


'This is not a drill'



This is not a drill: scoping police and partnership planning for the consequences of climate emergency

Dr David Lydon, Dr Katja Hallenberg and Dr Violeta Kapageorgiadou

School of Law, Policing and Social Sciences

Canterbury Christ Church University



Why should the
police care about
climate change?



Harm

Level: individual, community, institutional, societal

Type: physical, emotional, economic, community safety, privacy

Police ‘business as usual’

- The police recorded 602 homicide offences in the year ending March 2023.¹
- An estimated 1,558 reported road deaths in 2021.²
- In 2022, 5,642 suicides were registered in England and Wales.³
- Economic costs of crime - £59 bn per year (2015/16 estimate).⁴

1. Office for National Statistics.

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/crimeinenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2023#homicide>

2. <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/reported-road-casualties-great-britain-annual-report-2021/reported-road-casualties-great-britain-annual-report-2021#headline-figures>

3. Office for National Statistics

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/bulletins/suicideintheunitedkingdom/2022registrations>

4. Home Office. <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5b684f22e5274a14f45342c9/the-economic-and-social-costs-of-crime-horr99.pdf>

5. UKHSA. <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65703fe69462260721c5698c/HECC-report-2023-overview.pdf>

6. Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment (2022)

<https://www.lse.ac.uk/granthaminstitute/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Climate-costs-UK-policy-brief.pdf>

7. Hanlon, H.M., Bernie, D., Carigi, G. *et al.* (2021) Future changes to high impact weather in the UK. *Climatic Change* 166, 50. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10584-021-03100-5>

8. Ministry of Defence (2018) Global Strategic Trends: the future starts today. Available

at: assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/62828be5e90e071f69f22596/GST_the_future_starts_today.pdf.

College of Policing (2020) Taking the long view: future operating environment 2040. Available at: <https://paas-s3-broker-prod-lon-6453d964-1d1a-432a-9260-5e0ba7d2fc51.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/2020-08/future-operating-environment-2040.pdf>

