



National Public Order - Public Safety Strategic Risk Assessment (POPS SRA) Autumn 2022

Authors	Analysis NPoCC SIB Methodology and Collation c092056
Sign Off	Report: NPCC Lead for Public Order - Public Safety (Chief Constable BJ Harrington) Signed off: 28/12/2022
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Aims & Purpose

The National Public Order – Public Safety Strategic Risk Assessment (POPS SRA) is a key component of the National Public Order Framework which sets out the aims, processes and governance by which the police service prevents and responds to pre-planned and spontaneous events and protests. This document aims to:

- Identify and assess the national known and emerging risks that would require a proportionate Public Order Policing (POPS) response.
- Assess the risks in terms of their likelihood and impact in relation to operational requirements, resource planning and resource allocation.
- Prioritise risk at a national level in order to provide a proportionate and justified response to public order policing.
- **S31(1)**

Governance

NPOPS retain overall ownership of this document, including formal sign-off and consideration of the recommendations contained within.

The POPS SRA methodology

- The POPS SRA uses the same methodology SRA, developed by NPoCC SIB in Summer 2020.
- At a high level, the College of Policing APP formula of *Likelihood x Impact = Risk* is used. Risk is contrasted with policing *Capability* required, in order to assess priority for the next year.
- At a deeper level, NPoCC SIB have broken down each of the above terms into multiple individual metrics such as **S31(1)**. Scores for these metrics are aggregated in order to calculate the overall risk.

- The scoring metrics for public and sporting events are adapted in order to make it commensurate with the type of risk experienced at these events. Thematic workshops were organised in order to assess the national Strategic Risk Assessment for each thematic area, in October 2022.
- Capacity and Capability continues to be reviewed centrally by NPoCC Operations and National Capability data for POPS is presented in this POPS SRA.
- A confidence assessment, which uses factors such as **S31(1)**, has been applied to each thematic on the grid. Further details of this can be found in the Appendix.
- Each POPS SRA thematic consists of an overview inclusive of the Risk Arc, followed by more traditional key findings, horizon scanning with assessments, and actionable recommendations.
- The Autumn POPS SRA will take into consideration the risk scoring of the Spring 2022 SRA, and will balance this against current SRA scoring and future predicted POPS risk.



The SRA methodology ****S31(1)****



Executive Summary

- 1. POPS Strategic Risk Assessment – key headlines*
- 2. POPS Strategic Risk Assessment – the Grid*
- 3. POPS Strategic Risk Assessment – protest data*
- 4. POPS Strategic Risk Assessment – protest drivers*
- 5. NPoCC POPS Capability Data*



1) POPS risk has become more focused

Whilst the volume of recorded events has reduced, risk has increased across most thematic



2) No thematic was assessed as HIGH risk

NPoCC priority areas, Environmentalism, Internationally Inspired and Anti-Government



3) Climate crisis remains a dominant driver for protest activity in the UK

The environment remains a key influence; international themes and anti-vivisection have a greater prominence



4) Campaigns are increasing in complexity and criminality

Protest tactics increasingly complex and co-ordinated; significant arrest volumes and greater criminal justice pressures



4) Increased civil and legislative options for POPS

Injunctions are a key tool for protest prevention; increased legislation gives more criminal justice options



5) **S31(1)**



6) **S31(1)**



7) **S31(1)**











Thematic Overviews

- 1. Public Safety Events*
- 2. Football*
- 3. Other Sports*
- 4. Cultural Nationalism*
- 5. Anti-Fascism*
- 6. Animal Rights*
- 7. Environmental*
- 8. Social Justice*
- 9. Anti-Government*
- 10. Internationally Inspired*



Event Variance

- Disorder, and safeguarding issues were reported at Leeds and Reading Festivals in August. This included arson and high reporting of drink/needle ‘spiking’ incidents. It is **highly likely** that social and national media reporting played a role in exacerbating the true levels of disorder.
- The dealing of nitrous oxide (NOS) has re-emerged at electronic dance music festivals, which is **likely** linked to organised criminality for financial gain. One drug recovery had an estimated street value of £78,000. It is **likely** some of the dealing was facilitated staff, criminals exploiting staffing gaps in the industry.



Horizon Scanning

- There is a **realistic possibility** there will be an upsurge in the theft of mobile phones as more events take place in indoor crowded venues. It is **likely** music tours with specific crowd dynamics will be targeted by organised theft teams.
- The limitations of staffing and resources at events is **likely** to continue for organisers. This has a **realistic possibility** of enabling opportunities for criminality through infiltration of staffing with last minute attempts to fill resourcing gaps.



Regional Variance

- During this reporting period Leicestershire reported 97 arrests, three times the recorded arrests in the previous period. The risk of the 29 fixtures hosted by Leicestershire City Football Club remained moderate to high, with most fixtures being full capacity throughout the period. Leicestershire also reported the increase in the use of banning orders.
- GMP reported increased forward planning for arrests with a prisoner function in place across fixtures. 18 arrests were recorded across two larger clubs.
- South Wales Police reported increased risk associated with youth supporters and associated ASB and violence. Community based intervention is now underway to assist in safeguarding.



Horizon Scanning

- Protest activity was reported prior to, and during, a small number of fixtures in this period. Disruption to fixtures was low due to robust policing. Most protests are at high-profile games which attract prominent protest groups, or against clubs with ongoing ownership issues. This sporadic activity is **likely** to continue.
- Proactive operations against drug misuse at fixtures is being initiated by some forces, using drug testing at venues. This ongoing work is **likely** to increase the number of arrests linked to drug use nationally.



Incident Variance

- Environmental protest groups have attempted to/used live televised sporting events to protest and raise awareness for their cause. This has included action by Just Stop Oil (JSO) at Silverstone F1 Grand Prix, and at a cricket match at Lords Cricket Ground. An environmental protester for the cause 'End UK Private Jets' disrupted the Laver Cup, setting their arm on fire.
- Inappropriate behaviour has taken place at some sporting events as a consequence of excessive drinking and/or illegal drug usage. This usage may have taken place through pre-loading before the event, at the venue, or at periphery entertainment linked to the main sporting event. This has resulted in reports of crimes and arrests for assaults, drunk and disorderly, and ASB at events such as horse racing and boxing.



Horizon Scanning

- It is **likely** the economic crisis will impact on running costs and attendance at sporting events. An unforeseen upsurge in attendance at lower priced events has a **realistic possibility** of requiring policing resources to assist the organisational capability and safety of the event.
- It is **likely** protest groups will continue to utilise significant televised sporting events to advocate their cause, which is **likely** to cause some disruption. Sporting organisations and events with sponsorship perceived as controversial are also **likely** to attract protest activity.

Regional Variation

- The North East hosted the highest number of CN events, the majority of which related to anti-immigration causes.
- Events by CN groups against DQSH took place in seven different regions, with the highest activity taking place in Avon and Somerset with six events recorded.
- Cumbria, Kent, North Yorkshire and West Yorkshire all reported low-level CN activity at hotels and immigration centres hosting asylum seekers within their force areas.

Horizon Scanning

- Activity continued this period surrounding anti 'child grooming' causes, **S40(2)**It is **likely** any further episodes released will meet support from a range of CN groups, as well as counter-protest.
- The FIFA World Cup 2022 in November 2022 will be hosted in Qatar. There is a **realistic possibility** of increased CN hostility to this in fan zones and the run-up to and during the fixtures. It is also **likely** any reporting of UK football fans arrested in the region for breaking or disrespecting laws will trigger anti-Islamic rhetoric.
- The Reform UK conference in Birmingham in October increased focus on border control and immigration issues, which is **likely** to resonate with CN groups.



Regional Variance

- Six of the 13 events confirmed to have attendance, six were considered to be of strategic level. All strategic events were counter protests.

