



2020

National Strategic

Assessment

of Serious and Organised Crime

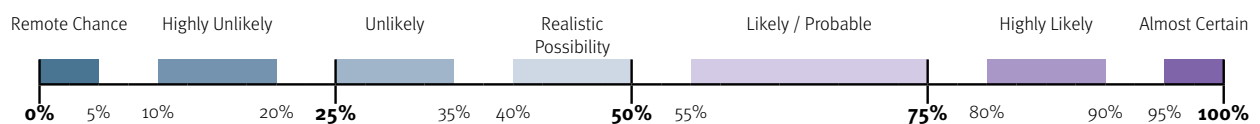
Serious and Organised Crime

Serious and organised crime is defined in the 2018 Serious and Organised Crime Strategy as individuals planning, coordinating and committing serious offences, whether individually, in groups and/or as part of transnational networks.

The main categories of serious offences covered by the term are: child sexual abuse; modern slavery and human trafficking; organised immigration crime; illegal drugs; illegal firearms; organised acquisitive crime; cyber crime; fraud; money laundering; and bribery, corruption and sanctions evasion.

Probability and Uncertainty

Throughout the National Strategic Assessment, the ‘probability yardstick’ (as defined by the Professional Head of Intelligence Assessment, Cabinet Office) has been used to ensure consistency across the different threats and themes when assessing probability. The following defines the probability ranges considered when such language is used:





Foreword from the

NCA's Director General

I am proud to introduce the National Crime Agency's **National Strategic Assessment of Serious and Organised Crime 2020**. This has been produced with the assistance and support of partners across law enforcement, government, the third and private sector.

It is our most comprehensive assessment yet of the factors that enable serious and organised crime and the impact of this criminality on our national security. It shows how we are confronted with a rapidly evolving threat that is increasingly driven by technology as criminals exploit the fast expansion of encryption to conduct their business.

It demonstrates how this threat is continuing to grow in scale and complexity. Based on our improved understanding, we now estimate there to be at least 350,000 individuals in the UK engaged in serious and organised crime. These criminals are diversifying into multiple crime types, increasing their reliance on the services of corrupt insiders and continuing to use the UK's financial systems to mask illicit finance and launder profits. At the same time, it has never been clearer that serious and organised crime is an international threat that disregards boundaries and borders.

This year our priorities remain tackling the high harm, high impact offenders who: **exploit the vulnerable** through modern slavery, human trafficking, people smuggling and child sexual abuse; **dominate communities** through wholesale drugs supply networks and the illegal firearms trade; and **undermine the UK's economy and infrastructure** through their criminality,

seeing money syphoned off through illicit transactions and cyber crime.

In 2019, the human cost of this threat was brought into stark focus by the deaths of 39 migrants in a lorry at Purfleet in Essex. This was just one case. Throughout the year we have seen the impact of serious and organised crime in the violence inflicted on our communities, the thousands of drug-related deaths and the misery caused by the exploitation of some of the most vulnerable in our society. We have also seen the very real impact of cyber crime on our institutions and economy.

Serious and organised crime continues to kill more people than any other national security threat, and has a corrosive impact on the UK and its citizens. Each of us is affected by it in some way. As a result, each and every one of us has a role to play in fighting it.

Lynne Owens CBE QPM MA



Tackling the Threat: Timeline of Success	4
Overview of SOC in the UK	8
Exploitation of the Vulnerable	16
Child Sexual Abuse	18
Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking	22
Organised Immigration Crime	26
Communities and Violence	30
Drugs	32
Firearms	36
Organised Acquisitive Crime	40
Harm to the UK's Economy and Institutions	44
Cyber Crime	46
Fraud	50
Money Laundering	54
Bribery, Corruption and Sanctions Evasion	58



Tackling the Threat

Timeline of Success

- 1. Over the past year, UK law enforcement and its partners have focused on targeting those high-harm, high-impact criminals who exploit the vulnerable, dominate communities and chase profits in the criminal marketplace, and undermine the UK's economy, infrastructure and institutions. This has resulted in many law enforcement successes, a small sample of which are listed below.**
- 2. January:** Three men who ran a dark web business selling the lethal drugs fentanyl and carfentanyl to customers across the UK and worldwide were jailed for a total of 43-and-a-half years. The criminals mixed fentanyl, which is up to 100 times stronger than morphine, and carfentanyl, which is 10,000 times stronger, with bulking agents at an industrial unit in Leeds. They then sold them via the dark web. There have been over 125 deaths in the UK relating to fentanyl or carfentanyl since December 2016.
- 3. February:** A lengthy investigation led to the arrest and conviction of a prolific fraudster and go-to money launderer for criminals based around the world. Investigators found that the 43-year-old man had connections in the US, Nigeria, Poland and Hong Kong, as well as an extensive money laundering network based in the UK. He was known to have processed more than £6 million for criminals worldwide. He was convicted following a trial at the Old Bailey and sentenced to nine years' imprisonment.
- 4. March:** A 26-year-old man was jailed for 22 years for raping a five-year-old boy and sexually abusing a three-year-old girl. Videos of his abuse had been posted on the dark web site 'Welcome To Video', which was run from South Korea. The videos were discovered by the NCA and, following an investigation, the suspect was traced to his home in the UK. Although his face was not visible in the abuse videos, investigators used specialist techniques to identify him. After his arrest, officers found a large volume of abuse images and videos on his laptop. The 'Welcome to Video' site – containing more than 250,000 videos of child sexual abuse – was taken down by an international task force supported by the NCA.



Tackling the Threat

Timeline of Success

5. **April:** A London-based cyber criminal was jailed at Kingston Crown Court for six years and five months for blackmail, fraud, money laundering and computer misuse offences. The offender targeted hundreds of millions of computers with locking ransomware. Blackmailed victims would be directed to pay ransom demands using a prescribed virtual currency, which was then laundered through an international network of financial service providers. The offender received more than £270,000 through this campaign of online blackmail.
6. **May:** Two men were sentenced to a combined 29-and-a-half years in prison for possessing and conspiring to sell handguns made at an illegal gun factory in East Sussex. The factory was uncovered following an NCA investigation in conjunction with Sussex police in August 2018 – the first time a criminal gun factory of this nature has been found by UK law enforcement. Officers discovered three firearms and component parts indicating a further 121 firearms were in the process of being manufactured. An additional 11 firearms made at the unit have been recovered since, with one known to have been used in two attempted murders in London.
7. **June:** In conjunction with Dutch law enforcement partners, UK intelligence led to a British-based Romanian national being arrested in the Netherlands for trafficking migrants. This individual was booked to return to the UK from the Hook of Holland, having travelled out from Dover to Calais four days previously. Dutch law enforcement

intercepted the individual and, inside the rear of his vehicle, concealed in an area close to the bulkhead, found a total of 17 Afghan migrants. The migrants consisted of five children between the ages of five and 14 years old, a pregnant female, six males and a further five females.

8. **July:** The NCA Civil Recovery and Tax team obtained a Serious Organised Crime Unexplained Wealth Order – the first to be based solely on an individual's alleged involvement in serious and organised crime – at the High Court. A wealthy businessman's £10 million property empire has been frozen, with his property purchases believed to be funded by a number of criminal associates involved in drug trafficking, armed robberies and the supply of firearms. These associates include a convicted murderer and a convicted armed robber recently released from prison.
9. **August:** An NCA-led, international investigation resulted in the largest ever heroin seizure at the UK border, with 1.3 tonnes recovered from a container ship at Felixstowe. The heroin had a street value of £120 million. Cooperation with international

partners then resulted in the arrest and conviction of the intended recipients of the drugs in the Netherlands.

- 10. September:** Two individuals were sentenced to a total of nine years for money laundering offences, as part of a multi-agency, public–private project led by the NCA’s National Economic Crime Centre (NECC). A major retail bank identified a vulnerability, whereby individuals were able to anonymously deposit cash in someone else’s bank account – typically student accounts – from where it was laundered through a succession of other accounts. At its peak, the network deposited approximately £20 million per month of criminal funds into beneficiary accounts at one bank. The NECC organised a day of action in February 2019, using 95 Account Freezing Orders to freeze suspicious accounts, restrain £3 million, and initiate criminal investigations. The NECC then worked with the education sector to communicate to students that acting as a money mule was a criminal offence. They also worked with high street banks to close off this vulnerability. This collaboration had a clear impact on the criminal supply chain, with the volume of criminal funds dropping significantly in the wake of the enforcement activity and the disruption strategies adopted by the bank. The service used to exploit this vulnerability has since been withdrawn by the bank.
- 11. October:** 15 individuals were arrested in connection with what is believed to be the UK’s biggest-ever drugs conspiracy. The 15 men were arrested in the UK following a series of raids and charged with conspiracy to import heroin, cocaine and cannabis. The group are believed to be the UK arm of a well-established organised crime group using Dutch and British front companies to import drugs hidden within lorry loads of vegetables and juice. Four men and two women from the Netherlands were also arrested in April by the

Dutch National Police on European Arrest Warrants and are currently awaiting extradition to the UK.

- 12. November:** Working with international law enforcement partners and the North West Regional Organised Crime Unit, the NCA coordinated the UK effort against an online site selling a popular hacking tool. The Imminent Monitor Remote Access Trojan, once covertly installed on a victim’s computer, allowed the hacker full access to the infected device, enabling them to disable anti-virus software, steal data or passwords, record key strokes and watch victims via their webcams. More than 14,500 people across the world had purchased the tool, for as little as \$25. In November, coordinated action across the UK resulted in nine arrests and over 100 items recovered. The website selling the tool was taken down by Australian police.
- 13. December:** Russian national Maksim Yakubets was indicted in the United States in relation to two separate international computer hacking and bank fraud schemes, following unprecedented collaboration between the NCA, the FBI and the UK National Cyber Security Centre. Yakubets ran Evil Corp, the world’s most harmful cyber crime group that created and deployed malware causing financial losses totalling hundreds of millions of pounds in the UK alone. In 2014, a dedicated team in the NCA began working with multiple partners to investigate one of the group’s core malware strains, Dridex. These officers developed intelligence and identified evidential material over several years to support the US indictments, as well as sanctions against Evil Corp. The NCA and Metropolitan Police Service have also targeted Yakubets’s network of money launderers in the UK who have funnelled profits back to Evil Corp. So far, within the UK, eight people have been sentenced to a total of more than 40 years in prison.



Tackling the Threat

Timeline of Success



Overview of SOC in the UK

14. Serious and organised crime (SOC) continues to have more impact on UK citizens than any other national security threat. It affects all parts of the country, having a chronic and corrosive impact on the daily lives of individuals and communities, businesses, public services and national infrastructure.
15. The latest estimate available of the social and economic cost of SOC to the UK was approximately £37 billion.¹ However, this is assessed to be a significant underestimate of the true cost, as the calculation used a baseline of 2015/16 and does not include threats such as money laundering, fraud against the individual, or bribery and corruption.
16. This year, increased knowledge across the threats has enabled an assessment of the number of individuals involved in SOC in the UK. There are estimated to be at least 300,000 individuals in the UK with a sexual interest in children.² In addition, there are an estimated 50,000 UK individuals involved in other SOC threats.³ It is therefore assessed that there are a minimum of 350,000 individuals involved in SOC in the UK.
17. The scale of the threat from SOC is growing across several areas. Victim reported losses from fraud

increased by 38%, to £2.2 billion, in the year ending March 2019, levels of firearms offending continue to increase year on year, cocaine consumption has increased by at least 290% since 2011, while heroin purity levels are at a 10-year high. Detections of migrants attempting to enter the UK illegally have increased, and the criminals facilitating them continue to use high-risk smuggling methods, as shown by the deaths of 39 Vietnamese nationals concealed in a refrigerated lorry in October 2019.

18. The threat from SOC is also becoming more complex, as criminals exploit available technology to communicate and to commit and hide their crimes. All current NCA investigations encounter some form of encryption, and criminals use online services, including social media, to establish



Overview of

SOC in the UK

>350,000 
individuals estimated to be involved in SOC in the UK.

4,772 
organised crime groups mapped in the UK.⁴

contact with potential victims and recruits. This makes the challenge for UK law enforcement and partners greater than ever.

19. The exploitation of vulnerable people continues to be key to many SOC threats. In some cases vulnerable people are the victims of crime, in others they are forced to commit crimes themselves. Along with our knowledge of the subject, it is highly likely that the scale of the threat from child sexual abuse continues to increase. Fraudsters are highly likely to exploit a victim's emotional state to commit romance fraud, or to target the elderly to commit courier fraud. Young people are intimidated into becoming 'runners' in county lines drug supply, or groomed into becoming 'money mules', helping criminals to launder their profits. Recent examples have seen children as young as 11 being exploited by criminal groups involved in drugs and acquisitive crime.
20. Whilst the threat posed by organised crime groups (OCGs) remains significant for some crime types, there is a growing trend of serious crime being committed by individuals, acting without the infrastructure of an established OCG behind them. This applies particularly to crimes that are heavily dependent on the internet, such as child sexual abuse and cyber crime.
21. There are 4,772 known OCGs operating within the UK, a quarter of which are estimated to be involved in violent criminal activity. While the majority of the OCGs operating in the UK are classified as British (most of their members are British nationals), approximately two-fifths are non-British.
22. The international dimension to SOC is highlighted by the fact that both British and non-British OCGs often have a presence in multiple countries. OCGs with upstream

overseas command structures, supply chains and networks can be hard to dismantle.

