

OFFICIAL



NCA Performance in Northern Ireland

Q3 2021/22 (October – December 2021)

OFFICIAL

Introduction

About the NCA

The NCA leads the UK's fight to cut serious and organised crime (SOC), a chronic and corrosive threat which affects UK citizens more often than any other national security threat. This year's National Strategic Assessment assesses that the overall SOC threat to the UK has continued to increase and has been largely resilient to the impacts of the global COVID-19 pandemic. Global networks, the UK border and current and emerging technology all play key roles as enablers of SOC offending and the latest estimated social and economic cost of SOC to the UK - approximately £37 billion¹ - is assessed to be a significant underestimate of the true cost.

Our approach is to identify and disrupt high-harm, high-impact criminals and organised crime groups, diminishing their capability, infrastructure and influence. In particular, we target those who:

- Exploit the vulnerable through child sexual abuse and exploitation, trafficking, servitude, fraud and other forms of abuse.
- Dominate communities and chase profits in the criminal marketplace, through criminal reputation and/or the use of violence in the supply of drugs and firearms.
- Undermine the UK's economy, integrity, infrastructure and institutions through their criminality.

Meeting the challenges of the changing nature of the SOC threat is a critical objective for the NCA and wider law enforcement community, and there have been substantial developments in SOC's complexity, scale and volume.

The NCA's 21/22 Performance Ambitions

The NCA's Senior Leadership Team and Board are responsible for setting annual ambitions that are routinely tracked in our operational and strategic governance forums and prioritised throughout the year. In 21/22 the NCA has retained its ambition to deliver exceptional services and results across the Devolved Administrations, setting a goal to:

1. *Maintain the volume of branch-led disruptions in Northern Ireland and Scotland in line with our achievements in 20/21.*
2. *Maximise the impact of our capability deployments in support of the SOC response in Northern Ireland & Scotland.* These ambitions will be actively pursued with PSNI, Police Scotland and other partners.

These will be actively pursued with PSNI, Police Scotland and other partners, and demonstrates the NCA's commitment to build even stronger relationships with our partner agencies.

At the Northern Ireland Policing Board in December, the Director General (DG) of the NCA updated Board members on key changes to the SOC threat, the impact of the

¹ Home Office, 'Understanding Organised Crime: Estimating the Scale and the Social and Economic Costs', November 2018.

end of the EU transition period and the implementation of the Criminal Finances Act 2017 in Northern Ireland. He also highlighted the threat and agency response to the child sexual abuse (CSA) threat, and updated the board on the potential scale of this threat in Northern Ireland.

About this report

The aim of this report is to summarise NCA performance and activities within Q3 2021/22 (October – December 2021 inclusive) related to Northern Ireland, and the impact that this has had on protecting communities from SOC. This includes the work of the Paramilitary Crime Taskforce (PCTF).

The Agency also develops, deploys and maintains a range of national capabilities and provides them to police forces and other partners. These capabilities create opportunities to identify and take action against those engaged in SOC, as well as providing specialist expertise to support broader law enforcement activity. Examples of support provided to PSNI are included at Annex A and throughout the narrative. The report also considers wider NCA activity where its global nature is likely to have had some impact in Northern Ireland. The OFFICIAL classification of this report prevents the detailed inclusion of live operational activity and tactics.

The Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) will also be submitting a report to the NIPB setting out its performance against serious and organised crime during this period. The two reports can be read in conjunction to give an overview of law enforcement activity impacting Northern Ireland. In certain instances, there may be some overlap between cases reported in the two products reflecting the close working relationship between the two agencies.

We have taken on the feedback from the most recent Board meeting to make both the NCA’s and PSNI’s reports easier to read alongside each other. The structure of the reports has changed slightly so that the threat areas follow the same reading order in both documents. We will continue to work closely with PSNI colleagues to ensure that both reports are as aligned as possible.

