



Outstanding Security  
Performance Awards



Cyber  
Outstanding Security  
Performance Awards



Tackling  
Economic  
Crime Awards



SECURITY &  
SAFETY  
ENTREPRENEUR  
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## Thought Leadership - March 2024

Welcome to the March edition of our *Security and Risk Thought Leadership Newsletter* in which we connect you with innovative ideas and new research. In this edition:

- Perpetuity undertakes research on security and policing partnerships
- The evolving landscape of security convergence and our take on it
- Thinking on a new national fraud campaign
- The eighth UK Outstanding Security Performance Awards (OSPAs) takes place
- Body-worn cameras and domestic abuse in Australia
- UK shop workers face rise in violence and abuse
- Cyber security 'blind spots' leave UK businesses vulnerable
- Regent's Place receives Secured Environments award

If you have any comments, questions or a suggestion for something we should cover, drop me an email

**Dr Janice Goldstraw-White, Thought Leadership Editor**

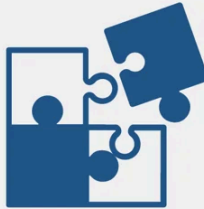
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New research by Perpetuity – Optimising Police-Security Sector Collaboration

Incredibly, despite a lack of resources for the police to tackle crime, there remains an absence of a strategy to harness the potential of working with private and corporate security. Generally, there is thought to be a lack of awareness of the support security can provide and the benefits they generate for policing, and the areas where aims and objectives are aligned. As part of the Security Research Initiative (SRI), Perpetuity Research is seeking to improve the evidence base by clarifying the successful ways of working together (at no cost at the point of use to the police), the benefits of doing so, and the current challenges. Furthermore, we aim to consider the areas where help is most needed going forward.

If you have experience in partnership working between the police and private security and would be happy to share your insights, please get in touch with Charlotte Howell [c.howell@perpetuityresearch.com](mailto:c.howell@perpetuityresearch.com). The findings of the research will be shared in the Autumn 2024.



## Security Industry Association publishes report on security convergence

The US based Security Industry Association's "Security Convergence 2024" report offers up to date insights into the evolving landscape of security convergence, an area that Perpetuity research in the past and identified similar findings. The Association's report highlights the increasing integration of physical and digital security measures, driven by advancements in technology and the growing complexity of security threats. It underscores the need for security professionals to adapt to this convergence by enhancing their skills and knowledge across multiple domains, including cybersecurity, physical security, and risk management. Moreover, the report emphasises the importance of collaboration between different sectors and stakeholders to effectively address emerging security challenges.

[Read the report in full.](#)

Perpetuity's past research on the role of private security in addressing cybercrime considered the issue of convergence. While the approach was thought to have many merits, the research identified a need to better understand how it can work in practice, including the pros and cons of different models, as well as establishing what 'good' looks like. [Read the report in full.](#)

**What do you think?** How can organisations leverage security convergence to achieve a more holistic approach to risk management and threat mitigation? What are the key barriers for organisations seeking to implement converged security solutions and how have these been successfully tackled? What opportunities does security convergence present for innovation in security technologies, processes, and methodologies?

A promotional graphic for the 'STOP! Think Fraud' campaign. On the left, the text 'STOP!' is in a large, bold, black font with a white outline, followed by 'THINK FRAUD' in a similar but smaller font. Below this, the text 'Giving you the knowledge and tools you need to stay ahead of scams.' is written in a smaller, black font. On the right, a woman with long blonde hair, wearing a bright green jumpsuit, is sitting on a red surface and looking down at a smartphone in her hands. The background is a solid orange color.

## STOP! Think Fraud

The UK government has recently launched a significant campaign to combat fraud, aiming to tackle the increasing threat posed by this type of volume crime. This accounts for around 40% of all crime, with an estimated 3.2 million offences each year affecting 1 in 17 adults in England and Wales. With fraudsters becoming more sophisticated in their tactics, this initiative underscores the government's commitment to protecting citizens and businesses from financial harm as outlined in their recent Fraud Strategy.

The campaign seeks to raise awareness about various types of fraud, educate the public on how to recognise and report suspicious activities, and empower individuals and organisations to safeguard themselves against falling victim to fraudulent schemes. By fostering collaboration between government agencies, law enforcement, and the public, this campaign represents a crucial step in the ongoing fight against fraud in the UK.

