

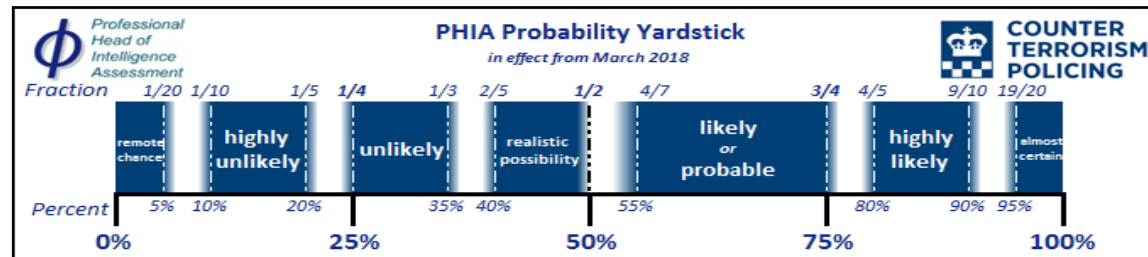
NPoCC SIB Public Safety Events Threat Assessment

July – August 2024

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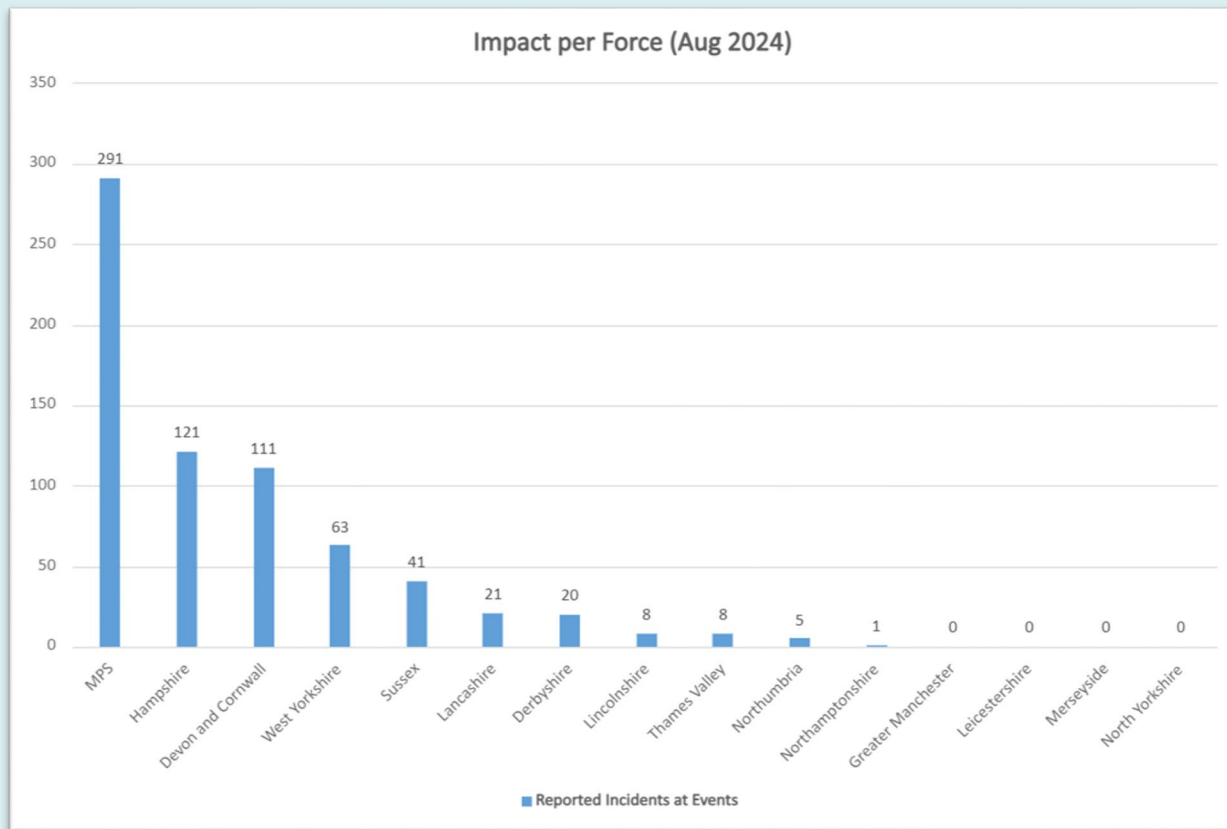
Purpose

