

TACKLING

RETAIL CRIME

TOGETHER

June 2026

Edition 1

NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the First Tackling Retail Crime Together Newsletter

This newsletter provides an update on partnership progress across each of the strands under the Tackling Retail Crime Together strategy. It is designed to:

- strengthen communication across policing, retail, government and security partners
- highlight progress and upcoming priorities
- support transparency and shared understanding
- provide a single place for updates on TRCT workstreams and working groups

Each edition will spotlight key developments, calls to action, and opportunities for partners to contribute.



A message from ACC Alex Goss NPCC Lead for Retail Crime

Welcome to the first edition of the [Tackling Retail Crime Together \(TRCT\)](#) newsletter.

As we approach the programme's first full year, our collective effort is already delivering meaningful impact. Violence and abuse against shopworkers is beginning to fall, successful outcomes for shop theft are rising, and police response and partnership working across retailers, government and policing are becoming stronger and more aligned.

These gains show what is possible when we act with shared purpose and urgency. But they are only the start. Retail crime continues to evolve, and the pressure on frontline staff and businesses remains significant. Sustaining momentum through 2025 and accelerating delivery into 2026 will be critical if we are to achieve the transformation our sector needs.

Thank you for your continued leadership, collaboration and commitment. Together, we can build safer retail environments and protect the people who keep our high streets and communities running.

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Building on National Progress

Since the launch of the Retail Crime Action Plan (RCAP) and the Pegasus Partnership, policing and partners have driven significant improvements across the sector. The Tackling Retail Crime Together Strategy 2025–2028 sets out a national, intelligence-led approach uniting police, retailers, the security industry and Business Crime Reduction Partnerships (BCRPs).

The strategy aims to:

- reduce crime and protect staff
- address violence, abuse and repeat offending
- strengthen community confidence and local resilience
- build a consistent national approach to prevention, intelligence and enforcement



Further detail can be found at: [Tackling Retail Crime Together | National Business Crime Centre](#)

TRCT Structure

Retail Crime Forum

Chair: Sarah Jones, Policing Minister

Purpose: Strategic Governance

TRCT Steering Group

Chair: ACC Alex Goss

Purpose: Strategic Oversight

TRCT Subgroup Leads

Chair: National Business Crime Centre

Purpose: Operational Delivery

Retail Crime Advisory Group

Chair: John Unsworth

Purpose:

- Setting strategic and tactical priorities
- Targeting Threat, Risk and Harm through prevention, intelligence and enforcement
- Advising on delivery of the TRCT Strategy

Workstream Leads

- **Retail Crime Fusion Cell** – OPAL Head Analyst Stephanie Coombes & NBCC Superintendent Lisa Maslen
- **Organised Retail Crime** – OPAL Head Jim Taylor & Stephanie Coombes
- **High Harm Places** – NABCP CEO Sophie Jordan
- **Offender Management Programme** – Superintendent Cara Charlesworth, supported by NBCC Sergeant Rachel Rowlands
- **What Works Well** – Chief Inspector Ryan Chapman & NBCC Deputy Head
- **Consistent Standards** – Superintendent Cara Charlesworth
- **Outputs & Outcomes** – John Unsworth, Director of Crime & Intelligence at Mitie Security & Superintendent Lisa Maslen

Working Groups Underway

- **Home Office Digital Reporting Subgroup** - developing options for a single national reporting approach
- **Home Office AI Facial Recognition Subgroup** - exploring ethical, legal and operational opportunities for AI-enabled identification
- **TRCT Workstream Groups** - delivering prevention, intelligence and enforcement activity across the strategy

Retail Crime Fusion Cell

The Retail Crime Fusion Cell is a central element of the Tackling Retail Crime Together (TRCT) approach. It is being developed as a unified, data-informed national resource that brings together police and industry information in one place. The Fusion Cell will operate through a shared, interactive intelligence platform accessible to policing, retailers, BCRPs and security partners.

The platform will provide:

- strategic, tactical and operational insights
- real-time information on crime levels and emerging trends
- analysis of offender methodologies
- identification of high-harm locations
- linked offending and organised retail crime patterns

The portal is designed to complement, not replace, existing systems, providing a single national picture of retail crime for the first time.