Perpetuity undertakes research on a wide range of topics relating to economic crime. Please see <https://perpetuityresearch.com/economic-crime/> for further information. The Tackling Economic Crime Awards (TECAs) is run annually to recognise excellence for those working in this profession. Please see: <https://thetecas.com/>

Read the Stop! Fraud campaign in full: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/major-campaign-to-fight-fraud-launched>

Stop! Fraud website: <https://stopthinkfraud.campaign.gov.uk/>

UK Government Fraud Strategy: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fraud-strategy>

**What do you think?** How clear do you think the messaging is from the government about how to avoid falling victim to a fraud or scam? Do you think messaging from other organisations or agencies complements or confuses the government's message? Are there any sectors which you feel are currently not addressed by the government's messaging?



## Security professionals attend UK OSPAs and Thought Leadership Summit

The eighth UK Outstanding Security Performance Awards (OSPAs) event took place at the Royal Lancaster London on 22nd February 2024. Six hundred security professionals gathered to celebrate the very best from across the sector with dinner and a presentation event hosted by TV host and award-winning critically acclaimed comedian, Zoe Lyons.

OSPAs founder Professor Martin Gill commented "This year, the competition was notably fierce, with a significantly higher number of nominations than in previous years. The task of selecting finalists and winners was no easy feat for the thirty-nine security experts comprising the judging panel. The event stands as a genuine celebration, honouring and acknowledging the outstanding work happening within the security industry. It is dedicated to enhancing the safety and security of our communities, and all those who received nominations should feel a profound sense of pride in their accomplishments." A list of the winners can be seen here: <https://uk.theospas.com/winners-of-the-2024-uk-ospas-announced/>

The OSPAs were preceded by a security Thought Leadership Summit (TLS) in the afternoon attended by over 130 security professionals. They heard from a number of speakers on topics including innovation, leadership, and excellence; what buyers of security want; how security is responding to mental health and wellbeing at work; and how to tackle retail security. A panel discussion was held to discuss recruitment into security, and the popular annual 'What the bosses say' session delved into the challenges currently facing the security sector.

**Save the date for next year's UK OSPAs and TLS – 20th February 2025**

## Seeing is believing?

The research on Body Worn cameras in public settings including retail environments has been generally positive. However, researchers in Australia have noted that while BWCs are often praised for their potential to combat crime, enhance public safety, and improve accountability, the research indicates that they may inadvertently aid domestic abuse perpetrators in evading accountability.

A national survey conducted by the researchers at the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) identified two main concerns regarding the impact of BWC footage in domestic abuse situations. There is a risk of misidentifying the primary aggressor due to the complexities of domestic abuse dynamics. Victims may not fit the stereotype of an "ideal victim" as they may be overwhelmed, unable to articulate their need for help, or reacting physically to abuse. Consequently, footage of their behavior could be misinterpreted and used against them, potentially portraying them as the aggressor instead of the victim. Perpetrators, on the other hand, may manipulate the BWC footage to present themselves as blameless by feigning calmness or innocence when in reality they are the aggressors.

The findings underscore the importance of understanding the nuances of domestic abuse dynamics and the need for insightful interpretation of BWC footage. Simply relying on the footage without considering the context and dynamics of the situation may lead to misjudgements and unintended consequences.

Therefore, there is a call for greater awareness and sensitivity in interpreting evidence from BWCs in domestic abuse cases to ensure that justice is served appropriately.

Read the report in full: <https://www.aic.gov.au/publications/tandi/tandi684>

To find out more about the research Perpetuity undertakes on sensitive topics and with people at risk of vulnerability (including domestic abuse) please see <https://perpetuityresearch.com/sensitive-topics/>

**What do you think?** Does this research impact your views on the interpretation of BWC footage in security settings? Are there other areas where the use of BWC may be controversial or problematic? How might perpetrators of other crimes manipulate the use of BWCs?



### **British Retail Consortium reports surge in violence and abuse against frontline workers**

The safety and security of retail staff in the UK is under heightened scrutiny as incidents of violence and abuse against them soared to a staggering 1,300 occurrences per day, reports the British Retail Consortium (BRC) in their recent report. From verbal harassment to physical assaults, frontline workers are increasingly vulnerable to hostile encounters while carrying out their duties. Fifty-three per cent of retailers also reported a climb in online theft, with online fraud increasing over threefold to £99.7 million, from £30 million in the past year.

The report also noted that shoplifters have generally become more violent or threatening in their behaviour towards retail workers and do not appear to care if they injure them in the process of illegally obtaining goods. Some even taunt workers that they cannot do anything to stop them and there have been increasing threats against staff outside stores.