S40(2)

- Avon and Somerset have been one of the forces impacted by this thematic with the force reporting AF events in relation to DQSH taking place in the area. While the majority of these were peaceful, there was one arrest for assault, when a AF protester smacked a phone out of another protester hand.



Horizon Scanning

- Any further campaign advancement by CN groups will **almost certainly** be met with some form of counter protest by AF groups. This is **likely** in relation to immigration and anti-child grooming campaigns.
- It is **likely** any further women's rights and or lesbian rights events, which are deemed to have an anti-trans rhetoric, will result in counter protest by anti-fascist aligned groups.
- It is **likely** while AF activity remains low, activists will continue to support other thematic causes such as animal rights, social justice and internationally inspired.



Regional Variance

- The number of AR protests has decreased from 558 during the previous period to 469 this period. However, the number of strategic protests has significantly increased from 26 to 113. Over half, 60% (53) of strategic protest relate to anti-vivisection.
- The majority of strategic protests 24% (27) were in Cambridgeshire and relate to MBR Acres and Camp Beagle/Free the MBR Beagles. This is double the next highest forces, which were West Mercia with 12% (14) and Northamptonshire with 11% (12) both of which the majority 64% (9) & 75% (9) were anti-vivisection related.
- Protests surrounding hunting and wildlife culls have resumed with seasonal activity. Events have been consistent with previous years activity with low number of arrests.



Horizon Scanning

- At present 63 protests are planned for October 2022 to March 2023 nationally. This is **likely** to increase with spontaneous protests. Anti-vivisection activity is **likely** to remain the prominent sub-thematic, with continued support of the Camp Beagle campaign.
- Anti-meat and anti-dairy protests are **likely** to continue as groups concerned with the welfare of animals used for food and the cost of living crisis potentially increasing demand for intensively farmed, low cost meat products.

Regional Variance

- Strategic environmental protest activity has been reported in almost every region of the country (excluding Northern Ireland). The most has been reported in London, followed by the Eastern Region and the West Midlands. This is **likely** due to JSO, the most active protest group, commencing a sustained protest campaign against the oil industry, repeatedly targeting locations in Essex, Warwickshire and London.
- Based on arrest data and force reporting, some forces have a high level of arrested protesters in their force, but few protests. It is therefore **highly likely** that these forces act as 'exporters', with protesters traveling to other areas of the country to protest.
- The majority of protest activity has had low numbers of attendance and had been managed in force with little resources. However, larger protest campaigns have attracted high numbers, including JSO and Peace and Justice Project unity protest in London with over 1000 protesters in attendance.

Horizon Scanning

- It is **highly likely** that the climate will remain a significant driving force for strategic protest nationally.
- It is **likely** that the emergence **S31(1)** during environmental protests will increase the risk of environmentalism and present significant policing challenges.
- It is **highly likely** that environmentalism will continue funding via public donations.



Regional Variance

- Out of 243 events with confirmed attendance, 24 (9.8%) were considered to reach strategic threshold.
- Pro-life causes were the highest activity sub-thematic. Events targeted hospitals and family planning centres in smaller towns and cities. Northern Ireland and Scotland hosted just over 65% (34) of all events.
- LGBTQ+ Pride parades took place nationally over the summer period. London and Brighton reported protest activity during the parades.



Horizon Scanning

- Gender identity politics continues to generate protest and counter protest in relation to women's and trans rights. This activity is **highly likely** to continue, with a **realistic possibility** of increased community tensions.
- Significant dates, anniversaries and court cases are **likely** to trigger social justice activity from a range of groups, including the anniversary of the death of Sarah Everard and the human rights abuses allegedly linked to the football World Cup in Qatar.
- Anti-racism groups hosted a very low number of events this period, with campaigns focusing on anti-austerity and anti-police causes. It is **likely** this will continue until a significant trigger event occurs.



Regional Variance

- There was an small decrease in the number of events reported to NPoCC relating to this period, from 955 to 912. 82 of these were assessed as being strategic protest.
- The South East again hosted the most 18% (160) of all A-G events, again also followed by the North West region which accounted for 14% (126),
- Wales again had the lowest number of AG events, 2.4% (23), just below Northern Ireland 2.4% (24).
- Events were widely scattered. Manchester, London and Bristol hosted the most, but road fuel protests and Conservative Hustings spread activity.



Horizon Scanning

- The lead issue is the trajectory of COL protest. A-G sentiment is **highly likely** to increase, protest is **likely** to increase. This is **likely** to be led by the 'Vertical' left (unions etc.) and orderly; but also **highly likely** to be joined by 'Horizontal' left activist groups more likely to undertake unlawful activity.
- Anti-police protests in relation to race, gender; and A-G issues such as asylum are **highly likely** to continue, but their incidence will vary depending on triggering events.

Regional Variance

- There were heightened tensions between Hindu and Muslim communities. A key driver to the tensions was the nationalist agenda of the current Indian government. This generated short term protest and clashes in the Midlands, requiring increased action by police and community representatives to mitigate risk.
- In April the then-president of Pakistan, Imran KHAN, was ousted from office. Related protest took place across the UK, and some events required police resources due to crowd size, and incidents of assault, flag burning, flares, and drones.
- Events in Iran generated international protest responding to the death of Mahsa Amini on 13 September and ongoing human rights concerns. Heightened sentiment led to some reports of disorder. One protest in London resulted in 12 arrests and five officer injuries.

Horizon Scanning

- It is **highly likely** protest will be sustained in the short term against the Iranian authority regime due to human rights concerns.
- The 2022 FIFA World Cup is **likely** to trigger protest on human rights, including migrant workers and LGBTQ+ rights.
- Protest is **highly likely** to be sustained for ongoing government policy and human rights concerns. This includes protest relating to or impacting regions such as Pakistan, China/Hong Kong, Palestine/Israel, India/Kashmir and the Yemen.

Thematic Deepdives

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Likelihood Assessment

Confidence in organising and attending events has now returned with the ending of Covid-19 restrictions. There has been a surge in events across the country, including expansion of established festivals and new events. It is **highly likely** the volume of events is a response to industry attempting to recoup revenue from lost earnings and to supply the demand from the public.

Risks have been raised through Safety Advisory Groups (SAGs) at the volume of events and the capability of organisers to deliver a safe event. Larger established companies have had more organisational resilience and networks to provide and source resources for their event than newer companies. The impact of the ongoing effects of EU Exit and the pandemic has led to supply chain issues problems and the availability of an experienced workforce. It is **highly likely** that shortages will continue in the medium term, further exasperated by the current economic climate. It is **likely** that this will result in a minority of people purposely gaining employment for criminal purposes exploiting the resourcing gaps.

Most traction in media and on social media platforms was limited to short term or local reporting. The exception was the national reporting and debate on disorder at music festivals over the August bank holiday weekend. This attracted significant short term traction, but it was **highly likely** that media reporting was disproportionate to the actual level of disorder that occurred. There was also national media reporting highlighting the ongoing risks around safeguarding for women and girls, including the debate on needle and drink spiking.

Impact Assessment

Attendance at events has been very high, with most big established events sold to capacity, leading to some seeking to increase the licenced capacities. However, where there was a high volume of events, some newer events experienced lack of ticket sales, leading cancellations.

Reported arrests have been relatively low compared to pre-pandemic levels. However, there has been evidence of criminality particularly of drug dealing at events. The dealing of nitrous oxide re-emerged at electronic dance music festivals that was **likely** to be facilitated by organised criminality due to monetary value and volume of drugs. Other criminality reported has included violence, theft, and sexual offending. It is **highly likely** that other criminality has taken place but not reported to security or police. It is **likely** that these issues will be a significant risk moving into the indoor event season.

Safeguarding was raised by most forces as a risk. This has included VAWG concerns, sexual incidents, and vulnerabilities through excess alcohol and illegal drug consumption. There has been reporting of sex offenders attempting to gain employment at events, which was stopped through vetting checks. There is a **realistic possibility** of risk to attendees and staff associated with limitations on proactive vetting checks.

