

National Data Sharing News Review

a user newsletter from Hicom Business Solutions

 Hicom
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Northern Ireland to Adopt NBIS



Paul Goggins MP

On 27th October Criminal Justice Minister, Paul Goggins MP was in Londonderry to launch the first phase of the rollout of the Retail Crimewatch initiative across all police districts throughout Northern Ireland.

The formal launch took place at the Millennium Forum in Derry to an audience of local councils, business and trade representatives, local police and

town centre managers. Paul Goggins said: "Retail crime does not just affect businesses and threaten the livelihoods of honest traders, it has a real impact on everyone, including consumers and the wider community. It undermines jobs and is a real drain on our economy.

"The success so far of the Retail Crimewatch scheme is encouraging. In Belfast it has led to a 50% reduction in stock loss across the 300 participating retailers and 2331 offenders have been issued with civil exclusion orders.

"I am confident that the development of a similar scheme here in Foyle and the eventual rollout across all policing districts in Northern Ireland will realise similar reductions in retail crime, helping to detect, frustrate and prevent this type of illegal activity."

Belfast CitySafe Crimewatch, under the umbrella of Belfast City Centre Management Company (BCCM) works in partnership with the PSNI (Police Service Northern Ireland) to deliver the CitySafe Crimewatch operation. This city-wide operation, which is aimed at preventing retail crime, is now being expanded across Northern Ireland.



Belfast City Hall

Following the successful pilot of the National Business Information System (NBIS) by BCCM and Belfast Police - the system will now be deployed to six other towns and cities in the country as part of a Northern Ireland Business Against Crime partnership.

Benefits to date:

- City Centre shoplifting down by 1.96%
- Participating stores average stock loss down by 51.77%
- Well known shoplifters are noticeably absent
- Participating stores have saved £8.2m
- Monthly image updates of shop
- Weekly data sharing between stores and PSNI.



Austins department store, Londonderry

FACT: Derry is home to the world's oldest independent department store; Austins. Established in 1830, Austins predates Jenners of Edinburgh by 5 years, Harrods of London by 15 years and Macys of New York by 25 years. The store's five-story Edwardian building is located in the city centre's Diamond.

Assistant Chief Constable Judith Gillespie stated that the Belfast Partnership, through NBIS had already linked offenders with other partnerships in the UK and was looking forward to the model being deployed in each district. Business Crime Liaison Officers would be appointed for each District as well as PSNI holding a Forum for all the partnerships.

The Retail Crimewatch initiative, which has 300 members in Belfast, was launched in Belfast in December 2004.

Participating members collect and share data on persistent retail offenders in the city centre and this data is also shared within the National Business Information System (NBIS), which enables retailers from across the UK to identify repeat offenders.

The scheme will be managed by Town Centre Managers. Belfast City Centre Management will assist in coordinating the regional roll out to each PSNI district.

NBIS Update

The new NBIS release provides additional data capture fields as well as new reporting functionality. The main aspects of the new release now incorporate the following:

Licensed Premises Management System (LPMS)

Working with a number of Police forces and partnerships has allowed Hicom to develop a 'Licensed Premises Management System' (LPMS) which in conjunction with other data capture fields allows users to identify premises that may have potential problems and therefore a potential risk. NBIS does this automatically and works behind the scenes without the need for the user to monitor incident activity.



Locations Management System

In addition, a new Locations Management System has been added to NBIS which allows the user to record more information about the location as well as monitoring membership status. A comprehensive set of tools allows the user to report on various aspects of locations with regard to specific attributes.

If you would like further information please contact Hicom.

NBIS for Bluewater Shopping Centre

Bluewater in Kent is one of Europe's largest and most innovative retail and leisure destinations with 330 stores, 40 cafes and restaurants and a 13-screen cinema. Opened in March 1999, it is one of the few shopping centres to have its own Police Station.

Bluewater was recently awarded the Safer Business Award and is now using NBIS as part of its efforts to tackle business crime. In addition, Police Officers attached to Bluewater have access to NBIS via the shopping centre, Police station or Kent Police HQ.

Bluewater is jointly owned by four major UK institutions: Prudential (35%), Lend Lease Europe Ltd (30%), the Lend Lease Retail Partnership (25%) and Hermes (10%).



BRC Crime Survey 2008

The BRC Crime Survey highlights and confirms the view that the majority of crime losses reported were due to customer theft (shoplifting), constituting 64% of all retail theft by value. It also reports that over the past year employee theft has accounted for 8% of all retail crime. However the survey also revealed that four in ten retailers indicated that they could not give any estimate of the proportion of employee thefts that go unrecorded. At the same time one in five estimated that over 50% are not recorded – this suggests that actual losses could be much higher.

The Crime Survey makes reference to 'the partnership approach to crime reduction' (Business Improvement Districts and Town Centre management Schemes) but does not fully explore the excellent proactive work being undertaken by Business Crime Reduction Partnerships (BCRP) who co-ordinate the sharing of data with businesses and other good working practices. These schemes should not be confused with the Statutory Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) who play a different role.

Looking at NBIS data we can say that police only attended 44% of crime related incidents the remaining being dealt with by the business. In some areas this can be as low as 15%. One of the benefits of a partnership is that although the incidents were not attended by police the data is collated analysed and can be made available to the police. This is a major advantage to proactive partnership working that can lead to criminal convictions.

Feedback?

We hope you found the newsletter of interest.

If you have any comments on the newsletter or would like to suggest a topic for inclusion in the next newsletter, please contact Hicom.

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Thank you all for your continued support.