- The purpose of this document is to proportionately and lawfully share information to inform UK policing and law enforcement stakeholders:
 - To assist them with the development of assessments and event planning in line with policing’s core duties.
 - To prevent and detect crime.
 - To keep the peace and to protect life and property.
- This product provides an assessment of current and emerging trends in the events space, including festivals, arena tours, sporting events and other large or crowded licensed events.
- The product will provide a forward look on factors that may have an impact on risk and threat for public safety.
- The products will be produced on a monthly basis, but may contain reference to events outside of the current month’s reporting period, as new information and reporting becomes available.
- Please contact NPoCCMailbox-.SIB@met.police.uk with questions or feedback.



NPoCC SIB received updates on 32 events for the period of 01 to 31 August 2024, across 15 police forces.

Force	Number of Events
West Yorkshire	5
Lincolnshire	4
Northumbria	4
Leicestershire	3
Sussex	3
Derbyshire	2
Hampshire	2
MPS	2
Devon and Cornwall	1
Greater Manchester	1
Lancashire	1
Merseyside	1
North Yorkshire	1
Northamptonshire	1
Thames Valley	1
Total	32



BLUF (Bottom Line Up Front): Safeguarding continues to be a prevalent thematic and it is **highly likely** there will be continued reporting of sexual offences and spiking incidents at student event venues in September due to the start of the academic year. It is **highly likely** that increased surveillance of less crowded areas where attacks have the potential to take place would provide further safeguarding and preventative measures.

It is **likely** that sporting and leisure events of significance will be targeted by pro-Palestine protest groups and individuals in the foreseeable future, especially those events sponsored by Barclays.



The highest number of reports this period continues to relate to criminality. The highest reported offence type was assault, accounting for 22% of all criminality reports.



There were theft reports at 12 public safety events during this period and the majority of items reported stolen continues to be mobile phones. It is **highly likely** organised theft teams will continue to exploit outdoor festivals and high-capacity indoor events and the security challenges these environments pose.



From the previous month, criminality rose from 43% to 54%. The number of safeguarding incidents reported has increased from 15% to 25%. It is **likely** that reporting of crime and safeguarding incidents will decrease overall in the next period as high capacity outdoor events wind down and the colder months approach.



At 11 events, there were 218 reported drug-related incidents overall and 28% of these (61) were linked to drug dealing and possession with intent to supply drugs, which resulted in 49 arrests.



There were 2 reported children's welfare incidents at Airshow events in the South East, and North West and 2 reports of sexual assaults on children at a festival in the South East. It is **likely** predatory offenders will continue to look to exploit the public, crowded environment of family events.

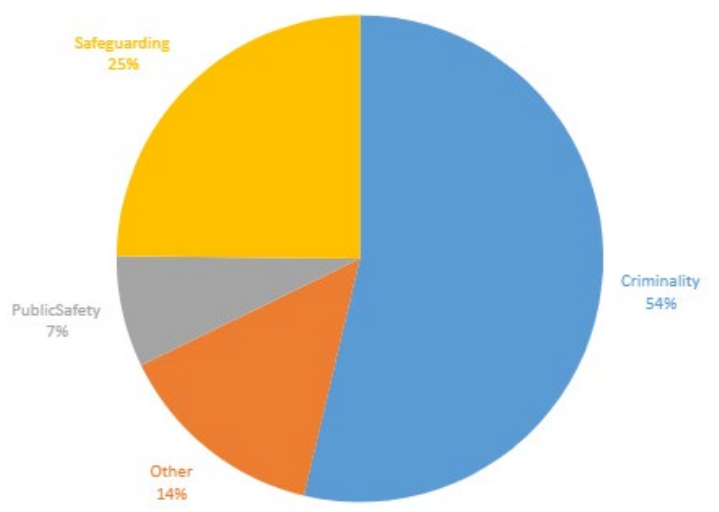


There were 8 unconfirmed reports of spiking at festivals in the North East, South East, and South West. It is **likely** that overall reporting of safeguarding incidents will decrease with the winding down of high capacity outdoor events.

