

TACKLING ORGANISED

EXPLOITATION

PROGRAMME

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Inside this issue:

Strategic Update

Operation Booker

**VKPP Analytics and
Innovation Award**

**Romanian International
Workshop**

TOEX Spotlight



Contents

Welcome	3
Strategic Update	4
Operation Booker	6
Romanian International Workshop	8
Coinbase Update	9
TOEX Goes National	10
VKPP Analytics and Innovation Award	11
Matching Data Analytics Innovation to Policing's Business Need	11
TOEX Spotlight	12
Events/Interesting Reads	13
Contact Us	14



Welcome

Welcome to the first Tackling Organised Exploitation Programme (TOEX) E-Magazine!

TOEX has been delivered in collaboration with partners across the UK law enforcement network and as we now move from pilot year to full national implementation, we will be reaching out to key stakeholders on a quarterly basis via our new E-Magazine.

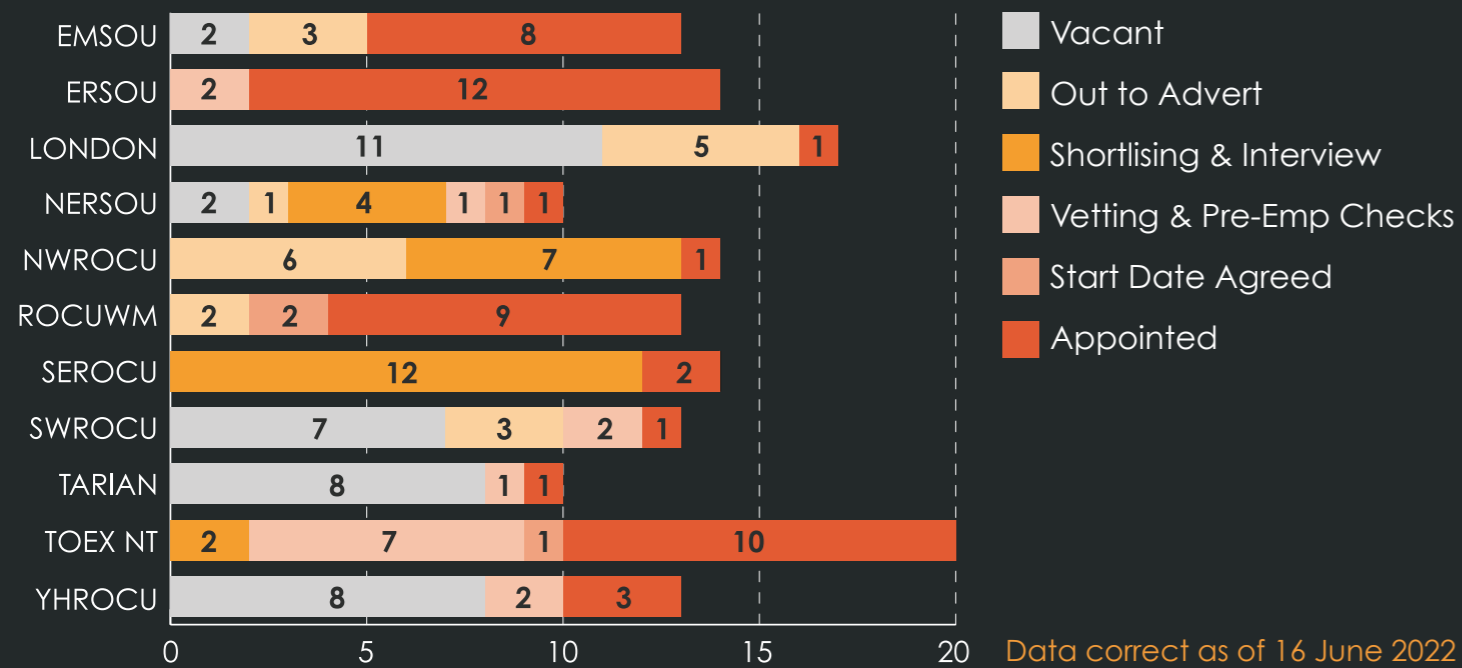
We will be sharing operational updates of interest, demonstrating the value added by the national and regional TOEX teams, and sharing opportunities for innovation and good practice in the arena of data analytics and intelligence.



Strategic update

TOEX continues to welcome new members to teams across all regions, as we uplift our national network to more than 150 colleagues. These individuals will be supported with high quality training and induction as they familiarise themselves in their new roles. We will be monitoring the onboarding, training, and upskilling of these valuable assets via a number of HR metrics, but most importantly engaging with them as individuals to ensure they understand the value of their role and where it contributes to tackling the wider threat of serious and organised crime.

