

### **NCA Northern Ireland Performance**

**Q2 2017/18 (July - September 2017)** 

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#### 1. Introduction

The National Crime Agency (NCA) works alongside the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) and other operational partners in the fight against serious and organised crime which impacts on Northern Ireland. The Agency also provides investigative and operational support to PSNI activities within Northern Ireland, across the UK and internationally, including the provision of specialist capabilities, advice and guidance. Our partnership working with law enforcement and in the public and private sectors, is an integral part of how we operate and we remain focused on building the best intelligence picture of serious and organised crime threats; using that knowledge to relentlessly pursue those that operate at the high end of high risk; and develop and deliver specialist capabilities on behalf of law enforcement and other partners.

On a global level, the NCA works with international partners and coordinates UK law enforcement support overseas to gather and share intelligence, conduct operational activity and enhance international delivery through a variety of means. This includes capacity building, training, and joint European and International taskforces.

#### 2. Quarter 2 Overview <sup>1</sup>

#### UK and overseas

Overall NCA activity during Quarter 2 (Q2) 2017/18, in conjunction with its UK and international partners, has led to over 300 disruptions with over 350 people being arrested and over 90 convicted. During this period, approximately 9 tonnes of cocaine, 6 tonnes of cannabis and over 100 firearms have been seized and over 450 children have been safeguarded.

An example of our upstream activity was our investigation into an international organised crime group which netted in August the second-largest cocaine seizure in Cape Verdean history, with the bulk shipment believed to be destined for the European Consumer market. The operation, led by our Africa Desk, involved wide-ranging resources, assistance and coordination from across the agency and our partners. It involved the NCA's International Liaison Officer (ILO) network, use of the agency's niche capabilities and a whole host of UK and overseas law enforcement partners. NCA initially monitored a British-flagged vessel as it sailed from Europe to Brazil in 2016. Our investigations in Brazil had revealed that it appeared to be the subject of extensive internal modifications; ones that were consistent with the creation of concealment hides. On 4 August 2017, the vessel departed Brazil and sailed towards Europe. On 22 August, it was identified within Cape Verdean waters, appearing to be suffering from mechanical issues and was escorted into port by our Cape Verdean Judicial Police partners who had been trained and mentored by the Seaport Cooperation Project with NCA

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> All data relating to 2017/18 will be subject to year-end validation and so may change.

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assistance. The search over two days revealed over a thousand packets containing a total of 1.1 tonnes of cocaine, a proportion of which could have made its way to the streets of the UK.

Another example of the agency's joint working occurred when officers from the NCA and Metropolitan Police Service joint Organised Crime Partnership (OCP) and the NCA Armed Operations Unit assisted in the recovery of 79 handguns the largest cache ever seized bound for the UK. Investigations over a number of days indicated that an importation of firearms was imminent and this information was shared with Border Force colleagues based in Coquelles, France who were able to stop a vehicle before it entered the Channel Tunnel on 1 July. Searches of the vehicle's trailer revealed a large cache of viable 4mm and 6mm handguns and a quantity of ammunition, all hidden in specially adapted concealments in engine blocks. NCA Crime Scene Investigators and a Digital Forensics expert, supported by a Forensic Scientist, deployed to Coquelles and Kent, in order to maximise forensic evidential and intelligence collection opportunities at the scenes. The seven occupants of the vehicle - four women and three men (all Polish nationals) - were arrested at the scene in Coquelles whilst another man originally from the Czech Republic but living in the UK was also arrested as he arrived in Dover from Dunkirk. This joint operation resulted in a large number of viable firearms being taken out of circulation before they could reach the UK.

Whilst there is no evidence to suggest any of the commodities above would have directly impacted Northern Ireland and its communities, these are significant examples of the type of threats that we work against and could have impacted any part of the UK or, potentially, the Republic of Ireland.

#### Northern Ireland

During Q2, 17 disruptions have been reported occurring in or impacting on Northern Ireland (three moderate, 14 minor). Five disruptions related to Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (CSEA), with one of these undertaken by the Northern Ireland Investigations Team and four by the NCA Child Exploitation and On Line Protection (CEOP) Command. There were nine cyber crime disruptions by the NCA's National Cyber Crime Unit relating to UK-wide threats. The remaining three disruptions related to asset denial, drugs and money laundering.

