

Keep speaking up safely

DURING these difficult and worrying times with the spread of COVID-19 coronavirus, we want to let you know that Crimestoppers is doing all it can to ensure everyone can continue to speak up and report crime 100% anonymously.

Thousands of people are still contacting the charity on a daily basis, and we will continue to make the most of that information

to help protect the public.

We've seen evidence that fraud is evolving to exploit the changing environment and we urge everyone to be more vigilant to protect themselves and the wider community.

While the lockdown has had a significant impact on our ability to meet with partners and members of different communities, we have been developing a range of

information notices on different crime types and a comprehensive explanation of how we guarantee the anonymity of those who contact us.

If ever there has been a time to look out for one another, the time is now.

If you have information about crime and want to remain 100% anonymous, contact Crimestoppers by phone or online.

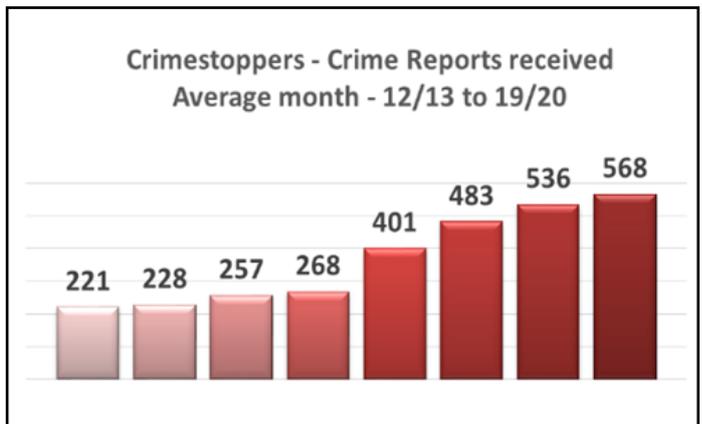
Another record year

Last year was another record year for Essex Crimestoppers charity with nearly 7,000 reports of information about crime. And all those who gave information to the charity remain anonymous.

For the 12 months to the end of March this year, Crimestoppers received 6,821 crime reports from people across the county who didn't want to speak directly to the police but were confident enough to use the support that Crimestoppers' anonymity provides.

Since the Covid-19 lockdown, reports about domestic abuse and drug related crimes have nationally been consistently higher than average.

During the 12



months to the end of March, 5,175 people contacted the independent charity, some with information about two or more crimes.

During the last eight years, the average number of reports each month has increased from 221 to 568. See chart above.

A single piece of information, a date or a time for example, could be the key to preventing victimisation, child abuse, a single criminal activity or on occasion, it could be the piece of information that law enforcement need to dismantle a highly corrosive and dangerous criminal network and help keep people safe.

Crimestoppers, gives people the power to speak up 100% anonymously about crime, to keep communities safer.

Some people refuse to speak about

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Speak up
about
crime.
Stay safe.

0800 555 111

crimestoppers-uk.org



If you suspect that your neighbours or people you may know in your community are victims of domestic abuse, you should report details to the police or 100% anonymously to Crimestoppers.

If you are concerned you are in danger and unable to talk on the phone, dial 999, listen to the questions from the operator and respond by coughing or tapping the handset if you can. Then follow the instructions depending on whether you are calling from a mobile or a landline.

When you call from a mobile, if prompted, press 55 to [Make Yourself Heard](#) - this will transfer your call to the police. It exists to help people who are unable to speak, but who genuinely need police assistance.

Pressing 55 only works on mobiles and does not allow police to track your location.

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crime to authorities for a number of reasons, from fear of retribution to cultural expectations. This is why Crimestoppers exists.

The charity is trusted nationally by hundreds of thousands of people who each year safely pass on information about crime anonymously

If you know anything about a crime or of someone committing a crime but you don't report it, who will?

Since the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown began, the National Domestic Abuse helpline has seen a 25 per cent increase in requests for help.

