

Date	Source	Headline	Details
06/05/2024	GB News	Policing minister slammed for claiming to be 'powerless' as suicides in force hit new high	A police officer in Britain now takes their own life every two weeks. Ministers have been accused of failing to prevent soaring suicide rates in police forces across the country. More than 200 officers have taken their own lives in the past decade with one in five now suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).
06/05/2024	Biometric Update	UK police have used PimEyes facial recognition search tool over 2000 times	A report from i News says that data released under Freedom of Information (FOI) rules show that the PimEyes site, which is based in Tbilisi, Georgia, was visited from Metropolitan police computers 2,337 times. It is unclear exactly how many of those times constitute a use of facial recognition matching or biometric tools for digital identification purposes. The only facial recognition tools currently approved for use by the Met are restricted to watchlists and subject to formal approvals. PimEyes' facial recognition system excludes results from social media and video platforms, but uses AI to map facial proportions and match them with photos of an individual found on any site on the open internet. That means officers using it in the legal gray zone can cast a much wider net with facial recognition searches.
07/05/2024	Daily Mail	Police fail to solve 600 burglaries a day in England and Wales despite pledge to respond to all incidents	Police failed to solve more than 215,000 burglaries last year despite a pledge to send officers to all incidents, analysis shows. The massive number – an average of nearly 600 a day – amounted to 76 per cent of all break-ins reported to police in England and Wales. Only 6 per cent of burglaries resulted in a suspect being taken to court, according to the evaluation of official Home Office figures by the Liberal Democrats. It found 215,933 burglaries went unsolved in 2023. South Yorkshire was the worst performing force, with 84 per cent of burglaries – 9,492 crimes – going unsolved. Surrey was second-worst at 82 per cent.
05/04/2024	The Independent	Police are being 'weaponised' by politicians in local elections, former top prosecutor warns	A former top prosecutor has hit out after the Conservatives twice reported Labour candidates to police just days before the local elections. The double whammy came as Rishi Sunak's party faced predictions it would lose up to 500 councillors across England and struggle in two crunch mayoral votes. Nazir Afzal, a former chief crown prosecutor, warned police forces were "being weaponised as part of the campaign by those who don't care about the problems facing policing – particularly resourcing". He also called for complaints during elections to be taken away from local forces and for prosecutions of "those with frivolous accusations for wasting police time". On Wednesday, West Midlands Police said it was assessing an allegation against Richard Parker, Labour's candidate in the crunch election for the mayor of the West Midlands.
09/05/2024	The Times	Court backlogs hamper prosecution of rapists and sex offenders	Defendants, witnesses, complainants and victims as well as their families are caught up in historic delays in our criminal courts while a shortage of barristers to prosecute and defend further restricts capacity. This backlog includes more than 10,000 cases of rape and serious sexual offences.
09/05/2024	The Guardian	Fury as up to 12 police forces issue officers body-worn cameras made in China despite rising fears over Beijing's hacking and spying threat	Senior Tory MPs and surveillance experts have criticised police forces for using body-cameras made in China - despite rising fears of the spying and hacking threat posed by Beijing. Reveal Media, a company based in London, provides at least 12 British police forces with the cameras - which are used to record encounters between officers and the public. At least three of the forces all use its live facial recognition (LFR) technology, which scans the faces of members of the public in real-time to identify suspects. The cameras are manufactured by a Chinese subsidiary, while others are made by Shenzhen Eeyelog Technology Ltd - which also supplies bodycams to the Chinese government, the i reports. Iain Duncan Smith told MailOnline: 'I don't think any government department, or anyone involved in security, should be using devices made in China.'