The 17 disruptions in Q2 brings the year to date total for 2017/18 to 42. This compares with 32 at the same stage in 2016/17.

This report is grouped under the headings Vulnerability, Prosperity and Commodity which aligns with the approach in the 2017/18 National Strategic Assessment of Serious and Organised Crime.

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#### 3. Vulnerability

The Vulnerability pillar includes child sexual exploitation and abuse, modern slavery and human trafficking; and organised immigration crime.

#### 3.1 Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (CSEA)

A recent illustration of the NCA's capabilities and reach is the disruption of a depraved individual who was at the high-end of high-risk offending, obsessed with very severe and cruel methods of physical and psychological abuse and torture known as 'hurtcore'. Dr. Matthew FALDER, a 28 year old post-doctoral researcher at the University of Birmingham was arrested in June 2017 and pleaded guilty at Birmingham Crown Court in October 2017 to 137 charges including encouraging the rape of a four-year-old boy. He had a particular interest in coercing victims to abuse their own siblings and children. He will be sentenced on 7 December. FALDER was a sophisticated offender who used technical means to anonymise himself and conceal his identity. It required the NCA to develop new capabilities - which would not have been feasible to operate locally - to apprehend him and bring him to justice. This complex investigation led to the identification of previously unknown potential victims of serious offending, who had not come forward to report to their local police force. 5 of these potential victims were based in Northern Ireland, within a total of over 300 worldwide, and safeguarding activity is ongoing. His arrest was secured after more than four years of significant law enforcement activity, led and coordinated by the NCA, involving international and UK intelligence Community partners.

**Operation JARRA** is a significant joint PSNI/NCA investigation into the accessing, sharing and distributing of indecent images of children (IIOC) by 33 individuals within Northern Ireland. A further two offenders have been sentenced in the reporting period, bringing the total number of offenders sentenced so far to 22. The details are as follows:

 On 7 July 2017, Francis MCCLAY pled guilty to 10 charges of possession of IIOC, four charges of possessing prohibited images of children and one charge of possession of an extreme image. MCCLAY was sentenced to eight months imprisonment, is subject to a five year SOPO (Sexual Offences Prevention Order) and has been placed on the sexual offenders register for seven years.

#### Case Study

On 2 June 2015, a search warrant was executed by PSNI officers at the Belfast home of Thomas Stewart, 60, as a result of information that indecent images of children (IIOC) had been accessed from the internet account at that address. Stewart was arrested, interviewed by a joint PSNI/NCA team and released on conditional bail. Specialist NCA officers

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using digital forensics analysed the devices uplifted during the search and identified approximately 218,375 IIOC, comprising videos and images. These included a number of images categorised at level 5 – the highest level in terms of seriousness. Following a comprehensive investigation by NCA officers, Stewart was subsequently charged with:

- Making indecent photographs or pseudo photographs of a children;
- Possessing indecent photographs or pseudo photographs of a child;
   and
- Possession of extreme pornographic images.

The strength of evidence gathered against Stewart meant he pleaded guilty to 26 counts of making and possessing IIOC, three counts of possessing extreme pornography, and one count of possessing prohibited images of children. On 8 September 2017, he was sentenced to two years on probation and a five year Sexual Offences Prevention Order. He was also placed on the sexual offenders register for five years and disqualified from working with children.

 Stewart HAMILTON appeared at Newtownards Magistrates Court on 30 August 2017. He has been charged with 15 counts of making and possessing IIOC and due to appear for arraignment at Downpatrick Crown Court in October.

**Operation FLUTY** is a joint investigation by the NCA (CEOP Command and NI Branch) and PSNI targeting those possessing and distributing indecent images of children (IIOC). During Q2 2017-18 operational activity continued against a number of suspects, with three individuals receiving sentences:

- An individual was sentenced at Belfast Crown Court for offences of making and possessing indecent images of children, and voyeurism. The individual had filmed children using a camera hidden in his bathroom clock. The judge ordered that he must serve six months in prison and then 18 months on prison licence, during which time he must work with the Probation Board and attend courses to address his offending behaviour. He is subject to a Sexual Offences Prevention Order for 10 years and must sign the Sex Offender Register for 10 years. A destruction order was given relating to his devices.
- An individual was sentenced at Belfast Crown Court for offences of possession of indecent images of children. Following a guilty plea he was sentenced to a three year Probation Order, with a condition to attend a number of courses to address his offending behaviour; to sign the Sex

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Offender Register for five years; to abide by a Sexual Offences Prevention Order for five years and a destruction order was given relating to his devices.