In Essex, police have reported carrying out safeguarding actions for 320 domestic abuse victims during April.

There were more than 4,000 domestic abuse arrests in London within six weeks.

Domestic abuse reports to Crimestoppers have risen by nearly 50 per cent during lockdown.

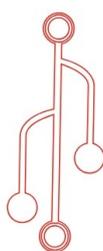
If you think you know a victim, you may be a neighbour or you may have seen or heard instances of abuse such as threatening and intimidating arguments, which may involve violent language or escalate to smashing furni-

ture, or arguments where one partner blames the other for their actions, or seeing Individuals with bruising or other visible marks, then speak up and tell us what you know.

You'll remain 100% anonymous.

To ensure everyone remains anonymous, we can't take information from victims of crime. **In an emergency, always call 999.** If it's not an emergency and you don't want to call the police, contact the 24-hour freephone [National Domestic Abuse Helpline](#) which is run in partnership between Women's Aid and Refuge, on **0808 2000 247** - available 7 days a week.

Apr 2019 - Mar 2020



5,172

Reports disseminated to police force.

431

Average no. of reports shared a month

1%

increase compared to last year.

177

Crimes solved or prevented with help from our information

Compared to previous year we have seen:

133 reports relating to County Lines

17% increase in reports relating to Knives

267% increase in reports relating to Hate Crime

66% increase in reports relating to Domestic Abuse

320% increase in reports relating to Modern Slavery

CrimeStoppers.
Speak up. Stay safe.

Stat based on police data returned as of 19-04-2020

The BIG difference between anonymity and confidentiality

Anonymity: it's not just about being nameless. It's more than that. Every day we receive over a thousand calls and contacts from the public, and some of them need reassurance around exactly how we protect them.

Anonymity means that someone is unidentifiable, untraceable, and unreachable. Even details such as gender, location or relationship to the person breaking the law are deliberately not recorded on our systems or passed to the police, so that we can guarantee our promise.

Anonymity is crucial for Crimestoppers, as it is in other areas of life. It underlines our democratic free elections to ensure that only the voter knows how they cast their ballot. People who offer acts of charity, such as making a significant financial donation to a good cause, often prefer to remain anonymous.

It also gives reassurance to workers asked to complete a staff survey where they can be more open and honest if anonymity is promised.

We promise anonymity, not confidentiality

As for Crimestoppers, our core reporting services on 0800 555 111 and at www.crimestoppers-uk.org guarantees anonymity, not confidentiality. To offer to take information in confidence means that your personal details will be recorded. That's something we'd never do. It's a common misunderstanding that needs to be corrected.

Everyone who calls our UK Contact Centre or uses our website's online form stays 100% anonymous. Always. If they were to stay confidential, then that would mean we not only take their personal details (name, address, contact details), but may include other information which could, in the wrong hands, help reveal their identity.

As an example, and this has happened before, a young woman contacts us to say her boyfriend is hiding a gun under his pillow in the bedroom. She's frightened of

him, his reaction and his change of behaviour since getting involved in criminality. Instead of passing information to the police stating that the gun is under his pillow, we would indicate that the gun is somewhere in the property. Why? The

reason is simple. Who else is likely to know that a gun is hidden in the bedroom other than a partner? While police will receive useful information that a dangerous weapon is in the property, we ensure it is not so specific as to identify it was the gunman's girlfriend who gave us that information.

In a world of internet trolls who exploit their anonymity to abuse individuals online, our charity remains proud to give a positive perspective to the use of the word.

If it wasn't for anonymity, hundreds of thousands of people who contact us every year might otherwise stay silent. That means vital information may never be offered to help law enforcement catch criminals and protect the vulnerable.

Crimestoppers.

How you stay anonymous

CRIMESTOPPERS is an independent charity that gives people the power to speak up and help stop crime – 100% anonymously.

This means, that when you contact Crimestoppers on **0800 555 111** or online at crimestoppers-uk.org via an untraceable form, we have no way of knowing who you are.

