

NCA Northern Ireland Performance Narrative**Quarter Four (January – March 2017)****1. Summary**

The NCA works alongside the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) and other operational partners in the fight against serious and organised crime. 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.

The NCA has a number of statutory and national responsibilities for tackling serious and organised crime. These are undertaken on behalf of and in support of the whole of the UK law enforcement community including Northern Ireland. The nature of the support that NCA provides includes providing specialist advice and guidance; acting as an intelligence conduit; brokering the operational support of other UK partners; obtaining the support of international partners; conducting operational deployments; training and continued professional development; and intelligence collection and exchange. Examples of this activity is included in this report

13 disruptions have been recorded in Quarter 4 (Q4) (one moderate and 12 minor). Nine of the disruptions were undertaken by Northern Ireland Investigations (relating to Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (CSEA)), two by Civil Recovery Team (CRT) Belfast (Asset Denial), one by Border Investigations (BI) Belfast (Drugs) and one by the UK Financial Intelligence Unit (UKFIU) (Economic Crime). The moderate disruption relates to the conviction and sentencing of a subject under Operation JARRA for Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (CSEA) offences (NT/15/0435).

The final total for 2016/17 is 71 disruptions which compares with 44 disruptions for 2015/16 and represents a 61% increase. Part of this increase can be attributed to Border Investigation disruptions now being included in NCA totals but the bulk of disruptions (37) relate to CSEA, predominantly criminal justice outcomes under Operation JARRA and arrests under Operation FLUTY. It should be noted that, following the year-end validation of performance data, some of the previously published quarterly totals have been amended.

This report provides details of activity taking place in Q4 and 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.

2. Vulnerability

The NCA has brigaded the serious and organised crime threats into three pillars to improve clarity and resource allocation. The Vulnerability pillar includes child sexual exploitation and abuse, modern slavery and human trafficking; and organised immigration crime.

2.1 Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (CSEA)

Operation JARRA – 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 seven offenders have been sentenced in the reporting period bringing the total to seventeen individuals sentenced, three of which have been placed on the sex offenders register for life. The details are as follows:

NT/15/0434 - On 3 March 2017 Diarmuid KEYES was sentenced to 15 months suspended for three years at Craigavon Crown Court. He was also given a five year Sexual Offences Prevention Order and placed on the sexual offenders register for seven years after pleading guilty to 20 charges including making and possessing indecent images of children and possession of extreme pornography.

NT/15/0552 - On 6 March 2017 Michael WILLIAMS was sentenced to two and a half years at Downpatrick Crown Court, six months of which will be served in prison with the rest served on licence. Williams pleaded guilty to a total of 26 charges including making and possessing indecent images of children, possession of extreme pornography, possession of prohibited images of children and voyeurism. He will be subject to a Sexual Offences Prevention Order for five years and will be placed on the Sex Offenders Register for life.

NT/15/0424 - On 3 March 2017 Kieran HAGAN was sentenced at Belfast Crown Court. He was sentenced to 10 months imprisonment, given a 10 year Sexual Offences Prevention Order and placed on the sex offenders register for 10 years after he pleaded guilty to offences involving indecent images of children.

NT/15/0435 - On 10 March 2017 Michael DYNES was sentenced at Dungannon Crown Court. He pleaded guilty to 41 charges including making and possession indecent images of children, voyeurism, inciting children under 13 to engage in sexual activity and fraud. DYNES was sentenced to three years and one month imprisonment (two years to be served on licence), he was given a 10 year Sexual Offences Prevention Order and placed on the sex offenders register for life.

NT/15/0544 - On 14 March 2017 David COUPE was sentenced at Dungannon Crown Court to a two year Probation Order. Coupe pleaded guilty to a total of 15 charges including making indecent images of children and possession of extreme pornography. He has also given a Sexual Offences Prevention Order for

ten years and he will be placed on the Sex Offenders register for a five year period.

NT/15/0420 - On 30 March 2017 Artuaras ZERNOSENKO was sentenced at Newry Crown Court to making and possession of indecent images of children, possession of a prohibited weapon and possession of class B drugs. He received an 18 month probation order and given a five year Sexual Offences Prevention Order and placed on the sex offenders register for five years.

NCA Child Exploitation and On Line Protection (CEOP) Command - PSNI continues to be fully engaged in the strategic governance arrangements to tackle child sexual exploitation and abuse (CSEA). On 29 March 2017, PSNI attended a further NCA-CEOP Command hosted continuous professional development event on Victim Identification (VID) for law enforcement VID Single Point of Contacts (SPOCs). The aim of the event was to share best practice and highlight new developments both in respect of VID and the Child Abuse Image Database (CAID). In addition, the VID Team at NCA-CEOP hosted a familiarisation visit with PSNI colleagues on 31 March.