 An individual was sentenced at Craigavon County Court for offences of making indecent photographs of children and possessing indecent photographs of children. Following a guilty plea he was sentenced to six months' imprisonment suspended for three years, a five year Sexual Offences Prevention Order, seven years on the Sex Offender Register and a £1,200 fine.

#### **Victim Support**

NCA shared briefing packages with An Garda Siochana (AGS) relating to 37 adult female victims of false representation (via a modelling site), for implementation of victim support strategies. AGS have undertaken to visit to two of the victims suspected of being children at the time the offences took place. AGS is considering what measures can be taken to support the female adult victims.

**NCA CSE Referrals Bureau (CSE RB) -** The CSE RB is the central point within the NCA for receipt of referrals of information relating to online child sexual exploitation from industry, predominantly via the National Centre for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) in the USA. NCMEC provides a centralised mechanism for public and electronic service providers to report suspected IIOC. NCMEC sends all referrals relating to UK suspects to the CSE RB. Based upon referrals from NCMEC and others, during Q2 the CSE RB made 43 disseminations to PSNI.

**NCA Single Point of Entry (SPoE)** - The NCA-CEOP SPoE team is the single point of entry for CSE referrals from UK and international law enforcement. During Q2 two disseminations were made to PSNI.

NCA Education Team - The Education team represented CEOP at the Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland (SBNI) E-Safety Forum held in Belfast on 26 September 2017. This forum brings together the members of the SBNI to discuss the latest developments, member activity, research and trends within Northern Ireland on the theme of online safety. At these meetings the Education Team has shared with the group updates on CEOP Education/Thinkuknow activity, developments and resources, including the new Thinkuknow site for professionals and Digital Romance research. Feedback from the group is incorporated into the development of Thinkuknow resources and CEOP Education work. The next meeting is due to take place in Belfast on 8 November 2017. The Education team were nominated by the Chair to be part of a smaller task and finish group for the development of a new SBNI safety app for young people, which is due to be launched at the end of the financial year. The Education team will lead on content regarding online CSEA.

#### **OFFICIAL**

The number of trained CEOP Ambassadors in Northern Ireland to date is around 140. Two schools have signed up for the Parent Info service during this quarter.

**NCA Missing Persons Bureau (MPB)** - MPB received seven missing person reports (two high-risk, three medium-risk and two low risk) and one unidentified remains report from PSNI during Q2. NCA specialist support was requested for a 22 year old high risk male, from County Antrim; however, he was found deceased by volunteer searches nine days after he went missing. Of the seven reports received, three remain open. Advice has been provided by MPB in relation to a medium risk missing person with mental health concerns, from County Armagh, who is believed to be in Kenya. Police and NCA are continuing to engage through Interpol and have offered support for the family with assistance from the Lucie Blackman Trust.

An identification case relating to a male found in the River Lagan close to Shaw's Bridge in Belfast has resulted in him being identified; however his name has not been released to the public at the request of the family. MPB maintained regular contact with the relevant force and conducted cross-match searches of its database to identify possible matches to the individual.

#### 3.2 Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking (MSHT)

The NCA's Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Unit (MSHTU) remains actively involved with the Department of Justice Northern Ireland (DOJNI) Organised Crime Task Force - Organised Immigration Crime and Human Trafficking subgroup meeting, which takes place quarterly. For the last two meetings MSHTU has been represented by the NCA Belfast Office with actions and requests for specific support fed back to the MSHTU. In Q2 the NCA MSHTU received one call for tactical advice from PSNI.

During Q2, NCA MSHTU provided tactical advice to a PSNI investigation into a Romanian Roma Organised Crime Group (OCG) who trafficked Romanian nationals into the country for the purpose of sexual exploitation. The investigation commenced in 2016 and led to the arrest and charging of members of the OCG for human trafficking offences and they are currently awaiting trial. In the latter part of Q2, the MSHTU Tactical Advisor, via the NCA International Liaison Officer in Romania, facilitated the translation of material written in a rare Romanian dialect. The translation has since been returned to PSNI and it is anticipated that this may provide additional evidence in the case.

