


TACKLING HIGH STREET CRIME CONFERENCE

 **Digital Conference**

 **Thursday 1st October 2026**



Overview

Britain's high streets are at the heart of our communities, serving as centres for retail, leisure, hospitality and public services. However, changing consumer habits, the growth of online shopping and lasting impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic have contributed to declining footfall, business closures and rising retail vacancies in towns and cities across the country.

As high streets continue to change, concerns are growing about the exploitation of high street businesses and vacant commercial premises by organised criminal groups. Seemingly legitimate businesses have increasingly been linked to wider criminality, including money laundering, illicit tobacco and vape sales, counterfeit goods, illegal labour exploitation and wider networks connected to drug supply, organised immigration crime, modern slavery and child exploitation.

Recognising the growing scale and complexity of the threat, the Government has announced a major new £20m investment to tackle organised high street crime, including the creation of a dedicated multi-agency **High Street Organised Crime Unit** led by the *National Crime Agency*. Building on the intelligence-led approach of *Operation Machinize*, the new unit will bring together law enforcement, local authorities, Trading Standards and other key partners to identify, prevent and disrupt organised criminal networks operating within local communities.

This timely conference brings together policymakers, law enforcement, local authorities, Trading Standards professionals, licensing authorities, retailers and community safety leaders to explore the growing threat posed by organised high street crime and examine how partners can work together to prevent, identify and disrupt organised criminal activity, protect local communities and take back Britain's high streets.

Why Attend?

- Hear directly from policymakers, law enforcement leaders, Trading Standards professionals and frontline practitioners on the growing threat posed by organised high street crime
- Get the latest insights into the nature and scale of organised criminal activity impacting Britain's high streets and local communities
- Examine the lessons learned from *Operation Machinize* and the role of the new *High Street Organised Crime Unit* in disrupting organised criminal networks
- Learn practical approaches to prevention, intelligence-sharing and multi-agency partnership working
- Understand how enforcement agencies and local partners are tackling money laundering, illicit trade and wider criminal exploitation
- Explore strategies to support legitimate businesses and strengthen resilience within town centres and local economies
- Share ideas and effective practice with professionals from policing, local government, Trading Standards, licensing, retail and community safety sectors
- *On Demand* – Exclusive access to speaker presentations and post-event resources

Who Should Attend?

- Local Authority Officers & Councillors
- Central Government Departments & Agencies
- Local Authority Trading Standards Teams (LATS)
- Directors of Regeneration & Place
- Business Improvement District
- BID Managers
- Economic Development Teams
- Heads of Planning
- Planning Policy Managers
- Place-Based Partnerships Teams
- Town Centre Managers
- Licensing Officers
- Licensing Committee Members
- Community Safety Teams
- Police Authorities
- Police & Crime Commissioners
- Neighbourhood Policing Officers & Practitioners
- Regional Organised Crime Units (ROCs)
- Organised Crime Police Teams
- Heads of Economic Crime
- Financial Crime Leads
- Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs)
- National Referral Mechanism (NRM) Leads
- Community Safety Officers & Managers
- Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnerships
- Anti-Social Behaviour Managers
- Drug & Alcohol Managers
- Court Service, Judges & Magistrates
- Immigration Officers
- Academics and Researchers


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Book Online: policyforesight.org



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Programme




09:30 AM	Delegate Online Login
10:00 AM	Introduction by Webinar Organiser
10:05 AM	Chair's Welcome and Opening Remarks
10:10 AM	Keynote Address: Tackling High Street Organised Crime – The National Picture <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Understanding the nature and scale of the threat posed by organised criminal activity on Britain's high streets➤ Examining the role of the new <i>High Street Organised Crime Unit</i> in identifying, disrupting and preventing organised criminal activity➤ Learning how organised criminal groups exploit vacant commercial premises➤ Exploring the links between organised high street crime, modern slavery and wider criminal exploitation
10:30 AM	Keynote Address: Questions and Discussion
10:50 AM	Comfort Break
11:00 AM	Panel Session One: Prevention, Partnership and Early Intervention – Stopping Criminal Exploitation of the High Street <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Pride in Place – Building safer, more resilient and economically sustainable high streets➤ Identifying the warning signs of organised criminal activity within local high streets and town centres➤ Explore the vital role of Trading Standards in supporting legitimate businesses, protecting consumers and identifying organised criminal activity➤ Preventing criminal groups from becoming embedded within communities through early intervention and intelligence-sharing➤ Effectively supporting legitimate businesses and protecting local economies from illicit trade and unfair competition