Our impact in Northern Ireland

Disruptions impacting on Northern Ireland							
Disruption Assessment	Jan 20 - Dec 20		R12	Jan 21 - Dec 21		R12	▲▼
	Lead	Support	Total	Lead	Support	Total	
Major	6	2	8	4	1	5	▼
Moderate	25	1	26	35	3	38	▲
Minor	51	13	64	80	12	92	▲
Grand Total	82	16	98	119	16	135	▲

Figure 1: NCA Disruptions with Impact in Northern Ireland January to December 2020 and 2021

The number of reported disruptions impacting upon Northern Ireland has increased in the last 12 months with operational successes in relation to exploitation of the vulnerable being the main driver. Volumes for Child Sexual Abuse (CSA), Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking (MSHT) and Organised Immigration Crime (OIC) are all displaying substantial increases. Cyber is the only area where the year-on-year

total has reduced. However, recent Cyber activity is increasing with more disruptions in Q3 2021/22 than in the previous quarter.²

The proportionate impact of NCA disruptions in Northern Ireland is similar in the last two 12 month periods with 32% (43) assessed as major or moderate (the highest level of impact) compared with 33% (28) in the preceding 12 months.

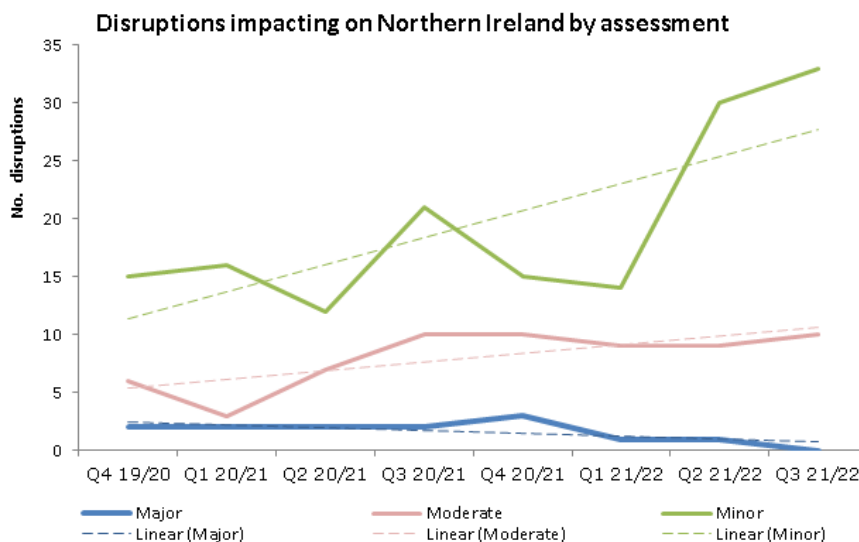


Figure 2: NCA Disruptions with Impact in Northern Ireland by Assessment Level over time

The majority of higher impact disruptions are at the moderate level with the upturn between Q1 and Q3 20/21 being impacted by VENETIC.³ Although the upward trend in moderates has flattened slightly in recent quarters, volumes remain above pre-VENETIC levels, indicating that we continue to achieve a high level of impact. The recent uplift in the number of minor disruptions is mainly driven by non-pursue activity (prepare, protect, prevent), particularly against the MSHT threat.

In addition to those disruptions highlighted above, where an impact on Northern Ireland has been specifically identified, there have been **a further 52 disruptions** during the last 12 months assessed as having a **global impact**. These are predominantly Cyber Crime and online CSA disruptions that cannot be attributed to any specific geography but are likely to have had impact in Northern Ireland. A selection of examples is provided later in the report at page 9.

This report will now set out examples of NCA’s impact, both directly and indirectly, in Northern Ireland across a range of threats. Updates from our **specialist support services** are provided in **Annex A**.

² See Annex B for disruptions by threat area

³ Operation VENETIC related to the takedown of a bespoke encrypted global communication service used exclusively by criminals. This resulted in a surge of activity which generated increased totals of higher impact disruptions.

Those that dominate communities and chase profits in the criminal marketplace

The below updates incorporate our most significant operational and partnership activity from Q3 relating to our ongoing efforts against **Firearms** and **Drugs** related criminality in or related to Northern Ireland:

