

TO: Police and Crime Commissioner Prospective Candidates

07 April 2021

Dear Prospective PCC Candidate,

### **Introduction to the National Crime Agency**

Ahead of the upcoming PCC elections on 6 May 2021, I wanted to take the opportunity to introduce myself and the work of the National Crime Agency. We are key partners working collaboratively with police forces and PCCs to protect local communities across the UK.

The National Crime Agency's mission is to protect the public by leading the UK's fight to cut serious and organised crime (SOC). We sit at the centre of the UK's response to this national security priority, operating as the vital link between the global and local threat. We have officers based in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, protecting citizens in every community.

SOC is a chronic threat affecting more UK citizens, more often, than any other national security threat. It is conservatively estimated to cost the UK economy £37 billion per year. Criminals responsible for these threats inflict devastating and insidious harm on individuals, businesses and communities across the UK. SOC offences include: child sexual abuse; cyber crime; fraud; the trafficking and supply of illegal drugs and firearms; modern slavery and human trafficking; money laundering; organised immigration crime; organised acquisitive crime; and, bribery, corruption & sanctions evasion.

We work with Government, law enforcement partners and across all sectors to deliver a whole-system response to serious and organised crime – in the UK, at the border, on-line and overseas. SOC is a global threat and we have a network of international liaison officers based in sites around the world where some of these threats to the UK manifest themselves. We use this footprint, reach and established operational collaboration with partners to drive an effective upstream response that disrupts organised criminals and their activity before they impact on UK communities.

As well as our work with partners overseas, we have an established system leadership role in the UK, working cooperatively with law enforcement partners on delivering an assertive operational response to the threat. This includes leading our own investigations against the most harmful criminals, often with the support of operational partners; and providing our specialist capabilities to support those same partners as they tackle serious and organised crime manifesting itself regionally and locally. In parallel to our operational activity we also work across all sectors, including a wide range of private companies and

Leading the UK's fight to cut serious and organised crime

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third sector organisations, to lead activity which prevents serious and organised crime and protects our citizens from its harmful effects.

You will, I am sure, be thinking about the potential shape and content of the local police and crime plans for your respective force areas, were you to be elected. To inform your deliberations, I would highlight the National Strategic Assessment of the threat to the UK from serious and organised crime (NSA) which the NCA publishes on an annual basis. We are finalising the 2021 iteration of the NSA now and I will ensure copies are made available to you when it is. In the meantime, the 2020 publication is available on the NCA website. I commend it to you, including in the context of the requirement for PCCs to have regard to the Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR) in issuing their local police and crime plans. The national threats listed in the current SPR include serious and organised crime and child sexual abuse. The NSA stands as an authoritative assessment of these threats, which play out very directly in local communities.

I remain committed to strengthening our relationship with PCCs enabling us to improve further our collective response to serious and organised crime. I am planning on hosting an engagement event for candidates at the end of April, with further briefings to follow once PCCs are in post following the elections.

To find out more about the work of the National Crime Agency please take a look at <https://nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/pcc-briefing> and if you have any questions, please get in touch via [nca.strategy@nca.gov.uk](mailto:nca.strategy@nca.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely,



Dame Lynne Owens DCB CBE QPM  
**Director General**  
**National Crime Agency**