In September the MSHTU Tactical Advisor engaged with PSNI to assist with an investigation into a Romanian OCG trafficking females for sexual exploitation (prostitution). During this engagement both operational and tactical advice was given and guidance was offered on the process for establishing an EU Joint Investigative Team (JIT) with other interested countries.

#### **OFFICIAL**

In Q2, PSNI have been an active participant in Project AIDANT, the NCA-led periods of operational intensification against MSHT. In early July PSNI participated in AIDANT 5, which focused on sexual exploitation, as part of an EU Joint Action Day (JAD). During this activity PSNI sought to execute two warrants, and carried out a number of safeguarding visits. As part of AIDANT 7, which focused on MSHT linked to Romanian offenders and victims and the links with organised immigration crime, PSNI conducted three searches and carried out one safeguarding visit, in addition to providing advice to officers in the Republic of Ireland.

The **NCA UK Financial Intelligence Unit (UKFIU)** identified 20 Suspicious Activity Reports (SARs) relating to suspected vulnerable persons and 11 SARs relating to suspected human trafficking for fast-tracking to PSNI. It also issued one international request on behalf of PSNI (relating to an investigation concerning human trafficking and sexual exploitation).

#### 3.3 Organised Immigration Crime

The threat posed by Organised Immigration Crime (OIC) and its impact on Northern Ireland continues to be assessed and actively investigated by NCA Project INVIGOR. The following operations feature links to the region.

Operation TRIFOLIUM was initiated by intelligence received from Europol and involved collaboration with partner agencies in Spain and Portugal. This concerned approximately 400 Albanians who were stopped travelling on false documents from Iberia to the UK between summer of 2016 and February 2017. The NCA has identified five leading members of the OCG who have business interests in car wash facilities across the UK, from Scotland to the Midlands. These individuals are suspected of being involved in OIC, drugs and money laundering offences. The principal target of this operation has close links to the owners of car washes in Scotland. It is suspected this connections exists to launder the proceeds of the OCG's criminality. Further intelligence suggests employees at the car wash facilities may be subject to labour exploitation. Enquiries made with Immigration Enforcement (IE) in relation to detections at ports in Belfast identified two Albanians who attempted to board a ferry from Belfast to Loch Ryan. Both suspects were travelling on false Greek documents and claimed to have travelled from Spain to Ireland, prior to crossing into Northern Ireland. Enquiries are still ongoing. The UK investigation continues to work closely with UK Border Force and IE in relation to assessing detections at the border. Contacts have been established at key ports around the UK, and an IE operation focusing on travel from Northern Ireland to Scotland is providing direct support.

A NCA intelligence-led operation led to the interdiction by Spanish authorities of ten Albanian Nationals attempting to board flights to Dublin. In addition to this, Swiss authorities at Zurich airport identified five Albanians attempting to board a

#### **OFFICIAL**

flight to Dublin using a combination of Italian and Greek fraudulent ID documents. An investigation is being conducted to identify individuals involved in the production and storage of false documents in Kosovo, Bulgaria and Macedonia.

During Q2, the NCA coordinated and led an intensification and detection exercise at Pembroke and Fishguard ferry terminals. This was led and supported by nine partner agencies including HMRC, Immigration Crime Team and Border Force. The intensification provided a public demonstration of multi-agency coordinated activity regarding border security. The results from this exercise identified a number of offensive weapons and lines of enquiry for intelligence development purposes for HMRC in relation to excise evasion.

#### 4. Prosperity

The Prosperity pillar includes cyber, money laundering, bribery, corruption and sanctions evasion, fraud and other economic crime and asset denial.

#### 4.1 Money Laundering

**Operation PUMPLESS** – An NCA led investigation into allegations of financial irregularities and corruption arising from the sale of the Republic of Ireland's National Asset Management Agency's Northern Ireland loan book. To date the NCA has interviewed nine people under criminal caution. Eight remain under criminal investigation. The NCA has interviewed 61 witnesses (some on more than one occasion) and obtained a number of Court Orders to gather material from public and private institutions nationally and internationally. The investigation is about to receive large amounts of digital material and this will require a considerable amount of investigative effort in the months ahead. We are regularly liaising with the Public Prosecution Service NI as the investigation continues. This is a complex investigation, with an international scope, examining events over a seven year period. It remains on-going and is one of the highest priority operations on the NCA serious and organised crime grid.