Post Status by Region



TOEX National Strategic Coordinator, T/Detective Chief Superintendent Kate Thacker said:

“I am very proud of what has been achieved by the TOEX teams in pilot year and look forward to welcoming additional colleagues across the remainder of the UK in the coming weeks. This is an exciting programme that uses data and intelligence expertise to disrupt the core of serious and organised criminal exploitation. There are vulnerable children and adults within every town, every county and every region of the UK and it is our mission to target those who would exploit them for their own gain.”

TOEX remains at the cutting edge of technical innovation and we are now looking to transition the data strategy from being force-hosted (Norfolk/Suffolk) to being delivered at a national level on behalf of policing.

There are two key parts to our plans and we will share updates in future editions:

1. Single Data Solution – The current TOEX data platform has the unique ability to conflate local, regional, and national data for nine force areas allowing valuable assets to focus on high-harm victims and offenders; filling gaps in tactical intelligence; supporting effective investigations and enriching strategic understanding.

Plans are advancing with national partners to expand elements of the TOEX platform and technical architecture to deliver a Single Data Solution (SDS) for policing. Whilst these plans are in the early stages, we are engaging as part of a wider collaboration to deliver the best possible data and analytics solution for policing.

2. Capabilities Environment – Several intelligence, analytical and research tools have been developed by the TOEX data team using open-source technologies freely available on the policing network, and we are developing plans to share the tools at no cost with UK law enforcement. Current local ICT arrangements (Norfolk/Suffolk) have supported the creation of a cloud-based sandpit environment, to be accessed by TOEX Data Insights Analysts in each region, for the secure development and testing of new data tools. We are now working with national partners and industry on a secure and effective way to provide access to those tools across the wider policing network, with the confidence they meet full data protection requirements and their use is fully auditable. This will include the ethical, information management and data security considerations, as each tool is designed, tested, and approved for use.



We look forward to engaging with you and your teams in the coming months and please reach out with any questions or feedback.



Operation Booker

A joint operation between Northamptonshire Police and the Romanian Police, with support from the East Midlands Special Operations Unit (EMSOU) TOEX team, Europol and Eurojust, led to enforcement activity to tackle an organised and sophisticated modern slavery gang.

Believed to be active since 2018, this crime group were exploiting vulnerable people in unstable financial situations in Romania by offering them jobs in the UK.

The TOEX team were tasked seven months ago and have been building a detailed intelligence picture of criminal activity, using specific datasets and systems to bring pieces of the jigsaw together to uncover

serious criminal exploitation happening between Romania and Northamptonshire. In November 2021, Eurojust approved a joint investigation team between Romania and the UK to tackle the gang under the name Operation Booker. This was the first one ever to be secured by Northamptonshire Police.

Evidence gathered suggested that the suspects established a wide network for the recruitment, transportation, accommodation, and exploitation of victims, forming links with local companies such as factories and commercial car valeting sites, where the victims would be forced to work for little or no wages at all.

Once the victims arrived in the UK, the



gang would take their ID documents and phones, forcing them to work 16 hours a day, seven days a week, and without sufficient food or basic health care.

There is evidence to suggest that salary payments made to the victims were withdrawn by the gang and violence was threatened to family members back in Romania should any of the victims speak up about their abuse.

The compelling evidential case supported disruption activity in April 2022, when 25 warrants were enforced as a result of this taskforce – 12 in Corby and 13 in Romania. As a result, seven arrests were made – four in Romania and three in the UK.

Crucially, a total of 27 people have been safeguarded since the operation began, and a large quantity of cash, designer goods and mobile phones seized. Two air weapons were also taken away.

Head of EMSOU's TOEX Team, Detective Inspector Dan Smith, said:

“EMSOU and Northamptonshire Police have been working on building intelligence around this investigation for a number of months, and to see it all come to a head was a fantastic feeling.

“We've been able to use systems to bring

pieces of the jigsaw together and create a picture of exploitation we suspect has been happening between Romania and Northamptonshire.

“The main aim of everything we do at TOEX is to help vulnerable people who are at risk of high harm, and the efforts we made to safeguard a number of people is something we will always be proud of.

“Our work doesn't stop here. We will look to create a long-term solution to support those that – through no fault of their own – have found themselves victims of modern slavery, and to bring those responsible for such a high level of organised criminality to justice.”

Click [here](#) to watch Detective Inspector Dan Smith and Detective Chief Inspector Nick Cobley, of Northamptonshire Police, talk more about the joint operation.



Romanian International Workshop

In May 2021, TOEX's national Intelligence and Analytics Lead, Lucy Rogers, attended a three-day conference in Bucharest between UK law enforcement and Romanian law enforcement aimed at gaining an understanding of how each other work, as well as sharing best practice.