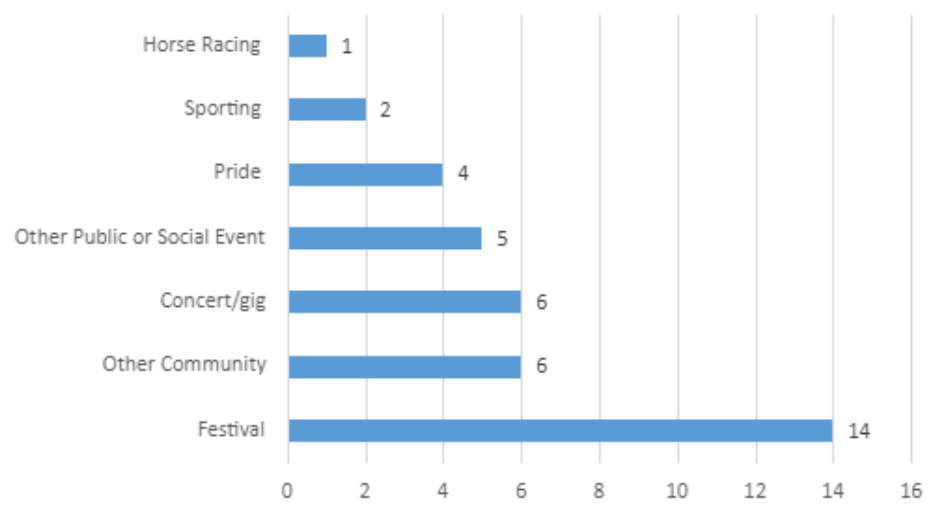


During this assessment period there was 1 right wing inspired protest at a festival in Blackpool, leading to 20 arrests. The greatest threat of disruption continues to be from groups/individuals linked to Internationally-Inspired protest.