Crowd dynamics and problem behaviour of attendees have continue to be identified as a risk by both police and industry. This conduct was largely exasperated through alcohol and drug usage. Behaviour included fighting, crowd rushing, arson, use and carrying of weapons. Injuries were reported for attendees and police at a minority of events. It is **likely** that in the short term crowd behaviour issues will continue at some events until resourcing issues are eased, with more experienced staff available to identify potential behaviour flash points, and are able to implement measures to mitigate the risk.

Capability Assessment

S31(1)



Horizon Scanning

- It is **highly likely** the volume of events will continue to be high as many events move indoors for the autumn/winter season. These will adapt to demand for seasonal and cultural events, and the traditional music tours. It is **likely** that criminality and safeguarding issues will transfer and adapt to the indoor environments. This is **likely** to involve a continuation of VAWG risks including sexual incidents and 'spiking', the theft of mobile phones, and drug dealing. It is **likely** a significant upsurge in any criminality or safeguarding issues will cause traction on social media platforms and national media, querying the roles of venues, organisers and police to mitigate these risks. However a prioritisation of crime prevention and campaigning by industry and police of key concerns is **likely** to reduce the risk at the event.
- The UK will be host to the Eurovision Song Contest 2023 on behalf of Ukraine, this taking place in Liverpool in May 2023. It is **likely** that the event will attract internationally inspired protest linked to countries perceived with human rights and political regime issues, and ongoing conflict. This has a **realistic possibility** of including protest regarding Israel (Israel/Palestine conflict) and Hungary and Poland (civil rights of LGBTQ+ community). Protest groups are also **likely** to use the live televised international event as a platform to raise awareness for their cause. This has a **realistic possibility** of including environmental and anti-austerity groups. It is also **likely** that the event will attract criminality and safeguarding concerns including fraud, antisocial behaviour and theft. It is **highly likely** that further events will take place in Liverpool in the build up and during the event that will also impact on criminality and safeguarding risks in the area.
- There is a **realistic possibility** that single protest groups will attend and disrupt other public safety events. This response may be directly or indirectly connected to the event, the latter utilising the opportunity to gain publicity through national media and social platforms for their cause. Evolving international conflict and human rights issues have a **realistic possibility** of provoking protest at venues where performers have links to countries involved, or express allegiance / a point of view around ongoing disputes.
- It is **likely** the impact of industry staffing and resourcing issues will continue, further

exacerbated by the rising costs of commodities. This has a **realistic possibility** of impacting on police resourcing as a response to situations beyond the capabilities of the organisers. There is a **realistic possibility** that criminals and OCGs will exploit these resourcing gaps.

- Organisers and venues are further responding to austerity by raising ticket prices to cover their expenses. The downward economic trajectory has a **realistic possibility** of affecting the viability of smaller events and their ticket sales. There is a **realistic possibility** as events fold and austerity impacts that unlicensed music events will increase. This is **likely** to impact on safety of attendees and increase the likelihood of policing resources required to mitigate risk at unlicensed events.
- On 3 November 2022 Volume 2 of the Manchester Arena Inquiry was published. This detailed the Chairman's findings and recommendations on the emergency response to the attack in 2017. Currently campaigners are attempting to speed up the passing of the proposed Protect Duty (Martyn's Law) put forward by Government earlier in 2022. Concerns have been raised that the disruption in Government and other high priority commitments has a **realistic possibility** of leaving locations vulnerable to acts of terrorism if this law is not passed soon. It is **likely** that campaigning will continue to ensure this law and safety measures are implemented to minimise the terrorism risk. It is **likely** that any revised guidance and laws will refine processes to enable clearer definitions around responsibilities for industry to assist safer events.

Recommendations

- **S31(1)**

Likelihood Assessment

Larger forces hosting multiple clubs reported sustained policing concerns from the majority of fixtures. Compared to the previous period, an increased risk associated with lower league matches was reported across the majority of force areas. There was reasonable organisation shown by match hosts, with reporting of improvements in host venue stewardship and preparations. Stadium safety teams and stewarding operations were reported to have improved as the season progressed, with greater engagement with the police. However, steward training, experience, and recruitment remained a challenge for some hosts, a consequence of Covid-19 and the increased attendance across the leagues. The frequency and volume of matches of policing concern was high, with such matches taking place on any given week nationally. Clustering of high-risk matches was **likely** to be low, influenced by the performance of teams and the likelihood of matches being held in the same time period. There has been substantial mainstream media interest surrounding the negative publicity or sentiment related to football events. Reporting on crowd behaviour gained traction, with issues including pitch invasions, pyrotechnics, and hate crimes. Media reporting also highlighted player behaviour; this reporting was **likely** to have influenced some negative crowd behaviour in the stadiums. Incidents of note included offensive chants and thrown missiles. Positive coverage was reported in relation to the Women's Euro's during summer, as well as a notable increase in physical support for women's teams nationally. The recent Home Office publication of 'Football-related Arrests and Banning Orders, England and Wales: 2021 to 2022 Season' also attracted mainstream media reporting. It is **highly likely** a high level of traction on football will be sustained across mainstream and social media, with focus during the period November to December 2022 **almost certain** to be linked to the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, and ongoing controversy surrounding the host.

Impact Assessment

The scale of attendance was high in this reporting period, with a rise in support across all leagues. Fixtures which had previously attracted low attendance were now reaching capacity, including an exceptional increase in supporters attending women's fixtures and lower league games. Forces reported attendance was often performance-led, with teams at risk of relegation often suffering reduced crowd numbers. Most forces reported medium and high level risk for matches hosted in their area. This was in line with the increase of football related arrests, disorder, criminality and violence. Pitch encroachments, throwing of missiles and use of pyrotechnics occurred in most televised games, with impact on the local communities when this behaviour extended post match into night time economy and local area. Violence was assessed as taking place at half of football events. This on occasion has resulted in injuries to both attendees and police. British Transport Police also reported sustained risk on the rail networks associated with fixtures from the majority of leagues, with specific concern surrounding ASB and violence against women and girls. Illegal drug use by attendees was significant at some games, police identifying widespread cocaine use around the stadiums, and on rail networks travelling to the games. A number of forces reported an increase in incidents involving younger supporters influenced by older risk supporters and the associated safeguarding issues. Disruption has remained moderate with no significant impact on matches due to robust policing and stewardship. Hate crime reporting has been low with a small number of incidents reported in relation to racism and homophobia towards players and fans. Online hate crimes connected to football offences were added to Schedule 1 of the Football Spectators Act 1989 on 1 July 2022.

Capability Assessment

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Horizon Scanning

- The FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 will **likely** represent diversified policing challenges in terms of domestic violence, anti-social behaviour and violence, where matches are screened in homes and at licenced venues. There is a **realistic possibility** that internationally inspired concerns surrounding the World Cup will trigger hate crime, disorder and protest where there is a divide in opinions.
- It is **likely** protest groups will continue to utilise the high profile media attention of football fixtures to gain awareness for their specific causes. This is **likely** to include pitch invasions and banner drops. As lower league fixtures and women's tournaments gain further supporters, this is **likely** to increase the potential target set for protest groups, with security and policing also perceived as likely to be lower at these fixtures.
- Based on patterns seen in previous seasons, it is **likely** any matches during the season where teams are at risk of relegation will increase the risk of disorder and criminality at these matches, as well as safeguarding issues such as domestic violence associated with losing team supporters. Robust policing and proactive intelligence gathering at these matches will **likely** assist in related risk management.
- Traction for lower league and friendly matches taking place during the next reporting period will **likely** increase. This is due to fewer alternative opportunities to attend live football while upper tier matches are suspended during the World Cup, and due to the travel and expense of attendance to Qatar for world Cup fixtures.

