support Traveline Cymru to improve information to passengers and are investing in new technology to create an all-Wales transport card, which people will be able to use for all forms of public transport."

For more: [Click here](#)

Source: [News Wales](#)

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### Social

#### **MUSLIM GROUPS CRITICISE 'FLAWED' PREVENT STRATEGY**

THE Government's Prevent strategy is 'structurally flawed' and 'criminalises' young Muslims, according to some faith groups. Both The Muslim News, an online newspaper with more than 140,000 readers, and the Muslim Council of Britain, have hit out at the Government's Prevent agenda, which aims to stop people becoming involved in terrorism by 'tackling social disadvantage' and 'deterring people who assist or encourage terrorism'.

For more: [Click here](#)

Source: [Janes](#)

#### **IS IT TIME TO GET TOUGH ON WALES' BINGE DRINKERS?**

Doctors' leaders in Wales have long been concerned with the impact of alcohol misuse and the social and health problems that are left in its wake. A report last week – Under the Influence: the damaging effect of alcohol marketing on young people – saw the British Medical Association call for a total ban on alcohol advertising, including sports events and music festival sponsorship and also all promotional deals like happy hours,



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two-for-one purchases and ladies' free entry nights.

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

**UK RETIREMENT AGE CHALLENGE FAILS**

The High Court has upheld the law that allows UK employers to force workers to retire at the age of 65.

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

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**Technology**

**ACPO E-CRIME PLAN AIMS TO SLASH HACKING**

EVERY frontline officer should receive training in how to deal with online fraud and hacking into websites, the Police Federation of England and Wales has said. Simon Reed, vice-chairman of the Police Federation, told Police Review: 'E-crime is a growth area and we will probably see it rise in the coming years.'

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

**WATCHDOG WARNS OF EUROPE-WIDE BOTH DIRECT ATTACKS ON ATMS AND ON 'SKIMMING' OF USERS DETAILS**

An EU watchdog today warns of an "alarming increase" in cash machine fraud by organised criminal gangs across Europe using sophisticated skimming technology, together with an explosion in ram-raiding attacks on ATMs. ATM crime in Europe jumped to €485m (£423m) in 2008 following a 149% rise in attacks on cash machines. Gangs are turning to Bluetooth wireless technology to transmit card and pin number details to nearby laptops and using increasingly sophisticated techniques to skim cards.

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

**IN-CAR, IN-TOUCH**

Inspector Ian Glover gives a preview of the technology that will be revolutionising policing in GMP and beyond. Mounted in the centre console of a traffic network car sits a computer screen. It looks like any screen that sits on any desk in any police station. And that – to all intents and purposes – is what it is supposed to be. Under a multi-million pound programme of work to allow officers to spend more time on patrol, officers will be



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able to access the same systems they can back at the station...while on the move.

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

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### **Economic**

#### **MINISTERS ASK FOR FUTURE MILLIONS**

The assembly government wants £100m in funding - a year early - to beat the recession in Wales. A meeting of ministers in Westminster heard the assembly government ask to bring forward money to spend next year which had been earmarked for 2011/12.

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

#### **£1 BILLION EUROPEAN MONEY INVESTED IN WALES**

Wales is marking a major milestone as it reaches its target of investing fifty per cent of European funding available to the region - almost £1 billion - as part of a seven year drive to boost the Welsh economy and create jobs - Deputy First Minister, Ieuan Wyn Jones, has announced.

The challenging target was set for the 2007-2013 Structural Funds programmes in response to the economic downturn, and with match funding will generate an investment of £1.8 billion through 119 projects, helping nearly 29,000 Welsh businesses and providing employment and training opportunities for 280,000 individuals.

For more: [Click here](#)  
Source: [News Wales](#)

#### **RECESSION MOVES MIGRATION PATTERNS**

Many economic migrants from central and eastern Europe who came to work in the UK are returning home because of the recession, a report suggests. The global Migration Policy Institute (MPI) study, commissioned by the BBC, says EU expansion led to 1.4m east Europeans moving to the UK up to 2008.... However, if the UK's economy picks up, the flow of migrants could change again, the report says.

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



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#### **HOME OFFICE CIRCULAR 017 / 2009 - SECTIONS 12 AND 13 OF THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, CRIME AND VICTIMS ACT 2004**

This circular provides guidance on the provisions in sections 12 and 13 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 which come into force on 30th September 2009.