INCIDENT TYPE DISTRIBUTION: 01 AUG 24 - 31 AUG 24



Event Types - August 2024



Criminality by Offence Type - August 2024



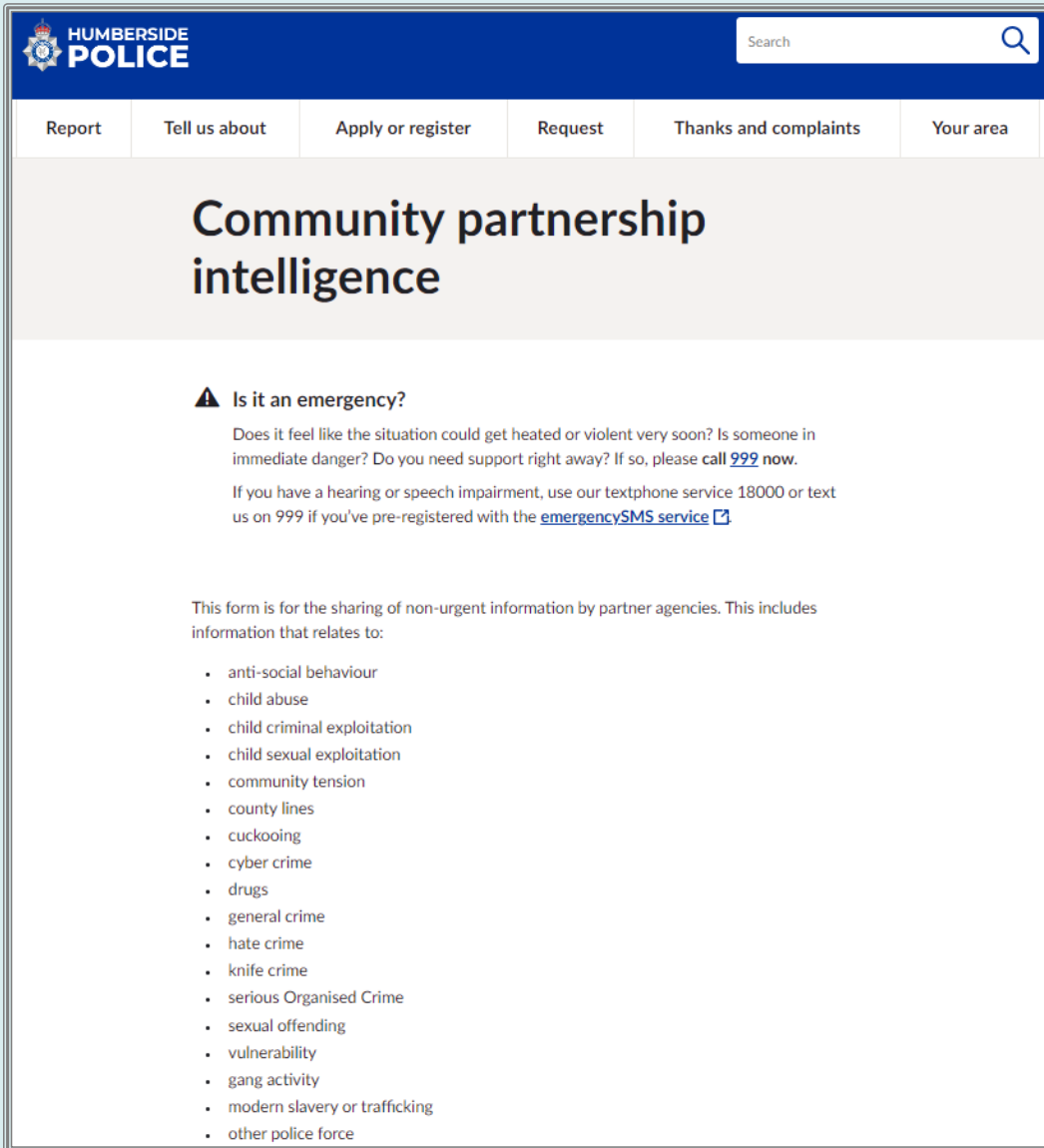
This reporting period included a range of outdoor music events, with a continuation of offences associated with them. Festivals (71%) accounted for the vast majority of events reported this period.

Criminality at events has continued to be the highest reported thematic for reported incidents. From the previous month, there has been an 11% rise in reports of criminality at events.

Anti-social behaviour of attendees resulting in public order and assault offences was widely reported, together accounting for just over a quarter of criminality related reports (26%). Intoxication by alcohol or drugs is an ongoing concern related to crowd behaviour and it is **highly likely** this type of behaviour will continue at these events.

Mobile phones continued to be the most common items reported stolen, especially at music festivals and concerts. The frequency of thefts from persons continues to be the highest reported, while thefts from tents or vehicles continues to be reported in line with the seasonal trends and outdoor festivals. It is **highly likely** that thefts from persons will remain prevalent during upcoming indoor music events, particularly at large capacity venues.

From the previous month, there has been a 10% rise in safeguarding reports. The number of sexual offence reports increased this period, and reports ranged from sexual touching, harassment, to more serious alleged incidents including assault and rape. It is **likely** that overall reporting of safeguarding incidents will decrease with the winding down of high capacity outdoor events. It is **highly likely** there will be continued reporting of sexual offences and spiking incidents at student/Fresher's event venues in September as a new academic year begins.



www.humberside.police.uk/partners/partner-services/community-partner-intelligence/community-partnership-intelligence/

Single Online Home – Pilot Scheme

Single Online Home is a project to **standardise the landing page** of all Home Office police force external websites. Within this is the functionality for community partners to report non-emergency information to police.

NPoCC SIB is leading a pilot, which went live on 30 May 2024, to trial the use of this community intelligence page to receive information and intelligence from industry partners within events.