Recommendations

S31(1)



Likelihood Assessment

Although the number of sporting events has returned to pre Covid-19 levels, very few were reported as a policing concern. Sporting associations and venues are highly organised and able to mitigate risks relating to crowd safety, safeguarding and criminality. However, concerns have been raised by police and industry of disparities in staff resourcing at some events. This also includes inexperience of newer staff, as well as the decline in numbers of stewards and security through factors including Covid-19 and EU Exit.

There was little adverse sentiment around sporting, only short term traction on a major events and tournaments. Debate continues on equality in sport, including the participation of transgender women in elite sports. This has triggered protest, including some as a response to the ban of transgender athletes playing women's rugby. It is **likely** that these discussions will continue. There is a **realistic possibility** of protest in response to how International Federations (IFs) have prioritised inclusion and upheld human rights within their sports if there is conflicting opinion.

The Commonwealth Games took place on 28 July – 8 August 2022 in Birmingham, a significant international multi-sport event for the UK. The event was hugely successful, with minimal reported crime and protest, despite initial assessment that it may attract such. The collaborative work of the host force and national units, along with partners and industry helped to mitigate some of the identified risk.

Impact Assessment

There has been moderate attendance at sporting events. Whereas major sporting events and tournaments have drawn full capacity attendance, and show no sign of abating, ticket sales have been intermittent at some other events, the evolving economic crisis **likely** to be a factor in this.

Criminality and arrests have been low, many incidents occurring outside of the footprint of the venue in the night-time economy. Alcohol-related disorder and ASB has taken place, including at boxing, cricket and rugby. Excessive alcohol consumption is a factor for safeguarding concerns, including crowd safety and violence against women.

Protest has featured at some events, with groups utilising live televised sporting events as a platform to raise awareness for their cause. This has included action committed by Just Stop Oil, of particular note a track breach at Silverstone F1 Grand Prix.

YouTube pranksters continue to infiltrate or disrupt sporting events to galvanise their online popularity. In September a well-known YouTuber was given an eight-week prison sentence suspended for two years for this activity. Conditions were applied including being banned from attending any venue where a sporting fixture is being held in England and Wales for two years. However this result is **unlikely** to deter other like-minded individuals attempting to gain access to sporting events to stream their antics on their social media platforms.

The use of drones continued at sporting events. Most reporting was around racetracks, drones used to facilitate a betting advantage, providing live-streams of the horse racing. Although not illegal, drone usage has a **realistic possibility** of causing injury to horses, jockeys or racegoers if they crash. There are restrictions for flying drones over crowds. It is **highly likely** drone usage will continue at racing due to the monetary gain.

Capability Assessment

S31(1)



Horizon Scanning

- It **likely** that protest groups will continue to utilise significant televised sporting events to advocate their cause, which is **likely** to cause some disruption to the event. Events over the winter such as the World Darts Championship and Six Nations Rugby have a **realistic possibility** of attracting this type of protest. There is also a **realistic possibility** that infiltration or disruption will take place conducted by YouTubers attempting to boost their online fan base.
- Sporting organisations and events with sponsorship perceived as controversial are **likely** to attract protest activity. An example includes the recent sponsorship by the company Shell for the British Cycling Team, this causing a backlash including the CEO stepping down.
- It is **likely** the economic crisis will impact on running costs and attendance at sporting events. Whilst significant sporting events are still **highly likely** to attract significant attendance, smaller and grass-root sporting venues are **likely** to struggle. Equally, fans may choose to attend smaller, cheaper venues to support their sport and local venues, but this upsurge in turn has a **realistic possibility** of impacting on the capabilities of venues and organisers to deliver safe events resulting in police resourcing.
- Other events outside of sporting are **likely** to impact indirectly on crime, safeguarding, and risk. The influence of internationally inspired events is likely to trigger community tensions, disorder, or protest if players and teams are allowed from countries where there is political unrest or conflict. This has been previously seen with the banning of Russian and Belarusian participants at sporting events. The current human rights concerns in Iran are likely to prompt concerns, this is already inspiring traction in football.
- Televised sporting events, including domestic and international, have a **realistic possibility** of triggering disorder in communities. For example, the ongoing rivalry in international cricket with India and Pakistan sparked disorder in Leicester in August/September 2022. Excessive alcohol consumption whilst watching these televised events are **likely** to impact in communities including increased violence and disorder in venues and towns and domestic incidents in the home.
- Debates on the rights of transgender women in sports is **highly likely** to continue at both elite and non-elite levels. Opposing sentiment and guidelines on who can compete has a **realistic possibility** of leading to boycotts and protests at events.
- On 3 November 2022 Volume 2 of the Manchester Arena Inquiry was published. This detailed the Chairman's findings and recommendations on the emergency response to the attack in 2017. It is

likely that any revised guidance and laws as a consequence will refine processes to enable clearer definitions around responsibilities for sporting venues and organisers to assist safer events.

Recommendations

➤ ****S31(1)****



Likelihood Assessment

CN activity nationally has remained low over the last six months with all forces reporting low traction for these events. Pre- planning and organisation of CN events was poor, with attendance being predominantly made up of loosely-affiliated individuals, with some limited organisation taking place predominantly online. This utilised social media and live-streaming to advertise events, however this has not translated into significant numbers.

CN causes have had limited mainstream media interest both nationally and regionally, with moderate online discussion regarding Drag Queen Story Hour (DQSH) for a limited time period.

The frequency of events was low, with marginal peaks in activity surrounding DQSH, despite this it was **unlikely** CN activity occurred on any given week during the reporting period. Clustering was moderate for CN activity, while the distribution of CN activity was generally reported by forces as consistently spread, clustering was noted for events against DQSH which accounted was just over 40% of all events during this period.

Impact Assessment

The overall impact of CN during this period has been low, with small-scale, low-sophistication CN activity, with little or no disruption being reported by the majority of forces. A very low number of national events hosted in larger force areas which caused low-level disruption to single or multiple sites over a short period.

Attendances in this reporting period remained low, with the majority of events falling below 100 in attendance, with the exception of a small number of events gaining slightly more. It is also noted that attendance at CN events was often exceeded by counter protest groups.

The majority of events passed without issue, with the exception of four arrests occurring over two events. This included three arrests in Kent for offences related to racially aggravated assault, common assault and criminal damage. Despite this events hosted by CN groups have largely been peaceful, with only minor confrontations between CN and AF protesters.

Forces reported heightened tensions surrounding causes linked immigration and DQSH where offence was taken, with allegations of transphobic and racist ideology.

Capability Assessment

S31(1)



Horizon Scanning

- **Social Justice issues:** A small number of CN protesters have shown support for causes related to the protection of women-only spaces which sits within the social justice thematic, this has been specifically linked to opposition to the inclusion of trans women within these spaces. It is **likely** any further physical support at events by cultural nationalist protesters will be met with increased counter protest by anti-fascist and social justice groups, consequently increasing the risk at these events.
- **Political instability:** With ongoing political instability within the UK, various political parties have been driving election policy. The Reform UK conference in Birmingham in October 2022 highlighted strict policies on border control and immigration. The recent instability in leadership and increased focus on immigration issues is **likely** to resonate with CN groups, and galvanise support for parties which oppose asylum seekers arriving in the UK, anti-immigration sentiment online is **likely** to increase, especially within CN platforms and channels.
- **Environmental protest:** A number of CN groups have shown opposition to environmental protest, with negative sentiment shown towards the highly disruptive nature of these events. While cultural nationalist counter protest at environmental events has not been recorded in this period, there is a **realistic possibility** any further high profile disruptive action or perceived offensive rhetoric towards nationalist ideology by environmental groups will be met with online and physical opposition.

