



Department of  
**Justice**  
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## **BUSINESS CRIME ACTION PLAN 2016-2017**

As of March 2015 there are 68,085 businesses operating in Northern Ireland<sup>1</sup>. Regardless of size, businesses are at the heart of communities providing employment and critical local services. Crimes against business not only impact the Northern Ireland economy, they also damage the prosperity and perceptions of local areas and therefore communities, and they adversely affect our ability to grow a dynamic, innovative economy, which encourages growth, attracts investment and which is a competitive place to do business.

Tackling business crime and its costs can only support business, jobs and our towns and cities.

We recognise that business crime, no matter in what sector of business is not a victimless crime. From financial loss, to abuse and violence towards frontline staff, all crime has a lasting negative impact.

The Department of Justice, the Northern Ireland Policing Board and the Police Service of Northern Ireland have invested significant effort and resources meeting with representatives from the business community, identifying the key issues affecting businesses in Northern Ireland and now we are in the process of putting in place concrete plans to tackle crime against the business community. This Action Plan can both capture and take this work onto the next level as well as providing the strategic view and certainty for which the business community has asked. Success in addressing the current and emerging challenges depends on an active collaboration with businesses themselves.

The largest industry group in Northern Ireland is Agriculture, forestry and fishing, accounting for over one quarter of all registered businesses. A separate action plan details the work being undertaken by relevant agencies to combat rural crime. This action plan focusses on “business crime” on a cross-sectoral basis but much of its content will also support the critical work on rural and agricultural crime.

The spread of business crime is significant and challenging. It impacts on businesses with a local presence as well as those with a global footprint. It ranges from issues such as

anti-social behaviour directed at businesses to some of the most sophisticated cyber-attacks that morph day to day. This action plan seeks to address the quality of service businesses receive as well as the successful outcomes they seek.

The recent Justice Committee business stakeholder event reinforced the clear message that business crime has a significant impact on businesses, but also on the economic well-being of Northern Ireland and those personally affected. Key issues which emerged from the Justice Committee discussions included the evidence of organised criminal activity, the prevalence of cybercrime and fraud and the impact of rural crime. Issues affecting confidence in policing and justice in terms of how business crimes are tackled were also highlighted as was the need for a partnership approach to addressing the problem. This report has reinforced the need for solutions at local level as well as a strategic focus.

This Action Plan seeks to build on existing and successful work and is in direct response to our on-going dialogue with the business community and the recommendations of the Justice Committee report. It needs to be dynamic and shift as threats and risks emerge and withdraw. To enable this, the Action Plan will be reviewed by a Business Crime Forum, from across the many sectors of business. On a 6 monthly basis actions and responsibilities will be reviewed to ensure we are achieving our ambition to reduce the harm caused by business crime. It is intended to provide a clear focus on prevention and on providing businesses with the support, information and tools they need to protect their companies whilst highlighting their responsibilities in the fight against business crime.

No single agency can tackle the issues of business crime alone. What is clear from our conversations across Northern Ireland and across business sectors is that a partnership approach is needed between operational agencies, government bodies at both a strategic and local level, as well as the business community.

This plan sets out an agreed partnership approach between the business community, PSNI, NIPB, PCSPs and DOJ on how they will work together to tackle business crime.

Business crime is a challenge for everyone, business crime impacts on everyone, and with the clear partnership working encompassed in this document, everyone has a part to play in tackling business crime.

## PREVENTION AND PROTECTION

**KEY OBJECTIVE:** Improve levels of protection within the business community to reduce the impact of crime.

**Summary:** To improve accessibility of crime prevention advice and to target resources on vulnerable sectors of the business community.