Forces currently signed up to the pilot scheme are: Cheshire, Humberside and Leicestershire. It is anticipated that once the pilot scheme has concluded, the facility will be rolled out to include all UK police forces.

Police forces will have a **link to an online form on their website which they can share with industry partners**. The online form enables an efficient and secure method by which industry and organisations can share information with their local force. Once a force receives the information it can be triaged, assessed and recorded on an intelligence database.

The intelligence collected can be used to assist the force in multiple ways i.e. inform pre-event risk assessment, build on intelligence already available, inform ongoing investigations or highlight previously unreported criminality. Dependant on the type information provided, it could potentially assist any number of departments within the receiving force, outside force or other law enforcement partner/agency.

NPoCC will use the intelligence as part of their regular analysis and briefing process to provide forces with an assessment of the current and emerging trends, including **potential tactics and risk factors etc.** across force areas. These assessments will then be shared with forces via the current strategic assessment distribution network.

National Assessment

NPoCC received reporting of theft offences at 12 public safety events during this period, which included large scale high profile festivals, events, and Notting Hill Carnival, which had multi-day impact. The majority of items reported stolen continues to be mobile phones and other personal items such as bank cards and money, with some reports of ID and passport thefts. Thefts were reported in regions relative to where festivals and concerts took place, with the highest prevalence of reporting in the South East, and North East. Offences often occurred in crowded environments and items were mostly stolen through pickpocketing, while lack of security surrounding belongings left inside tents continued to present opportunities for thefts. Although the majority of reported thefts at festivals and concerts involve mobile phones, it is **likely** that the actual number of mobile phone thefts is significantly higher, as many incidents go unreported or unnoticed due to the busy and crowded nature of these events. There were a number of vehicle thefts from festival parking sites.

It is **highly likely** that upcoming festivals and outdoor music events will continue to see high reports of thefts given the opportunities presented to criminals to steal items, including the close proximity of crowds during acts and the low security of items kept on campsites.

Incidents of Note

- **June 2024: Festival (South West)** A number of Land Rover Defenders were stolen from a festival parking site (figures unclear, one vehicle theft recorded), pursuit followed utilising several road and air assets, however thieves had removed the GPS tracker and attached to another vehicle (Police Return).
- **August 2024: Festival (East Midlands)** Report regarding a male who had been detained by security after being caught stealing from tents. 15 mobile phones found on his person, suspect arrested and currently on bail (Police return).
- **August 2024: Festival (South West)** 25 reports of thefts from person were recorded, 12 reports of thefts from tents. Of note, two instances of thefts by security staff were recorded, with no arrests made (Police return).
- **August 2024: Festival (North East)** Total of 50 reports of theft including one theft from person, with offenders approaching from behind, removing bag containing Army ID. Four reports of thefts from vehicles and two reported thefts of vehicles, with no suspects for vehicle crimes. (Police return).
- **August 2024: Notting Hill Carnival (London)** Four reported thefts from persons, three other theft offences reported (Police return).

Forward Look

It is **highly likely** that the trend of stolen phones will remain prevalent during the summer festival season where crowd dynamics facilitate undetected thefts, while reporting of these crimes will decrease as the festival period winds down. It remains **likely** that festivals and concerts will continue to be the events with the highest volume of these offences.

It is **likely** that vehicle thefts from festival parking sites would decrease with added security measures.

It is **highly likely** that individuals intent on theft will use pre-planned tactics to evade crime prevention measures used by security at locations.

National Assessment

Disruptive behaviour that leads to violence, damage or criminality has been reported across 14 different festival, concert and other community events during the period. Police reporting has highlighted a number of incidents involving possession of bladed articles, as well as criminal damage incidents, and anti-social behaviour was reported at a wide number of events. The majority of assault incidents involved individuals being intoxicated and aggressive towards venue security/staff and resulted in individuals being ejected from the premises.

There was an increase in the number of assaults reported this period, with two homophobia-driven assault reports. A small number of offence reports were unprovoked and appear to have been influenced by alcohol and/or drug-related matters. It is **highly likely** the behaviour and safety of those attending events will continue to be adversely affected by over consumption of alcohol or drugs, leading to further offences.