Horizon Scanning

- **Economic impact:** The economic cost of mass immigration has been a focal point of rhetoric for cultural nationalist groups to promote and legitimise their cause. There is a **realistic possibility** further reporting on the increasing cost of goods and services, as well as the need for further financial intervention by the government will continue to drive activity by these groups. There is a **realistic possibility** a significant incident related to the cost of living and immigration will galvanise support for cultural national activity and protest.
- **Grooming Gangs:** Child welfare issues, notably in relation to 'Asian grooming gangs' have triggered a range of groups to attend protests in relation to this cause, It is **likely** any high-profile event or court case linked to a new or ongoing child grooming gang case, where the perpetrators are black or Asian, will galvanise protest and online activity within CN groups.
- **The FIFA World Cup 2022** in November 2022 will be hosted in Qatar, a majority Muslim country in the Middle East, forces have highlighted racism within football as a an issue, with planned monitoring of fan zones for games which have the potential to trigger cultural nationalist sentiment. There is also a **realistic possibility** of increased online CN opposition to the hosts in the run up to and during the fixtures, with any reporting of UK football fans arrested in the region for breaches of Sharia law **likely** to trigger anti-Islamic rhetoric online within CN platforms.
- **Immigration:** Cultural nationalist groups and activists are **highly likely** to continue to raise support for anti-immigration narratives by protesting and taking footage to post online at ports, immigration centres and hotels. Ongoing media reporting of heightened tensions and overcrowding at UK immigration centres, is **likely** to remain a focal issue within CN circles and platforms. It is also **likely** any developments in the UK Government plan to deport illegal immigrants to Rwanda will generate increased CN sentiment and possible activity.
- **Drag Queen Story Hour (DQSH):** While the summer tour OF DQSH concluded in August 2022, It is **likely** any further DQSH events which take place nationally will be met with some form of CN opposition, with a **realistic possibility** of physical protest at these venues.
- **British Identity:** With the appointment of the first British Asian and Hindu prime minister, there has been an increase in online commentary in opposition to the appointment and surrounding a loss of British identity. While no physical protest has manifested from this, there is a **realistic possibility** this has the potential to galvanise cohesion amongst groups who align to this view.

Recommendations

- ****S31(1)****



Likelihood Assessment

The likelihood assessment for anti-fascist activity in this thematic has remained low. There was low volume and frequency of events within the time period. Of the 13 events reported to NPoCC, the majority of attendance numbers fell below 100, with the exception of one event which recorded 200. These numbers were also reflective of the level of traction for events which was low.

While some causes attracted support from multiple groups within the thematic, such as protests supporting DQSH events and immigration causes, online debate was limited to these events for the short period at the beginning of the campaign or as groups attempted to promote support.

Mainstream media interest on issues within the thematic was low, with attention remaining to be local or regional news. Events were **highly likely** to be triggered by cultural nationalist activity with groups showing the ability to mobilise nationally in opposition to these events, on a small number of occasions counter protests attendance exceeded those of the cultural nationalist groups.

Organisation varied greatly between groups, with prominent groups showing a greater ability to generate traction for protest, compared to smaller groups where attendance remained local to the area and cause.

Impact Assessment

Forces reported a small number of events that had national attendance, with indication that groups had travelled from different force areas to show their support. With the exception of these events the majority had support from local groups, which was often reflected in the attendance present. These included solidarity events at detention centres and ports.

Across the impact assessment as a whole, the risk remained low, this was most significantly in terms of arrests, violence and disruption cause by events, with only one recorded arrest during the assessment period. This included an assault of a protester at a DQSH event.

Aggravating factors associated with events has increased, national media reporting on events related to DQSH events and those linked to the as well as indication of cross thematic support at so**S40(2)** me events, this was predominantly where other left wing aligned groups attended in support.

The events on the whole were peaceful with no significant disorder or disruption reported, with the exception of verbal alternations between opposing groups and minor disruption to roads and businesses where static protests were held at target venues including detentions centres and DQSH venues.

Capability Assessment

S31(1)



Horizon Scanning

- **Cultural Nationalist Ideology:** As anti-fascist activity continues to match the frequency and pace of cultural nationalist events, the associated risk is **highly likely** to remain low into the next reporting period unless there is a significant event or a trigger directly linked to cultural nationalist or fascist ideology. **S40(2)**
- **Group Cohesion:** A small number of groups with varying levels of organisation currently operate within the thematic, while activists will merge with and join causes in support of similar ideologies aligned to anti-fascism. It is **likely** the low activity currently presented by anti-fascist groups in the UK will remain consistent for the next reporting period, with activists providing support to a range of social justice, animal rights and internationally inspired events, as the boundaries between left wing aligned causes blur.

Horizon Scanning

- **Immigration:** The recent announcement that *Privilege Style*, the Malorca based airline, would no longer operate flights to Rwanda for deportations, has rejuvenated media reporting on immigration issues. It is **highly likely** any further developments in the UK governments plans to pursue deportations of illegal immigrants to Rwanda will be met with opposition from anti-fascist groups. Media coverage of poor conditions and growing tensions at the Manston immigration facility in Kent is also **likely** to resonate with anti-fascist groups who will **almost certainly** show physical solidarity with migrants held at the facility.
- **Drag Queen Story Hour (DQSH):** The summer tour OF DQSH concluded in August 2022, It is **likely** any further DQSH events which take place nationally which are met with some form of cultural nationalist opposition and will in turn have anti-fascist and social justice groups attending in support of the DQSH events. While these are **unlikely** to cause significant disruption, there is a **realistic possibility** of physical confrontation and violence at these events if both groups are present.
- **Grooming Gangs:** Cultural nationalist activity in relation to Asian grooming gangs has triggered a range of anti-fascist groups to attend in counter protest at these events, It is **likely** any further events hosted in relation to this cause, will have some form of anti-fascist counter protest present, these are **likely** to be managed by robust policing based on historic risk of disorder between opposing groups.
- **Economic impact:** The economic impact facing the UK in terms of the rising cost of living and inflation, will **likely** raise pressure for financial intervention by the government. There is a **realistic possibility** any government decisions which have the potential to further oppress marginalised groups will result in opposition from anti-fascist groups.

Recommendations

➤ **S31(1)**



Likelihood Assessment

The number of animal rights protests that meet the strategic threshold have **significantly increased**, particularly the frequency and traction of anti-vivisection related protest compared to the previous reporting period. Protests in support of the campaign against the laboratory animal breeding facility, MBR Acres in Cambridgeshire has continued with splinter groups emerging and associated companies being identified and targeted. Tactics against these companies have included physical and psychological intimidation of staff, business owners and their relatives on business premises and at their home addresses. Vivisection is a very emotive subject and this campaign has received increased support, particularly online, from members of the public. It is likely that messages of support enthuse and encourage protest activity in this area. During the period, a rabbit farm closed following a period of activity which included targeting the owner with protests at the owners other, unrelated, business premises. This perceived success is **highly likely** to have emboldened protesters, particularly with this type of targeted protest tactic.

It is **highly likely** that these protests will continue into the next period with additional businesses being identified and targeted. It is **likely** that these protests will included attempts to identify and target owners and employees of these companies. Anti-meat and dairy protests have continued consistently with the previous period. Groups have targeted supermarkets/retailers that sell milk and genetically modified meat this period, it is **highly likely** that these protests will continue into the next period.

It is highly likely that protest towards fox hunts, wildlife culls and racing venues will attract localised protest and continue in-line with seasonal activity.

Impact Assessment

The impact of animal rights protests has increased, since the previous assessment. The majority of risk associated to these protests are concentrated in a small number of key anti-vivisection campaigns, the majority of which remain at a local/regional level.

The businesses targeted by anti-vivisection protests have reported that the activity is having a significant and prolonged detrimental impact to their operations, particularly in the Eastern Region at MBR Acres and their suppliers. One business has already relocated and there is a **realistic possibility** that others may consider re-locating if protest activity towards their employees increases. Should MBR Acres close, or relocate outside of the UK, it is **likely** to affect the supply of laboratory animals within the UK, and a **realistic possibility** to have a further knock-on effect to the global industry.

