

Contents

Notes on the editors	vii
Introduction	1
Part One: Historical context	
Fact 1	The Crime Survey for England and Wales in 2017 states that there were 10.8 million incidents of crime in the previous year 11
Fact 2	Capital punishment in the UK was abolished in 1965, but the Death Penalty was a legally defined punishment until 1998 17
Fact 3	Homosexual male (gay) sex was only decriminalised in England some 50 years ago 21
Fact 4	The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) was set up 60 years before the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) 27
Part Two: Crime in Britain today	
Fact 5	Vehicle crime in England and Wales has fallen by 80% since 1993 35
Fact 6	Businesses face higher rates of victimisation than households or individuals 40
Fact 7	From 2007 to 2017, there were around 2.3 million deliberate fires in the UK, resulting in over 25,000 injuries and over 900 deaths 44
Fact 8	Between 2016 and 2017, 80,393 hate crimes were committed in England and Wales 49
Fact 9	The cost of waste crime in the UK exceeded £1 billion for the first time in 2016 54

Part Three: International comparisons

Fact 10	There is a 0.9 per 100,000 people murder rate in the UK; in Lithuania, it is 5.9 per 100,000	61
Fact 11	The age of criminal responsibility in England and Wales is the lowest in Europe at just 10 years old	66
Fact 12	Between 2004 and 2017, 33 people were fatally shot by the police in England and Wales	70

Part Four: The police

Fact 13	There were 298,949 stop-and-search incidents in England and Wales in 2016/17 – a rate of 5 per 1,000 people	77
Fact 14	The police and security services are keeping approximately 3,000 people in the UK under surveillance for suspected terrorist activities	82
Fact 15	The Metropolitan Police Service examines approximately 40,000 digital forensics devices annually	86
Fact 16	Police officers comprise only 60% of the police workforce in England and Wales	91
Fact 17	An individual police officer will attend to approximately 150 non-crime-related issues per year	96

Part Five: Prison realities

Fact 18	Contrary to what people often think, a life sentence does last for life	103
Fact 19	The average yearly cost of keeping one person in prison in England and Wales is £35,182	109
Fact 20	In 2016, almost 289,605 extra days (or 793 years of imprisonment) were added to prisoners' sentences	114
Fact 21	3.5% of those serving a sentence in the criminal justice system in England and Wales are former military personnel	118
Fact 22	Prisons are now the largest provider of residential care for older men in England and Wales	122
Fact 23	The female prison population accounts for just under 5% of the total prison population	126

Part Six: Criminal justice

Fact 24	Around 84% of all offenders who appear before the courts are convicted	133
Fact 25	Judges in courts in England and Wales do not use gavels	139

Fact 26	According to the Home Office, around 100,000 people are responsible for half of all recorded crime	142
Fact 27	In 2017 there were 260,000 offenders in the community under statutory supervision by the criminal justice system in England and Wales	147
Fact 28	It's (nearly) impossible to go to jail for not paying your debts, but mass indebtedness nonetheless remains an entry point to many crime problems	151

Part Seven: Black market Britain

Fact 29	The number of suspected victims of trafficking and slavery in the UK increased by 35% in 2017; of the 5,145 suspected victims from 116 countries, 2,118 were minors	161
Fact 30	The fake medicine trade has now overtaken marijuana as the world's largest market for criminal traffickers	167
Fact 31	Tackling drug trafficking costs the UK government £10.7 billion annually	172
Fact 32	Alcohol-related crime in the UK is estimated to cost the economy between £8 billion and £13 billion per year	178
Fact 33	For every £1 spent on drug-related treatment, there is a £2.50 benefit to society	182
Fact 34	If you get caught selling counterfeits, you can face a maximum of 10 years' imprisonment and an unlimited fine	187

Part Eight: Violent Britain

Fact 35	There is no comprehensive national figure for the number of gangs or the number of young people involved or associated with gangs	193
Fact 36	Britain's most prolific serial killer was Dr Harold Shipman, yet we are still uncertain how many people he actually killed	198
Fact 37	The average cost of a contract murder in the UK is just £15,180	203
Fact 38	Sex workers are 12 times more likely to be murdered than the general population	208
Fact 39	Not all violence is criminal	212
Fact 40	You cannot consent to be harmed in sex, but you	216

can in the boxing ring

Part Nine: Victims

Fact 41	64% of homicide victims are male	223
Fact 42	It is claimed that around one in 20 children in Britain are sexually abused	228
Fact 43	More than three quarters of people sleeping rough have been victims of crime or anti-social behaviour in the past year	232
Fact 44	In 2015/16, the NHS treated over 9,000 cases of female genital mutilation	237
Fact 45	Two women are killed each week by a current or former partner in England and Wales	241
Fact 46	Almost 50% of stalkers present themselves at their victim's workplace	246

Part Ten: Crime and technology

Fact 47	Around one in six of all estimated crimes in England and Wales in the year to September 2016 were fraud committed online, according to the Office for National Statistics	255
Fact 48	The number of alleged crimes involving social media such as Facebook and Twitter have increased nearly eightfold in four years	259
Fact 49	There is estimated to be one CCTV camera for every 14 people in UK	264
Fact 50	There are currently some 11,000 offenders subject to 'tagging' on any day in England and Wales, and the UK is one of Europe's keenest adopters of electronic monitoring of offenders	268
References		273
Index		321