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12:00 PM	Panel Session One: Questions and Discussion
12:20 PM	Comfort Break
1:10 PM	<p>Panel Session Two: Disrupting Organised High Street Crime – Enforcement, Intelligence and Multi-Agency Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Learning Lessons from <i>Operation Machinize</i> - Developing effective disruption strategies through partnership working between retailers, law enforcement, local authorities, Trading Standards, and community organisations➤ Strengthening intelligence-sharing and developing coordinated multi-agency approaches to disrupting money laundering and organised criminal networks➤ Using Closure Orders and regulatory powers effectively to disrupt criminal activity and protect local communities➤ Tackling organised retail crime and protecting businesses, workers and consumers➤ Balancing robust enforcement with long-term regeneration and community confidence
2:10 PM	Panel Session Two: Questions and Discussion
2:30 PM	Final Questions and Chair's Summary & Closing Comments
2:40 PM	End of Digital Conference



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DELEGATE REGISTRATION FORM

DELEGATE FEES [price per place]						
BOOKING & PAYMENT OPTIONS:	1 PLACE		2-4 PLACES		5+ PLACES	
Online Registration with Card Payment – CLICK HERE	<input type="checkbox"/>	£ 245 + vat	<input type="checkbox"/>	£ 195 + vat	<input type="checkbox"/>	£ 145 + vat
Offline Registration with Card Payment – Complete form below	<input type="checkbox"/>	£ 245 + vat	<input type="checkbox"/>	£ 195 + vat	<input type="checkbox"/>	£ 145 + vat
Register by Phone with Card Payment – Tel: 01753 373096	<input type="checkbox"/>	£ 245 + vat	<input type="checkbox"/>	£ 195 + vat	<input type="checkbox"/>	£ 145 + vat
Raise Purchase Order / Pay by Invoice – Complete form below	<input type="checkbox"/>	£ 295 + vat	<input type="checkbox"/>	£ 245 + vat	<input type="checkbox"/>	£ 195 + vat

Delegate Name:	Job Title:	Email Address:
1.		
2.		
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Total no. places:		

Invoicing Details:			
Name of Key Contact:			Job Title:
Organisation Name:			Department:
Address:			Postcode:
Email Address:			Telephone No:
Accounts Dept. Contact:			Telephone No:
Purchase Order No:			Cost Centre Code (if applicable):

Card Payments:			
Government Procurement Card (GPC) <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard	<input type="checkbox"/> VISA / VISA Debit	
Cardholder:	Postcode:	Total Amount:	£ + VAT (at 20%)
Card No:	Expiry date:	Security Code (CVC):	
Date:	Signature:		

Other Payment Methods:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Please invoice my organisation £ + VAT (at 20%) quoting Purchase Order No.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Electronic / BACS Remittance of £ + VAT (at 20%) to Nat West Bank Plc, Sort Code: 60-24-12 Account No: 88880419 Please email remittance advice to accounts@policyforesight.com or fax to 020 3633 5766
<input type="checkbox"/>	I enclose a cheque in the sum of £ + VAT (at 20%) made payable to Policy Foresight Ltd Please send cheque quoting event code 261001 to Policy Foresight Ltd, Castle Hill House, 12 Castle Hill, Windsor, SL4 1PD A VAT invoice will be issued on receipt of payment. VAT No: 295 4260 81

DECLARATION:

I am authorised to register the delegate(s) as detailed above. I also agree to notify you of any cancellation in writing. Only cancellations confirmed in writing at least 28 days before the event date will be refunded, minus an administration fee of £50 plus VAT per place. Substitutions can be made at any time. Non-payment of an invoice does not count as cancellation and you will still be liable for the full cost. Non-appearances on the day are also liable for the full cost.

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Please Email Completed Form to events@policyforesight.org