23. Many OCGs continue to be involved in multiple crime types. Even those that specialise in one criminal area – such as drug trafficking – are highly likely to commit a much wider range of offences to support their core criminality, such as serious violence, intimidation and money laundering. This shows that threats cannot be considered in isolation, and points to the increasing importance of targeting the cross-cutting enablers that allow offenders to carry out their criminal activities. These include:
 - The use of technology
 - Border vulnerabilities
 - Corruption in the UK
 - Financial flows
24. Criminal motivations continue to be mainly financial, and so illicit financial flows remain an important enabler. However, while the other enablers are outlined in this section, these financial flows are addressed later in this report in the context of the wider harm caused by SOC to the UK's economy and institutions.
25. OCGs continue to use prisons to network and recruit.
26. There remains no indication that OCGs active in the UK are cooperating with terrorist groups.
27. The following sections explore the ways in which SOC offenders exploit the vulnerable, use violence to dominate communities and chase profits in the criminal marketplace, and undermine the UK's economy, infrastructure and institutions.



100%

of NCA investigations encounter some form of encryption.

Overview of

SOC in the UK

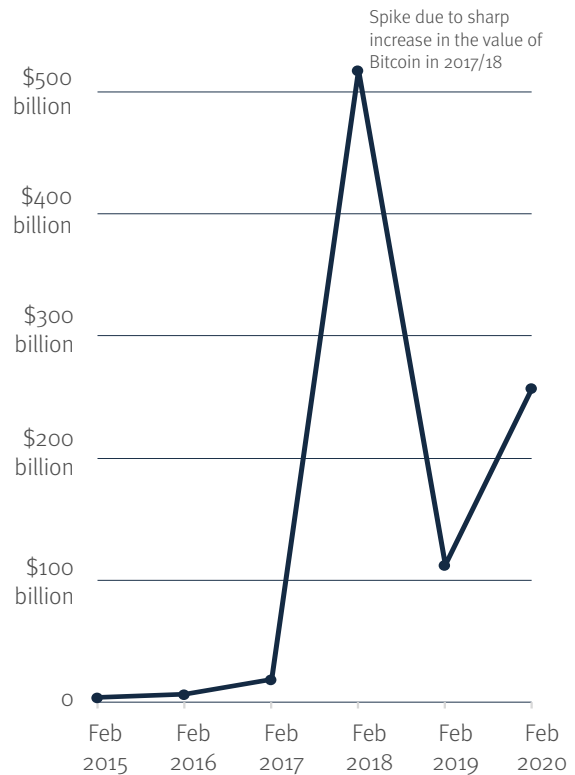
The Use of Technology

28. Advancing technology gives offenders new tools to communicate and to commit and hide their crimes. Today's criminals can sell firearms, livestream the abuse of children, or commit cyber crime or fraud from anywhere in the world, communicating covertly through encrypted services and moving illicit finances at speed.
29. Trends identified in 2018 have become more prevalent during 2019, including the increased criminal use of encryption tools, the dark web and virtual assets, which refers to technologies such as Blockchain, Bitcoin, crypto assets and virtual currencies.
30. The use of encryption within criminal communications ranges from using popular apps that embed end-to-end encryption as standard (such as WhatsApp and Telegram) to using criminally dedicated secure communication platforms. All current NCA investigations encounter some form of encryption, indicating the pervasive nature of the technology.
31. The dark web continues to enable a range of criminality that threatens the UK. This is despite a reduction in user confidence as a result of cyber attacks, as well as law enforcement – and site administrators – taking down multiple sites. The dark web continues to hold a large number of sites hosting indecent images of children, as well as forums about child sexual abuse.
32. Large scale, multi-vendor markets remain the principal source of trading in criminal commodities on the dark web, with sites

selling drugs, weapons, malware and false documentation. It is highly likely that traditional OCGs are becoming increasingly involved in markets on the dark web, particularly for supplying drugs.

33. Criminals continue to use virtual assets, such as Bitcoin, to buy and sell commodities on illicit online marketplaces and to launder criminal profits. The increasing value of virtual assets likely indicates an increase in their popularity and use.
34. The move toward increasing the privacy features of virtual assets – with six of the top 10 most valuable virtual assets reportedly developing such features – is likely to be attractive to criminals and is almost certain to make law enforcement investigations more complex.
35. New regulation, in the form of the Fifth Money Laundering Directive, will bring all relevant virtual asset businesses into anti-money laundering and counter terrorist finance regulation. This should make the sector less attractive and vulnerable to some criminals, but may also increase the perceived legitimacy and use of virtual assets.

Increase in the value of the virtual assets market⁵



Case Study

In December 2019, Justas Biekša, 34, from Northampton, was jailed for nine years after pleading guilty to supplying and importing Class A and B drugs. Biekša ran a dark web business selling fentanyl, which is up to 100 times stronger than morphine, and its analogues carfentanyl and furanyl, which are around 10,000 times stronger. He also sold a Class B drug commonly known as Hexen. He traded under the business name 'UKchemSale', and users, who were offered next day delivery, paid for the drugs using the online currency Bitcoin. The UKchemSale site sold fentanyl to at least 52 customers.

Biekša was arrested at his home on the morning of 14 September 2019. Officers seized two laptops, one of which was encrypted, plus drug testing kits, electronic scales, envelopes and packaging. Forensic analysis of his laptop found a history of orders for synthetic drugs from China for onward supply to others.

Border Vulnerabilities

36. Between October 2018 and September 2019, there were a total of 297 million air passengers through UK airports, 18.6 million sea passengers going to and coming from European countries, and 471 million tonnes of freight through UK ports.
37. The sheer volume of traffic and variety of ways to cross the UK border provide opportunities for criminals to exploit. In the year to June 2019, over 20 tonnes of Class A and B drugs were seized, while the 2019 calendar year saw seizures of 472 lethal firearms and 16,301 knives and offensive weapons.
38. 2019 saw the largest individual seizures of illicit commodities across several different transport modes, including the largest ever seizure of firearms at the UK border, hidden in a car travelling through Dover, and the largest ever seizure of heroin at the UK border, from a sea container at Felixstowe.
39. OCGs have continued to use high-risk methods to smuggle irregular migrants into the UK, such as concealment within refrigerated lorries. Such methods pose significant risk to those concealed, as highlighted by the discovery in October 2019 of 39 deceased victims inside a refrigerated lorry in Essex.
40. There has been a continued increase in the numbers exploiting general maritime routes – where non-scheduled vessels arrive at ports without UK border controls – to facilitate organised immigration crime into the UK, with a notable increase in the use of small boats to cross the Channel. It is estimated that more than 1,800 migrants attempted to enter the UK illegally via this method in 2019.
41. There has also been an increase in the number of detections of organised immigration crime involving attempts by migrants to travel from Ireland to the UK illegally. Criminal groups have sought to abuse both the land border between Northern Ireland and Ireland, and the sea routes between Irish ports and UK ports on the west coast. However, the number of detections here is still relatively small compared to those at other points of entry.
42. With the UK's exit from the EU, the nature of change at the border will depend on the terms agreed during the transition period. Whatever the case, OCGs will attempt to exploit any perceived border vulnerabilities.

Case Study

In August 2019, the NCA, working with the Spanish National Police, identified a yacht travelling from South America to the UK potentially carrying a large cocaine shipment. The SY *Atrevido* was intercepted off the coast of Wales by UK Border Force, and two British nationals were arrested on board. After the vessel was escorted into Fishguard port, NCA officers and Border Force's Deep Rummage team carried out a search, discovering 751 kg of high-purity cocaine. Should this have made it to the criminal market, the cocaine would have had a wholesale value of around £24 million and a potential street value of £60 million once cut.

As part of the ensuing investigation, the NCA seized two yachts, including the SY *Atrevido*, and five luxury watches. A number of other assets were subject to court restraining orders, including more than eight vehicles, a third yacht, and a house in France. The two men on board were sentenced to a total of 33 years after pleading guilty to importing Class A drugs into the UK.

Corruption

43. OCGs remain the most significant external corruption threat to UK law enforcement. Due to the reach of their criminality, high-level OCGs may seek to exploit officials from across law enforcement, including police officers, border officials and personnel in the wider criminal justice system. A quarter of all OCGs are assessed to have the intent and capability to infiltrate, bribe or corrupt private and/or public sector employees. Of these groups, just under half are assessed as targeting private sector employees, with the remainder seeking to corrupt public officials and law enforcement officers.
44. Organised crime is enabled by certain corrupt individuals within the private sector who are in roles that allow them to subvert law enforcement functions. Examples include baggage handlers who facilitate the movement of people or illicit goods across the UK border, HGV drivers transporting illicit loads and prison staff who smuggle illicit commodities into prisons. Criminals also use corrupt professional enablers to assist their operations, such as accountants who help them launder criminal profits.
45. Criminals seek to obtain law enforcement information which can help them avoid detection or evade capture, reveal tactics, compromise prosecutions, and endanger the safety of the public, officers and witnesses.
46. Risks are posed by the intentional disclosure of sensitive information to other groups, such as the family and friends of law enforcement employees, activist groups and journalists. Even if they do not necessarily intend to facilitate criminal activity, the disclosure of sensitive information to any individual or group can negatively impact law enforcement activity.
47. It is highly likely that levels of corruption in UK law enforcement are low. However, the impact of corruption when it does occur is disproportionately high. Corruption undermines public trust and confidence in law enforcement and can weaken its ability to investigate and prevent criminality. As such, continued robust background checks of employees is essential to managing the threat.

Case Study

Members of a West Midlands-based OCG used corrupt baggage handlers employed within Heathrow Airport to support the illegal importation of Class A drugs into the UK.

The baggage handlers collected the drugs from a flight at Heathrow on behalf of the OCG and then moved them through airport controls. The drugs were then handed over to a member of the OCG just outside of the airport. Officers from the NCA witnessed the handover and subsequently arrested the airport worker and the OCG contact. A rucksack containing 3 kg of high purity cocaine was recovered from a vehicle at the scene of the arrest.

Five members of the OCG, including the two corrupt baggage handlers, were convicted of conspiring to import Class A drugs. Sentences totalling 98 years were handed out.

Corruption: key sectors targeted by OCGs

Criminals seek to corrupt individuals who are in roles that will enable their criminality. Below are some of the key sectors they target and their reasons for targeting them:

Law enforcement officers



To facilitate criminality, obtain information to avoid detection or evade capture, reveal sensitive tactics, and compromise prosecutions

Other government officials (passport officers, etc.)



To gain access to information and government services that can facilitate criminality, such as obtaining false documents

Prison Officers and staff



To facilitate the movement of illicit goods into prisons and to assist OCGs in maintaining their illegal activities

Border staff (Border Officials, baggage handlers, ship crew, etc.)



To facilitate the movement of people and illicit goods across the UK border

Logistics company employees



To facilitate the movement of people and illicit goods throughout the UK and/or across the UK border

Financial and legal professionals



To facilitate the laundering of the proceeds of crime and to help criminals avoid prosecution





Exploitation of the Vulnerable


48. This section covers the activities of individuals and groups who exploit the vulnerable. The four main threats in this area are:

- Child Sexual Abuse
- Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking
- Organised Immigration Crime
- Fraud

49. These types of exploitation can overlap, with those targeted for one form of exploitation at times becoming victims of another. For example, victims of modern slavery may be forced to commit crimes, such as becoming 'runners' in county lines drug supply or working in cannabis farms.

50. Similarly, there are often shared drivers among these crime types, with mass migration and economic imbalances creating a pool of vulnerable people (at home and abroad) who may be exploited.

51. While fraud is addressed later in this report, it is important to recognise that certain types of high harm frauds, such as romance, courier and computer software service fraud, often target those who are more vulnerable to becoming victims, by virtue of age, technological knowledge or emotional state. Reported victim losses from these frauds totalled more than £90 million in the year ending February 2020. Beyond their financial impact, these frauds typically have a profound effect on the overall health, wellbeing and confidence of victims.



