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A NEW APPROACH TO FIGHTING CRIME

Crime has continued to fall over the last few years despite substantial reductions in the number of police officers employed and the continued weakness of the domestic economy - both factors that one might have expected to generate a rise in criminality. This decline in crime is also reflected in its relative importance as an issue for voters.

Theresa Mary May (Home Secretary) issued a document which provides new directions to combat crime. In the document noted : -First, it sets out the case for change. - Second, it sets out the new approach to fighting crime. -Third, it sets out what the approach means for each of the key people and organisations involved in the fight against crime. - Fourth, it sets out how it will work in practice.

The police now have just one clear objective: to cut crime. But the police can't cut crime on their own. Local councils, health services, probation and fire and rescue services all play a vital role too in keeping communities safe. They all do an amazing job, but in the past their activities have been hindered by reporting burdens, unnecessary rules and a lack of discretion.

What? A new approach to fighting crime

The Government's approach to fighting crime involves a radical shift in power . The police and their partners will be given far greater freedom to do their jobs and use their discretion. The public will have more power to hold the police and Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) to account and feel empowered to reclaim their

communities. This shift will be accompanied by a new and overdue focus on serious and organised crime at a national level. Success will not be judged by a myriad of centrally mandated targets. It will be judged by the public on the simple fact of whether crime has fallen.

1) Local accountability

Central to this approach to fighting crime is police reform. Central to that reform is the replacement of bureaucratic accountability - and with it, the whole machinery of targets, performance management and initiatives - with local, democratic accountability. This will put the public in charge, making the police directly accountable to their communities through the election of Police and Crime Commissioners and mandatory local beat meetings.

2) Increased transparency

To facilitate democratic accountability will improve radically the provision of crime data to local communities. New street level crime and anti-social behaviour maps give the public up-to date, accurate information on what is happening in their area so they can challenge the police, and get involved in the policing of their area.

3) Local, professional discretion

The end of bureaucratic accountability enables central government to remove the machinery that comes with it. These changes will allow officers to show more discretion, innovate, and tailor their approach according to local circumstances. Crucially this means that officers will be freed to police the streets instead of filling in forms.

4) Improving efficiency in the police

By cutting out unnecessary costs and scrapping bureaucracy we will save hundreds of millions of pounds and hundreds of thousands of man hours - so we do not expect the police spending settlement to lead to any reduction in police officers visible and available on the streets. We will do more to encourage and help the police to make savings and make sure that resources are focused on the front line.

5) Criminal justice system reform

As around half of all crime is committed by people with a previous conviction, any plan to cut crime must also cut reoffending. These reforms to the criminal justice system will mean that criminals can expect more effective, tough punishments. Prisons will become places where they will learn the discipline of work, enabling them to make reparation to victims and gain job skills to help them resettle in the community and avoid committing further crimes. Government will also rehabilitate offenders to tackle the problems which fuel their criminal activity by getting drug dependent offenders off drugs and into recovery and tackling mental health problems. More information on criminal justice reform was set out in the Ministry of Justice Green Paper: *Breaking The Cycle: Effective Punishment, Rehabilitation and Sentencing of Offenders*.

6) A new focus on serious and organized crime Government will create for the first time a National Crime Agency: an integral part of UK policing with a senior Chief Constable at its head and accountable to the Home Secretary. The NCA will strengthen the operational response to serious and organized crime and better secure our borders. Consisting of a number of operational commands and harnessing synergies between them to get the best outcomes, the NCA will exploit the intelligence, analytical and enforcement capabilities of the Serious Organized Crime Agency and will establish a Border Policing Command.

How? What will happen in practice

The new approach will mean that local police forces are more responsive to their communities and their local, specific needs.

1. Street-level crime and anti-social behavior data These reforms will ensure that the police respond to local needs and demands. By publishing street-level anti-social behavior and crime statistics, the public will have for the first time enough information about what goes on in their community to hold the police to account and get involved in the fight against crime in their local area. They will be able to use that information to challenge their local policing teams at regular mandatory beat meetings. The police will no longer be distracted by prescriptive demands from

central government and will instead be able to police their communities according to local needs.

2. New tools to tackle anti-social behavior

Much of what is termed ‘anti-social behavior’ is actually crime, and victims rightly expect the agencies who serve them to take it seriously and deal with it properly. That is why tackling antisocial behavior must be a core part of the business of the police and other local agencies. Government will ensure professionals have the tools and support they need to deal with anti-social behavior, rather than telling them how to do their job.

3. Youth crime and violence

Too many young people are drawn into a vicious cycle of crime and reoffending. Government will also issue statutory guidance to extend head teachers’ powers to punish school pupils who misbehave on their way to or from school. New gang injunctions for those aged between fourteen and seventeen will accompany new civil powers for the police and local authorities to manage adult members. Tackling youth crime meaningfully, however, needs more than just new powers and punishments.

4. Drugs

Almost three million people have used an illicit drug in the last year. Nearly two thirds of newly-sentenced prisoners report using a drug in the run-up to custody. The Government recognizes the need to support drug addicted offenders to recover in order to cut crime. We will therefore promote local recovery systems and will introduce six pilots exploring how payment-by-results can work for drugs recovery.

5. Alcohol

Last year, almost one million violent crimes were alcohol- related. Government will give local authorities more powers to refuse and revoke licences and deal with the problems caused by late-night drinking. Government will introduce a late night levy to allow licensing authorities to collect a contribution from business towards the cost of policing in the night-time economy. Also it will send a clear signal to retailers and the public that the Government takes the issue of below cost sales seriously by banning the sale of alcohol

below duty plus VAT. Government will protect children from the harm of alcohol by doubling the maximum fine for persistent underage sales.

There have been welcome falls in crime over the last decade or so. In addition, more general trends suggest that crime would be falling anyway, due to secular trends that are seen both in the UK and overseas.

Список використаних джерел

1. <https://www.gov.uk/>
2. Document A new approach to fighting crime (Published: 2 March 2011, from: Home Office, Part of: Policing)
3. Document Engaging Communities in Fighting Crime (From: Cabinet Office)