NCA Missing Persons Bureau (MPB) - MPB received one missing person report and one unidentified remains report from PSNI during this period. The missing person's report relates to a male who is believed to have entered the river at Foyle Bridge. The unidentified remains were that of a male found in Ballintempo Forest near Belcoo, County Fermanagh. Forensic support was provided in relation to this case with DNA being uploaded to the Missing Persons DNA Database.

Operation FLUTY is a joint investigation by the NCA (CEOP Command and NI Branch) and the PSNI targeting those possessing and distributing Indecent Images of Children (IIOC). During Q4 2016-17 operational activity continued against a number of suspects. The number of charges laid during the period under review includes the following four individuals who are all bailed to reappear at court during Q1 2017-18:

- An individual from Belfast charged with Making, Distributing and Possessing IIOC, Possessing a paedophile manual, Causing a child under 13 to watch a sexual act, and inciting a child under 13 to engage in sexual activity.
- A further individual from Belfast charged with Making and Possessing IIOC.
- An individual from Carrickfergus charged with Making, Possessing and Distributing IIOC, Possessing extreme pornography and Possessing prohibited images of children.
- An individual from Coleraine charged with Making, Distributing and Possessing IIOC and Voyeurism.

Also:

- An individual from Belfast was reported to the Public Prosecution Service for making and Possession of IIOC.
- During Q4, including the four individuals charged above, nine subjects of Operation FLUTY have appeared at various courts in Belfast, Antrim, Lisburn and Coleraine. This has included four Preliminary Enquiries taking place and three Arraignment hearings.
- As yet, there have been no convictions or sentences on Operation FLUTY, although some are anticipated during Q1 2017-18.

Officers from NCA CEOP attended a Safeguarding meeting with officers from the PSNI Public Protection Unit, and social workers from Bangor Social Services, relating to the safeguarding of six victims of online grooming by one of the above subjects. All the victims had previously been the subject of joint visits by PSNI and local social services and three of the victims had provided Achieving Best Evidence (ABE) accounts in support of a prosecution. All appropriate safeguarding measures are in place.

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 the 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 Q4 the CSE RB made 23¹ disseminations to PSNI, an increase of three (15%) on Q3. This increase reflects the national trend.

NCA Education Team - The Education team represented CEOP at the Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland (SBNI) E-Safety Forum held in Belfast on 25 January 2017 and 15 March 2017. This forum brings together the members of the SBNI to discuss latest developments, member activity, research and trends within NI on the theme of online safety. At these meetings the Education Team have presented and shared with the group, updates on CEOP Education/Thinkuknow activity, developments and resources, including the new resource and website for 8-10 year olds and the new site for professionals. Feedback from the group is incorporated into the development of Thinkuknow resources and CEOP Education work. The total number of trained CEOP Ambassadors in Northern Ireland to date is approximately 140. Four schools have signed up for the Parent Info service during this quarter.

¹ The figure includes one dissemination made by the CEOP Single Point Of Entry team

A subject was wanted by PSNI for various historic child sex offences. The NCA's **UK International Crime Bureau (UKICB)** liaised with the force and CPS in relation to a European Arrest Warrant (EAW) and provided the force with advice on circulating a SIS alert. The subject was arrested in the Republic of Ireland on 24 January 2017.

2.2 Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking (MSHT)

Officers from the NCA's Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Unit (MSHTU) attend the Department of Justice Northern Ireland (DOJNI) Serious Crime Task Force Organised Immigration Crime and Human Trafficking sub-group meeting which takes place quarterly.

In February, the MSHTU delivered a presentation to the PSNI Safer Communities conference on human trafficking arranged by DOJNI and attended by representatives from multi-agency stakeholders involved in providing support to victims in Northern Ireland.

Following the tasking of **Project AIDANT**, the multi-agency focus on monthly periods of operational intensification, a NCA MSHTU Tactical Advisor has visited PSNI to provide initial and ongoing tactical advice. Tactical Advisors have also provided support to the Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA) in respect of a labour exploitation investigation impacting upon both Northern Ireland and mainland UK involving a suspect from Northern Ireland.

2.3 Vulnerability - General

During Q4, the NCA's **UK Financial Intelligence Unit (UKFIU)** identified 20 Suspicious Activity Reports (SARs) relating to suspected vulnerable persons, one SAR relating to suspected child exploitation and one SAR relating to suspected human trafficking for fast-tracking to PSNI. In addition the Unit sent one international request on behalf of PSNI relating to human trafficking, prostitution and money laundering.

3. Prosperity

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

3.1 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 more than 66 witnesses and obtained a number of Court Orders to gather material from public and private institutions nationally and internationally. **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 one of the highest priority operations in the NCA serious and organised crime grid.

21 requests for a Defence Against Money Laundering (DAML) received under POCA 2002 by the NCA's **UKFIU** during Q4 were allocated to PSNI for advice (based on the location of the suspect, victim or other geographical factors). One DAML request was refused but later granted.