It is highly likely that the scale of the threat from child sexual abuse continues to increase

Child Sexual Abuse

52. Child sexual abuse (CSA) covers a range of crimes, including contact offending, which involves direct physical contact, the generation and distribution of indecent images, as well as grooming and extortion.
53. Along with our knowledge of the subject, it is highly likely that the scale of the threat from CSA continues to increase. The main driver of CSA is sexual gratification, while secondary drivers include power and control over victims. A minority of offenders are driven by financial gain.
54. Based on our developing understanding, including our assessment of the number of registered sex offenders who are being managed for CSA offending (35,000) and the number of offenders on the dark web (250,000), we have high confidence that there are a minimum of 300,000 individuals in the UK who pose a sexual threat to children, either through contact abuse or online.⁶ This level of confidence is supported by data from various sources, including from Stop It Now!, who state that in 2019, 94,342 people from the UK contacted their confidential helpline and self-help website to address their sexual attraction to children, increasing from 43,000 people in the previous year.
55. In 2015, the Children's Commissioner for England estimated that two thirds of child sexual abuse in England takes place behind the closed doors of the family environment, further estimating that only one in eight children who are sexually assaulted come to the attention of the authorities.
56. However, a growing proportion of recorded offences take place online, with the internet enabling access to children, and the communication and sharing of indecent imagery between offenders. In the year ending September 2019, in the UK there were over 5,400 arrests and 7,600 children safeguarded or protected in relation to online CSA. Online networking between offenders has likely incited some offenders to engage in more extreme forms of offending.



>300,000 

individuals in the UK are estimated to pose a sexual threat to children.

7,600 

children in the UK safeguarded or protected in relation to online CSA in the year ending September 2019.⁷

8.3m 

unique first-generation images added to the Child Abuse Image Database between January 2015 and March 2019.⁸

57. The use of the internet to groom children remains a major threat. This is because it may lead to contact abuse, victims producing and sharing indecent images of themselves, or extortion. Individual offenders use social media to target multiple victims simultaneously.
58. Most forms of online CSA offending cross the divide between the clear – or ‘open’ – web and the dark web. Offenders continue to use the dark web to access material, protect their identity and share information. However, the majority of offending and material still occurs on the clear web. Research by the NCA found that CSA material, including indecent images of children, can be accessed via mainstream search engines in just three clicks.
59. The UK is a significant consumer of livestreamed abuse. In one form, an offender pays an overseas facilitator to abuse or arrange for the sexual abuse of a child, often directing the abuse through a text-based app while watching it via a video stream. In another, offenders encourage children to ‘self-produce’ material, livestreaming themselves to gain compliments from their peers. It is likely that screen captures of livestreamed content are a major source of new first-generation indecent images of children.

What You Can Do

60. Informing the police, Crimestoppers or Childline is the first course of action when child abuse is suspected. Preventative action can also be taken by:
 - Starting a positive online safety conversation with your child and remaining engaged in their online life. Continuing dialogue is key to keeping your child safe online.
 - Setting up parental controls on your connection, devices and online services, and agreeing with your child safe privacy settings on the apps and sites they use.
61. Child victims may display emotional symptoms such as staying away from others, avoiding being alone with people or appearing reluctant to socialise with a particular individual. They may display sexual behaviour that is inappropriate for their age or use unexpected sexual language.
62. For advice, visit the Thinkuknow parents’ website at www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents. Children can access support and report abuse by contacting Childline on 0800 1111 or www.childline.org.uk

Case Study

In December 2019, Christine Callaghan was convicted of distributing category A (the most serious) and category B livestreamed videos and of two counts of causing/inciting a girl under 13 to engage in sexual activity. She was paid £2,285 to stream footage of herself sexually abusing the girl over Skype.

She was caught following an investigation into another British woman, Jodie Little, who was sexually abusing children online for money. From her base in Northern Cyprus, Little was using an adult services website to sell videos of sexual abuse. She was convicted of abuse committed abroad and was jailed for 12 years and four months.

The link between the two women was Dean Petley, who had purchased videos from both the women and stored them on an encrypted hard drive. He was convicted of 11 offences and jailed for eight years.

1-2-3

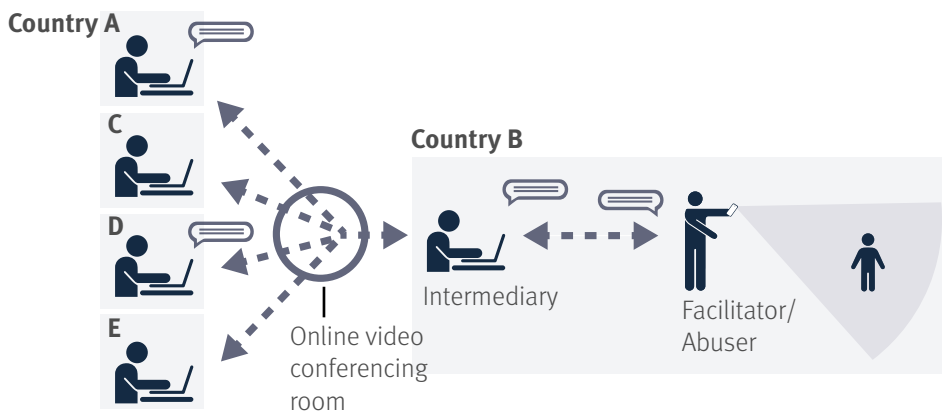
NCA research found that CSA material can be accessed via mainstream search engines in just three clicks.

Different models for livestreaming CSA material

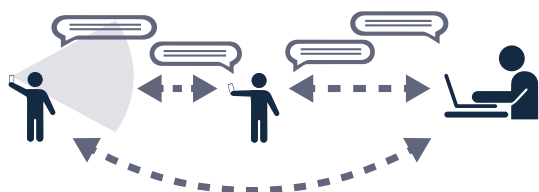


1. Overseas pay-per-view:


Offender in Country A pays an overseas facilitator in Country B to abuse or arrange for the sexual abuse of a child, often directing the abuse through a text-based app while watching it via a video stream.



2. Offender networks: Individuals and groups of offenders, who may or may not be in different countries (A, C, D, E), livestream among themselves for sexual gratification, with no financial incentive involved. The material being streamed is either live contact abuse or pre-recorded CSA material.



3. Self-produced: Children livestream explicit material of themselves which is obtained by child sex offenders. The material may be produced innocently enough, with young people livestreaming to gain compliments from peers; children may also be directly coerced by offenders into providing material.



The exploitation of victims of modern slavery provides continuous profits for offenders

Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking

63. The term ‘modern slavery’ refers to human trafficking, slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour. The most commonly reported forms of exploitation in the UK are criminal, labour and sexual exploitation. Other types also occur in the UK, including domestic servitude.
64. It is likely that the overall threat from modern slavery has not changed in the past year. While the true scale of modern slavery in the UK is unknown, potential victims identified through the National Referral Mechanism increased by 45% between January and September 2019, to 7,273, compared to the same period in 2018. It is highly likely that this increase is driven by heightened awareness of modern slavery among law enforcement, other first responders and the public. There are more potential victims from the UK than anywhere else, with UK nationals comprising 27% of all referrals.
65. Offenders engaged in modern slavery are most likely to operate in organised groups or networks. While the majority of identified offenders are male, the proportion of police investigations featuring female offenders has increased to 34%, mostly linked to sexual exploitation.
66. Offenders are primarily driven by profit. In contrast to commodity-based offending, in which profit is only generated once, the exploitation of victims of modern slavery provides continuous profits for offenders, as there is ongoing demand for the victims’ services, such as sex or labour.
67. Within the UK, social issues such as homelessness, isolation and substance abuse often contribute to victim vulnerability. Outside the UK, a lack of economic or educational opportunity drives the movement of vulnerable people. It is almost certain that non-UK victims of modern slavery are at greatest risk of exploitation immediately following their arrival to the UK.
68. Although meeting face-to-face remains key in the recruitment of victims, offenders also



Modern Slavery and

Human Trafficking



potential victims were referred to the National Referral Mechanism in the first three quarters of 2019, an increase of 45% on the same period in 2018.⁹



of those referred to the National Referral Mechanism in the first three quarters of 2019 were exploited as children (under 18).¹⁰



of UK police investigations into modern slavery in the first three quarters of 2019 featured female suspects, up from 28% for the same period in 2018.¹¹

use online services, including social media, to connect with vulnerable individuals.

69. The number of claims of exploitation in coerced criminality – where victims are forced to commit crimes – continued to increase during 2019, overtaking those of both labour and sexual exploitation for the first time. This is likely due to improved awareness of the exploitation of adults in coerced criminality. Exploitation in county lines drugs supply remains the most frequently identified form of coerced criminality, with children representing the vast majority of victims. Adult victims are often forced to work in cannabis cultivation, or low-level, high-frequency acquisitive crimes, such as shoplifting.
70. Labour exploitation continues to be reported across various sectors, most notably construction, agriculture and car wash services. Most of the victims are male. Reports of exploitation through domestic servitude increased by 16% in the first three quarters of 2019. It remains almost certain that such exploitation is significantly underreported.
71. Sexual exploitation accounts for the highest number of female victims identified in the UK. Some victims of sexual exploitation are also exploited in other ways, such as being forced into domestic

servitude or into drugs supply. It is almost certain that exploitation of this kind is underreported, particularly where the victims are male.

What You Can Do

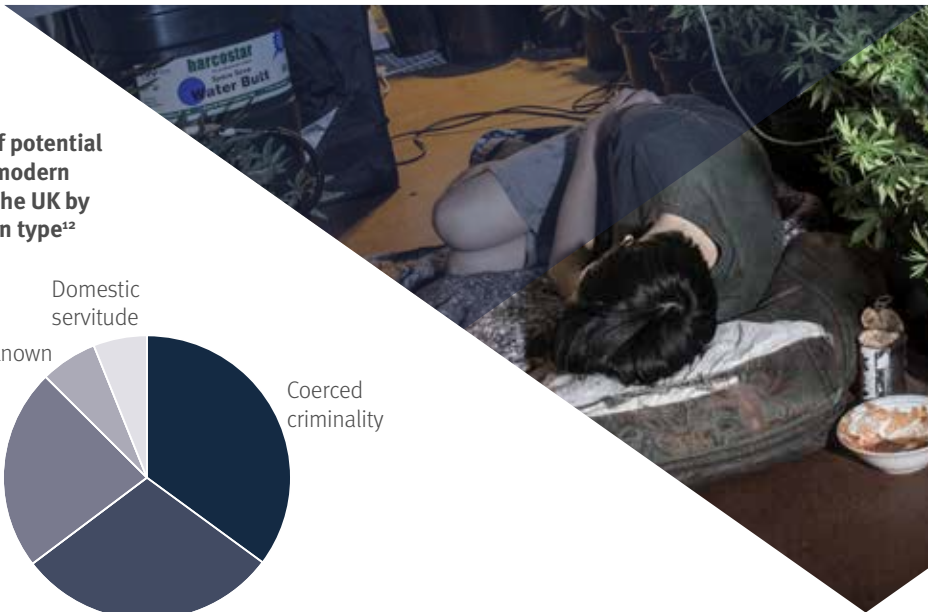
72. A number of signs of modern slavery offending may be visible. Victims may show signs of physical or psychological abuse, look malnourished or unkempt, and have few or no personal effects. This includes regularly wearing the same items of clothing.
73. Victims may appear to be under the control or influence of others, rarely being allowed to travel on their own. This includes transport to and from the workplace, where they may work long hours with inadequate personal protection equipment.
74. Victims may be reluctant to seek help, out of fear of contacting law enforcement or suffering reprisals from offenders.
75. If you suspect someone to be a victim, contact the 24/7 Modern Slavery Helpline on 0800 0121 700, or 999 for emergencies. To remain anonymous, contact the independent charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or visit www.crimestoppers-uk.org

Case Study

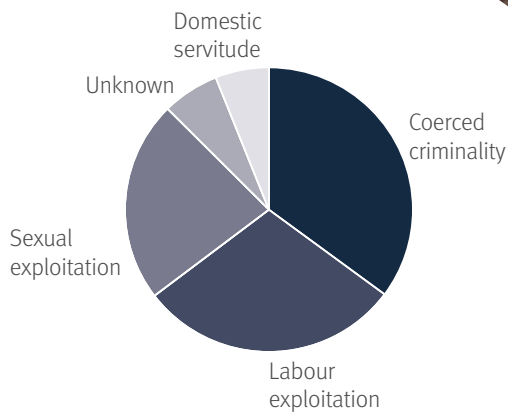
In May 2019, a Chinese national, Feng Xu, was arrested in Birmingham as part of a major investigation into modern slavery and human trafficking. He later pleaded guilty to 22 fraud, false ID and money laundering charges, and in December was sentenced to seven years and four months in prison.

Xu used multiple false identities to source and control a network of properties used by organised crime groups. Computer records linked Xu to 446 different properties, some of which were used as cannabis farms, with others used as brothels in which Chinese females were sexually exploited.

Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking

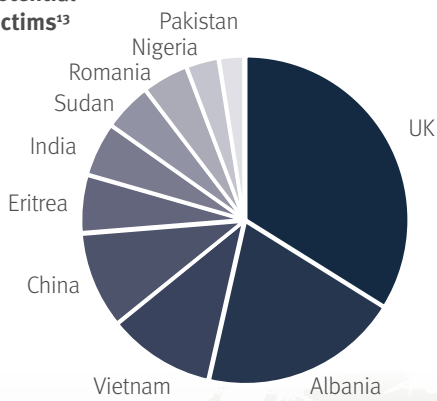


Referrals of potential victims of modern slavery in the UK by exploitation type¹²

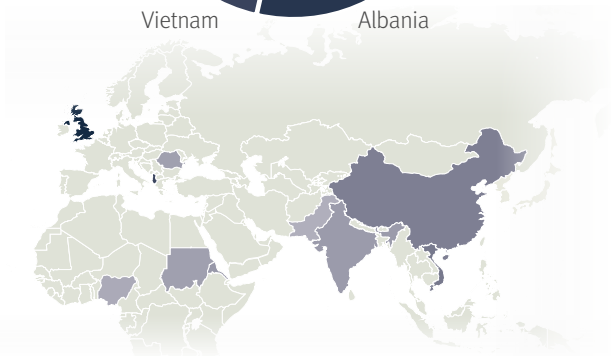
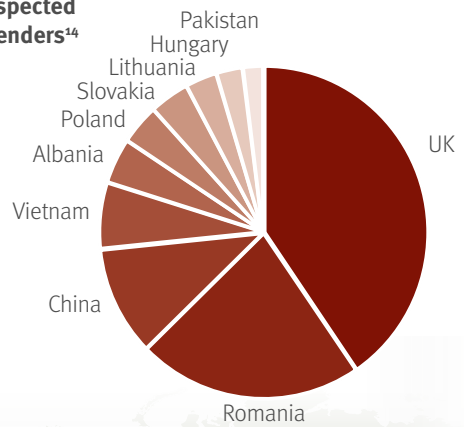


Nationalities of potential victims and suspected offenders of modern slavery and human trafficking impacting the UK (top 10 countries)

Potential victims¹³



Suspected offenders¹⁴





Detections of migrants attempting to enter the UK illegally have increased across all methods

Organised Immigration Crime

76. Organised Immigration Crime (OIC) involves the facilitation by OCGs of a person across borders without legal permission or documentation. It can also involve individuals illegally remaining in a country.
77. Detections of migrants attempting to enter the UK illegally increased across all methods in 2019. These include clandestine entry from nearby European countries, air facilitated irregular migration, use of false or fraudulently obtained documents, and abuse of legitimate entry and leave to remain. It is highly likely that more migrants attempted to enter the UK illegally in 2019 than in 2018.
78. The vast majority of these come from outside of the EU. Migrants seeking illegal entry into the UK commonly use the Eastern Mediterranean route, comprising the sea routes to Greece, to enter the EU. The numbers travelling on this route increased by 47% in 2019 and are at their highest level since March 2016. Crossings on the Central Mediterranean route into Italy reduced by 40%.¹⁵
79. False and fraudulently obtained identity documents remain a key enabler of multiple types of offending. Overseas, social media networks are used to advertise and disseminate large volumes of false documents.
80. Clandestine entry involves any attempt to enter the UK secretly or concealed in a vehicle of some kind. This method accounts for a large proportion of total detections. The juxtaposed border controls in France and Belgium continue to be the main targets for clandestine entry into the UK, although OCGs are known to target all ports that operate between Europe and the UK.
81. The trend towards high-risk methods of clandestine entry – using refrigerated HGVs, small boats and containers – has continued through 2019. The dangers associated with these methods were highlighted by the deaths of 39 Vietnamese nationals concealed in a



Organised

Immigration Crime

>900 

In one case, an OCG enabled more than 900 migrants to fraudulently apply for a visa, making £13 million in the process.

39 

Vietnamese nationals died in a single incident after being concealed in a refrigerated lorry.

refrigerated lorry in Essex in October 2019, and three people on small boat crossings.

82. Small boats crossing the Channel account for the most significant increase in detections in 2019, with at least 1,800 migrants identified. Although the numbers arriving this way represent only a small proportion of total detections, the involvement of OCGs in facilitating crossings, alongside the high risk to life, makes this a priority threat.
83. It is likely that the abuse of legitimate routes of entry into the UK remains a commonly used criminal methodology. This involves entering and remaining in the UK by fraudulently obtaining a visa or immigration status. A wide range of enablers make this possible, including solicitors, immigration advisors and other professionals. In one case, an OCG enabled more than 900 migrants to fraudulently apply for a visa.
84. The threat from the illegal movement of people to the UK by air has increased over the past year, with detections at airports at their highest level for five years. The majority are denied boarding at airports in Europe rather than on arrival in the UK.

What You Can Do

85. The public may hold information of value to law enforcement. Significant investigations into OIC offences have benefited from the receipt of information from members of the public.
86. A range of signs of OIC may be visible, including:
 - Activity at isolated coastal locations or at unusual times of day, including attempts to guide vessels offshore to unusual landfall. Crew showing signs of nervousness.
 - Strange patterns of payment being made, such as the receipt of frequent cash payments from multiple sources through bank accounts.
87. In an emergency, call the police. To report OIC anonymously, go to www.gov.uk/report-immigration-crime, call the Immigration Enforcement hotline on 0300 123 7000, or contact the independent charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or www.crimestoppers-uk.org

Case Study

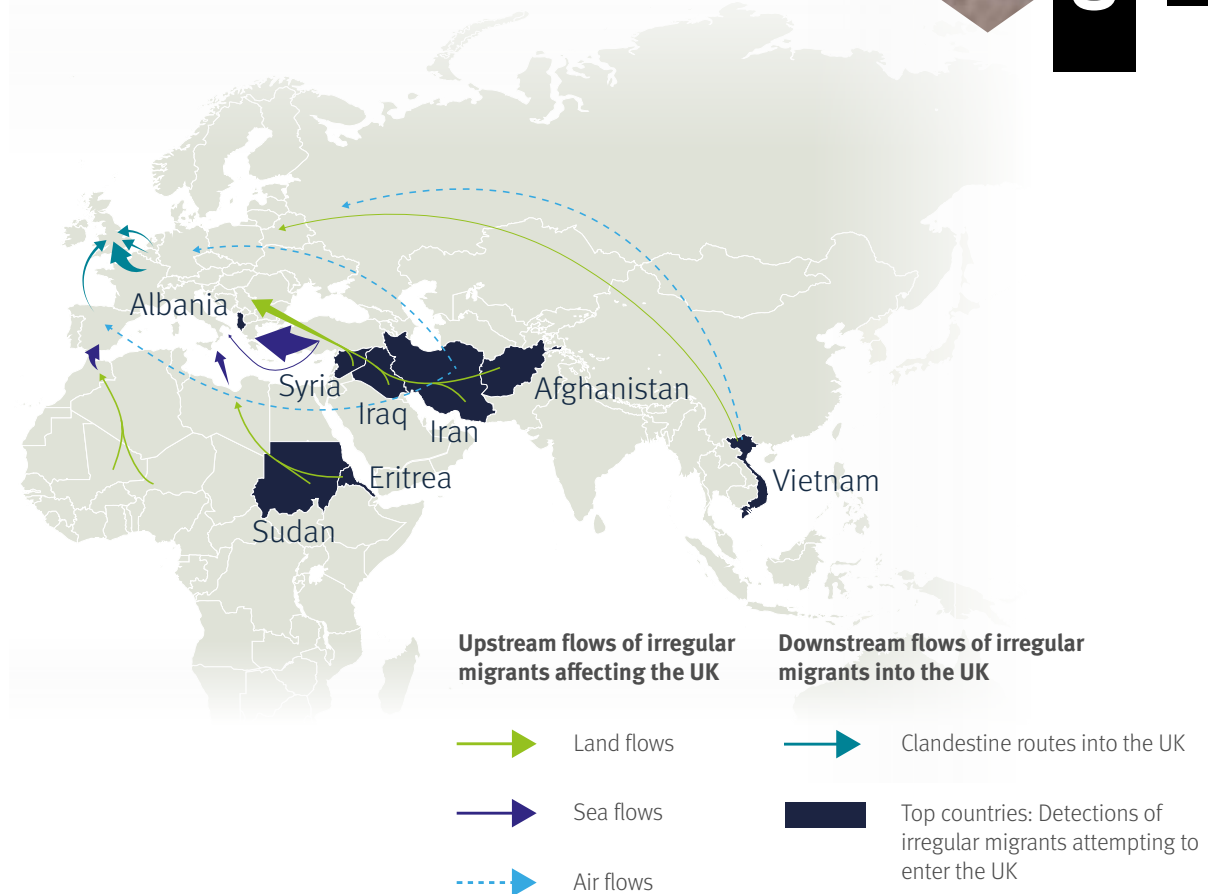
On 9 August 2019, Mitra Zerang Sagha, an Iranian national, died whilst attempting to cross the Channel to the UK in a small inflatable boat. Migrants aboard the vessel described how she had entered the water in an attempt to secure the vessel after it hit trouble in poor weather. Collaborative work between UK and French authorities led to two individuals being sentenced to a combined nine years in prison in France in January 2020 for their part in arranging this crossing. The pair had facilitated at least 84 migrants to illegally enter the UK by this method in the preceding two months.

Since October 2018, the use of these small inflatable boats has greatly increased. Whilst this was the first death associated with such activity, migrants take substantial risks every time they enter one of these vessels. Many attempts are facilitated by OCGs, willing to use violence and threats to force migrants into the boats.

Irregular migration affecting the UK border¹⁶

Organised

Immigration Crime







Communities

and Violence

88. This section covers the operations of those who dominate communities and chase profits in the criminal marketplace, using violence and criminal reputations in the supply of drugs and firearms. The three main threats in this area are:

- Drugs
- Firearms
- Organised Acquisitive Crime

89. Communities continue to fear and feel the impact of SOC-related violence, including physical harm and criminal damage. A quarter of all mapped OCGs are involved in violent criminal activity. Violence at the street level is often linked to drugs supply, including county lines.

One third of victims and two thirds of suspects in homicide cases are either known drugs users or suppliers.

90. Violence is also used by OCGs involved in serious organised acquisitive crime, who exploit the significant profits to be made from stealing property, including vehicles. The technological capability of these OCGs is now overtaking vehicle security measures.

91. These threats can overlap. There remains a strong connection between drugs supply and the use of firearms, with firearms regularly found at drugs incidents. Similarly, organised acquisitive crime is clearly linked to other serious organised crime, whether perpetrated by the same group or as a pre-cursor to, or funder of, other crimes.

Victims of serious violence within county lines are often operating at the front end of drug supply

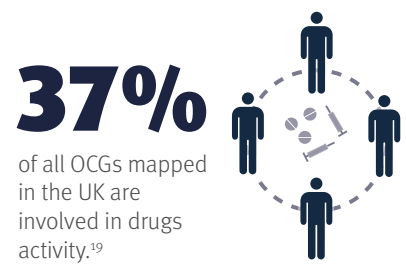
Drugs

92. In the UK, demand for all common drug types remains high, while drug-related deaths are increasing. In 2018 (the latest official figures available), drug-related deaths increased by 19% across the UK, including increases of 16% in England and Wales (to 4,359), 27% in Scotland (1,187) and 39% in Northern Ireland (189). It is likely that, in Scotland and Northern Ireland, poly-drug use of opioids with sedatives, such as Benzodiazepines, contributed to this increase.
93. It is likely that drugs are linked to a substantial proportion of cases of serious violence. Of all homicide cases, around one third of victims and two thirds of suspects are either known drugs users or suppliers. According to the Home Office's Homicide Index, the proportion of drug-related homicides has increased over the past decade, from 36% in FY 2008/09 to 47% in FY 2018/19, when there were 313 such homicides. Within the UK, drug-related violence is most prominent at the retail level, which is dominated by urban street gangs.

violence within county lines are often operating at the front end of drug supply. More than 3,000 unique deal line numbers were identified in 2019, of which 800 to 1,100 lines are estimated to be active during a given month.
94. Violence continues to be associated with county lines, where gangs and drug networks use dedicated mobile phone lines – 'deal lines' – to take orders from drug users across the UK, typically for heroin or crack cocaine. Victims of serious
95. Most of the estimated 1,716 OCGs involved in supplying illicit drugs supply multiple types, with almost one fifth involved in the supply of cannabis, heroin and cocaine simultaneously. These drugs make up 72% of all drug criminality.
96. The cocaine market across England, Scotland and Wales is now estimated to be worth between £9.4 billion and £11.8 billion annually, and over £25.7 million daily. Cocaine consumption in these parts of the country is estimated to be



19% increase in drug-related deaths reported in the UK in 2018, to 5,735 deaths, comprising increases of 16% in England and Wales, 27% in Scotland and 39% in Northern Ireland.¹⁸



37% of all OCGs mapped in the UK are involved in drugs activity.¹⁹

117 tonnes per year, an increase of at least 290% since 2011.¹⁷ OCGs involved in cocaine trafficking are increasingly establishing a presence in both source and transit countries within Latin America, giving them ‘end-to-end’ control of the supply chain. While most cocaine trafficked from South America towards Europe likely arrives via shipping containers, yachts crossing the Atlantic remain a persistent threat. The largest seizure in the UK last year – 751 kg – was from a yacht off the Welsh coast in transit from South America. Commercial and passenger ferry traffic from near Europe continues to present the most direct trafficking threat for both cocaine and heroin.