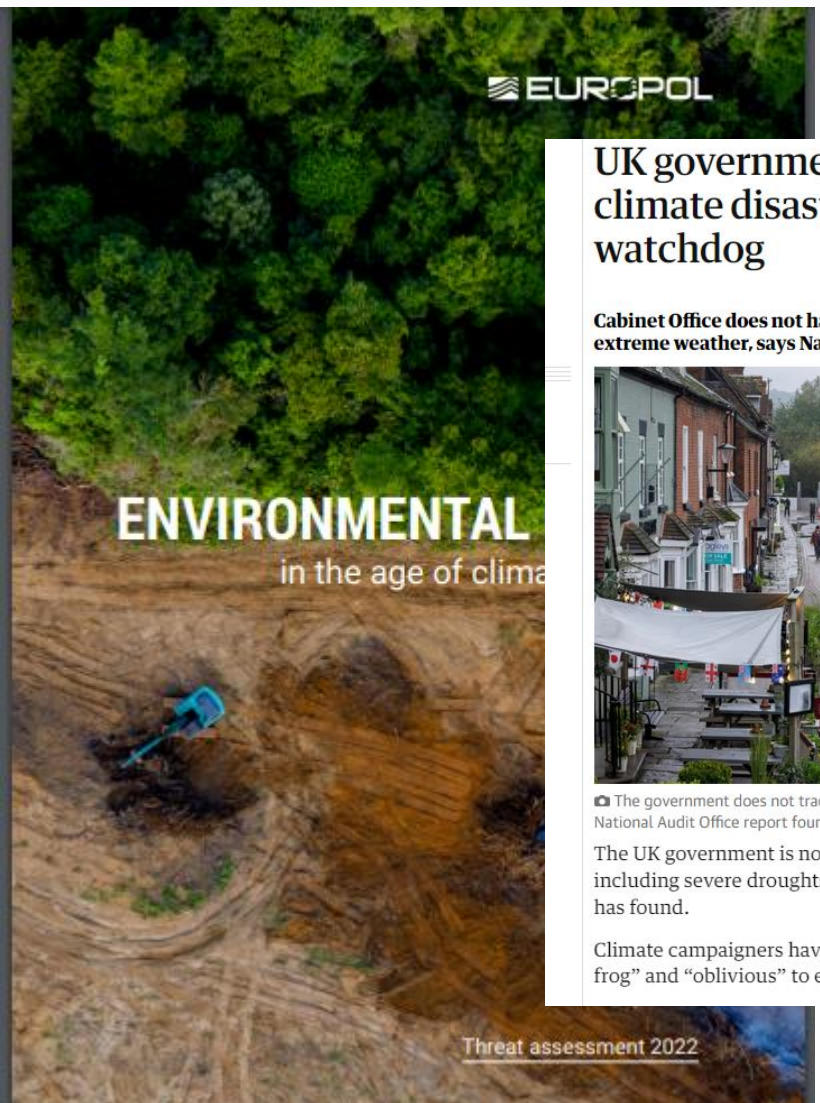
Climate change

- Heatwave mortality monitoring reports suggest that between 778 and 2,244 excess deaths occurred in the 65 years and older age group each summer in England between 2016 to 2021, with an estimated 2,985 for the summer of 2022.⁵
- Up to 10,000 deaths per year due to extreme heat by the 2050s under a high-warming scenario without adaptation have been estimated.⁵
- The total cost of climate change damages to the UK are projected to increase from 1.1% of GDP (~£24bn) at present to 3.3% by 2050 (~£74,9bn) and 7.4% by 2100 (~£168bn).⁶
- Increased risk of flooding, droughts, heat waves, extreme weather events⁷
- Compounds vulnerabilities e.g., via fuel and energy deficits, food security, national security conflicts, organised crime, forced migration, infrastructure degradation → increased inequalities, strain, social disorganisation⁸

A Different Heatwave Warning: Online Hate— Like Violent Crime—

Soa
Ter
Sug

Brian Bu
I cover b



News • Carbon & Climate

Across the globe, those harmed by climate change are turning to courts

Climate litigation is on the rise, as is the activism that goes along with it — which some experts say can be just as important.



New climate paper calls for charging big US oil firms with homicide

UK government is not prepared for climate disasters, says spending watchdog

**Cabinet Office does not have strategy to ensure resilience to
extreme weather, says National Audit Office**



The government does not track or evaluate its spending on extreme weather resilience, the National Audit Office report found Photograph: Andrew Fox/The Guardian

The UK government is not adequately prepared for climate disasters including severe droughts and floods, a report by the National Audit Office has found.

Climate campaigners have said that the UK government is “like a boiling frog” and “oblivious” to extreme weather.



they kill anybody, that's homicide,' said co-author Donald Braman. Composite: The



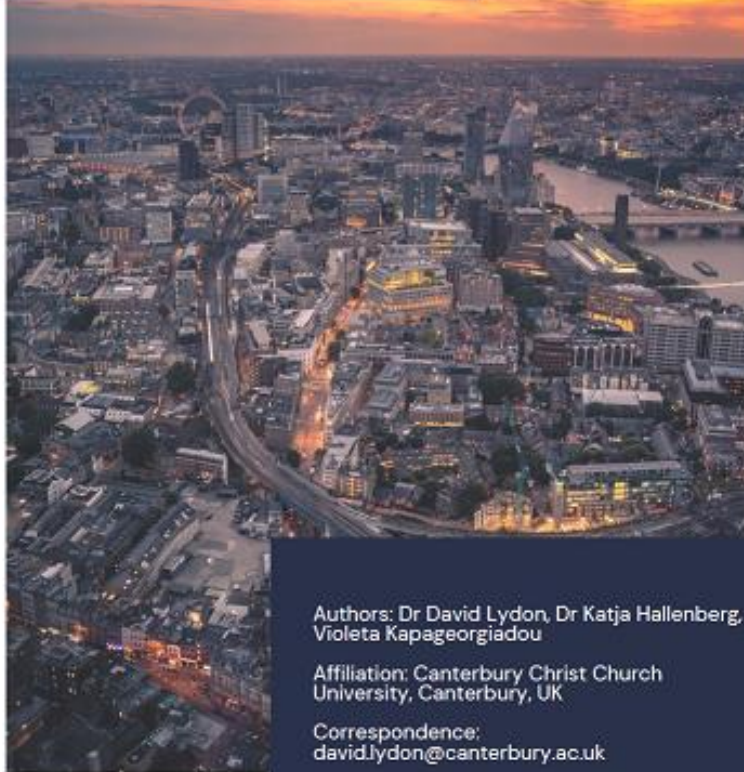
Assessing the Risk? Acting on it?