- As part of a PCTF investigation, two subjects were arrested in Antrim in December following the handover of a bag which was found to contain approximately **2kg cannabis and approximately £20,000 cash**. Following a search of one of the suspect's homes, **a loaded firearm with a quantity of ammunition** was recovered plus a further 1kg cannabis and a small quantity of suspected cocaine. Both subjects were charged for drug offences and one with possession of a firearm and ammunition with intent to endanger life; they were granted bail until further PPS direction.
- A man **pleaded guilty** at Antrim Crown Court in December to attempted possession of a firearm and ammunition intended to endanger life and possession of a controlled drug (Class C) with intent to supply. He is due to be sentenced in February 2022. This follows an NCA investigation relating to the seizure of **a SIG P20 handgun and 52 rounds of 9mm ammunition** from the postal system sent from the USA. Two suspects were arrested in October 2020 during which a small quantity of Class B Cannabis and Class C Etizolam drugs were found. The second suspect is still on bail pending a review of his fitness to face trial.
- The NCA commenced a project in February 2021 in response to a significant rise in the number of UK-spec **top-venting blank-firing (TVBF) handguns** being recovered in criminal circumstances. In many cases, the guns had been converted to enable the firing of a live round or projectile. The most commonly identified manufacturers of these converted weapons are in Turkey and Italy. A firearms licence is not required to make a purchase of TVBF weapon within the UK and they can be purchased easily over the counter or online. Through a wide range of intelligence collection methods, the NCA are working to identify criminal gangs involved in the purchase of these weapons for the purpose of conversion and supply to criminal markets. Details of individuals making these purchases have been shared across all UK police forces including PSNI, either for further investigation or to ensure public and officer safety.
- Since August 2018, the NCA has been running a project tackling online European suppliers of readily convertible **front-venting blank-firing (FVBF) weapons** which are – whether converted and unconverted – attractive to criminals because of they are cheap, easy to acquire and resemble original lethal purpose firearms. Though traded lawfully in some parts of mainland Europe, front-venting blank-firing firearms are illegal to possess and import into the UK. Over 600 weapons have been recovered by UK law enforcement since this project began. Engagement with the retailers has resulted in a number of these suppliers now no longer selling FVBF weapons to the UK. Where appropriate, intelligence packages are disseminated to local forces including PSNI.

- As part of the Agency's **International Liaison Officer (ILO) network**, ILO Brussels has supported PSNI with the direct bilateral exchange of evidence for an operation related to the seizure of approximately 40kg cocaine left in a vehicle in the vicinity of Ostend Airport, Belgium in March 2021. To date, two subjects have been identified, arrested and await extradition to Belgium from Belfast.

Exploiting the vulnerable

The below updates incorporate the Agency's most significant operational and partnership activities this quarter relating to **Child Sexual Abuse (CSA)**, **Organised Immigration Crime (OIC)** and **Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking (MSHT)** in Northern Ireland:

- Between October and December 2021, the **NCA's CSA Referral Bureau (CSA RB)** made **147 disseminations to PSNI** compared to 166 in Q2. Amongst those were a number of high priority referrals relating to self-generated indecent images of children (IIOC), which supports the on-going concerns around the rise of this content. PSNI reported that during Q3 2021/22, 18 arrests were made, 11 suspects attended voluntarily for interview and 33 children were safeguarded in relation to disseminations to them.
- The NCA has been running an investigation in response to referrals from the FBI as part of an international operation targeting an online CSA platform. Historical enforcement against suspects accessing CSA material on this platform has demonstrated that such offenders are often employed in positions of trust, have advanced IT knowledge, are committing more serious CSA offences and are making efforts to conceal their offending behaviour. One package was shared with PSNI for a case which was identified in Northern Ireland following resolution by the NCA. PSNI has since completed further intelligence development and taken enforcement action on the investigation. This investigation is ongoing and any children identified have been safeguarded.
- ILO Washington has worked with Google in the United States to secure evidential information in relation to Google Cyber Tips. Following the ILO's engagement, Google provided a statement to be used evidentially in a case in Northern Ireland. This is **the first time** that Google has done this; and they are by far the largest tech company to enter into an evidential proceeding in the UK. This evidence has supported a PSNI investigation where a subject, who is suspected of systematically grooming and abusing a child using his position as a sports coach, had refused to provide passwords to his devices. The evidence obtained under this agreement, arranged and facilitated by the ILO, has allowed for the subject to be charged in relation to these allegations. This would not have been possible without this evidence.
- An NCA ILO has secured evidence through Mutual Legal Assistance (MLA) relating to a PSNI modern slavery investigation - **the first ever**

prosecution in Northern Ireland for forced labour. The prosecution's case relies heavily on the evidence obtained from Nigeria. Persistent ILO engagement with the Nigerian Ministry of Justice (MOJ) and partner agencies since September 2021 has meant that the critical evidence can now be transmitted before the trial begins in March 2022. This case will also be used as a case study during the current review of the MLA process, taking place with the UK Central Authority and the Nigerian MOJ.

