



10-Point-Plan in response to our
**Rural Crime: Serious, Organised and
International** report.



Overhaul the Way Police Prioritise Rural Crime

There is clear evidence from the research that rural crime meets the criteria for being serious and organised. However, due to current guidelines on police priorities and responses rural crime is not given the necessary prominence.

We are calling for the College of Policing to review and update their Threat, Harm and Investigation guidelines (THRIVE) to better reflect the growing serious and organised element to rural criminality and its impact of rural communities.





Full Economic Impact Assessment of Rural Crime

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More data is urgently required on fully understanding the impact of rural crime on farmers, rural business and the rural economy. The NFU Mutual Reports are a valuable way of assessing the cost of rural crime but we are calling on the Home Office to undertake a comprehensive economic impact assessment of rural crime including the on-costs of damage and delays to food production.



Legislate for a National Rural Crime Strategy and Advisory Group

We would like to see the Parliament pass a bill to require the Home Secretary to produce a rural crime strategy that is fully integrated into the overall Government Crime Strategy. The Rural Crime Advisory Group would be made up of experts and campaign groups with frontline experience of tackling rural crime.



4

Recruit Specialist Rural Crime-Coordiators

- ▶ We are calling on all Police and Crime Commissioners to ensure that specialist rural crime co-ordinators are recruited within their force and to ensure full data and intelligence sharing with the Police's National Rural Crime Unit (NRCU)
- ▶ Several Forces have already recruited Rural Crime Co-ordinators including Durham, Northumbria and Warwickshire.
- ▶ We understand that the Police are under financial pressures however the New OCG research shows the link between rural crime and serious crimes that are a problem for the whole of society such as drugs and therefore there is a strong case for police budgets to be allocated for such a role.



New Rural Crime Sentencing Guidelines

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With the closure of many rural magistrates' courts over recent years and many cases now being heard by Magistrates in our towns and cities we believe there is a need for Magistrates to have a clearer understanding of the impact of rural crime and its impact on wider society. We propose developing rural crime specific guidelines that highlight the true impact of rural crime and its links to serious and organised crime and recommend sentences for offenders that are appropriate to these facts.



6

Full Implementation of the Victims' Code of practice (VCOP)

All victims of crime deserve a minimum level of response from the Police, and we fully support the introduction of VCOP. However, there are concerns that it is not being fully implemented as intended which has impacted on public confidence in rural policing.





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Whatsapp to be Used by Rural Crime Officers

The use of WhatsApp in the Police has been a contentious issue in recent years due to the misuse by some officers. However, WhatsApp has been an effective way for rural and isolated communities to quickly feed in intelligence and report suspected criminal activity to the Police. We are asking Police and Crime Commissioners to act to ensure WhatsApp is available to rural crime officers in their respective forces.



Greater Rural Crime Training for Police Officers and Control Centres

We support the roll out of proposed new training videos by the National Rural Crime Unit for officers and contact centre staff. We are calling on Police and Crime Commissioners to ensure that staff are encouraged to undertake training, understand rural crime and the impact on rural communities in order to help rebuild public confidence in rural policing.



Tougher control at our Ports and Borders

Our ports are a key access route for International Criminal Gangs to export their stolen good into mainland Europe. The work of the National Vehicle Crime Intelligence Service (NaVCIS) is crucial in detecting stolen vehicles and agricultural machinery. We believe the Government should provide further resources to NaVCIS to carry out their operations and disrupt the activities of OCGs



Increased Use of Technology

Technology is a key tool in the battle against rural crime. We understand that the Police do not always have officers to deploy to rural communities due to the long travel distances. Drones have been particularly effective at detecting theft and hare coursing offenders in rural communities. Technology such as CCTV and ANPR Cameras can be installed in rural and isolated spots. We would also like to see clear guidance given to local authorities to allow them to comply with GDPR and data protection laws so that this technology can be used to deter and detect fly tipping and other rural criminal activities.