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08/05/2024	The Guardian	Domestic abuse survivors 'put in danger by early prison release of perpetrators'	Survivors of domestic abuse have been put in danger by ministers' failure to give notice of the early release from prison of their abusers, a Home Office adviser has said. Nicole Jacobs, the independent domestic abuse commissioner, criticised the lack of warning of a new policy to free prisoners up to 70 days early from full jails. The government's early release scheme designed to relieve the pressure in overcrowded jails had initially involved inmates having their sentences cut by up to 18 days. That was increased to between 35 and 60 in March and will rise again from 23 May, it has emerged. Jacobs said there had been no consultation and that many survivors would not even know that their perpetrator was back on the streets
08/05/2024	Inews	UK police using Chinese-made body-cameras to surveil the British public	Experts and MPs have warned of 'back door' security risks as UK police use Chinese surveillance cameras despite growing concerns over Beijing's spying activities. London-based Reveal Media supplies at least 12 UK police forces with body cams, including at least three forces with live facial recognition (LFR) technology – which can be used to scan the faces of members of the public in real-time as officers conduct patrols. The cameras are manufactured by a subsidiary in China, while Reveal Media also supplies cameras from Shenzhen Eeyelog Technology Ltd – a Chinese firm which provides body cams to the Chinese government, according to the company's website.
12/05/2024	The Independent	Met Police warn of 'dangerous new threat' of spiking using vapes laced with spice	Fresh warning issued at event about tackling spiking as 900,000 across UK were victims last year. Vapes laced with spice are being used to spike people in what police have labelled a "very dangerous new threat". The Metropolitan Police issued a fresh warning over the devices at an event about tackling spiking this month as reports increased by 13 per cent in 2023, with the number of allegations made reaching 1,383. As vapes surge in popularity, the force revealed it is increasingly common across devices that contain chemicals other than nicotine, including THC, the psychoactive found in cannabis, and spice, the street name for the class of drugs known as synthetic cannabinoids .
12/05/2024	Inews	Police dogs bite 13 people a week as victims say 'reckless' officers behind rise	An 18-year-old student who received a payout from West Midlands Police is among a rising number of victims suing police over dog bites Incidents of police dogs biting people have increased by almost 60 per cent since 2018 in what experts have described as a "worrying" trend, i can reveal. At least 653 bites were recorded in England and Wales in the year ending March 2023, an average of around 13 per week, compared with 414 in 2018, the first year the Home Office started recording statistics around the use of police dogs. The total number of incidents where dogs were deployed has also increased dramatically, from 1,920 in 2018 to 3,023 in 2023. This can cover a wide range of tactics, from pursuing, detaining and guarding suspects to crowd control. *** WMP INCIDENT DESCRIBED BY VICTIM SOLICITOR LATER IN ARTICLE****
16/05/2024	LBC	One of the UK's top police officers has told LBC he would like to see Premier League football clubs contributing more to covering the cost of match day policing.	Stephen Watson, Chief Constable of Greater Manchester Police, revealed that the policing of match days costs the force around £28 million per year more than they're able to recoup from Premier League clubs. He said the figures now leave a notable "question-mark" over whether that level expenditure is "entirely appropriate". "Of course, we work very closely with our Premier League clubs, as you might imagine, across Greater Manchester and I think that which we do jointly is at the very professional end of effectively policing these events," he told LBC. "There's always a debate about the charging mechanisms whereby policing can recover the full cost of policing.
20/05/2024	The Mirror	Police failed to show up to nearly 130,000 criminal damage reports last year	Police failed to attend nearly 130,000 criminal damage reports last year, new research reveals today. Criminal damage cases include intentional and malicious damage to people's homes, vehicles or other property. In 2023, 129,302 reports of criminal damage did not have a police officer arrive at the scene - accounting for 53% of all cases, according to freedom of information requests by the Liberal Democrats.