Undermining the UK's economy, integrity, institutions and infrastructure

The below updates incorporate the Agency's most significant operational and partnership activities across **Economic Crime** and **Cyber Crime** in or related to Northern Ireland:

- The NCA supported the Home Office to enact **the Criminal Finances Act 2017 in Northern Ireland**, which was ratified via the legislative process on 28 June 2021. The Act amended the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 and increased law enforcement's ability to prevent money laundering, tax evasion and corruption, combat the financing of terrorism, and recover the proceeds of crime. Following the upskilling of Financial Investigators in Northern Ireland in the legislation by the Agency's Proceeds of Crime Centre (POCC) last quarter, results are now being seen **with the first three Account Freezing Orders brought by PSNI being approved in Q3**. The POCC is also continuing to provide support to the Department of Justice towards the finalisation of standardised NI application forms for all areas of POCA 2002. Provisions are in place during the interim period to ensure that applications are heard in all relevant courts.
- The first confiscation hearing following convictions relating to the production, importation and distribution of illicit anabolic steroids in the UK commenced in October resulting in a confiscation order being granted against the main subject, currently serving a custodial sentence. The criminal benefit amount of the order was determined to be £12.6 million with the available amount for **confiscation as £702,000**. This amount has now been paid by the subject thereby avoiding a further five year sentence. (The remaining criminal benefit is still enforceable if additional assets are later uncovered.) It is expected that confiscation orders for the other four subjects will be finalised in early 2022. In November, a restraint order was secured against one of the four subjects to prevent the dissipation of **£22.2m worth of crypto currency**. The operation began in 2015 when NCA identified a suspect who was using UK mailbox virtual addresses to facilitate the importation and exportation of anabolic steroids and other prescription drugs on a bulk scale originating from an Indian based healthcare provider. Research identified **at least seven bulk shipments destined for Belfast**, two of which were seized containing in excess of two tonnes of illicit pharmaceuticals including steroids.
- In August 2018, a subject was arrested by Border Force at Belfast International Airport on suspicion of money laundering after a seizure of

cash, found wrapped up within trousers and a shirt in a case, following an intelligence led stop. The case was referred to the NCA with the cash being seized under POCA. The subject was subsequently acquitted of the charges at court but the Agency continued with forfeiture proceedings and, in December, an order to **forfeit 13,360 euros** was granted at Laganside Magistrates Court.

- The **NCA Asset Denial team** continues to progress three investigations with links to Northern Ireland. Two of these investigations are being conducted under the auspices of the Joint Agency Task Force. In the last quarter, the Criminal Assets Bureau in Dublin obtained a Recovery Order by Consent in a Proceeds of Crime investigation linked to one of these operations, the subject of which is suspected of being engaged in fraud offences and money laundering. The Criminal Assets Bureau **recovered assets** in the Republic of Ireland valued at approximately **£1 million**. The recovery of these assets was strongly supported by NCA expertise and intelligence provided under this operation.
- In the last quarter, a **cash forfeiture** order in the sum of **£2,500** was granted against a subject who is suspected of being associated with West Belfast Ulster Defence Association and engaged in money laundering and fraud offences. The investigation is ongoing and is being conducted by the PCTF.
- As part of the disruption strategy in another PCTF investigation, bankruptcy proceedings were successfully concluded against the subject when a **Bankruptcy Order** was granted in relation to an unpaid tax debt of **£39,000**. The subject is believed to be involved in illegal money lending on behalf of South East Antrim Ulster Defence Association.
- In Q3, the Agency's **National Cyber Crime Unit (NCCU)** has provided co-ordination and support to PSNI and businesses within Northern Ireland. In December this involved supporting PSNI when a ransomware attack occurred in their jurisdiction. With PSNI leading the investigation, the NCCU assisted by carrying out fast time deconfliction checks on associated identifiers against NCA and Triage, Incident Coordination and Tasking (TICAT) team systems.