97. There has been a substantial increase in heroin seizures at the UK border, including from containers transiting via the UK en route to Antwerp. This is likely the result of increased law enforcement focus, rather than an increase in the threat itself. Despite increased seizures, heroin purities in the UK reached a 10-year high and wholesale prices remained stable, indicating a resilient supply chain.
98. Seizures of cannabis from the United States and Canada have increased considerably, with seizures in the first quarter of 2019 exceeding the whole of 2018. This likely reflects deregulation in some areas. Domestic cultivation of cannabis in the UK continues to be linked to labour exploitation, often of Vietnamese or Eastern European nationals.
99. The markets for synthetic drugs have diversified to include new forms of drugs, new customer

bases and new techniques for buying and selling. For example, fentanyl is now being seized in a wider variety of forms, including as pills, which is common in the United States but had not previously been seen in the UK.

What You Can Do

100. Exploitation through drug trafficking – including county lines – is widespread, with gangs from cities such as London, Birmingham and Liverpool operating across England, Wales and Scotland. A young person involved in county lines activity may exhibit some of the following signs:
 - Persistently going missing from school or home, or being found out-of-area. Significant decline in school results or performance.
 - Unexplained acquisition of money, clothes or mobile phones.
 - Excessive receipt of texts or calls, possibly on multiple handsets.
101. Signs of county lines activity may also include the home addresses of vulnerable individuals being taken over, or ‘cuckooed’, by unknown people.
102. If you suspect someone of being involved in drug-related crime, contact the police, or the independent charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or www.crimestoppers-uk.org

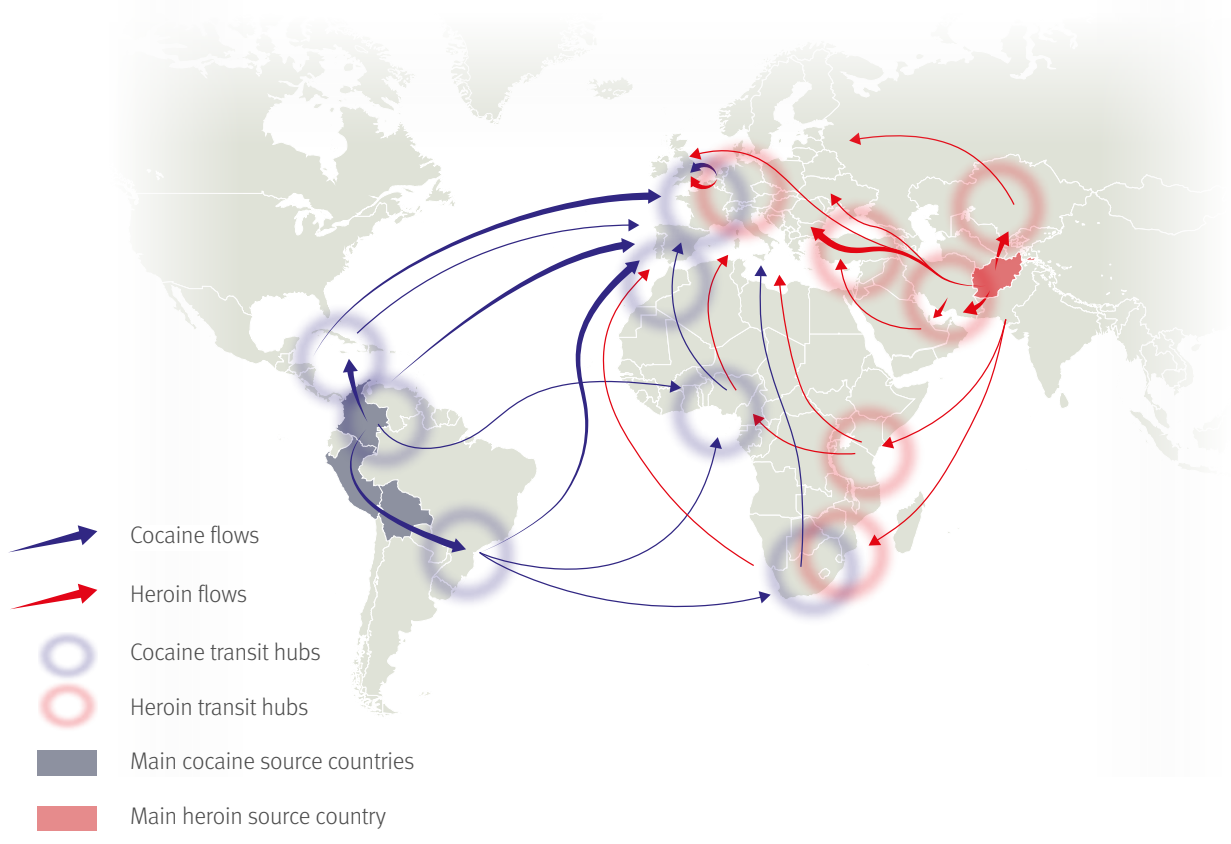
Case Study


In August 2019, an international operation involving the NCA led to the seizure of just under 1,000 kg of MDMA and methamphetamine and the arrest of four British men in one of Australia’s biggest ever drug seizures. Australian authorities seized 766 kg of MDMA, with an estimated street value of 90 million Australian dollars (£50.7 million). Two UK nationals were among the three people arrested. Two other British men were arrested in New Zealand after 230 kg of methamphetamine was seized as part of the same operation.

>3,000

unique deal line numbers were reported by police forces to the National County Lines Coordination Centre in 2019, of which 800–1,100 are estimated to be active during a given month.²¹

Cocaine and heroin flows impacting the UK²⁰





It is highly likely that there remains a fluid supply of firearms into the criminal UK marketplace

Firearms

103. Although firearms crime in the UK remains low compared with many other countries, there has been an upward trend in recorded firearms offences since 2014. The potential for harm from urban gangs, OCGs and would-be terrorists or extremists make reducing the criminal use of firearms a priority for UK law enforcement.
104. Whilst firearms are used in a range of criminality, there remains a strong connection to drugs supply, with firearms often a key enabler for drug-related activity. Victims of gun crime are generally known to the police, indicating that criminals use firearms in feuds with other criminals, for punishment, or to protect or further their criminal enterprises.
105. A sizeable proportion of shootings are from converted, modified and reactivated handguns, including blank firing guns modified to live fire.
106. Handguns (pistols and revolvers) are still the most frequently used criminal firearms in the UK. Handguns are legal to own in many EU countries but generally prohibited in the UK. As such, they are usually smuggled illegally into the country. The second most popular criminal firearm is the shotgun.
107. It is highly likely that there remains a fluid supply of firearms into the criminal UK marketplace, predominantly through illicit importation. Firearms are trafficked into the UK from central and eastern Europe, often consolidated in Belgium and the Netherlands, before transiting via France. The most common importation method continues to be via Roll-On Roll-Off ferry – in cars, vans and lorries.
108. Despite harmonised regulations, standards and controls around deactivation, conversion and modification still vary from country to country in the EU. To mitigate against European sources of supply, the UK has influenced EU-level activity to further standardise and tighten firearms legislation.



38% 

increase in the number of police recorded firearms offences in the past five years, between FY 2014/15 and FY 2018/19.²²

>400 

illegal blank-firing firearms have been seized across the UK since November 2018 as part of an operation targeting UK customers buying firearms online.²³

109. Fast parcels continue to be used to ship handguns to the UK that have been purchased from online dealers based in mainland Europe and elsewhere. Some blank-firing handguns are intended for use in their original form, whereas others are converted to fire live ammunition, including higher calibre ammunition. Since November 2018, over 400 such illegal blank firing firearms have been seized across the UK as part of an NCA-led national operation, targeting UK customers involved in purchasing firearms online from companies based across Europe.
110. The threat of the UK's 1.9 million licensed, lawfully held firearms being used criminally is low. However, diversion into the criminal marketplace continues to be seen, for example via theft or loss from domestic certificate holders. There is also a risk that lawfully held firearms could be diverted via rogue registered firearms dealers, although it is important to note that the vast majority of dealers are law abiding.
111. Firearms make up a small proportion of commodities sold via the dark web, with drugs continuing to comprise the majority of commodities on sale. However, the dark web remains a viable avenue for buying and selling firearms, including for individuals with limited or no known criminal association.

What You Can Do

112. Suppressing the availability of illegal firearms in the UK is a law enforcement priority. Significant harm is caused to communities across the UK by weapons that have been illicitly imported or were previously legally held and then stolen, diverted or modified for criminal use. Criminal networks also present a potential route by which terrorists may try to access weapons for use.
113. To stop firearms getting into the wrong hands, UK law enforcement depends on intelligence about firearms access, supply and use. The public may possess valuable information that can help law enforcement.
114. Significant NCA-led investigations in the last 12 months would not have been possible were it not for the receipt of this type of information from members of the public.
115. Anyone who has information about illegally held firearms or ammunition should contact the police. Alternatively, if you wish to remain anonymous, call the independent charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or visit www.crimestoppers-uk.org

Case Study

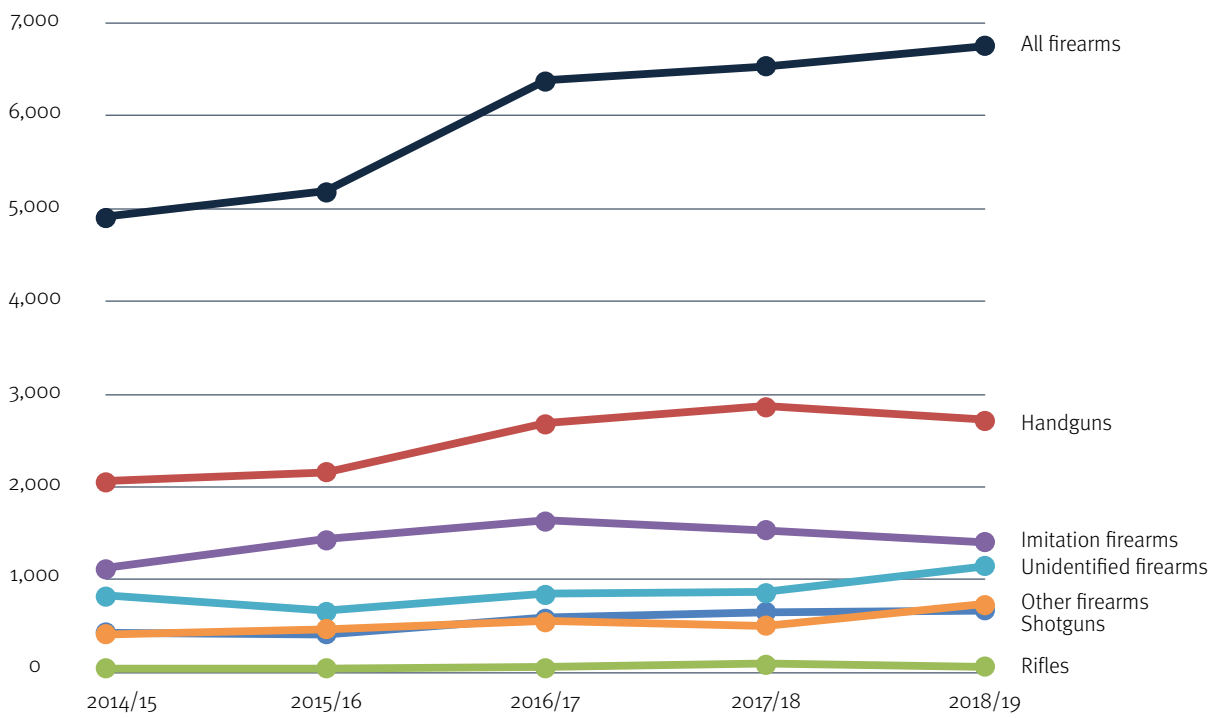
A man from Dublin, Robert Keogh, was jailed for nine years after 60 converted blank-firing handguns were found concealed in his car. He was stopped in Dover en route from Calais. He told officers he was returning from Europe and had "just been driving around".


The firearms were concealed deep inside the car's bumper and both rear quarter panels. The discovery was the largest seizure at a UK port. Keogh, who was going to be paid €10,000 for the importation, said he had gambling debts and had been acting under duress.