20/05/2024	Leafie	One in four UK police officers unaware that medical cannabis is legal	More than one in four police officers remain unaware that medical cannabis is legal in the UK, despite the law changing in 2018, while a worrying 88.5% of respondents said that they felt like they needed more training on the subject. 200 police officers completed the survey, with 57 (28.5%) respondents replying that they did not know cannabis products were legal on prescription in the UK. Forty-seven (23.5%) participants had never received formal training on this topic, whilst 85 (42.5%) believed their received training was inadequate. Most police officers (88.5%) said they believed they would benefit from more training on medical cannabis, and how to identify legal medical cannabis patients. Medical cannabis was legalised in the UK in November 2018. It is estimated that there are now 35,000 patients in the

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14/05/2024	Police Professional	Police to offer greater support to rough sleepers while tackling anti-social behaviour Police will be issued with new guidance to offer greater support to rough sleepers instead of using criminal sanctions	<p>The new measures will ensure rough sleepers are directed to the support available to help get them off the streets – for example to a place to sleep or addiction treatment.</p> <p>"New guidance will make clear that police and local authorities must prioritise directing people who are sleeping rough to support services before they consider using criminal sanctions. This will include directing people where to go to access health services or shelters," the Home Office said.</p> <p>"If, despite being directed to support services and given a warning, people continue to cause anti-social behaviour, such as damage or harassment, they will be required to stop and asked to move on with a rough sleeping notice."</p>
21/05/2024	Telegraph	Police losing confidence to do the job after officer convicted of assault in fare-evasion row	<p>Metropolitan Police officers have warned they are losing the confidence to do their jobs after a colleague was convicted of assault for arresting a woman during a fare evasion row...</p> <p>Also reported in Havering Daily - Why are police officers now afraid to do their job? A court verdict last week on a Met Police officer will have a lasting impact on all police officers in the country. An impact that has seen officers lose confidence and virtually become too afraid to do their job.</p>
15/05/2024	Police Oracle	Stop and search not used 'nearly often enough' says policing minister	<p>Chris Philp says forces should not 'tiptoe around using these powers' in order to appease its critics.</p> <p>Policing minister Chris Philp has called on forces to increase the use of stop and search as part of a "robust approach" to tackling knife crime saying the power "is not used nearly often enough."</p> <p>Writing for the Daily Telegraph, Mr Philp said: "The police must use the powers available to them without fear or favour. I want to see them take a robust approach and this starts with increasing the use of stop and search.</p> <p>"So often these crimes stem from non-violent incidents which escalate when knives are carried in public.</p> <p>"It's illegal to be in possession of a knife in public without reasonable excuse and stop and search is the best way to enforce this."</p>
23/05/2024	Daily Mail	Gen Z police recruits don't want to work weekends or overtime - and their rotas should take into account their 'work-life balance', officers are told	<p>Gen Z police recruits do not want to work overtime or weekends and rotas should take into account their 'work-life balance', bosses have been warned.</p> <p>Young people have a 'different expectation' of work-life balance and police forces must alter its working demands if they are to appeal to Gen Zers - those born in 1997 or later - Chief Superintendent Rob Hay, the president of the Association of Scottish Police Superintendents (ASPS), said.</p> <p>Sleep expert Dr Sophie Bostock, also appearing at the conference, told attendees that officers should request afternoon naps and schedule in 'intimate time' with their partners, the Times reports.</p>
22/05/2024	Police Oracle	'Incredible' that policing doesn't properly monitor officer suicides in 2024	<p>Andy Rhodes from Oscar Kilo admits that 'we do not collect data well enough yet about suicides' despite there now being a National Suicide Action Plan in place.</p> <p>The Police Federation's wellbeing co-lead has been left "speechless" by the revelation that data on officer suicides is not yet collected well enough to be used as a knowledge base that could prevent future incidents.</p>
22/05/2024	Police Oracle	Walney report into Political Violence and Disruption: policing recommendations	<p>In the 292 page report Lord Walney recommends a series of changes including a blanket ban on face coverings at protests and covering the costs of policing protest.</p> <p>Lord Walney's independent review on Political Violence and Disruption, titled 'Protecting our democracy from coercion' was published yesterday (Tuesday 21 May).</p> <p>The report includes a number of recommendations for the police</p>