

Hungary and Poland, still struggle with issues of judicial independence and political influence over the media, which can obstruct effective anti-corruption enforcement. Continuous monitoring, regional cooperation, and harmonized legislation remain critical for sustaining progress across Europe [7].

In conclusion, Europe's efforts to combat corruption demonstrate a growing recognition of the need for transparency, robust legal frameworks, and support for whistleblowers. These reforms not only enhance governance and economic stability but also rebuild public trust in institutions, which is crucial for democratic societies.

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THE UK CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

The UK criminal justice system is an intricate framework of government departments and public agencies that collaborate to enforce the law and maintain societal order. Key government bodies such as the Ministry of Justice and the Home Office work alongside specialized agencies, including the Crown Prosecution Service and the National Crime Agency, to create a structured approach to criminal justice. This structure not only enforces laws and

prosecutes offenders but also ensures a comprehensive approach to crime prevention, investigation, and rehabilitation.

The UK criminal justice system remains highly relevant due to its ongoing role in adapting to modern challenges such as cybercrime, organized crime, and evolving security threats. This system is responsible for safeguarding public safety while upholding justice and fairness, making its efficient functioning crucial to societal well-being. As the UK faces changes in criminal tactics and complexities brought on by globalization, the need for a well-organized and responsive criminal justice system has never been greater.

The UK criminal justice system consists of government departments that work together with several other public agencies to decide on laws and deal with those that commit crimes. Two main government departments work in the area of criminal justice:

1. **Ministry of Justice (MoJ):** the main department that oversees the justice system in the UK.
2. **Home Office:** the department responsible for law and order, including the police service, counter-terrorism, and security issues.

Government departments in the UK work with the following agencies in the area of criminal justice:

1. **Crown Prosecution Service(CPS):** the public agency in charge of conducting criminal prosecutions [1].

Prosecutes criminal cases that have been investigated by the police and other investigative organisations in England and Wales. The CPS is independent, and they make their decisions independently of the police and government.

Their duty is to make sure that the right person is prosecuted for the right offence, and to bring offenders to justice wherever possible [2].

2. **Police Service:** responsible for policing, law and order, and making arrests [1].

Police services in the UK are organised around two legal entities: the ‘Office of Constable’ and the police force.

Police officers (no matter their rank) each individually hold the Office of Constable. The Office of Constable grants them powers to detect, prevent and investigate crime.

Every police officer is a member of a police force. The police force organises and coordinates their crime fighting. As members of police forces, officers (and other police personnel) are under the “direction and control” of their chief officer. Chief officers are ultimately responsible for the operation of their force.

There are 48 civilian police forces in the UK: 43 territorial police forces in England and Wales, a national police force in both Scotland and Northern Ireland and three specialist police forces (the British Transport Police, the Civil Nuclear Constabulary and the Ministry of Defence Police).

Policing is (by and large) a devolved matter in Scotland and Northern Ireland. The Scottish Government and the Northern Ireland Executive are responsible for deciding how most police services are organised and managed in their nations. Policing culture is very similar throughout the UK and Police Scotland and the Police Service Northern Ireland share many of the characteristics of English and Welsh forces [3].

3. **The Courts** (HM Courts and Tribunals Service): consists of criminal, civil, and family courts.

4. **Law Officers**: consists of the Attorney General, who is the chief legal advisor to the government, and the Solicitor General, who provides a supporting role.

5. **His Majesty's Prisons and Probations Service**: carries out court sentencing and is responsible for the punishment and rehabilitation of criminals.

6. **National Crime Agency** (NCA): responsible for dealing with serious and organized crime, including cross-border crime [1].

The NCA is the UK law enforcement agency responsible for leading, supporting and co-ordinating the response to serious and organised crime. This includes human, weapons and drug trafficking; cybercrime; and economic crime that cross regional, national and international borders. It has more than 4,000 officers, some of whom provide an international liaison function across and beyond Europe.

The agency has two functions specified in statute which are crime reduction and criminal intelligence [4]

In summary, the UK criminal justice system is a well-coordinated network that relies on both government oversight and independent agencies to address crime comprehensively. Through the combined efforts of departments, agencies, and specialized roles within law enforcement, prosecution, and rehabilitation, the system strives to uphold the rule of law, bring offenders to justice, and protect the public. This unified approach ensures a consistent and effective response to crime, enhancing public trust and security across the nation.

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