For more: [Click here](#)

Source: [Home Office](#)

#### **CONSULTATION ON TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHANGES TO THE REGULATION OF LAP DANCING CLUBS AND SIMILAR VENUES IN ENGLAND AND WALES.**

The Policing and Crime Bill, which is currently being scrutinised by Parliament, introduces a new category of sex establishment called 'sex encounter venue' that will allow local authorities in England and Wales to regulation lap dancing clubs and similar venues under Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982. CONSULTATION CLOSSES ON 14 DECEMBER 2009.

For more: [Click here](#)

Source: [Home Office](#)

#### **NEW POWERS HELP VICTIMS BREAK CYCLE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

Violent partners will be banned from their homes and their victims given support to escape abuse under new government proposals. The police will be able to issue domestic violence protection orders, known as 'Go' orders, to bar the perpetrators of domestic violence from their homes for up to a fortnight, giving their victims breathing space to consider their options.

For more: [Click here](#)

Source: [Home Office](#)

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### Ethical

#### **POLICE 'SHOULD STOP TAKING DNA OF INNOCENT IMMEDIATELY'**

Ten months ago, human rights judges called for an end to the policy of holding on to samples from nearly a million people arrested but never convicted of any offence, saying it breached their privacy. But it emerged last month that officers were told to ignore the ruling, carry on adding new samples and to resist requests to have them deleted until the law was changed.



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A Home Office consultation on changes to the policy closed more than a month ago but ministers are yet to publish their response. The EHRC said the advice, issued by the Association of Chief Police Officers, was in breach of the law and called on the Home Office to clarify the law or face the prospect of "costly" legal action.

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

#### **DNA STORAGE PROPOSAL 'INCOMPLETE'**

Government plans to limit the time DNA profiles are held on the national database have been criticised for being based on incomplete research. The Home Office has proposed plans for a six- and 12-year time limit.

This follows a European Court ruling that it was unlawful to indefinitely retain profiles of innocent people.

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

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#### **TACKLING YOUTH KNIFE CRIME**

Tackling Youth Knife Crime - Practical Advice for Police has been written to share effective practice from the Tackling Knives Action Programme (TKAP) force areas so that we can make the greatest impact in reducing teenage knife deaths and serious woundings and, in doing so, increase public confidence.

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

#### **CSO STARTS POPPIN' CENTRE FOR YOUNGSTERS**

A COMMUNITY support officer in Plymouth is busting moves as well as criminals, now that he has started teaching break-dancing to local youngsters. Pablo Beckhurst, a CSO from Devon and Cornwall Constabulary, set up a series of dance workshops called 'Break' to inspire children and teach them new skills, the force said.

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

#### **COMPLAINTS AGAINST POLICE FORCES IN WALES UP BY 127% IN THREE YEARS.**

Complaints against Welsh police forces have jumped by up to 127% in three years, according to official figures published today.



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#### **BUDGET-CONSCIOUS FORCES COULD SHARE ONE CHIEF BETWEEN TWO**

FORCES in England and Wales could share one chief constable to save money in the future, Police Review can exclusively reveal this week.

Rob Garnham, the new chairman of the Association of Police Authorities, said he could foresee one chief constable running two forces in some parts of England and Wales. Government sources confirmed to Police Review that forces sharing chief constables in the future is not 'out of the question'. Mr Garnham said: 'Collaboration is the way forward.'

For more: [Click here](#)

Source: [Janes](#)

#### **POLICE GET TOUGH ON VIOLENCE TOWARDS OUR NHS WORKERS**

More offenders could be prosecuted for attacking NHS staff in Wales as a historic deal is sealed with the police.

For more: [Click here](#)

Source: [Wales Online](#)

#### **GETTING IT RIGHT, AND RIGHTING THE WRONGS - PRACTITIONERS' TOOLKIT PILOT PROGRAMME**

The 'Getting it right and righting the wrongs' report, following research undertaken on behalf of the Department for Communities and Local Government, has been published. The report outlines ways in which the customer can be put at the heart of the design and delivery of local services to ensure that services deliver first time and are enabled to better deal with complaints.

For more: [Click here](#)

Source: [Communities.gov](#)

#### **FRUGAL FORCE BUILDS UP A £5M CASH RESERVE**

A POLICE force that has lost nearly 100 officer and staff posts in three years has saved £5 million and built up a cash reserve in the middle of the recession. The City of London Police, which is responsible for policing the Square Mile, embarked on a major restructuring in 2006. The number of officers was reduced from 852 to 806 and police staff from 427 to 376, but no redundancies were made.

For more: [Click here](#)

Source: [Janes](#)

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