Attendance at the majority of animal rights events is below 50. Low numbers at events is **highly likely** to remain consistent into the next period. It is assessed that impact is **likely** to remain moderate in the next period, with continued protest towards the anti-vivisection and meat/dairy industries.

Capability Assessment

****S31(1)****



Horizon Scanning

- 63 protests are planned for October to March nationally. This is **likely** to increase with spontaneous protests. Anti-vivisection activity is **likely** to remain the prominent sub-thematic with continued support of the Camp Beagle campaign. It is **likely** that forces outside of Cambridgeshire will be further affected as protesters identify companies associated to MBR Acres as suitable targets.
- Anti-meat and anti-dairy protests are **likely** to continue as groups concerned with the welfare of animals destined for slaughter and the cost of living crisis potentially reducing demand for organic/free range products. Environmental concerns regarding meat production is also a driving factor for protest. It is **highly likely** that animal rights groups will continue to target large companies and supermarkets involved with retailing and producing food in the meat and dairy industry.
- Anti-hunt/shooting, anti-wildlife culls and greyhound/horse racing protests are **likely** to increase in line with seasonal activity (Oct to Apr), and **likely** to involve localised protest and infrequent, low level confrontations between opposing parties.
- This assessment does not include strategic protests held by Animal Rebellion which are currently included within the NPoCC SIB Environmental thematic as they were closely associated with Extinction Rebellion (XR). Animal Rebellion has recently re-branded much of their online presence and logo with the main message being a Plant Based Future. The aims of the group no longer mirror the Extinction Rebellion (XR) aims and although do still refer to climate change, focus more on producing and consuming less meat, dairy and fish. There is a **realistic possibility** that this rebranding is an attempt to distance themselves from XR, who are often viewed by members of the public to be extreme in their protest activity, and become a more legitimate Animal Rights group.
- As such from the 01/10/2022 Animal Rebellion will be grouped within the NPoCC SIB animal rights thematic. This is **likely** to increase the overall threat score for animal rights as Animal Rebellion regularly conduct strategic protest.

Recommendations

****S31(1)****



Likelihood Assessment

The volume of environmental protest varies greatly, with some forces being heavily affected while others experience very little strategic protest activity. This is **likely** due to protest groups focusing their strategic action against the same sites significant to their cause (such as oil terminals) or at sites with political significance (such as government buildings).

The traction of environmental protest has increased to high; it is **likely** that the sustained nature of strategic protests during this period, as well as environmental factors such as a summer heatwave contributed to this.

Analysis of arrested environmental protesters identified a high number of individuals arrested during this period who had not previously been arrested at a protest. It is **likely** that these individuals are new to the environmental protest 'community', and therefore **likely** that recruitment and outreach by protest groups has been successful.

Environmentalism protest groups display high levels of organisation and planning, with sophisticated coordinated action being planned and executed covertly.

Outreach meetings and protest training being reported during this reporting period, and larger established protest groups **almost certainly** have the capacity and capability to carry out a range of high and low sophistication disruptive protest tactics.

Tactics are diverse and often vary depending on the group carrying out the action.

Environmental protest groups often operate differently to groups within other thematics, with large action being planned well in advance, and adhering to a strict 'non-violent' doctrine.

Impact Assessment

The scale of environmental protest is considered to be moderate. The majority of protests attract fewer than 100 protesters in attendance, although larger protest campaigns and solidarity protests have attract six-figure protest numbers, which can cause significant disruption and police resourcing issues. The greatest impact can be seen within the criminal justice pressures that the increasing criminality of the thematic is driving, and the associated costs of this. Direct action campaigns also have a significant community impacts, through the disruption of critical infrastructure such as roads and fuel supplies. National activity has been reported regularly during the reporting period, with protesters attending events in other regions and large events attracting attendance from individuals across the UK, as seen at large XR-UK 'rebellion' events, or co-ordinated JSO protests. Arrest rates for environmentalism are generally considered moderate, although there is high variance between force arrests and in London the arrest rate is significantly higher; particularly those who host national environmental protest campaigns. There is also a high degree of clustering, with monthly spikes in arrests between periods of reduced activity. High arrest variance is **likely** to continue as local environmentalist groups continue to focus their activity on small and lawful protest activity with no arrests being made. Strategic environmental protests are strictly non-violent. This is **likely** an attempt by protest groups to attract support and limit policing tactics. The levels of violence is therefore very low and any reported violence almost always due to misadventure from protesters, or violence against protesters. In response to the high impact of environmental protest, court injunctions which restrict certain protest activity in locations have become a more regular enforcement option. Analysis indicates it is **almost certain** that injunctions having a tangible impact on deterring protest due to the likelihood of custodial sentences if breached.

Capability Assessment

S31(1)



Horizon Scanning

- **Fracking and Coal:** There is growing concern from environmental protest groups that the government may lift a suspension on fracking for shale gas in England as fuel prices increase. Previous gas exploration identified large areas of shale gas across the UK, particularly in northern England in the North York Moors national park and around Manchester. The recent approval for the new coalmine in Cumbria is also **highly likely** to drive protest and attract more experienced protesters linked to other environmental campaigns.
- **Tunnelling:** Throughout the reporting period, environmental protest groups have made extensive use of tunnelling tactics under roadways to disrupt access to targeted sites. This tactic has been very effective at disrupting the operations of targeted businesses, and it is **highly likely** that the use of this tactic will increase in the coming months. In some cases, the targeted roads have been allowed to remain open following a survey from National Highways deeming the roads safe. It is a **realistic possibility** that the Public Order Bill will deter some protest tunnelling.
- **Cost of Living increase:** The increase in the cost of goods and utilities (gas and electric) has put a burden on the general public. During this time, energy companies have reported record profits. This is **likely** to increase the animosity in energy companies, and a **realistic possibility** that this will increase the support of environmental protest groups.
- **Heatwave Weather:** There have been several significantly hot days in the UK, with previous temperature records being broken. Official figures have estimated that over 2,000 excess deaths occurred during the heatwave, and it is a **realistic possibility** that this will increase the short term traction of environmentalism, and the support for protest groups.
- **Political Impact:** News reporting stated that the previous Prime Minister, Liz Truss, was planning to announce a ban on solar projects from most farms in England following a history of being opposed to solar farms on agricultural land. It is unknown if the current prime minister will also authorise this ban but, should it be passed, it is **highly likely** to frustrate environmental campaigners and protesters, and it is a **realistic possibility** that this will contribute to increased strategic protests.
- **Injunctions:** Due to the sustained and targeted nature of strategic environmental protests, a number of injunctions have been imposed that restrict protest activity. This includes a Strategic Road Network injunction, an Injunction covering specific oil refineries and terminals, and an HS2 route-wide injunction. These injunctions **almost certainly** discourage direct action protest at these locations due to the often stricter sentencing guidelines associated with breaching an injunction.

- The use and scope of injunctions has increased in the past months, and is **likely** to continue to increase in the coming months as analysis has shown that injunctions successfully deter the majority of protesters engaging in direct action protest.
- **Legal Challenges:** Due to the commonality of non-violent disruptive tactics at strategic environmental protests, it is **almost certain** that the passing of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act will affect the policing of such actions. Criminal justice demands are **likely** to remain significant in this thematic due to the increasing willingness to commit criminal acts by protesters.
- However, a number of protesters have been acquitted at court for criminal action during protests, in some cases despite no legal defence being offered. If this trend continues, it is **unlikely** that the passing of new legislation will greatly enhance police powers in the short term.
- At the time of writing, the Public Order Bill is in the committee stages. An amendment to the Public Order Bill seeks to make it a criminal offence to create and occupy protest tunnels, while going equipped to create these tunnels will also be criminalised. Further, a new maximum sentence for tunnelling has been proposed of three years' imprisonment and an unlimited fine.