- Global and national strategic level concern, including in security and policing context...
- National Security Risk Assessment → National Risk Register → Community Risk Registers
- Short-termism
- But where is the practical preparedness?

This is Not a Drill: Police Preparedness for Climate Emergency

Summary Report of a Scoping Study

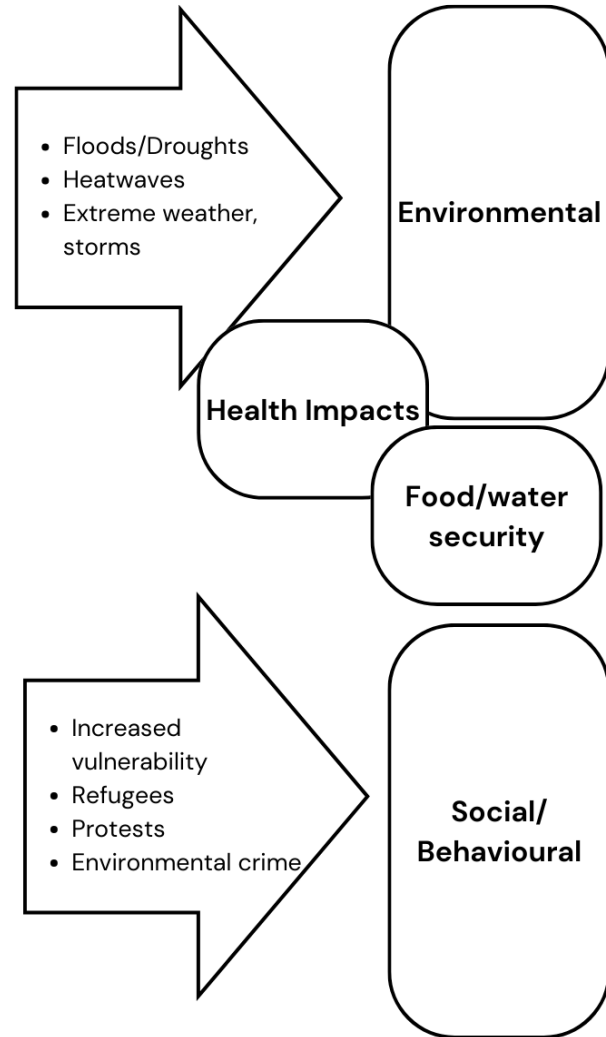
August 2022



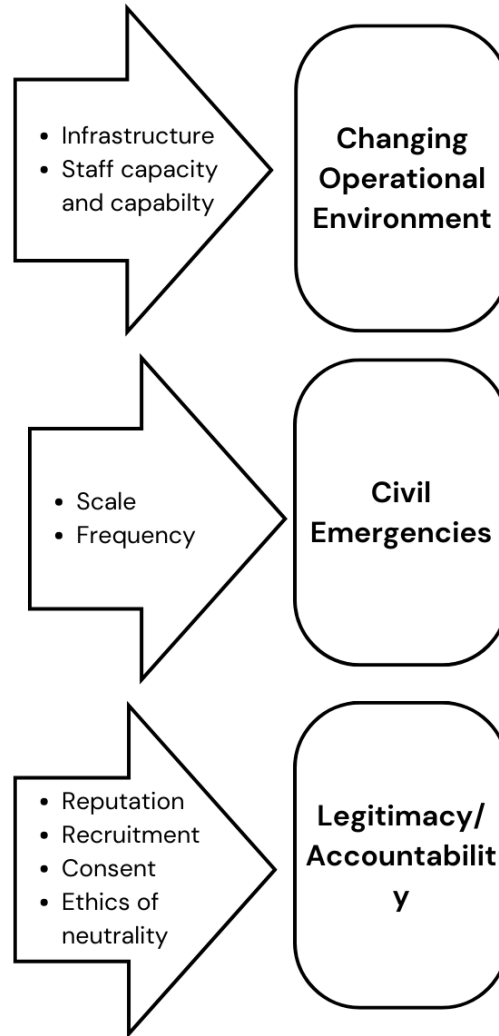
The Research Project

- Internally funded small-scale scoping study
- Self-selected cohort 13 participants, most involved in Local Resilience Forums
 - Police
 - Local authorities
 - Utility providers
 - Specialist government contractors
 - Environment Agency
 - Ministry of Defence
 - National Preparedness Commission
- Online, semi-structured interviews, thematic analysis