Benefits for all partners:

- Better intelligence – a shared national view strengthens understanding of threats and risks.
- Faster decision-making – real-time insights help partners respond quickly to emerging issues.
- Improved prevention – identifying repeat offenders, hotspots and trends enables targeted interventions.
- Stronger enforcement – linked-offending analysis supports more effective investigations and prosecutions.
- Shared investment – a funding model involving industry contributions ensures sustainability and joint ownership.

Procurement is progressing, and partner engagement will shape the final design.

Direct Reporting – What It Is and Why It Matters

Policing bodies and major retailers are jointly exploring the feasibility of a single national reporting approach for retail crime. This work is being supported by Home Office-led digital and AI working groups and aims to simplify how incidents are reported, processed and shared across the country.

The current development work is assessing how the following capabilities could enhance the reporting process, delivering a more consistent, efficient, and intelligence-rich system for all partners:

- **digital submissions**
- **automated triage**
- **AI-supported insights**

Benefits for all partners

- **Consistency** – A single national approach reduces variation between forces and retailers, creating clearer expectations and processes.
- **Efficiency** – Faster reporting and automated triage reduce administrative burden for both police and industry.
- **Better data quality** – Standardised information improves the accuracy and usefulness of intelligence.
- **Improved victim experience** – Clearer processes and quicker feedback loops support better engagement and confidence.
- **Enhanced investigations** – AI-supported insights help identify repeat offenders, linked cases and emerging patterns.

This work remains exploratory, and partner input will be essential in shaping any future national model.



Criminal Behaviour Orders (CBOs)

What they are and why they matter?

What they are:

Criminal Behaviour Orders (CBOs) are court orders that place restrictions on individuals who repeatedly commit crime or anti-social behaviour. They can ban offenders from specific stores, retail parks, town centres or behaviours linked to offending.

Why they matter now:

With the Sentencing Bill shifting minor offences away from custody and toward community-based measures, CBOs are becoming a more important tool for managing persistent retail offenders.

Recent discussions with partners show a shared recognition that CBOs need to be used more consistently across the country.

Benefits for all partners

- **Protection for staff:** CBOs can prohibit offenders from entering stores where they have been violent or abusive.
- **Reduced repeat offending:** Restrictions disrupt habitual offending patterns.
- **Clear enforcement:** Breaching a CBO is a criminal offence, enabling stronger sanctions.
- **Consistency:** A national approach ensures fairness and clarity for all retailers and forces.
- **Community reassurance:** Visible action against persistent offenders builds confidence.

CBOs will play a key role in offender management within TRCT.



Crime and Policing Act 2026

What it changes and why it matters

What it is:

The Crime and Policing Act 2026 received Royal Assent on 29 April. It introduces more than 70 measures to strengthen police powers and improve the criminal justice response to anti-social behaviour (ASB) and retail crime.

Key changes relevant to retail crime:

- **Respect Orders:** New powers enabling police to ban repeat offenders from town centres and other locations.
- **Vehicle seizure powers:** Removal of the requirement for police to issue a prior warning before seizing vehicles used in anti-social behaviour.
- **Theft under £200:** No longer treated as a summary-only offence, enabling stronger sanctions.
- **New offence:** A bespoke offence for assaulting a retail worker.

Benefits for all partners

- **Stronger deterrence:** Tougher penalties and new offences send a clear message.
- **Better protection for staff:** Assaulting a retail worker is now recognised as a specific, serious crime.
- **More effective enforcement:** Respect Orders and enhanced powers help manage persistent offenders.
- **Improved community safety:** Measures support safer high streets and retail environments.
- **Alignment with TRCT:** The Act strengthens the tools available to deliver the strategy.

Although funding for the Pegasus Partnership has formally ended, the work and learning from the last three years will continue to underpin TRCT delivery.



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How You Can Support the Work

We are asking partners to support the next phase of delivery by:

- contributing data and insight to shape the Fusion Cell
- participating in working groups and consultations
- supporting consistent reporting and information-sharing practices
- providing feedback on early TRCT products and tools
- championing the strategy within your organisation

Your engagement is essential to building a truly national, joined-up approach.



What's Coming Next

Before the next newsletter, we will be progressing:

- Fusion Cell procurement and technical design
- national reporting options appraisal
- publication of consistent standards for retail crime response
- development of the What Works Well evidence library
- expansion of offender management pilots
- further engagement with retailers and BCRPs on high-harm locations

The next edition will include updates on delivery milestones, early findings from working groups, and opportunities for partners to get involved.



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