



Bundeskriminalamt



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The different Faces of Organised Crime

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The British national strategic assessment 2014/2015

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Abstract

The British Government regards serious and organised crime as one of the greatest threats to the UK's national security and launched the National Crime Agency (NCA) in October 2013 to lead, co-ordinate and task law enforcement activity against organised crime. The NCA has responsibility for publishing an authoritative annual assessment of the impact of and threat to the UK from serious and organised crime and an authoritative assessment of threats to border security. The National Strategic Assessment – published in May 2014 – provides the single, comprehensive picture of serious and organised crime affecting the UK and is a key document in the reporting and priority setting cycle.

Generally, serious and organised crime in the UK operates in loose networks where individuals, pairs or small groups bring associates and contacts together to work on particular enterprises across multiple crime types. Some serious and organised crime is perpetrated by hierarchically structured groups comprising close associates and/or family members, some of whom are based overseas. Most serious and organised criminals benefit from corruption that has taken place at some stage in the criminal process in other countries or the UK, even if individual criminals operating in the UK have not personally engaged in corruption.

If there is a single cross-cutting issue that has changed the landscape for serious and organised crime and our response against it, it is the growth in scale and speed of internet communication technologies.

All of the most serious crime threats are transnational. Commodities of all types – including, for example, trafficked people destined for modern slavery, intangibles targeted in fraud and cyber-crime – either come from or transit through often unstable countries. Corruption in these countries both feeds off the proceeds of the crime and contributes in turn to instability. The criminal exploitation of corrupt and unstable governments or countries can directly threaten UK national security.