Strategic Aim	Specific area	Actions/targets	Responsibility
<p>Improve take up of effective protective security and prevention advice.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Promote awareness of cybercrime and cyber threat to individuals and business.</li>   <li>○ Fraud/Financial scams</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Scoping the need for a Northern Ireland wide cyber strategy.</li>   <li>○ Encourage cyber resilience in businesses, through promotion of the Cyber Essentials Scheme.</li>   <li>○ Proactive fraud awareness raising.</li>   <li>○ Liaise with external stakeholders to identify any new trends, intelligence or information.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ OCTF cyber Crime Group/ OCTF Cyber Industries Group.</li>   <li>○ PSNI/PCSPs/Business Community</li>   <li>○ OCTF/PSNI</li>   <li>○ PSNI</li>   <li>○ PSNI PCSPs /Business Community</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Repeat victimisation.</li> <li>○ Accessibility of general crime prevention advice.</li> <li>○ Promotion of Business Crime Reduction Risk Self-Assessment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Reduce victimisation and repeat victimisation through delivery of tailored crime reduction advice with particular focus on vulnerable businesses for eg the Safe Shop Scheme.</li> <li>○ Encourage members of the business community to report any concerns in relation to business crime.</li> <li>○ Agree most effective options for the dissemination of crime prevention advice e.g. through centralised resources such as PSNI crime map/ retail crime prevention or good practice guides/ business text alert scheme and other relevant crime prevention tools for eg the Safe Shop Scheme</li> <li>○ Promote PSNI expertise in designing out crime, particularly in relation to the design of new</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ PSNI/PCSPs/NIPB/DOJ/Business Community</li> <li>○ PSNI/ NIPB/ DOJ/Business Community</li> <li>○ PSNI in partnership with the business community</li> <li>○ PSNI/PCSPs/Business Community</li> </ul>
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retail and commercial spaces.

- Encourage businesses to be proactive in identifying potential risks to their businesses.

**INFORMATION AND REASSURANCE**

**KEY OBJECTIVE:** Improve sharing of intelligence to help disrupt and deter criminal activity.

Summary: Enhanced information sharing between business and the police to detect individuals and groups committing and enabling business crime to disrupt their activity and bring them to justice.

Strategic Aim	Specific area	Actions/targets	Responsibility
<p>Improve understanding of crime threats and emerging trends in business crime.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Definition of business crime.</li> <li>○ Exploit opportunities for sharing information between police, businesses and the wider community.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Explore options for defining business crime and as appropriate agree a definition for use in Northern Ireland.</li> <li>○ Bi-annual assessment of business community concerns.</li> <li>○ Continued use of dedicated e-mail address to facilitate the two-way flow of information with representatives from the business community.</li> <li>○ Production of analytical profiles to support the identification of cross-cutting business crime themes and crime trends.</li> <li>○ Targeted local media strategies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ PSNI</li> <li>○ DOJ/NIPB/PSNI /Business Community</li> <li>○ PSNI/Business Community</li> <li>○ PSNI</li> <li>○ PSNI/PCSPs/Business Community</li> </ul>

		to deliver crime reduction advice in partnership with other statutory and non-statutory partners, including positive news stories through available networks and channels.	
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## ENFORCEMENT

KEY OBJECTIVE: Improve confidence in the wider criminal justice system.

Summary: Key partners working collaboratively to ensure justice is delivered efficiently and effectively.

Strategic Aim	Specific area	Actions/targets	Responsibility
<p>Making a difference to victims and witnesses of crime.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Improved outcomes for victims of business crime</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Quality investigative standards, focussed on increasing public confidence.</li> <li>○ Timely and accurate victim updates.</li> <li>○ Increased use of civil exclusion orders, for eg through Retail Crime Watch.</li> <li>○ Consideration to be given to training on Safe Shop, or other relevant schemes, for repeat victims of crime.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ PSNI</li> <li>○ PSNI</li> <li>○ Business Community</li> <li>○ PSNI/Business Community</li> </ul>



<p>Reducing Offending</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Victims of business crime have an opportunity articulate the impact which crime has had on them.</li> <li>○ Disrupting crime against business</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Explore opportunities for the impact of business crime to be factored in to the judicial process.</li> <li>○ Identify options to inform the work of the Lord Chief Justice’s Programme of Action on Sentencing.</li> <li>○ Businesses to be encouraged to consider Civil Recovery processes and restorative practices.</li> <li>○ Robust criminal justice practices including rigorous enforcement of bail conditions and ancillary orders.</li> <li>○ PSNI Business Crime lead to encourage local districts adoption of effective crime prevention initiatives.</li> <li>○ Increased visibility and engagement in identified hot-spot areas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ DOJ/PSNI/ Business Community</li> <li>○ Business Community</li> <li>○ Business Community/PSNI</li> <li>○ PSNI</li> <li>○ PSNI</li> <li>○ PSNI</li> </ul>
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