Our wider impact against SOC

Much of the NCA's work is aligned to threat, risk and harm, and is agnostic of geography. The criminals targeted are sophisticated and work across geographical boundaries both in the UK and internationally. The agency's assessment is that our work will both **directly and indirectly benefit Northern Ireland**. Directly, as demonstrated by the range of examples highlighted above, but also indirectly, such as removing dangerous content from the internet; shutting down distribution channels for drugs and guns; creating a hostile environment for SOC criminals to operate in; and raising public awareness and driving policy changes to provide greater resilience to fraud. The Agency assesses that these 'UK wide' successes are making communities in Northern Ireland safer.

The below presents headline figures incorporating both NCA-led activity and activity in support of our partners; working together to tackle SOC in communities across the UK and further afield.

Total NCA Disruptions							
Disruption Assessment	Jan 20 - Dec 20		R12	Jan 21 - Dec 21		R12	▲▼
	Lead	Support	Total	Lead	Support	Total	
Major	112	48	160	92	60	152	▼
Moderate	492	217	709	626	436	1062	▲
Minor	1451	887	2338	1435	828	2263	▼
Grand Total	2055	1152	3207	2153	1324	3477	▲

Figure 3: Total NCA Disruptions, January to December 2020 and 2021

Total NCA disruptions between January and December 2021 were **8% (270) higher** than in the preceding 12 months. The number of disruptions categorised as major - where the biggest impact has been achieved - remained relatively unchanged (-5%, 8). It should be noted that the earlier period included the bulk of VENETIC⁴ disruptions (the 36 major disruptions achieved in Q1 2020/21 was the highest quarterly total recorded by some distance). There has been an increase in moderate disruptions in the last 12 months (+50%, 353) with the Drugs and CSA threats displaying the greatest uplift in volume at this level.

Our activity overseas has driven the increase against the drugs threat with moderate disruptions from our International network increasing by 173% (123). YTD international seizures have been bolstered by a 96% increase in cocaine seizures from the PYTD. Whilst there has been a 36% (14) increase in moderate disruptions following disseminations from our CSA Referrals Bureau.

Set out below are examples of three major disruptions from Q3 that, given the individuals targeted and scale of criminality, have the potential to have impacted on Northern Ireland:

- **A 26 year old man was jailed for 32 years** in December after admitting 162 offences, including some of the **most sickening sexual offending** the Agency has ever investigated. The subject pretended to be a rich businessman or stockbroker on websites to target vulnerable women and underage girls, tricking them into sending naked or partially clothed images of themselves. He also targeted some victims on social media platforms. Investigators found that there were at least 196 victims in the UK, including one from Northern Ireland, and 20 in other countries including Australia, Canada and New Zealand. He had also contacted at least 600 people online in the UK and 1,367 women in the United States. Work was carried out with international partners to help safeguard those he had contacted.
- **A London-based crime group** which tried to **smuggle 69 Albanian migrants into the UK** on a decrepit fishing vessel, and planned to bring in 50 more every week, were **sentenced to a total of 35 years** in prison in

⁴ Operation VENETIC related to the takedown of a bespoke encrypted global communication service used exclusively by criminals. This resulted in a surge of activity which generated increased totals of high impact disruptions.

OFFICIAL

December. The crime group were involved in the smuggling attempt in November 2020 when a converted trawler was intercepted off the Norfolk coast. The three crew members, from Ukraine and Latvia, were arrested by the NCA on suspicion of facilitating illegal immigration. The 69 migrants were handed to Immigration Enforcement. NCA investigators seized a laptop from the vessel, which enabled them to identify the UK-based gang which had orchestrated the attempt.

- A major NCA-led operation targeting a suspected organised crime group alleged to have used an insider at Sheerness port in Kent resulted in the arrest and charging of seven men and the **seizure of around 1.2 tonnes of cocaine** in December. A cordon was put around the port and more than one hundred officers, including the NCA's Armed Operations Unit and specialist firearms teams from Kent Police, carried out the strike. The operation follows an NCA investigation into a group suspected of plotting with a port worker to smuggle significant amounts of class A into the UK drugs market through Sheerness. The drugs had arrived on a boat from Costa Rica and were hidden inside a shipment of bananas. The haul has an **estimated street value of more than £90 million**.