Incidents of Note

- **June 2024: Festival (South West)** Male assaulted in wooded area, receiving knife slash to the face from unknown assailant who approached from behind. Attack thought to be drugs-related. (Police return).
- **August 2024: Outdoor Music Event (South East)** Attendee stabbed, one to front, one to back. High volume of drugs located on victim (Police return).
- **August 2024: Airshow Event (North West)** Male is detected via police drone team for flying a drone in restricted air space, male intercepted and drone seized (Police return).
- **August 2024: Outdoor Music Event (South East)** 15 reports of assault, one incident involving breach of court bail, where condition was not to attend any music event (Police return).
- **August 2024: Festival (South West)** Two males report being detained by security guards for five hours against their will, due to a false third hand report accusing them of sexual assault. Security staff involved deny these claims (Police return).
- **August 2024: Festival (North East)** High arrest rate for reported assaults, with five of six incidents resulting in arrests (Police return).
- **August 2024: Notting Hill Carnival (London)** Eight reported stabbings, resulting in two separate, unconnected fatalities. Around 50 police officers injured, and 334 arrests (Police return, [OS Reporting](#)).



Rainy weather and storm Lillian over the bank holiday weekend affected Reading and Leeds Festival, with three stages being closed at Leeds festival, leading to public discontent, refund demands and early departures ([OS Reporting](#)). Image Source [here](#).

Forward Look

It is **highly likely** that disruptive, violent and antisocial behaviour will continue to be fuelled by excessive alcohol consumption and drug use. It is **likely** that a number of upcoming smaller-scale music and sporting events will result in reporting of issues relating to public safety and violent behaviour in a minority of attendees. It is **likely** CCTV in eviction areas will discourage physical aggression and disputes with security staff by aggrieved attendees in future.

There are sparse media reports of growing pressure on Notting Hill Carnival's event organisers to make the event ticketed, in order to provide more effective security against public order and violence concerns. It is **unlikely** this will be implemented by next year's event.

National Assessment

Illegal drugs and the means used to smuggle prohibited substances into event locations, particularly outdoor festivals, has been reported at events across the UK. 11 events reported incidents with drug misuse and drug dealing. There were 218 reported drug-related incidents overall. 28% of these (61) were linked to drug dealing and possession with intent to supply drugs, which resulted in 49 arrests. This marks a slight decrease of substance misuse reports in the previous festival period in 2023. This period has seen a significant decrease in the reporting of the use of Nitrous Oxide, and the only event reporting its use was Notting Hill Carnival. This is **likely** to be due to the substance being classified as a class C drug since November 2023. It is **highly likely** that drug use and drug dealing, especially class A and B, will continue to present a significant issue for event security, as organisers are faced with increasingly diverse ways and means with which drugs are brought into events. The most common drugs in these offences continues to be cocaine and MDMA (class A), and cannabis (class C). Due to the high demand for illegal drugs and the continued financial gain of supplying at festivals, it is **highly likely** that for a portion of dealers financial benefit will outweigh the risk from police or security. Drug misuse is **highly likely** to continue to be the highest reported at events where live music forms part of the event, as well as multi-day camping events.

Methods of detection varied greatly based on operational and security procedures, which included use of CCTV, searching on ingress, plain clothed security during the event as well as monitoring of campsites where drug use and dealing was present. At another festival, sightings by security at locus were successful in identifying a high number of dealers. A number of concealment methods were reported including custom made containers, as well as concealment in camping equipment, food containers and on their person. The use of 'stash' tents was also reported which were used by organised groups who had successfully gained access with large amounts of drugs to sell on site.

Incidents of Note:

- **August 2024: Festival (South West)** One arrest for possession with intent to supply, three arrested after initial investigation of driving offences, with £20,000 street value of drugs and £1,620 cash found (Police return).
- **August 2024: Festival (North East)** Sightings by security at locus lead to 33 drug dealing related arrests overall. When searched, dealers were found in possession of a range of drugs, including bags of white and brown powder, bags of blue, pink and green tablets, MDMA and cannabis (London return).
- **August 2024: Notting Hill Carnival (London)** 19 drug supply reports. 12 other drug reports, 18 Class A drug reports, 53 Class B drug reports (cannabis) and 8 Class C drug reports (NOX) (London Return).