Delegates were welcomed to the conference by the British Ambassador to Romania, members of the Prime Minister's Cabinet, and the Inspector General of the Romanian Police. Senior leads from both countries supported the delegation including the Chief of Border Police, the National Crime Agency's Senior Manager, Robert Richardson, and the NPCC Modern Slavery and Organised Immigration Crime (MSOIC) Staff Officer, Detective Superintendent Sheon Sturland.

Over the three days, the conference benefitted from a number of presentations, including one from TOEX. They discussed case studies in depth and considered their

response to different scenarios.

Lucy Rogers said: "This event provided a key opportunity to forge links, engage and information share with Romanian law enforcement as well as spend time with subject matter experts from the UK.

"Over the three days, I was able to draw comparisons between what TOEX are doing, versus the approach of Romanian police and we discussed how we could collectively overcome common challenges, such as limited resources and data sharing between sectors."

"TOEX is already working with Romanian law enforcement on investigations, such as Operation Booker, and this was a really great opportunity for us to build up our network of colleagues."



Coinbase Global Intelligence

Earlier this year, Coinbase Global, a crypto-currency company offering a trusted platform for accessing the crypto-economy, delivered their quarterly intensification project focusing on human trafficking, modern-day slavery, and child sexual abuse materials (CSAM). They have an intelligence team who investigate illicit activities including money laundering and terrorist financing and screen risky crypto transactions to ensure regulatory compliance.

As part of this project, Coinbase worked with many global law enforcement agencies, including the national TOEX team, to identify intelligence across several datasets where criminality was taking place, both on and off Coinbase.

As a result of this joined-up work across industry and law enforcement, the operation:

- Attributed thousands of addresses related to CSAM activity off Coinbase, and blocked these addresses from being sent to by Coinbase customers.
- Identified persons believed to be misusing the Coinbase platform(s) for alleged criminal purposes.
- Terminated the operations of merchants that were using Coinbase Commerce to accept payments for illegal services.
- Unveiled (and referred to law enforcement) the real-world IDs of individuals who are thought to be operating websites with red flags for CSAM and human trafficking and modern-day slavery.



As well as submitting data selectors to the Coinbase intelligence team, TOEX brought investigators into the Modern Slavery Intelligence and Investigations Group meetings to ensure key stakeholders were engaged with the project.

Charlie Hare, Coinbase Global Intelligence Investigator, said: "We are most appreciative of the participation of TOEX. The data selectors submitted helped make for an immensely successful operation."

It is hoped TOEX and Coinbase will work together in the future to assist forces in their investigations where there is an element of money laundering or illegal crypto currency.

TOEX Goes National



Following confirmation from the Home Office in April that the TOEX Programme had secured additional funding of £6.4 million allocated in this year's Spending Review, as part of a three-year funding settlement, and in anticipation of national implementation, a number of briefings were delivered to all 43 forces to highlight how the TOEX model is working in collaboration with UK law enforcement to tackle the threat of organised exploitation.

Representatives from each force were invited to the briefings, including those from safeguarding, local policing, analytics, intelligence, HR, ICT as well as thematic leads for relevant vulnerability areas such as county lines and modern slavery.

T/Detective Chief Superintendent Kate Thacker led the briefings taking attendees through a presentation detailing what the TOEX Programme does, the operational delivery, including HR, recruitment and training, implementation, including the intelligence operating model, performance, and case studies, as well as communications and stakeholder engagement. The second part of the presentation focused on the technical enablers of the programme, detailing plans for the TOEX data platform and capabilities environment. The event closed with the independent evaluation by Crest Advisory into the impact and effectiveness of the TOEX Programme.

Participation in each of the briefings was high, with over 400 senior leaders attending. At the end of each section of

the presentation, there was an opportunity for attendees to ask questions and facilitate discussions, with a particular focus on how forces will help to further improve the focus on organised exploitation and serious and organised crime (SOC), how forces will make use of TOEX to protect the most vulnerable in communities, and finally, how forces will lend advocacy and expertise to the programme.

A number of key themes emerged from the question sessions, including deeper dives into the recruitment strategy, the operational delivery, SOC systems tasking and risk ownership, how TOEX is linked with key stakeholders such as the National Crime Agency and Information Management & Operational Requirements Coordination Committee (IMORCC), and a particular interest in how the TOEX data platform will work in conjunction with other systems such as PND and NLEDs.

Criminality involved in the organised exploitation of the vulnerable continues to evolve, and in some cases, thrive. Significant work is already being undertaken by UK law enforcement to tackle organised exploitation with TOEX offering further opportunities to those working hard to pursue offenders and safeguard victims. Thank you to all those who attended the briefings, asked questions, and were engaged in the discussions. The TOEX team are grateful for the support and collaboration offered to date from across UK law enforcement.