ANNEX A: Supporting partners with our Specialist Capabilities

The NCA leads the UK SOC response through a combination of intelligence development, enforcement and investigation. Within this, the Agency has developed a range of niche capabilities - from advanced analysis to technical solutions - that service both our investigations and those of our partners. A snapshot of how these have impacted the SOC threat in Northern Ireland are provided below.

Support Area	Significant Q3 Updates
<p>Major Crime Investigation Support (MCIS)</p> <p><i>The team provided advice and support to PSNI in 14 instances; deploying officers into force on 27 occasions. These cases included murder, sexual offences and non-accidental injury (NAI).</i></p>	<p>One case in Q3 relates to an ongoing PSNI investigation into the death of a 24year old female in the Londonderry area. Long term support provided by MCIS and during this reporting period the National Senior Investigating Officer Adviser (NSIOA), Crime Investigation Support Officer (CISO) and National Injuries Database (NID) continued to assist the investigation team following requests from the PPS specifically relating to reconstructions and expert opinion in the preparation for trial of a 33 year old male.</p>
	<p>Another case involves an alleged large scale online sexual abuse and exploitation case perpetrated by a 23 year old male from Northern Ireland. His suspected offending had a global reach with thousands of victims including a 13 year old female (from the USA) who took her own life as a direct and immediate response to online abuse by the accused. Significant support has been provided to PSNI by multiple NCA resources both within the UK and overseas. In Q3, NSIOA, CISO, National Family Liaison Adviser (NFLA) and National Interview Adviser (NIA) supported the investigation team in relation to victim identification strategies and preparation for court.</p>
	<p>A third case of support to PSNI relates to the death of a 60 year old male in a house fire at his home address. A 42 year old male suspect is believed to have caused three seats of fire within the dwelling after an evening drinking with the victim. The suspect has antecedent history of being close to or involved in three other arson offences. Support provided to the investigation team by NSIOA, CISO, NIA and Forensic Clinical Psychologist (FCP) specifically in relation to suspect interview strategies, bad character evidence and assessment and presentation of evidence to Public Prosecution Service.</p>

OFFICIAL

UK Financial Intelligence Unit (UKFIU)	<p>During Q3, the UKFIU disseminated 13 terrorist-finance related Suspicious Activity Reports (SARs) to PSNI. The UKFIU also referred 171 Defence Against Money Laundering (DAML) requests to PSNI and NCA Civil Recovery Team Belfast for advice. The Unit issued two international requests on behalf of PSNI in relation to drugs and fraud investigations. In addition, UKFIU made 25 fast-track SAR referrals to PSNI relating to suspected vulnerable persons; including 10 relating to suspected child exploitation and three to suspected human trafficking.</p> <p>UKFIU representatives also gave SARs-related presentations at the Irish League of Credit Unions AML and Financial Crime Autumn Update and to inspectors at the Chartered Institute of Accountants Ireland with the aim of upskilling financial sector professionals to improve the skills and knowledge of those likely to be engaged with the SARs process.</p>
Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP)	<p>A CEOP representative continues to sit on the virtual quarterly Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland (SBNI) E-Safety Forum.</p> <p>The Education Team has been working since 2020 to redevelop the training offered to professionals. This includes implementing a new online Understanding Online Child Sexual Abuse course for professionals who do not wish to train others whilst amending the current CEOP Ambassadors course and developing the support and development opportunities offered to trained Ambassadors. A pilot for the new online course was completed in December 2021 with three professionals trained from organisations in Northern Ireland during Q3. Planning for the redevelopment of the CEOP Ambassador role and course began in November 2021, with implementation agreed for March 2022.</p>
Anti-Kidnap & Extortion Unit (AKEU)	<p>The AKEU is the national repository for kidnap, blackmail and sexual extortion complaints. Details of suspects are checked against reports from other forces and, where possible, disseminated to the relevant jurisdictions.</p> <p>In Q3, the AKEU provided these services to PSNI on 15 occasions: six in relation to kidnap, seven blackmail and two concerning sexual extortion.</p>
UK National Central Office (UKNCO) for the Suppression of Counterfeit Currency and Protected Coins	<p>The key functions of the UKNCO are to maintain records and undertake analysis relating to all counterfeit currency detected within the UK. This analysis also assists the NCA and its partners to mitigate identified and emerging risks. The team processed and analysed one seizure submitted by PSNI during Q3. The UKNCO further assisted with 11 witness statement requests to support a prosecution.</p> <p>The volume of submissions remains low this quarter. This reduction in volume from Northern Ireland (including Police submissions processed) may be due to a number of factors including the decreased use of cash and the introduction of polymer notes. Three of the issuing Banks in Northern Ireland: Bank of Ireland, Ulster Bank and Danske are in the process of transitioning from paper to polymer notes. In relation to the emerging threat from Polymer bank notes which feature the</p>