Seizure of  $\$ 4,110 and £645 under POCA legislation from an individual linked to a Malaysian organised crime group (OCG), resulting in a reduction in criminal profits to the OCG. The subject is currently remanded in custody.

During Q2, 23 requests for a Defence Against Money Laundering (DAML) received under POCA 2002 were allocated to PSNI or NCA Civil Recovery and Tax by the NCA's **UK Financial Intelligence Unit (UKFIU)** for advice (based on the location of the suspect, victim or other geographical factors). £602,600 was restrained/seized. It also disseminated four counter terrorist related Suspicious Activity Reports (SARs) to PSNI.

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#### **OFFICIAL**

#### 4.2 Asset Denial

**Operation CRINOLENE** - A PSNI referral with drug trafficking as the predicate offence. This investigation commenced in Northern Ireland and rapidly expanded into a civil recovery investigation into more than 30 properties in England and Northern Ireland linked to a Birmingham based Organised Crime Group (OCG). An application to add two Respondents and a further 11 properties to a Property Freezing Order (PFO) in Operation BISETOSE (a total of 48 properties) was granted in June 2017. BISETOSE is part of the Crinoline Group of cases which have targeted the activities of the Zeb Khan OCG in Birmingham.

#### Case Study

Operation DESENSITIZE -relates to an alleged fuel launderer and cigarette smuggler who has evaded criminal prosecution. Aidan Magee was referred to the NCA for Civil Recovery investigation by HMRC. Magee and his wife, Jacqueline Magee, ran a haulage business and HMRC confirmed that their haulage vehicles were regularly found to be running on laundered and smuggled diesel therefore evading excise duty. Substantial financial information was obtained by investigators and the Magees were also interviewed under the terms of a Disclosure Order under the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) 2002. A search of the Magee's main residence in a rural area of County Tyrone was conducted and evidence uplifted. This was the first search conducted in Northern Ireland by the NCA following the Crime and Courts Act 2013 (CCA) (with civil recovery powers commencing in Northern Ireland in 2015). A thorough financial investigation established that the Magees owned five properties with an approximate gross value of £742,000. The investigation ran over a number of years, culminating in a request for settlement being made by the Magee's solicitor and three properties were offered for recovery. Following careful consideration, settlement was deemed appropriate and a consent order was granted, recovering two detached properties in Northern Ireland and an apartment in Nottingham.

The NCA Proceeds of Crime Centre (POCC) has statutory functions under POCA 2002 to train, accredit and monitor Financial Investigators (FI) and Financial Intelligence Officers (FIO) across UK Law Enforcement. It is also responsible for the management of the Joint Asset Recovery Database (JARD), containing all the financial data relating to asset recovery. During Q2, liaison continued with PSNI concerning JARD and their JARD with PSNI attending User Acceptance Testing for the next JARD Release. Assistance has also been provided to the new JARD Single Point of Contact within the Northern Ireland Courts Service in respect of training on data entry.

#### **OFFICIAL**

#### 4.3 Fraud and Other Economic Crime

The NCA UK National Central Office for Counterfeit Currency (UKNCO) is currently providing significant support to one PNSI investigation regarding banknote counterfeiting equipment found during a search of premises in March 2015. The UKNCO continues to provide substantial assistance to PSNI in relation to the provision of evidence for a potential prosecution, including coordination of expert evidence. During Q2, 82 counterfeit currency seizures (non-witness statement requests) were submitted by the PSNI to the UKNCO and were processed and analysed plus a further 13 seizures where witness statements were required.

#### 4.4 Cyber

#### **NCA National Cyber Crime Unit (NCCU)**

The NCCU has provided a range of support to PSNI during Q2:

- NCCU and PSNI Deconfliction and joint working: NCCU continue to work with PSNI to deconflict complex investigations into network intrusion and an 'Internet of Things' botnet attack.
- NCCU support to breach investigation: NCCU supported PSNI with an
  investigation into the availability of Publicly Identifiable Information
  following a breach. The NCCU have provided and triaged samples of the
  data to understand the how the breach occurred and to patch the
  vulnerabilities.
- **NCCU support to drug investigation:** NCCU provided niche expertise to an investigation into online marketplaces facilitating the distribution of Class B drugs in NI.
- NCCU Support for suspected hack investigation: NCCU has conducted deconfliction work for a PSNI investigation into the suspected hacking of a crypto-currency account and theft of funds.