3.2 Economic Crime

Operation CRINOLENE – On 20 January 2017, O'FARRELL LJ handed down her judgment in respect of NCA –v- Khan and others. This case followed a referral from the PSNI and concerned the assets of Bangor-based Aurang Zeb KHAN and his wider family. There were a total of eleven respondents in total. Assets (seven properties and a bank account) were recovered from eight of these respondents in April and September of 2016 – through summary judgment and a consent order. Aurang Zeb KHAN chose to take the matter to trial. The NCA recovered a further four properties with a total estimated gross value of £720,000 in O'FARRELL LJ's judgment. The PSNI have been informed of the result of this case.

Operation DESENSITIZE – A Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) referral into fuel and cigarette smuggling and other acquisitive crime. The civil recovery investigation into this and other property is on-going.

The NCA's **UK National Central Office for Counterfeit Currency (UKNCO)** is currently providing significant support to one PSNI investigation regarding banknote counterfeiting equipment found during a search of premises in March 2015. The assistance relates to the provision of evidence for a potential prosecution, including coordination of expert evidence. During Q4, the UKNCO processed and analysed 60 counterfeit currency seizures submitted by the PSNI and provided witness statements in nine instances to support Police prosecutions / investigations.

3.3 Cyber

NCA National Cyber Crime Unit (NCCU) officers continue to engage and work in collaboration with PSNI counterparts in relation to a DDoS attack and other cybercrime offences which are being revealed and detected on a national scale.

The NCCU and PSNI investigations are a priority and are jointly working to gather further evidence to progress criminal justice outcomes whilst developing operations to mitigate the impact of any further criminality.

Other activity in Q4 included NCCU Operational Support providing specialist technical support to PSNI with regards to an online extortion attack.

In addition, NCCU and PSNI officers participated in a two-day exercise designed to test national cyber resilience, and the preparedness and response of law enforcement agencies to a large-scale cyber-attack targeting the UK.

4. Commodity

The Commodity pillar includes firearms and drugs.

4.1 Drugs

Attempted importation of approximately 2.5kg of marijuana into UK - Through Interpol channels, Belgium asked for any intelligence on the intended UK recipient of the drugs package with a view to help identify the unknown Belgian sender. Checks conducted by the NCA's **UKICB** corroborated Belgian intelligence that PSNI may have an interest in the subject. PSNI provided UKICB with intelligence for dissemination to Belgium. The request from Interpol Brussels was dealt with within 24 hours. PSNI's fast-time response allowed timely dissemination of accurate intelligence to Belgium. This enhanced the agency's reputation as an efficient intelligence provider to international partners. PSNI's cooperation also aided Belgium build their intelligence picture.

5. Other Activity

NCA Specialist Operations Centre (SOC) and Crime Operational Support (COS) provided support and advice to PSNI on nine instances in the review period, including cases of murder, rape, non-accidental injuries and unexplained death.

During Q4, the NCA's **UKFIU** disseminated six counter terrorist related SARs to PSNI.

There were 18 extortion cases relating to Northern Ireland notified to the NCA's **Anti-Kidnap And Extortion Unit (AKEU)** in Q4. In 2016/17 as a whole there were 40 circumstances of extortion or blackmail plus four reported kidnap cases.

NCA UKICB – In Q4, there were 10 arrests and six surrenders made by PSNI for persons sought on an EAW within Europe (one of the PSNI surrenders relates to CSE offences). There were six new cases received relating to persons sought on EAWs issued by PSNI and six arrests and one surrender occurred during the period.

The NCA Central Bureau provides, as a part of the NCA's **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 six occasions on which support concerning protection arrangements were provided.

6. Fresh Start Agreement

The NCA remains a key member of the Cross Border Joint Agency Task Force. The joint PSNI/NCA/HMRC bid for Fresh Start Agreement (FSA) funding is still with DOJNI awaiting a decision. The interim FSA funding of £115k for the 2016/17 year has assisted the NCA in planning for the Task Force launch, including scoping of potential targets for civil recovery and tax investigations. To date, seven cases have been assessed and adopted as suitable for further investigation. In the absence of a decision on the joint PSNI/NCA/HMRC bid, the NCA has received approval from DOJNI of a further interim bid for £58k for 2017/18 to enable planning to continue pending the final budget decision.

The Fresh start taskforce has been mandated to tackle the criminality linked to paramilitary groups. Whilst it represents additional activity for the NCA, the agency is determined to play its part in tackling this form of pernicious criminality against communities in NI and will deploy staff to the Fresh Start Taskforce once the funding arrangements have been confirmed. The taskforce's aspirations are 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. Planning is at an advanced stage and the agency is ready to identify staff and start its incremental deployment as soon as funding has been confirmed.

NCA Planning, Performance and Risk

26 June 2017