Recommendations

➤ **S31(1)**

Recommendations

S31(1)



Likelihood Assessment

Volume, traction and frequency of social justice events was scored as moderate. This is a reduction in frequency compared to the previous period where forces reported events on any given week. Despite this, there was an increase in volume of events reported by forces, which were predominantly made up of small scale local protests.

Clustering was high with events taking place around significant dates, national days of actions and anniversaries, such as the anniversary of George Floyd, and dates of the Drag Queen Story Hour (DQSH) series. Events linked to emotive issues gained substantial online and media attention and discussion over a seven day period, which was often accompanied by periods of reduced activity as issues were replaced by other current affairs. It is **likely** this pattern will continue with future events which display heightened periods of reporting, as seen previously with social justice trigger events.

Organisation of groups varied greatly between forces and causes, with some able to mobilise quickly and gaining national reach. Despite this organisation by prominent groups the support by the wider general public was low this period.

Impact Assessment

The impact of social justice events was low during this period in terms of attendance and scale of events. Regular events generally fell below 100 persons and this is **likely** to remain consistent, with smaller cities and towns continuing to host protest associated with localised causes.

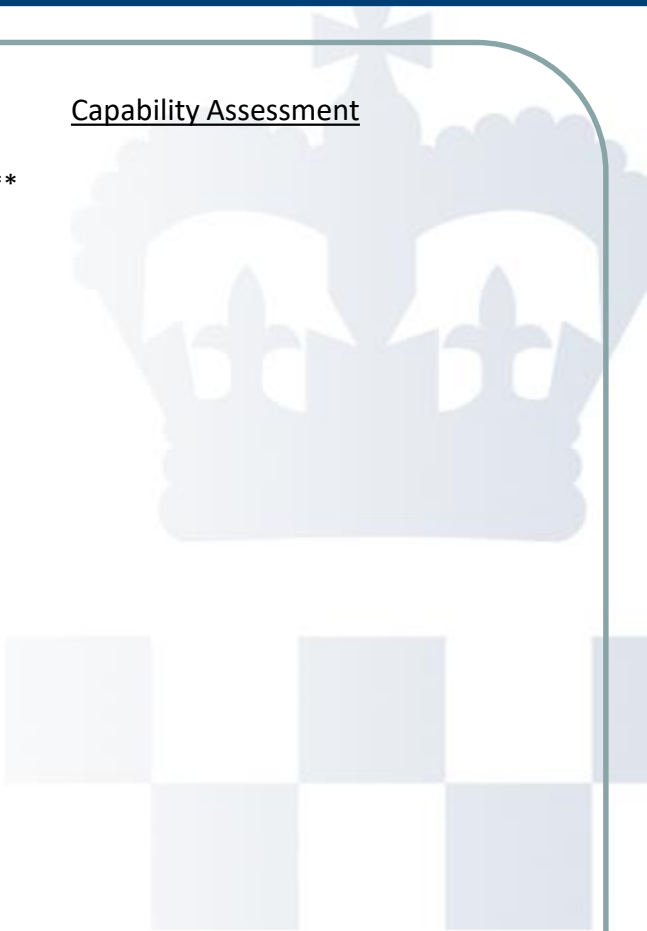
Violence, offences, disruption were very low, with arrests occurring at just over 5% of all events, with minor reports of small scale and short disruption to the local area, predominantly on road networks and to local businesses.

Viral social and mainstream media reporting on causes, specifically with emotive issues were **likely** to gain significant attention for a short time period. Community tensions were reported by individual forces both off and online linked to pro-life, pro-DQSH and women's rights causes, with conflicts having occurred between protesters and counter protesters and requiring police intervention.

A small number of hate crimes were reported at pride events, related to sexuality of attendees. Activity this month has also involved collaboration with other thematic' s through a common cause, such as the presence of cultural nationalist and anti-government protesters at women's rights marches, and anti-fascism groups in attendance at pro-DQSH events.

Capability Assessment

****S31(1)****



Horizon Scanning

- Social Justice events are **highly likely** to be triggered by increased reporting on emotive incidents and significant anniversaries, this is **likely** to include the two year anniversary of the death of Sarah Everard in March, while the previous year had low number of events, any additional reporting on violence against women and girls will **likely** rejuvenate support for the cause.
- Media attention surrounding human rights issues linked to the **World Cup** host location in Qatar has generated opposition from a range of social justice and political pressure groups specifically in relation to LGBTQ+ and foreign workers rights. While opposition to the world cup hosts is **likely** to remain online in the immediate run up to and during the fixtures, there is a **realistic possibility** of physical protest if any significant incident triggers a response, such as discrimination of LGBTQ+ or further alleged ill treatment of foreign workers.
- It is **likely pro-life** protests in relation to abortion will continue over the next couple of months as further forces report events nationally. It is **likely** Scotland and Northern Ireland will continue to have the highest activity, although it is **unlikely** the majority of these events will meet the strategic threshold, despite counter protest being **likely**, the Public Order Bill if passed will create the use of buffer zones for abortion facilities, to mitigate issues between protesters and patients utilising facilities.
- **Anti-racism** groups hosted a very low number of events this period, with campaigns focusing on anti-austerity and anti-police causes falling outside of the social justice thematic remit. It is **likely** this will continue until a significant trigger event occurs.
- **Gender identity politics** has continued to generate a moderate level of protest and counter protest during this period, in relation to women's and trans rights. This activity is **highly likely** to continue, with a **realistic possibility** of increased tensions and disorder.
- Ongoing media reports of poor conditions, overcrowding and heightened tensions at the Manston immigration centre in Kent is **likely** to generate support from social justice aligned groups over the perceived poor conditions at the location.

Recommendations

- ****S31(1)****



Likelihood Assessment

The volume of protests decreased towards middle of this period, largely due to a steady decline in anti-vaccination protest, before a rise later. Traction has remained at a moderate level, with traction and numbers at events varying greatly based on location and type of event.

Frequency continues to rate as 'High' in that non-strategic events take place every week, and strategic events in most weeks. Groups involved remain moderately organised, with wide variations between sub-thematics.

Of note was the rapid progression in Deportation or Chris KABA protests from initial small groups to the cause being taken over by established groups in the area, such as Stand Up To Racism and Socialist Workers Party. Fuel Price protestors showed a rapid evolution from unsophisticated open social media to closed groups.

There remains no distinct group driving A-G, various groups peak in prominence at heightened periods of relevancy. Activity clustered around national action days, escalating causes, and current affairs.

Impact Assessment

The impact of A-G events remained moderate this reporting period. Several Scottish/Welsh nationalist events and union/labour COL protests had large attendances, but no issues.

Most A-G events were limited in size, with no issues and many were not policed. Media coverage was sporadic. The death of HM The Queen and ascension of King Charles III, generated a small amount of anti-monarchy protest, particularly in the devolved nations, but these had minimal impact. Anti-conservative party conference /hustings protest was vocal but little impact. No injuries were reported during the protest events.

Arrests remained low, 66 in the reporting period, with most forces reporting low or very low related criminality. Arrests were highest in Anti-vaccination activity (24) but fell away during this period. The next highest (14 each) were at single incidents during the brief spikes of Fuel Price and Deportation protests.

Disruption caused by the protest events remained low, with forces reporting road and business disruption as the most prevalent. Very few events had more disruptive tactics. The Deportation protests used lock-ons and attempted incursion. Fuel Price protests used slow-driving / vehicle obstruction, which has since been abandoned as a tactic.