As such, it is imperative for retailers to prioritise the safety and well-being of their employees by implementing robust security protocols, providing adequate training in conflict resolution, and fostering a supportive environment where incidents can be reported and addressed promptly. Collaboration between retailers, law enforcement, and relevant stakeholders is essential to effectively address this concerning trend and ensure the protection of retail workers across the country.

Read the BRC report in full: <https://brc.org.uk/media/3q0miv5a/crime-survey-report-2024.pdf>

Perpetuity can advise and support retail organisations about their security and safety of staff and goods as well as undertaking penetration tests of stores. For further information please see <https://perpetuityresearch.com/penetration-tests-and-mystery-shop-lifting/> or contact Professor Martin Gill [m.gill@perpetuityresearch.com](mailto:m.gill@perpetuityresearch.com)

**What do you think?** How do businesses balance the need for security measures with maintaining a welcoming and non-confrontational shopping environment for their customers? How has e-commerce impacted the prevalence and nature of shoplifting incidents? Do you think that socioeconomic factors intersect with shoplifting rates, and have there been any notable shifts or correlations in recent data?



**Regent's Place achieves police award for security**  in association with  


### Many UK businesses have cybersecurity 'blind spot'

The Azets Barometer January 2024 survey reveals a concerning gap in the cyber security awareness and reporting of UK businesses, with only 1 in 5 reporting a cyber security incident in the past year despite the escalating global threat landscape. The survey indicates that 74% reported no incidents, potentially indicating a lack of awareness or underestimation of cyber risks. Larger businesses, particularly upper medium-sized ones, showed a higher rate of non-reporting, suggesting a potential false sense of security or underreporting due to investment in preventative measures.

Paul Kelly, UK Head of Cyber Services at Azets, highlights the disconnect between reported incidents and the estimated frequency of cyber-attacks, stressing the importance of cyber security education and investment. Despite this, strategic investment in cyber security remains a top priority for businesses, indicating a growing recognition of the importance of mitigating cyber risks.

The Azets Barometer provides an insight into the current and future business climate through the perspective of ambitious mid-market, owner-managed, and family-owned businesses in the UK, Ireland, Norway, Finland, Sweden, and Denmark.

Read the report in full: <https://www.azets.co.uk/azets-barometer>

Perpetuity is holding their 2024 Cyber OSPAs in partnership with SASIG Events at the Big SASIG Conference Dinner on 23rd April 2024 in central London. Visit <https://www.thecyberospas.com/> for more details.

**What do you think?** What do you believe are the emerging trends and challenges in the UK cyber security landscape? How can UK businesses and organisations foster a culture of cyber security awareness and resilience? What impact do emerging technologies like IoT and blockchain have on the future of UK cyber security?

### Regent's Place achieves police award for security

Regent's Place, a diverse urban estate situated in the London Borough of Camden, received the esteemed Secured Environments award on 31st January 2024, under the leadership of British Land and CIS Security. The award, presented by Guy Ferguson, CEO of Police CPI, acknowledges the rigorous security measures implemented in response to the complex security challenges posed by its mix of retail, leisure, office, and residential spaces.

To attain this accreditation, the organisation underwent a comprehensive audit, ensuring adherence to six key principles aimed at enhancing security effectiveness. Jamie Turner, Client Services Director at Regent's Place, emphasised the significance of this award in evaluating overall security performance and receiving valuable feedback. Guy Ferguson commended the dedication of British Land and CIS Security in meeting the demanding standards set by Secured Environments.

Established in 2007, Secured Environments, a police certification scheme developed in collaboration with Perpetuity Research, offers a structured approach to managing security risks, enabling organisations to optimise existing measures and refine their security strategies. To visit the Secured Environment website: <https://www.securedenvironments.com/>

To read the full article: <https://perpetuityresearch.com/3988/regents-place-achieves-police-award-for-security/>

# World Excellence Awards Calendar

Event	Entries Open	Entries Close	Finalists Announced	Awards Presentation
Nigeria OSPAs	Entries are closed.	Entries are closed.	23rd April 2024	9th May 2024
New Zealand OSPAs	Entries are closed.	Entries are closed.	Finalists Announced!	5th April 2024
Ireland OSPAs	Entries are closed.	Entries are closed.	2nd April 2024	17th May 2024
Australia OSPAs	Entries are Open!	9th August 2024	6th September 2024	24th October 2024
US OSPAs	22nd March 2024	11th June 2024	16th July 2024	22nd September 2024
Cyber OSPAs	Entries are closed.	Entries are closed.	Finalists Announced!	23rd April 2024
SSEAs	Entries are closed.	Entries are closed.	Finalists Announced!	30th April 2024

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