Firearms

Increase in recorded firearms offences since FY 2014/15²⁴





**There is an organised,
international element to a
significant proportion of thefts**

Organised Acquisitive Crime

116. Organised acquisitive crime (OAC) covers a range of threats, including organised vehicle crime, commercial robbery, and heritage and cultural property crime. Acquisitive crime and the loss of personal property has a significant impact on members of the public, as well as on communities, industry and national infrastructure.
117. This year saw another increase in acquisitive crime overall. In the year ending September 2019, vehicle offences reported to the police increased by 4% on the previous year, and robbery by 12%. Unlike theft, robbery involves the use or threat of violence. The total number of burglaries – when someone illegally enters a property in order to steal from it – reduced by 4% in the year to September 2019.
118. There is an organised, international element to a significant proportion of high-volume, low-value thefts across all categories of crime. For example, over half of the vehicles stolen are not recovered, which suggests these offences are highly likely to be organised, thereby enabling the rapid concealment and disposal of the vehicle.
119. In December 2019 there were estimated to be 468 OCGs involved in OAC in the UK, with groups exploiting the significant profits to be made from stealing property, including vehicles and mobile telephones. Online market places are a key route for the disposal of stolen property.
120. OAC is clearly linked to other serious organised crime, whether perpetrated by the same group or as a pre-cursor to or funder of other crimes.
121. This year saw a decrease in ATM attacks for the first time in four years, although the number of attacks remains high. ATMs in rural locations are more likely to be targeted than those in urban areas. Criminals are increasingly targeting ATMs at convenience stores and petrol stations, as opposed to those at financial institutions.
122. Metal theft is one of the fastest growing crimes globally. Its harm lies not only in the cost of

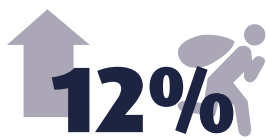


Organised

Acquisitive Crime



increase in vehicle crime offences recorded by the police in the year to September 2019, compared with the previous year.²⁵



increase in robbery recorded by the police in the year to September 2019, compared with the previous year.²⁶



reported losses from freight crime in England and Wales in 2019.²⁷

replacing stolen property, but in the damage and inconvenience caused, and the threat to national infrastructure from attacks on power and communication lines.

123. Police forces across the UK have reported commercial burglary offences by OCGs using specialist tools to force entry or make holes in the walls or roofs of premises. The specific nature and regularity of some of these techniques suggest a high degree of organisation.
124. The number of recorded vehicle crime offences has increased in the past four years following decades of reductions. Criminals are no longer restricted to the theft of keys to steal vehicles, as the technology to bypass modern vehicle security measures is readily available online. Stolen vehicles are rarely recovered, suggesting they are taken overseas, their identity is rapidly changed, or they are dismantled and their parts sold separately, including online. Stolen vehicles are more likely to be newer and higher in value.
125. There has been a notable rise in the theft of catalytic converters from vehicles. These thefts frequently occur in public locations such as car parks.
126. Freight crime, typically cargo thefts and thefts from HGV trailers, is attractive to OCGs because it is high reward and low risk. There were 4,347 reported offences in 2019 in England and Wales,

with a total loss of £115.4 million. The high value of losses has led to increased police focus, in turn resulting in the reporting of more offences, a more accurate assessment of loss and a nationally coordinated response.

What You Can Do

127. In order for police forces to identify trends and prevent OAC, it is key that offences are reported and correctly recorded, with most forces now offering online, self-reporting options.
128. For advice on increasing the safety of your home and vehicle, and for being safer when you are out in public spaces, visit www.police.uk, the independent charity Crimestoppers at www.crimestoppers-uk.org, or the website of your local police force. These include advice on safety tools, such as property marking systems and the use of Faraday bags to protect keyless entry keys.
129. If you suspect that an offence is taking place, it is vital that you do not put yourself at risk, but instead call your local police force.
130. If you suspect someone of being involved in organised acquisitive crime, please contact the police or the independent charity Crimestoppers at 0800 555 111 or www.crimestoppers-uk.org

Case Study

In June 2019, a 20-year old prolific thief was convicted of a small number of offences and was due for release following a short sentence. He typically used sleight of hand and distraction methods to commit thefts at Post Offices. Research identified that he was suspected of over 50 further offences by 24 police forces across the UK. After more evidence was collected, the man admitted a further 16 offences and 30 offences were taken into consideration. His sentence was extended to three years and he will be deported to Romania following his release.

He was found to be acting as part of a larger group of criminals, an OCG that was active across Europe and involved in a broad range of criminality, from theft to forced labour to fraud.



Organised

Acquisitive Crime





Harm to the UK's Economy and Institutions

131. This section covers the operations of those who undermine the UK's economy, integrity, infrastructure and institutions through their criminality. Threats in this area include:

- Cyber Crime
- Fraud
- Money Laundering
- Bribery, Corruption and Sanctions Evasion

132. In contrast to many other threats covered previously, in addition to individuals, the targets of these crimes can be private or public sector institutions.

133. In addition to the threats mentioned above, there is also the threat from counterfeit currency and market abuse. In 2019, £9.8 million worth of counterfeit bank notes were seized.²⁸ The introduction of the £20 polymer note in February 2020 should make it more difficult to counterfeit, as was seen with the introduction of polymer £5 and £10 notes. It is a realistic possibility that counterfeiters will therefore shift their attention to £50 notes. Criminals are using the dark web to facilitate the organised distribution of counterfeit notes across Europe.

134. While the most common form of market abuse is opportunistic insider dealing, the greatest threat in terms of value comes from organised global networks of inside sources who have access to information about global markets.

Cyber attacks can have a large financial and psychological impact on victims

Cyber Crime

135. Cyber crime can be categorised as cyber-dependent, which can only be committed using computer technology (for example ransomware), or cyber-enabled, which can be conducted offline (such as fraud), but if done online may take place at unprecedented scale and speed. This section focuses on the former, covering those offences that target the security, integrity or availability of data or software stored on computer systems or networks.
136. Cyber crime is significantly underreported and so it is difficult to estimate the scale and cost of it to the UK. In the year ending September 2019, there were an estimated one million cyber-dependent crimes committed against households.
137. Cyber attacks can have a large financial and psychological impact on victims. In one ransomware attack alone, a company lost €60 million in revenue.
138. Russian-language cyber crime groups continue to pose the greatest threat to the UK and are responsible for the most serious attacks. UK criminal involvement with these groups is typically as money launderers or money mules.
139. The methods used by cyber criminals have remained fairly consistent in the past year, as existing tools continue to prove successful. The bar for entry into cyber crime continues to lower. This is due to the ready availability of both cyber crime tools and the instruction in how to use them.
140. The most reported way to directly extort funds from a victim is through ransomware attacks, where criminals encrypt data and then demand a ransom to decrypt it. Criminals have continued to move towards targeting businesses over individuals.
141. The use of phishing emails – emails containing malicious content – remains the most commonly observed method to deliver malware. The past year has seen a change in the content of phishing emails, with fewer malicious attachments and more links to malicious websites, at a ratio of over five to one.



1 million

computer misuse offences reportedly experienced by households in England and Wales in the year ending September 2019.²⁹



32%

increase in the average cost to businesses of cyber security breaches in FY 2018/19, to £4,180.³⁰

142. Data remains the key commodity for cyber criminals, and there are several ways to exploit it for financial gain. As such, it is common for a victim network to be subjected to different methods of monetising an initial infection.
143. The UK financial data most coveted by cyber criminals continues to be CVV data, the security code on cards that is requested as part of online transactions. Criminals increasingly ‘scrape’ this data from website payment pages. The scale of CVV scraping has increased in the past year. In one instance, 962 e-commerce sites were compromised within 24 hours.
144. While losses directly attributed to credential stealing malware are reportedly at an all-time low, it is almost certain that losses from secondary and tertiary infections, such as ransomware, have increased. In nearly all of the cases where infection chains feature multiple malware, the initial malware deployed was a credential stealing malware.
145. Business Email Compromise is one of the fastest growing threats, especially for small businesses. Criminals imitate an employee or a common supplier of a company – usually requesting payment of an invoice – by using compromised credentials to seem credible.

What You Can Do

146. Below are the most important things you can do to protect yourself against cyber crime:
- Create a separate password for your email.
 - Create strong passwords using three random words.
 - Save passwords in your browser because remembering lots of them can be difficult.
 - Turn on two-factor authentication: this adds an extra layer of protection online.
 - Update regularly: this can fix bugs and immediately improve your security.
 - Back up: keep a copy of your important information by backing it up.
147. For further advice, consult the National Cyber Security Centre’s website at www.ncsc.gov.uk. To report cyber crime, contact Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk or on 0300 123 2040. Alternatively, contact the police, or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or www.crimestoppers-uk.org

Case Study

In December 2019, Russian national Maksim Yakubets was indicted in the United States in relation to two separate international computer hacking and bank fraud schemes. Yakubets ran Evil Corp, the world’s most harmful cyber crime group that created and deployed malware causing financial losses totalling hundreds of millions of pounds in the UK alone. He employed dozens of people to run his operation from the basements of Moscow cafes. Evil Corp targeted the UK for almost a decade with multiple strains of damaging malware, which defrauded and stole money from the bank accounts of members of the public and businesses.

A dedicated team in the NCA began working with multiple partners to investigate one of the group’s core malware strains, Dridex, in 2014. The Dridex botnet was disabled briefly in 2015, but within weeks Evil Corp were able to adapt the malware and infrastructure to resume criminal activities. These officers developed intelligence and identified evidential material over several years to support the US indictments, as well as sanctions against Evil Corp.

Evil Corp's Dridex malware

Dridex was one of the core malware strains of Evil Corp. This is how it worked:

1. Victim receives email containing the Dridex malware in an attachment.

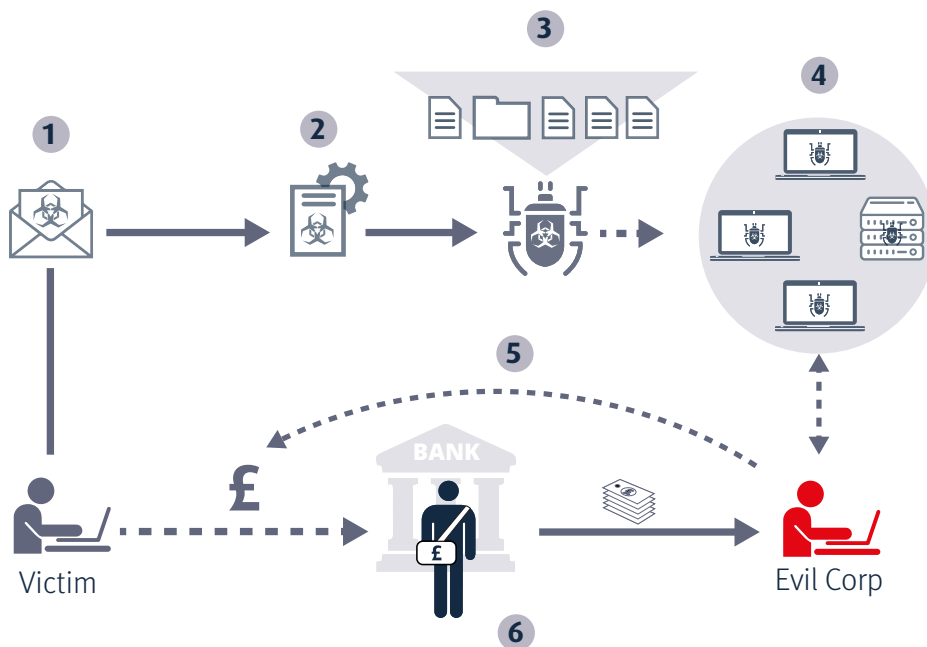
2. The attachment has an embedded macro, which the victim is instructed to enable.

3. Once enabled, the Dridex malware is downloaded onto the victim's system. It hunts around for personal or financial data.

4. Dridex sends the data to an infrastructure of compromised devices (botnet), which are controlled by Evil Corp.

5. Evil Corp uses the stolen data to transfer funds from the victim's account to money mule accounts.

6. The money mules cash out the funds and pass them on to Evil Corp.



**There were an estimated
3.8 million incidents of fraud in
the year ending September 2019,
a third of all estimated crime**

Fraud

148. Fraud is the most common crime type in England and Wales. There were an estimated 3.8 million incidents of fraud in the year ending September 2019, a third of all estimated crime, and an increase of 9% on the previous year. According to the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau, reported losses increased by 38% in FY 2018/19, to £2.2 billion. Fraud remains significantly underreported.
149. Cyber crime is a major enabler of fraud: data obtained via data breaches, phishing and malware is used directly to commit fraud or is sold online to other fraudsters. It is estimated that the internet plays a role in at least 54% of all fraud.³¹ Another key enabler is social engineering, where fraudsters manipulate victims into handing over money or personal information, often informed by data they have researched, bought or hacked online.
150. Cheque, card and online banking is the most reported type of fraud by volume, accounting for nearly half of reports to Action Fraud. Card Not Present fraud, where criminals use stolen card details, continues to facilitate other crimes, such as human trafficking.
151. Investment fraud resulted in the highest total losses from victim reported fraud, with reported losses of £338 million in FY 2018/19. One potential driver of this is the low interest environment, with victims – many of whom consider themselves financially savvy – enticed by the high returns offered by fraudsters. Cryptocurrency investment fraud is an emerging area of concern.
152. Certain types of high harm frauds, such as romance, courier and computer software service fraud, often target those who may be more vulnerable to becoming victims, by virtue of age, technological knowledge or emotional state.
153. Romance fraud continues to have a high financial and emotional impact, with reported victim losses over £60 million in the year ending February 2020. Victims, disproportionately female, can



3.8 million 

Estimated number of fraud incidents in the year ending September 2019, an increase of 9% on the previous year.³²

£338 million 

reported victim losses from investment fraud in the year ending March 2019.³³

lose thousands, and some take out loans to continue to pay the fraudsters.