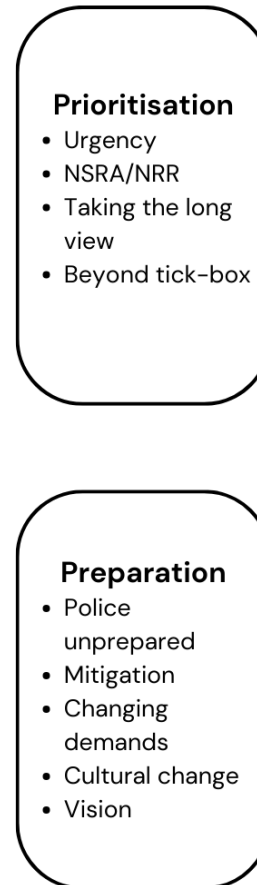
Climate Change Impacts



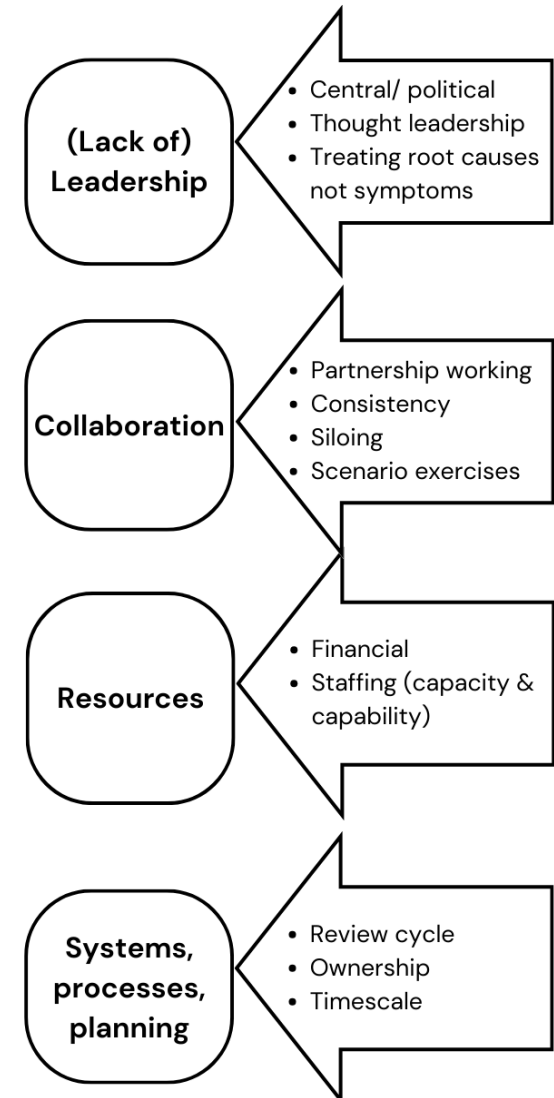
Why the Police Should Care



Prioritisation and Preparation



Enabling and Impeding Factors



Climate Change Impacts

“Flooding, severe weather, you know, heat wave. Those ones, they aren't named climate change, but they are a result of climate change” (Participant 13)

“It's also more of an infra and a working environment issue. Because we all know that infrastructure, particularly for emergency services, is quite old. Old police stations, that sort of thing. So, you've got people working in unpleasant conditions.” (Participant 7)

“people are going to get more desperate [...] because they feel that they aren't getting heard and that the actions aren't being taken.” (Participant 2)

“It's generally law-abiding people like my mom and dad, for example, who care about the environment and are willing to put themselves into the fray really, in relation to things they believe in. And that does make it really challenging because we've seen the images on bridges in London and with vicars and old ladies being carried off the bridge. Is that what policing wants to be seen to be doing? Ideally not. But of course at the same time we've got to enforce the law, we've got to prevent disruption.” (Participant 9)

Why Should the Police Care?