Forward Look

Due to the legislative change and greater restrictions of Nitrous Oxide, it is **likely** that the overall reporting of the drug's use at events will remain low. It is **highly likely** reporting of use will not represent true figures, due to ease of access and a casual perspective of the nature of the drug itself.

It is **likely** that as the festival season ends the overall number of reported drug-related offences reported at events will decrease in line with the reduced number of events. It remains **likely** that widespread, low levels of drug-related reports will continue at lower capacity outdoor festivals, indoor events, and student fresher events in public venues as the new academic year begins. It is **highly likely** that drug dealing will continue at outdoor festival environments, using previously observed concealment methods including the use of custom made containers, camping equipment, food containers and stash tents. There is a **realistic possibility** that some dealing will be linked to OCGs, including tactics pre event to secrete drugs on the site to evade searches when the event commences.

National Assessment

Sexual offences were reported at 11 different events during this reporting period. There was a higher number of events over the summer period, and these events mainly took place in outdoor festivals settings and had high attendee numbers. Reports ranged from sexual touching and harassment, to alleging more serious incidents including assault and rape. Where details were reported, the demographic of victims continued to be predominantly women, with the most common age range for victims falling between 16-25. Reported offending is **highly likely** to be facilitated by the close crowd dynamics in the concert setting providing non-consensual opportunity for offenders to inappropriately touch victims. Offenders are also **highly likely** to exploit vulnerability of intoxication/illegal drug use by attendees. It is **likely** that the increase in numbers of reports for sexual offences and spiking offences over the summer period reflects the impact of experienced welfare teams engaged at events have on public confidence when reporting these offences, as seen in the 2023 summer reporting period (NPoCC monthly assessment, June 2023).

Spiking continues to be reported at outdoor music festivals and music venues, and the number of reports has increased since the last month, with eight unconfirmed reports overall. There was an equal number of drink spiking and needle spiking reports. Unconfirmed reports of spiking were recorded at festivals in South West, and North East. Spiking reports did not reference sexual touching and sexual assault as possible motivations. Due to various factors including the often delayed effects of the assault, symptoms mirroring the effects of alcohol, symptoms leading to memory loss, potential lack of eye-witness accounts and medical or CCTV evidence, it is **likely** the majority of spiking reports will remain unconfirmed. Testing and investigations of spiking incidents continues to be an operational challenge. Reports of spiking by injection/needle stick are **likely** to fuel public concern and anxiety. It is **highly likely** increased coordination between local authorities, safeguarding agencies and licensed premises will reassure the public and support the night-time economy industry.

There were two reports related to children’s welfare at Airshow events in South East, and Northwest, with one reported arrest. There were two reports of sexual assaults on children at a festival in the South East region. It is **likely** predatory offenders will continue to look to exploit the public environment of family events, as well as the crowded environments of festivals which children attend.

Incidents of Note:

- **August 2024: Festival (South West):** Eight reports of sexual assaults/incidents and two unconfirmed reports of rape. One male arrested for repeatedly exposing himself to members of the public. Four unconfirmed needle spiking reports at festival site, two unconfirmed drink spiking reports at a nightclub. No arrests for spiking incidents, Four arrests overall (Police return).
- **August 2024: Airshow (North West):** Male arrested in breach of his sexual harm prevention order by MOSOVO officers dedicated to Blackpool having been warned by officers earlier in the week regarding attending family event (Police return).
- **August 2024: Airshow (South East):** One individual found with indecent images of children (Police return).
- **August 2024 (South East):** Two unconfirmed reports of sexual assaults on children (13 year old and 14 year old), with 13 year old reportedly pulled into a portaloos by unknown male and assaulted. Two unconfirmed reports of sexual assaults on female victims - no arrests overall (Police return).

