

The 10 Criminality Types Considered for Organised Crime

The definition of organised crime¹ is serious crime planned, coordinated and conducted by people working together on a continuing basis. Their motivation is often, but not always, financial gain

The following information briefly describes the areas of criminality that Law Enforcement Agencies involved in identifying Organised Criminal Groups, consider in understanding the threat and risks posed to the public, communities, businesses and the UK infrastructure as a whole.

1. Commodity Importation, Counterfeiting or Illegal Supply

This criminality type includes illegal importation / exportation of foodstuffs, high value items and mass market items (e.g. DVD's clothing). Also included in this area are oil, alcohol and tobacco, counterfeit goods including Medicines / currency and firearms and ammunition inc CS sprays, stun guns and illegal imitation firearms. This also covers intellectual property.

2. Cyber Crime

This captures OCGs involvement in 'pure' cybercrime. 'Pure' cybercrimes are those that cannot be committed without a computer or similar device. Examples are; distributed denial of service attacks (DDOS), hacking (Network Intrusion) online databases using code injection vulnerabilities or the harvesting of bank details using Malware. Phishing (and similar methodologies) is also covered in this criminality as is Ransomware. Generally, an OCG is assessed to be involved in offences covered by the Computer Misuse Act.

3. Drug Activity

Drug activity criminality covers the illegal sourcing of and supply of Class A, B and C drugs including Steroids and New Psychoactive Substances.

4. Economic Crime

This includes a wide range of fraud including Advance Fee Fraud, Banking and Credit Fraud, Illegal Money Lending and various public sector frauds such as Excise Duty and Benefit Fraud.

5. Environmental Crime

The criminal category of Environmental Crime includes criminal activity that damages the environment, poses a threat to human life or harms endangered flora and fauna e.g. Illegal Waste Disposal and trafficking in endangered species or products of animal origin.

6. Organised Immigration Crime and Human Trafficking (not for sexual exploitation)

¹ Taken from the Serious and Organised Crime Strategy 2013 – HM Government

The criminality category includes offences involving coercion or deception of individuals, including trafficking for non-sexual purposes. Examples include Facilitation of illegal immigration, use of forged or counterfeit non travel documentation, trafficking to exploit states benefits and forced labour.

7. Organised Theft

This comprises of the theft of any commodity including cash obtained by non-fraudulent means including crimes such as armed robbery, distraction burglary, theft of motor vehicles (inc onward sale of stolen parts)

8. Sexual Offences

Sexual Offences and/or Exploitation includes Rape, Sexual Assault and Grooming and Human Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation. This area of criminality also covers the production or distribution of indecent material and prostitution.

9. Specialist Money Laundering

The specialist money laundering category encompasses the use of businesses and banking methodologies used to legitimise money derived from illegal means. Examples include Cash Based Businesses (inc. charities, hand car washes, restaurants etc); exploitation of bank accounts and retail banking products such as mortgages, use of money service business and computer/technology enabled money movement.

10. Violent Criminal Activity

This category includes the threat of violence or use of violence that has resulted in, or has the potential to result in physical and/or psychological injury. Criminal use of firearms is also considered in this criminality type.