'How are you coming to work to deal with something if you are food insecure? If you can't fuel your car or you are displaced because the environment that you called home, even in the UK, is now somewhere that you cannot be stable and live in?' (Participant 12).

Our children or the generation of children now are going to look back at us, us as a council, us as emergency responses and say why didn't we do more when you knew. Because we did know, we've known for a long [time], we've known for forty years. Why aren't we? Why are we clamping down on protest at a time when protest is needed? So, I do worry that we're going to damage that kind of social contract if we are not careful. (Stage 2, Participant 1)

"if they don't [care], they're gonna be in trouble. I think that's probably the answer to that question, isn't it? You know, if your operating environment is gonna change, you need to be able to adapt to it and that doesn't matter whether it's climate change or something else." (Participant 7)

"Are there going to be performance indicators for policing around how green it is and its environmental impact? So actually if we want to have legitimacy and trust and confidence with the public, that's really important to show that we are taking it seriously." (Participant 9)

"Practitioners shouldn't be arbiters of what's right and wrong. [...] We've got to be balanced. We've got to be making sure we're policing for everyone, absolutely, that is for us. But that's operating within society's framework. You know, what is society's framework? What is acceptable levels? You know that is also applying that ethical test that's given to us, I think in fairness, I think what that ethical test is, isn't for us." (Participant 8)

Prioritisation and Preparedness

'people don't see it as a burning platform [...] and they should. They should definitely be responding and doing things right now.'
(Participant 1).

'being the leading partner standing up globally and saying "we must all do this", like at COP 26. And yet, at home not doing it. So, where you've got other countries with really good Disaster Risk Reduction strategies at national level, increasing at their local level. Here we just haven't really got that.' (Participant 3).

"I think it's a whole way of thinking that culturally the police just don't get. [...] I think it's gonna require a skill set that we don't have, and culturally, will be quite painful."
(Participant 8)

"It takes a lot of energy for people to get up and turn their head to something that they don't want to see in their lifetime or conceptualize within their career. I don't want to, again, be too doom and gloom, but the funding is ridiculous that, you know, time dedicated and spent to counterterrorism operations versus time dedicated and spent to things that would kill just as many people, preparing for rare incidents, suicides on level crossings or landslips and derailments. It's pennies to pounds. And again, that really does take someone strong and in a strategic position to say, you know, 'I see what you're doing and we're going to do more'." (Participant 12)

Enabling and Impeding Factors

"Everywhere that's publicly funded at the moment is saying, 'Is it a statutory responsibility?' And if the answer is no, it goes on page 2, doesn't it? And sometimes never comes off page two of the To-Do list....Unless it is in the rulebook, unless it is a specific mandatory requirement, it wouldn't get addressed, and not get done." (Participant 6)

'takes someone bold to stand and say this is the biggest factor for policing, it's not just about short-term crime trends or public confidence or things that we can do in a week of action.' (Participant 12).

'[there's] a lack of thought leadership, that strategic level longer-term thinking, it's not there. It's not anywhere frankly. Certainly not there in government.' (Participant 4).

'more people with different backgrounds and experiences around the table [...] who's not a closely involved expert and can just see things from a different perspective, brings a whole different lens to the problem.' (Participant 3).

"I think my problem with climate change strategy at the moment is, it's very big picture at the moment, it's very difficult to translate that down to a more granular level as to how services contribute towards that. I'm not seeing at the moment a link or a correlation between the Council's climate change strategy and fire and rescues and police, and that and the NHS. All of those kinds of things. Again, it's all very individual. There's not a lot multiagency." (Participant 5)

Recommendations

1. Redefining planning parameters
2. Strengthening central government engagement
3. Amplifying awareness and understanding of trend analyses
4. Prioritization of 'futures' thinking
- 5. Ethical considerations**
6. Collaborative preparedness.

Get Involved!

- INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING OR COLLABORATING IN FUTURE RESEARCH?
- david.lydon@canterbury.ac.uk & katja.hallenberg@canterbury.ac.uk

Questions?