Forward Look

It is **likely** that predatory offenders will continue to seek opportunities to commit sexual offences at indoor event locations, including music festivals and concerts. It is **likely** the number of spiking reports will remain consistent in the future period in line with the number of student events scheduled to take place.

It is **likely** there will continue to be reports of sexual offences and spiking at venues that retail alcohol, as offenders seek to make use of high noise volumes and crowded environments of nightclub environments. Reports of sexual assaults on children are **highly likely** to fuel public concern and unrest. It is **likely** increased surveillance of less crowded areas where attacks have the potential to take place, as well as dedicated safeguarding areas and provision of rape alarms, will provide further safeguarding and preventative measures.

National Assessment

During this assessment period (August 2024) there was one protest at events. This number has decreased significantly compared to the previous period and overall, the number of events targeted by protests remains low. The greatest threat of disruption continues to be from groups linked to Internationally-Inspired protest, which has increasingly seen support from Environmental activist groups. In June 2024, the majority of the recorded protest (69%) was centred around the Middle East conflict, with protesters expressing solidarity and support for the Palestinian cause. The majority of pro-Palestine protests remained lawful with six arrests reported across four events. This included an environmental protest outside of the Wimbledon Championships with Just Stop Oil (JSO) activists leafleting outside of the Wimbledon arena and an anti-monarchy protest held at HM the King’s birthday parade organised by ‘Republic’, both events occurring in London. Furthermore, one protest against the Bahrain Royalty was held at the Royal Windsor Horse Show and one protest with unknown intentions that took place on D-Day in Southampton. All protests remained lawful with no disorder or disruption reported.

Notting Hill Carnival’s profile and the event’s history as standing in solidarity against racism followed the racially motivated Southport riots and other far right inspired community protests. Heightened public tensions have added to continued attempts by right-leaning media outlets to appropriate outbreaks of violence at this event, in order to advance racist narratives. Since 1987, there have been eight deaths, meaning the two deaths this year mark a significant rise in the number of fatalities connected to the event. This is **highly likely** to fuel public concern and anxiety.

Incidents of Note:

- **June 2024:** Barclays suspended its sponsorship of all Live Nation festivals in 2024, including Isle of Wight, Download and Latitude. As the bank has signed a five-year sponsorship deal with Live Nation in 2023, it is understood the suspension does not apply to the full term of the contract ([OS Reporting](#)).
- **August 2024: Festival (North West)** An "ENOUGH IS ENOUGH" right wing protest took place outside of Blackpool town hall, later heading to a hotel housing Syrian refugee families, as around 150 Rebellion festival attendees acted in counter protest (including "Football lads and lasses against Fascism", "Punks and Skinheads love Immigrants" and "Rebellion against Bigots". This led to significant disorder, looting and one male being knocked unconscious (Police return).
- **August 2024: Notting Hill Carnival (London)** Eight stabbings, resulting in two separate, unconnected deaths. Around 50 police officers injured, and 334 arrests (Police return, [OS Reporting](#)).



PA MEDIA
Protesters initially gathered outside Blackpool cenotaph before marching through the town

Right wing rioters in Blackpool clash with counter protesters from the Rebellion Punk Festival ([Source](#))

Forward Look

There is a **realistic possibility** of sporadic and small-scale animal inspired protests will take place at events over the next period. These protests are **likely** to be peaceful and not cause disruption.

There is a **realistic possibility** of the risk of protest at any sporting or cultural event especially if it has a live televised feed, is a significant cultural or sporting event, or has controversial sponsorship.

It is **likely** that sporting and cultural events will be targeted by pro-Palestine protest groups within the foreseeable future, especially those events sponsored by Barclays. There is a **realistic possibility** events sponsored by other banks perceived by some to fund Israel’s financial aims and activities will be targeted by pro-Palestine protest groups within the foreseeable future. There are five foreign banks with commercial activities in Israel: Citibank NA, HSBC Bank plc., BNP Paribas Israel and State Bank of India ([source](#)). International-inspired protest groups are **highly likely** to conduct their own research into company clients and shareholder profiles.



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