VKPP Analytics and Innovation Award



On Friday 1 April 2022, the Vulnerability Knowledge and Practice Programme (VKPP) held their virtual annual conference. As part of this year's event, the VKPP wanted to recognise the achievements and commitment of police officers, staff, and partner organisations in addressing vulnerability.

The TOEX Programme's national team was recognised, in its entirety, as part of the 'Analytics and Innovation' Award in delivering promising, innovative, and effective practice in addressing vulnerability.

The VKPP said, "The TOEX National Team is

a significant contributor to the operational and strategic response to serious and organised crime (SOC), delivering real world benefits to complex investigations and operating from local to national.

"They're at the cutting edge of law enforcement's response to data exploitation, analytics and intelligence development. In a first for policing, the TOEX cloud-based data platform conflates data and intelligence across nine forces, national and open-source data sets; providing analytical insights and supporting new capabilities, designed by the team to respond to complex investigations."

Matching Data Analytics Innovation to Policing's Business Need

The National Intelligence Conference was held on 8 and 9 June 2022 with an awards ceremony, which recognised the excellence and professionalism within the intelligence community of UK policing and law enforcement partner agencies.

The aspirations for the portfolio ensure progression and innovation, utilising and creating evidence-based methodology, working with partners and academia, to provide the most effective and cutting-edge intelligence capability.

The TOEX Innovation Award recognises realised innovation in the field of data analytics within a busy UKLE landscape as well as the ability to recognise the opportunities to deliver real world benefits to complex police investigations and/or challenges.

T/DCI Dave Rawlings, of the TOEX national team, was commended for "his leadership,



innovation, and collaboration on the delivery of the TOEX Data Platform" that is "now recommended for expansion at a national scale." In addition, he was recognised for "his operational and technical ability to help transform law enforcement's approach to SOC, applying innovation to mirror 'traditional' analytical practice and create technical solutions to address blockers in modelling data/intelligence for operational use."

TOEX Spotlight

Why choose TOEX?

As part of our national recruitment campaign, we are seeking to attract talented individuals who bring experience and skills both from within law enforcement and outside of policing. We understand we are looking for specific skillsets to fill the intelligence and technical roles, and as such, we felt it was important to highlight why our staff, who onboarded with us in 2021, chose the TOEX Programme for their next career move.

Our testimonials page on the website is now live and includes quotes from a number of staff across the TOEX pilot regions and a variety of roles. The individuals have joined our team from a number of areas – some had just graduated from University with relevant social science or intelligence degrees, some were previously in the Armed Forces and some already had experience working within law enforcement.

The quotes include:

“I chose the TOEX fixed-term role over a permanent offer to access the training - I heard that the training was second to none and it hasn't disappointed.”

Intelligence Analyst, ROCUWM.

“I found the recruitment process straightforward, great team and training!”

Intelligence Development Officer, ROCUWM.

“I was keen to secure a role where you can help people and solve problems.”

Intelligence Analyst, ERSOU.

We're really proud that our staff feel like they're making a real difference so have also developed a number of visual assets to promote the testimonials and recruitment campaign across our social media channels – please do retweet and share.

If you, or someone you know is interested in our intelligence and technical roles – please visit our vacancies page on the website or contact us directly via the TOEX mailbox.

Interesting Reads and Useful Links



The Home Office has released new guidance for England and Wales to encourage a whole-system response to violence against women and girls.



The Child Sexual Abuse Centre (CSA Centre) has published a report on cases of child sexual abuse in England and Wales, which highlights a gap between the estimates of prevalence of child sexual abuse and what is recorded in official data.



The ONS (Office for National Statistics) has compiled data from a number of sources including: the National referral mechanism (NRM), police recorded crime (PRC) data and the Children in need census (CIN), on child victims of modern slavery in the UK.



The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and the Home Office have announced that several Bills have received royal assent, including the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act, which extends “positions of trusts” laws, in addition, the Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Act, which creates a new offence of arranging a child marriage with use of coercion.



The NSPCC, along with Just for Kids Law and ten other charities has signed a joint letter to the Secretary of State for Education and Schools highlighting the need for stronger safeguarding measures against child criminal exploitation (CCE) for vulnerable children who face school exclusion.



The Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner has published its annual report looking at modern slavery.



The Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner (IASC) and Cumberland Lodge have released a report on practitioner responses to child trafficking.



The Alliance for Youth Justice (AYJ) has published a policy briefing looking at the challenges facing the youth justice system which may have been brought about or accentuated by the pandemic.



The NSPCC has published findings from a Freedom of Information (FoI) request into online child sexual abuse offences recorded by the police in the UK.

Contact Us



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