Crimestoppers' agents at our National Contact Centre, know it can be difficult to come forward with information. We won't ask your name. We won't judge. Just listen to what you know.

No names

If you don't speak English or if English is not your first language, you can still give us information **anonymously** using a translation service.

Your call will be answered by someone who speaks English and you will need to tell them which language you would like to speak. We take information in more than 150 different languages.

When contacting us you will not be asked your name or any personal details. We will listen to information you have on a crime. Your call will not be recorded. We have no caller line display and no 1471 facility.

Online reports have the same anonymity as phone calls. We do not make a note of gender,

accents, apparent age or ethnicity of callers. Even if you do give personal details, that information will not be included in the report. When your call is completed or you send on a computer, then you are gone. We have no trace of you.



The reports we receive cover all aspects of crime, such as concerns about scam texts, racial abuse, attempted kidnapping, plans to skip the country before trial, weapons or drugs possession.

Since Crimestoppers was founded in 1988, more than 144,000 people have been arrested and charged because of information given anonymously to the charity.

About 10 people are arrested and charged every day as a result of information passed to us.

Surveys undertaken for Crimestoppers show that about 20% of people who have information about crime find it difficult to talk to the police for fear of being traced as the source of information.

Many of those people want to do the right thing and Crimestoppers provides the avenue to let them do that safely without revealing their identity – **100% anonymously**.

Every year tens of thousands contact us to report information about crime and that number continues to grow as more people learn how Crimestoppers keeps them safe.



Louise Peers is the Head of Contact Centre Services at Crimestoppers

CrimeStoppers.

Hunting down the most dangerous criminal gangs

I would encourage all members of the public to report crime to the police or services such as Crimestoppers. The piece of information provided could be the key to preventing victimisation or a single criminal activity.

The National Crime Agency leads the UK's fight to cut serious and organised crime (SOC), protecting the public by targeting and pursuing those criminals who pose the greatest risk to the UK.

NCA officers work at the forefront of law enforcement, building the best possible intelligence picture of serious and organised crime threats, relentlessly pursuing the most serious and dangerous offenders and developing and delivering specialist capabilities on behalf of law enforcement and other partners.

As part of the NCA's data-driven ambitions, I was recently invited to Crimestoppers to see how the team works and the anonymous information that they gather to assist law enforcement in fighting crime on a daily basis.

Impressive staff commitment

I was struck by the tenacity and commitment of the staff to get the best picture out of every contact.

In the digital age that we now live in, data is becoming increasingly important, particularly in the fight to protect the public from SOC.

SOC continues to have more impact on UK citizens than any other national security threat. It has a daily impact on individuals, communities, businesses, public services and national infrastructure.

The latest estimate of the cost of SOC to the UK economy is at least £37 billion per year. This is highly likely to be an underestimate and the victims of SOC are often the most vulnerable members of society. The financial cost of SOC does not capture the true harm.



Kate Fisher is the Deputy Director of the NCA's National Intelligence Hub

SOC can have a devastating effect as criminals target citizens to exploit and defraud in new ways. It impacts communities and is often seen in isolation as small individual crimes, such as a single fraud, when in reality these crimes are a small piece of highly profitable and complex form of criminality. The threat is growing in both volume and complexity, and impacting a broader range of victims.

The NCA is in the process of setting up a multi-disciplinary team including data professionals, intelligence officers and analysts, transforming how the NCA and wider UK Law Enforcement community operate and utilise data.

By partnering with other agencies, combining new data sources and using automation and advanced data analytics, the Agency will increasingly exploit data to disrupt and detect serious and organised crime to protect the public. Every piece of information counts, including that provided by the public.

I would encourage all members of the public to report crime to the police or services such as Crimestoppers. The piece of information provided could be the key to preventing victimisation, a single criminal activity or on occasion, it could be the piece of information that law enforcement need to dismantle a highly corrosive and dangerous criminal network.

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100% anonymous. Always.