154. There has been a significant increase in reported courier fraud since 2017. In the year ending February 2020, there were 2,144 reports, with £6.5 million in reported losses. Typically, fraudsters impersonate law enforcement or bank staff to con victims, often the elderly, into revealing their card details or withdrawing cash, which is then collected by couriers.
155. Computer software service fraud mainly targets victims aged over 60, with cold calls from call centres in India or pop-up adverts on social media. Fraudsters gain remote access to a victim's computer by instructing them to download software, and then manipulate it to convince them there is an issue. In the year ending February 2020, there were 20,967 reports of this kind of fraud, amounting to £22 million in reported victim losses, with several victims reporting losses of over £100,000, a significant increase on previous years.
156. Alcohol and tobacco fraud remain key threats to the UK government, contributing billions to the UK tax gap.

What You Can Do

157. Criminals are experts at impersonating people, organisations and the police. They spend hours researching you for their scams, hoping you will let your guard down for just a moment.
 - Stop: Taking a moment to stop and think before parting with your money or information could keep you safe.
 - Challenge: Could it be fake? It is ok to reject, refuse or ignore requests. Only criminals will try to rush and panic you.
 - Protect: Contact your bank immediately if you think you have fallen for a scam, or report it to Action Fraud.
158. For advice, visit www.scamsmart.org.uk, whether or not you think you are the kind of person who might be targeted. If you have been a victim of fraud, report it to Action Fraud at actionfraud.police.uk or on 0300 123 2040. Alternatively, contact the police, or the independent charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or www.crimestoppers-uk.org

Case Study

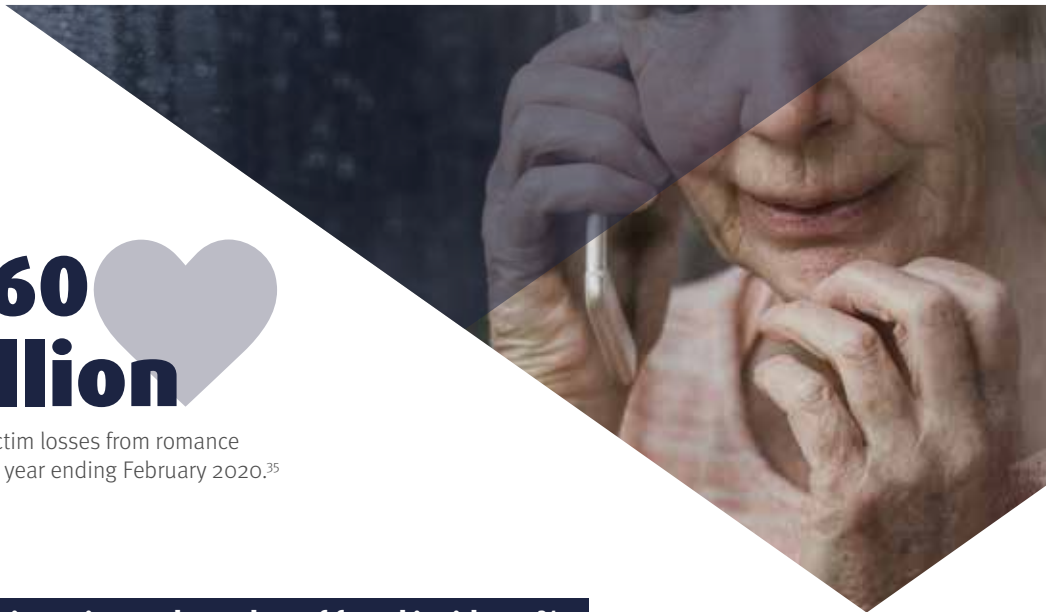
Launched in 2014, OneCoin was portrayed as a revolutionary new cryptocurrency that offered a radical alternative to Bitcoin and high returns for investors. Investigators believe as much as £4 billion had been invested in OneCoin globally, with UK investors putting in €30million in just the first six months of 2016.

Investors purchased OneCoin 'packages' with the promise of high returns. But OneCoin amounted to a Ponzi scheme, a multi-layer marketing scheme where there is no actual product. The valuations that investors saw held no true value – the price of OneCoin was a fiction, not based on supply and demand.

The founder, 36-year-old Bulgarian businesswomen Dr. Ruja Ignatova, is currently wanted by the FBI, accused of conducting one of the biggest individual frauds in history.

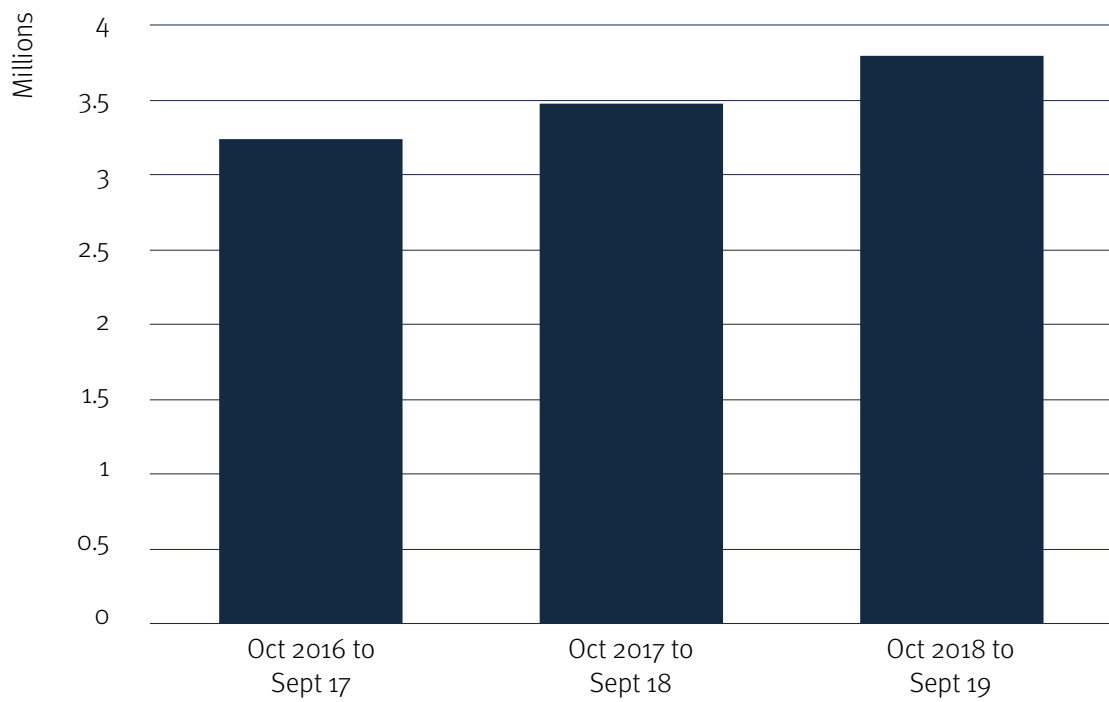
>£60 million

reported victim losses from romance fraud in the year ending February 2020.³⁵



Fraud

Increase in estimated number of fraud incidents³⁴





Money laundering underpins and enables most forms of organised crime

Money Laundering

159. Money laundering underpins and enables most forms of organised crime, allowing crime groups to further their operations and conceal their assets. It is likely that there was an increase in the amount of money being laundered in 2019 because there was a growth across a range of initial – or predicate – crimes, as described in this assessment.
160. It remains difficult to quantify the scale of money laundering impacting on the UK, but given the UN estimates that 2-5% of global GDP is laundered and London's position as one of the world's largest financial centres, there is a realistic possibility that it is in the hundreds of billions of pounds annually. While it is likely that the majority of this is corrupt money from outside the UK, it also includes the proceeds of crime generated within the UK.
161. The UK remains an attractive place for criminals from around the world who want to set up companies to launder their profits. Criminals exploit the ease with which UK companies can be established, the broad range of professional services on offer and the access UK systems provide to higher-risk jurisdictions. Research by Transparency International suggests 929 UK companies were involved in cases of corruption and money laundering in 2019, amounting to £137 billion in economic damage.³⁶
162. Criminals continue to purchase property in the UK to launder large sums of money. Complex company structures make the true owner(s) behind corporate purchasers difficult to identify.
163. Specialist networks, known as International Controller Networks, launder money for criminals, predominantly dealing in cash but also using more complex methods – such as trade-based money laundering – to disguise international money movements and to meet their customers' needs.
164. Cash-based money laundering continues to be a major method of laundering funds in the UK. An NCA project aimed at tackling money laundering has seized £115 million in cash since its inception, including £21 million in 2019. Cash is moved out of



40,000 

cases of suspected money mule account activity were reported in 2018, up 26% on the previous year.³⁷

£132m 

denied to criminals as a result of defence against money laundering requests during FY 2018/19.³⁸

the country both physically, with seizures at the UK border remaining high in 2019, and through money service businesses and informal value transfer systems. The latter are prevalent in the UK, and their use by Chinese OCGs remains a significant threat.

165. UK-based criminals also continue to introduce criminal cash into the UK banking system. After changes in 2019, it is now harder for them to do so directly and anonymously. As well as the traditional method of using cash-rich businesses, criminals also use money mules, money service businesses, post offices and virtual assets as a means of disguising the origins of their cash as it enters the financial system.
166. Money mules are individuals who transfer criminal proceeds on behalf of others into, through and out of retail banks. More than 40,000 cases of suspected money mule account activity were reported in 2018, the latest available figures, up 26% on 2017. OCGs continue to entice or groom young and vulnerable people, and more recently also the middle-aged, to become mules, increasingly targeting their victims through social media.
167. Some money service businesses act as intermediaries, circulating street cash locally as well as converting it into other currencies (mainly euros), which can then be smuggled across the UK border to enter overseas banking sectors.
168. UK-based criminals continue to identify new ways of using virtual assets, such as cryptocurrencies, to launder their profits, although more traditional methods are still favoured.

What You Can Do

169. Criminals groom young people to become money mules. Parents and guardians should stay alert to the tell-tale signs that someone might be involved in 'money muling'. They should:
 - tell their child to be wary of unsolicited offers of easy money – if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is;
 - make sure their child does not give their bank account details to anyone unless they know and trust them;
 - look out for their child suddenly having extra cash, buying expensive new clothes or electronics, with very little explanation of how they got the money;
 - be alert to any changes in their child's behaviour – a young person involved in 'money muling' may become more secretive, withdrawn or appear stressed.
170. Parents and guardians should not contact anyone they suspect of organising 'money muling'. They should contact the police on 101, or contact the independent charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or www.crimestoppers-uk.org