Capability Assessment

S31(1)



Horizon Scanning

- Cost of Living (COL) protest is **likely** to rise in the forthcoming period, moderated in part by winter weather and travel costs. This is **highly likely** to be largely lawful and led by the 'Vertical Left' (unions etc) but with a rising presence from broad 'movement' grouping such as Enough is Enough, which combining elements of both union-style and protest group support.
- It is **likely** the unsettled political picture and concerns over key issues including the cost and supply of fuel and other essentials, will assist an increase in A-G protest activity. Analytical assessment has identified a divergence in intensity and target of COL protest, depending on whether COL issue are seen as largely inevitable and no-fault, or as a Government 'choice' which would exacerbate tension. A major winter energy supply failure is **almost certain** to cause A-G protest to vanish (in the short term) but police to face an exceptional Public Safety challenge.

Horizon Scanning

- Sporadic anti-police protests are **likely** to continue as confidence in police remains dominated by hostile narratives, notably over gender and racism issues. Protest are **likely** to be due to trigger events tapping into underlying sentiment, such events cannot be reliably predicted. It is **likely** release of IOPC findings over Chris KABA will lead to London-based anti-police protest.
- Overall protests associated with anti-vaccination are **likely** to continue to decrease. They have stabilised at what is assessed to be a level of committed believers who are **highly likely** to continue to protest, with sporadic local disruption, but without wider traction. The 'National' protest in London in September had 500 attendees, a tenth of levels in January 2022.
- Anti-monarchy protest related the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II was minimal in all respects except media interest, which was moderate. However it is **highly likely** personal respect for the Queen muted potential protest, and the Coronation of HM King Charles in May 2023 is **likely** to see more anti-monarchy/ pro-republic sentiment and activity.
- PM Rishi Sunak has pledged to give police more powers and support to deal with protest. This is **likely** to drive anti-government sentiment within some protest groups and has the potential to drive further protest in this thematic.

Recommendations

- **S31(1)**



Likelihood Assessment

It is **almost certain** that internationally inspired protest will take place on any given week. However, activity is moderate, dependent on the force and the cause. Protest and solidarity events reflected activity concerning over 60 different international themes, causes, or countries. Pro-Palestine groups have sustained their campaigning in relation to the Israel–Palestine conflict, with established groups able to organise events and mobilise support. 29% (141) of overall reporting was related to this cause. This included strategic protest mostly conducted by a Non-Violent Direct Action group - 44% of all internationally inspired strategic protest was linked to the pro-Palestine cause, and is **likely** to continue in the long-term. Although protest continued around the Russo-Ukrainian War, activity declined to mainly regular solidarity events. It is **likely** any further escalation in the conflict will prompt an increase in protest.

There has been an upsurge of protest at the latter end of the reporting period. Tensions were heightened between Hindu and Muslims communities. Violent confrontations in Leicester occurred post a cricket match in August 2022 and continued for several weeks requiring a significant policing response and mutual aid. Further protest and isolated disorder took place in the West Midlands as a response to a scheduled tour by a controversial Hindu speaker (later cancelled). Although these events were catalysts for the violence and protest, they had roots in complex tensions linked to the nationalist agenda of the current Indian government and other nationalist organisations. These tensions are increasingly being felt in the diaspora communities of the East and West Midlands. The death of Mahsa Amini in Iran on 13 September, and evolving human rights concerns also inspired protest globally. Significant traction in international media and social media platforms was reported for these events linked to Hindu/Muslim tensions and Iran.

Impact Assessment

Attendance at protests was generally relative to the force size and makeup of their communities wherein international incidents may impact or inspire. Although internationally inspired protest took place across the UK, large towns and cities and those with significantly affected diaspora communities were **highly likely** to attract increased levels of protest. Embassies and consulates were focal points for protest. Strategic protest was higher in the cities of Manchester and London.

Overall, attendance was low to moderate, ranging from under 10 to 1000. The caveat is the impact of significant events such as the death of Mahsa Amini in Iran, and any cause that is **likely** to trigger a national day of protest, drawing large numbers to metropolitan locations.

Criminality and violence at protests was very low, with most activity passing peacefully. Direct action, **likely** to be conducted by groups such as Palestine Action, is an exception to this where criminal damage was **highly likely** to be conducted with large financial implications.

Some diaspora communities and ethnic groups have identified with evolving international concerns, this increased traction. This has led to local tensions, with sporadic disorder, criminality, injuries and arrests requiring police resources. Examples include the political unrest in Pakistan influencing communities to protest in the UK.

Most protest does not attract significant attention or traction outside the local and niche communities, and it is **unlikely** that this will change in the next six months.

Capability Assessment

S31(1)



Horizon Scanning

- It is assessed that significant international events in relation to conflict, human rights and government regimes are likely to influence protest activity as a response. This is likely to cover a wide breadth of issues from the current political status in Pakistan and India to the FIFA World Cup 2022 in Qatar where human rights injustices may provoke action.
- Protests relating to Israel–Palestine conflict are likely to continue as the most sustained and reported strategic activity to NPoCC SIB over the next six months. It is highly likely direct action will be strategic due to arrests and disruption caused.
- It is highly likely protest will be sustained in the short term against the Iranian regime due to human rights concerns. This is highly likely to resonate not only with the Iranian diaspora in the UK but also for a wider sentiment of the repression of women across the globe, raising women's rights issues in other counties. International sanctions are taking place against the Iranian government, and there is a realistic possibility that trade or events that are perceived as pro-Iranian-government will trigger further protest and campaigning.
- There is a realistic possibility that the political unrest in Pakistan, further exacerbated by the wounding of ex-prime minister Imran KHAN on 3 November 2022 will trigger further short term protest in the UK. There is a realistic possibility that a minority of protest will require policing resources to manage any disruption in the crowds.
- The ongoing Russo-Ukrainian War is likely to generate low risk volume protest and solidarity

events. Any escalation or developments in the war has a realistic possibility of increasing protest.

Recommendations

- **S31(1)**



Appendix

1. Individual metric scores, per thematic

- *Likelihood*
- *Impact*
- *Capability*

2. Thematic and Confidence definitions







Thematic and Confidence Definitions

Thematic	Definition
Public Safety Event	A lawful event (social, economic, religious or political) that attracts a gathering of people whose presence presents a potential risk to the safety of the crowd and/or participants. It requires a police response in some form, either in the planning or live event phase, including coordination, resource and/or expertise.
Other Sports	A lawful sporting event, other than football, that attracts a gathering of people whose presence presents a potential risk to the safety of the crowd and/or participants. It requires a police response in some form, either in the planning or live event phase, including coordination, resource and/or expertise.
Football	Any incidents of crime, protest, disorder or ASB that is connected with a domestic or international event from the top five tiers in football.
Social Justice	Strategic protest that advocates for equality across all aspects of British society, including wealth, opportunity and privileges. Sub-thematics within this thematic can include: Anti-racism, LGBT+ rights, health injustices, socio-economic status, gender equality, traveller rights, disability and migrant rights.
Anti-Fascism	Strategic protest activity that opposes the activities of groups or individuals perceived to hold or represent the ideologies of cultural nationalism, fascism or far-right authoritarianism.
Cultural Nationalism	Strategic protest that opposes any activity that is perceived to be in opposition to traditional British national identity, values or cultural and historical beliefs. This can include, anti-immigration themes along with anti-Islam, radicalisation and child sexual exploitation matters.
Animal Rights	Strategic protest activity that opposes the perceived lawful or unlawful exploitation or mistreatment of animals, either through government policy, experimentation, sport, leisure, fashion, consumption or financial gain.
Environmentalism	Strategic protest that opposes any activity which has a perceived negative impact on the environment, including climate change and the use of fossil fuels. It seeks to change domestic government or industry policy, advocating for greener, sustainable management of resources and the protection of the natural environment.
Internationally Inspired	Strategic protest activity within the UK that is partly or wholly inspired by any International event or, is in response to any political policy emanating from UK foreign policy or from a foreign Government.
Anti-Government	Strategic protest activity that opposes the State or a specific UK domestic government policy; with the aim to challenge, postpone, change or revoke the legislation.



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