OFFICIAL

	<p>good quality holograms (principally Bank of Scotland £20sand £50s), intelligence has been provided by the UKNCO to PSNI as to key points of recognition so that officers can be updated. Information has also been provided by UKNCO to retailers across the UK. It is hoped this should reduce the financial loss suffered by them and result in increased reporting of incidents to police leading to arrest of offenders.</p>
UK Protected Persons Service (UKPPS)	<p>The NCA Central Services Unit provides, as a part of the UKPPS, operational support to the PSNI Protected Persons Unit. UKPPS is a service developed, deployed and maintained to deliver specialist national capabilities that are not normally affordable or easily available to partners. This assists both the NCA and its operational partners to deliver their mission.</p> <p>In Q3, the UKPPS has provided 116 new instances of support on behalf of PSNI and two days of training to two officers.</p>
UK International Crime Bureau (UKICB)	<p>The UKICB is the UK’s competent authority when managing the new Trade and Co-operation agreement warrant (TaCA Warrant), which replaced the European Arrest Warrants (EAWs), acting as a conduit between law enforcement partners, both at a national and international level.</p> <p>During Q3, PSNI made 12 arrests⁵ and two surrenders⁶ for persons sought on TaCAs. Conversely, PSNI referred three cases to the NCA for onward dissemination; these resulted in three arrests and four surrenders.</p>
Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Unit (MSHTU)	<p>During Q3, the Agency’s Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Unit (MSHTU) supported four requests for tactical advice from PSNI. This included a case in November relating to four Ghanaian men who presented themselves to a Garda Station in Dublin in August claiming that they had left a fishing boat that they were employed on in Portavogie fishing harbour in County Down. They said they were victims of human trafficking. Initial contact has been made with PSNI for future planning and the offer of assistance regarding international enquiries. Marine guidance and presentation in relation to other similar investigations has also been shared.</p> <p>PSNI requested advice on financial currency rates and obtaining rates on Nigerian Naira on an historic daily basis in relation to an ongoing trafficking investigation. The Tactical Advice team liaised with the NECC and provided links to the Bank of England historical financial calculator. Ongoing assistance is being provided with protracted enquiries in Nigeria to ensure evidential admissibility in Court.</p>

⁵ When a subject wanted for extradition is arrested.

⁶ When the subject arrested for extradition has gone through the court process and is then surrendered to the country who issued the warrant for arrest.

ANNEX B: Data by Threat Area

Figure 4: Breakdown of NCA Disruptions impacting on Northern Ireland by SOC threat, January 2020 to December 2021⁷

SOC Area	Threat	Q2 2021/22				Q3 2021/22				R12 Total	R12 Total	Trend
		Major	Moderate	Minor	Total	Major	Moderate	Minor	Total	Jan 20 - Dec 20	Jan 21 - Dec21	
Those who exploit the vulnerable	Child Sexual Abuse	1	4	0	5	0	4	0	4	18	23	▲
	Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking	0	0	10	10	0	1	6	7	13	26	▲
	Organised Immigration Crime	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	8	▲
Those who dominate communities and chase profits in the criminal marketplace	Drugs	0	1	4	5	0	2	1	3	12	12	◀▶
	Firearms	0	2	1	3	0	0	3	3	6	10	▲
Those who undermine the UK's economy, integrity, infrastructure and institutions	Cyber	0	1	5	6	0	0	12	12	36	26	▼
	Fraud	0	1	2	3	0	0	3	3	5	6	▲
	Money Laundering	0	0	1	1	0	1	2	3	3	4	▲

⁷ Note that this reflects disruptions against the main SOC threats; there are additional disruptions not shown in this table, categorised as 'other'