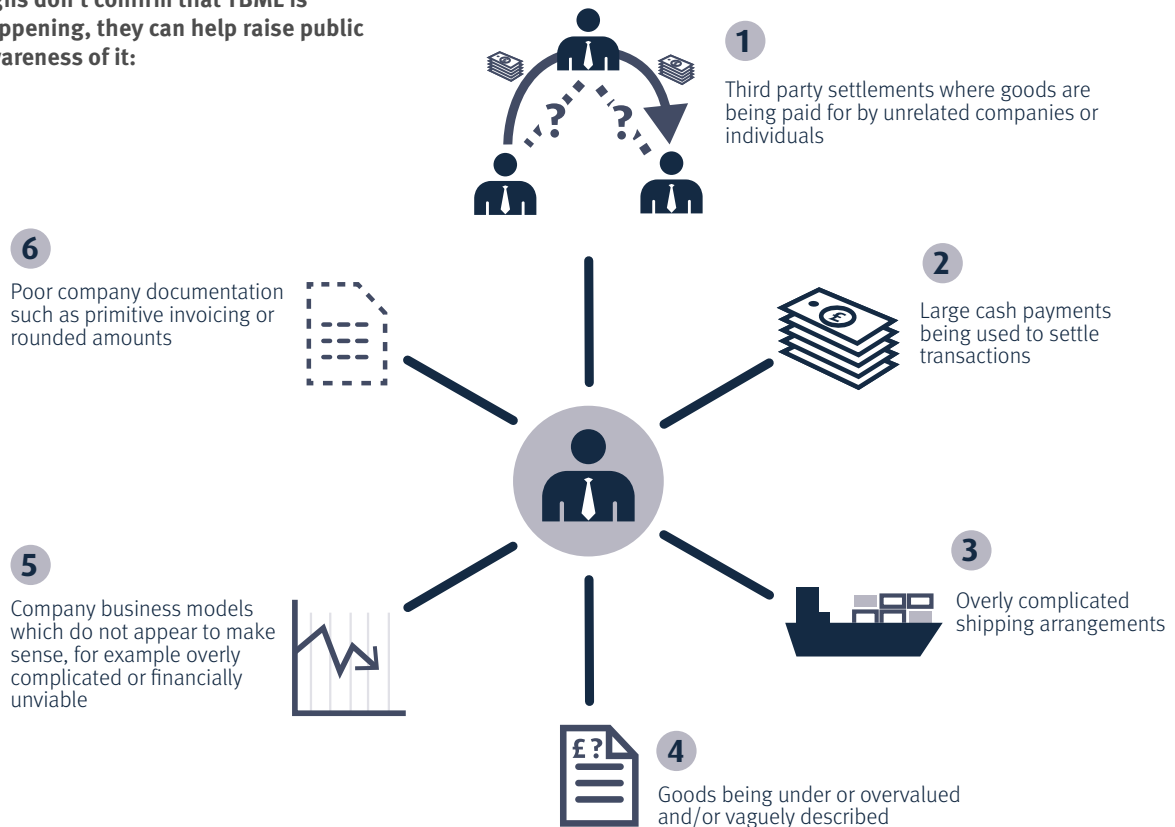
Case Study


In November and December 2019, 12 people were arrested and charged as part of an NCA investigation into a conspiracy to launder money. The individuals were part of a well-orchestrated network who were smuggling millions of pounds in cash from UK airports to overseas in suitcases. More cash, as well as illegal drugs and luxury cars, were recovered during raids at addresses linked to the group. An estimated £15.5 million has been moved by the group over the past three years, the profits from Class A drug trafficking and organised immigration crime.



Warning signs for trade-based money laundering

Trade-based money laundering (TBML) is big business. Although these warning signs don't confirm that TBML is happening, they can help raise public awareness of it:





Bribery and corruption originating from the UK continues to present a significant reputational risk to the UK

Bribery, Corruption and Sanctions Evasion

171. International bribery and corruption broadly relate to two types of threats: where UK individuals or businesses pay bribes to gain advantage overseas, and where funds resulting from bribery and corruption involving overseas Politically Exposed Persons (PEPs) are laundered through the UK.
172. These crimes tend to have a broader impact than other economic crimes, adversely affecting the lifestyle, health, education and quality of life of citizens. This is because profits from selling a country's natural resources go to corrupt officials rather than the public purse.
173. Bribery and corruption originating from the UK continue to present a significant reputational risk to the UK. Examples from the Serious Fraud Office show that UK nationals, employed as senior executives, have overseen bribes paid to foreign countries to secure business across a number of sectors.
174. There continue to be reports of PEP-related bribery and corruption originating from various regions, in particular parts of Africa and Eastern Europe. The most vulnerable sectors are construction, extractives, aerospace and defence, and pharmaceuticals. The involvement of PEPs in the illegal wildlife trade is an emerging threat.
175. Unexplained Wealth Orders (UWO) are a new tool aimed at tackling PEP-related bribery and corruption. The NCA has obtained 15 UWOs relating to property worth an estimated £143 million.
176. Bribes continue to be paid through traditional cash payments, as well as in goods and services, with examples of overseas officials being given luxury vehicles to disguise corrupt activity. Bribes have also been paid under the guise of 'social responsibility' projects.
177. Intermediaries continue to be key to facilitating and negotiating bribes, by arranging the movement



Bribery, Corruption

and Sanctions Evasion

£143m 

The estimated value of the property linked to the 15 UWOs obtained by the NCA.³⁹

 **99**

suspected breaches of financial sanctions reported to the Office of Financial Sanctions Implementation (OFSI) in FY 2018/19, worth an estimated £262 million.⁴⁰

of illicit funds. They are typically ‘professional’ in nature, for example solicitors or bankers. According to the Serious Fraud Office, there are more UK-linked individuals and companies acting as intermediaries than previously thought.

178. It is likely that domestic and international bribery and corruption are becoming more closely linked, meaning the threat to the UK from both is also likely to increase. However, it remains difficult to establish an accurate picture of the scale and nature of domestic bribery and corruption. The number of police recorded corruption offences in England and Wales increased slightly in the year to June 2019, from 122 to 138, although it is almost certain such offences are significantly under-reported. The relatively high spend and complex supply chains within social care and construction make it likely that these sectors of

local councils are at particularly vulnerable to organised crime.

179. Financial sanctions contravention directly impacts the UK by undermining the integrity of the financial system, while potentially helping to fund terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. There were 99 reports of suspected breaches of financial sanctions in FY 2018/19, reportedly worth £262million.
180. In FY 2018/19, 162 targets were added to the Office of Financial Sanctions Implementation (OFSI) consolidated list of financial sanctions targets, up from 122 the previous year. Around a quarter of these targets were in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK), while just under a fifth were added for undermining the sovereignty and territorial integrity in Ukraine.

Case Study

In December 2019, the NCA agreed a civil settlement with a family who own large property developments in Pakistan and elsewhere. The £190 million settlement is the result of a civil investigation by the NCA into Malik Riaz Hussain, a Pakistani national, whose business is one of the biggest private sector employers in Pakistan. Included in the settlement was a UK property, 1 Hyde Park Place, valued at approximately £50 million. Some £140 million, which had already been identified and frozen in bank accounts, has already been returned to Pakistan. The receipt from the property will be returned once it is sold.

Case Study

On 31 January 2020, the UK’s Serious Fraud Office entered into a Deferred Prosecution Agreement with the global aerospace company Airbus SE, as part the world’s largest global resolution for bribery, which also involved authorities in France and the United States. Airbus SE has agreed to pay a fine and costs amounting to €3.6 billion (£3 billion) – including €991 million (£830 million) to UK authorities.

The company has admitted it failed to prevent bribery undertaken by its Commercial and Defence & Space divisions, who used external consultants to bribe customers to buy Airbus’s civilian and military aircrafts. The conduct covered by the UK investigation took place across Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Indonesia, Taiwan and Ghana between 2011 and 2015.



Bribery, Corruption

and Sanctions Evasion

Information in this report is based on intelligence assessment and analysis over 2019, gathered from a number of sources. The references included here cover material where information originates from partner agencies, or is already available in greater detail in the public domain. The original figures, information on methodologies and caveats are covered in the original source material.

- 1 Home Office, 'Understanding Organised Crime 2015/16: Estimating the Scale and the Social and Economic Costs', second edition, Research Report 103, February 2019.
- 2 This figure is based on our assessment that there are 35,000 registered sex offenders who are being managed for CSA offending, and 250,000 offenders accessing CSA material on the dark web. From our understanding of the intelligence picture, this figure of 285,000 has been rounded up to 300,000 individuals who pose a sexual threat to children.
- 3 This figure is based on Organised Crime Group Mapping (OCGM), a law enforcement tool which maps characteristics of OCGs and individuals involved in SOC. According to OCGM, there were 36,953 individuals associated with criminal groups at the end of December 2019. However, OCGM is known to under-represent several threat areas, including fraud and cyber crime, and it only captures those groups that are known to law enforcement. As such, it is likely that the true number of individuals involved in other SOC threats in the UK is at least 50,000.
- 4 Data derived from Organised Crime Group Mapping. Whilst figures collected can be a useful indicator of the current state of SOC in the UK, this tool does not capture the totality of SOC threats facing the UK (e.g. child sexual abuse).
- 5 Measured in terms of market capitalisation, which is used to calculate a company's size. Data taken from CoinMarketCap website, <https://coinmarketcap.com/>, accessed 21 February 2020.
- 6 See endnote 2.
- 7 Data collected from police forces.
- 8 Home Office – Child Abuse Image Database (CAID), January 2015 to March 2019. Release date 14 January 2020. CAID includes images encountered by UK police, the National Crime Agency and approved industry bodies, although images could be taken anywhere in the world and include victims from any country.
- 9 Single Competent Authority – National Referral Mechanism Statistics. Data assessed are for January to September 2019.
- 10 Single Competent Authority – National Referral Mechanism Statistics. Data assessed are for January to September 2019.
- 11 Modern Slavery Police Transformation Unit – Police Operations Database. Data assessed are for January to September 2019.
- 12 Single Competent Authority – National Referral Mechanism Statistics. Data assessed are for January to September 2019.
- 13 Single Competent Authority – National Referral Mechanism Statistics. Data assessed are for January to September 2019.
- 14 Modern Slavery Police Transformation Unit – Police Operations Database. Data assessed are for January to September 2019.
- 15 Frontex, 'Detections of Illegal Border-Crossings Statistics Download (Updated Monthly)', data correct as of 3 March 2020.
- 16 This map represents a simplified depiction of flows of irregular migrants affecting the UK, based on NCA analysis.
- 17 Research commissioned by the NCA in 2019 provisionally estimates cocaine usage in England, Wales and Scotland to be 117 tonnes annually. In 2011, the Home Office estimated the annual UK consumption of cocaine to be 25–30 tonnes.
- 18 Office for National Statistics (ONS), 'Deaths Related to Drug Poisoning in England and Wales: 2018 Registrations', 15 August 2019; National Records of Scotland, 'Drug-Related Deaths in Scotland in 2018', 6 July 2019; Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency, 'Drug-Related and Drug-Misuse Deaths 2008-2018', 16 January 2020.
- 19 Data derived from Organised Crime Group Mapping.
- 20 National County Lines Coordination Centre. Data assessed are for January–December 2019.
- 21 Data derived from United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), 'World Drug Report 2019', June 2019; European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), 'European Drug Markets Report 2019', November 2019; and NCA analysis.
- 22 Home Office – Police Recorded Crime. See ONS, 'Offences Involving the Use of Firearms: Year Ending March 2019', 13 February 2020.
- 23 NCA National Firearms Threat Centre.
- 24 Home Office – Police Recorded Crime. See ONS, 'Offences Involving the Use of Firearms: Year Ending March 2019', 13 February 2020.
- 25 Home Office – Police Recorded Crime. See ONS, 'Crime in England and Wales: Year Ending September 2019', 23 January 2020.
- 26 Home Office – Police Recorded Crime. See ONS, 'Crime in England and Wales: Year Ending September 2019', 23 January 2020.
- 27 National Vehicle Crime Intelligence Service.
- 28 Bank of England, 'Counterfeit banknotes', <https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/banknotes/counterfeit-banknotes>, accessed 16 March 2020.
- 29 Crime Survey for England and Wales. See ONS, 'Crime in England and Wales: Year Ending September 2019', 23 January 2020.
- 30 Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport, 'Cyber Security Breaches Survey 2019: Main report', 3 April 2019, updated 2 July 2019.
- 31 Crime Survey for England and Wales. See ONS, 'Crime in England and Wales: year ending December 2018', 24 April 2019.
- 32 Crime Survey for England and Wales. See ONS, 'Crime in England and Wales: Year Ending September 2019', 23 January 2020.
- 33 National Fraud Intelligence Bureau. Data assessed are for April 2018 to March 2019.
- 34 Crime Survey for England and Wales. See ONS, 'Crime in England and Wales: Year Ending September 2019', 23 January 2020.
- 35 National Fraud Intelligence Bureau. Data assessed are for March 2019 to February 2020.
- 36 Transparency International UK, 'At Your Service', October 2019.
- 37 Cifas, 'Fraudscape 2019', June 2019.
- 38 UK Financial Intelligence Unit, 'Suspicious Activity Reports: Annual Report 2019', December 2019.
- 39 National Economic Crime Centre.
- 40 HM Treasury – Office of Financial Sanctions Implementation, 'Annual Review 2018 to 2019', 10 October 2019.

Acknowledgements

The NCA would like to acknowledge the support offered by many partners in the preparation of this assessment. The agency's partners include, but are not limited to:

- Law enforcement and criminal justice bodies, including UK police forces, HM Revenue and Customs, Border Force, Immigration Enforcement, Crown Prosecution Service, Police Scotland and the Police Service of Northern Ireland
- The National Police Chiefs' Council
- The UK Intelligence Community, including the National Cyber Security Centre
- Government, including the Home Office, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Cabinet Office and HM Treasury
- Overseas law enforcement agencies and organisations, such as Europol and Interpol
- Private and third sectors, including universities, charities, NGOs, banks and other financial institutions, communication service providers and technology companies
- Regulatory and professional bodies, such as the Financial Conduct Authority



**Providing a single picture of the
threat to the UK from serious and
organised crime**

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