#### **OFFICIAL**

#### 5. Commodity

The Commodity pillar includes firearms and drugs.

#### 5.1 Firearms

In Q2, the NCA made a total of 87 fast parcel referrals to PSNI, which included 19 offensive weapons/firearms cases. The remaining 68 referrals concerned drugs (figure accurate at 24 September 2017). The term 'fast parcel' is used to describe circumstances in which a consignment containing a potentially prohibited or illegal commodity is delivered by courier.

On 15 August 2017, after pleading guilty to three charges of possession of an offensive weapon, Kieron DUFFY was sentenced to 200 hours community service for each offence to run concurrently.

#### 5.2 Drugs

#### Case Study

(UK-wide impact.) In June 2017 NCA Border Investigations at Felixstowe seized 137 kilograms of benzocaine which was consigned to an address in Scotland. The benzocaine had been correctly described on import from China so could not be seized by Border Force under Customs and Excise Management Act (CEMA) powers. The Border Investigations officer dealing with this was subsequently contacted by the freight agent, who was being chased up by an individual claiming to be the consignee, who was making enquiries as to the whereabouts of the benzocaine. All attempts to contact the consignee met with no response. On 28 July 2017, NCA Border Investigations made the application for the benzocaine to be forfeited under section 61 of the Serious Crime Act 2015 at Ipswich Magistrates Court and the magistrates granted the order for the benzocaine to be forfeited. This was the first application for the forfeiture of cutting agents to be made by any law enforcement organisation in the UK under the Serious Crime Act 2015 legislation.

In Q2, NCA activity having a direct impact on Northern Ireland included the seizure of approximately 12.5kg of herbal cannabis from an individual linked to a Malaysian OCG (NR17-020836). This resulted in a temporary disruption to the supply chain and a reduction in criminal profits to the OCG. The individual is currently remanded in custody.

In the same quarter, the NCA adopted a 10kg postal seizure of crystalline MDMA. Following a search of the consignees address, a Lithuanian national was arrested for the illegal importation of drugs. The investigation is ongoing.

#### **OFFICIAL**

#### 6. Other Activity

**NCA Major Crime Investigative Support (MCIS)** provided advice and support to PSNI on 21 instances in the quarter and deployed on five occasions, including cases of murder and unexplained death. In the case of a missing adult female, MCIS supported the PSNI investigation with proof of life documentation and the deployment of a Crime Investigation Support Officer (CISO), Geographic Profiler, National Missing Persons Adviser (Crime), National Investigative Interview Adviser and National Search Adviser who met with the investigation team to provide additional suggestions and support.

There were no kidnap cases relating to Northern Ireland reported to the **NCA Anti-Kidnap and Extortion Unit (AKEU)** during Q2. 11 blackmail cases were notified in the period.

AKEU Officers delivered a three day Green Command Course in Belfast to a group of students from various departments across PSNI.

The NCA Central Bureau provides, as a part of **the UK Protected Persons Service (UKPPS)**, operational support to the PSNI Protected Persons Unit which is 'aligned' to the UKPPS. For security reasons it is not appropriate to detail the 87 occasions on which support concerning protection arrangements were provided.

The Fugitives Unit within the **NCA UK International Crime Bureau** processes European Arrest Warrants for law enforcement agencies within the UK. During the reporting period there were 14 arrests and five surrenders made by PSNI for persons sought on a European Arrest Warrant (EAW) within Europe and two new cases received for persons wanted by PSNI with one arrest was made in Italy for offences against the person.

#### 7. Fresh Start Agreement

The NCA remains a key member of the Cross Border Joint Agency Task Force. The joint PSNI/NCA/HMRC bid for funding to establish the multi-agency Paramilitary Crime Taskforce (PCTF) has been approved. The taskforce was formally launched on 26 September and the NCA Director General was a key participant at the media launch. The taskforce's mandate to tackle the criminality linked to paramilitary groups is consistent with the NCA's mission to protect the public from those serious and organised criminals who present the highest risk to the UK and the NCA has skills, experience and a national and international reach to make a significant contribution to the initiative.

The NCA is in the process of identifying suitable staff to deploy to the taskforce and is on track for the incremental deployment to begin over the coming weeks. Team structures are taking shape and it is anticipated the NCA's deployment to the PCTF will be at full strength by the end of the Financial Year.