The National-led Government is committed to making our communities safer. We are clamping down on crime, holding offenders to account and breaking the cycle of offending.

Budget 2017 pumped an extra half a billion dollars into the Police to put more officers on the street and working towards our goal of making New Zealand the safest country in the world. Our police are better equipped, better trained and they are policing smarter, meaning they are more effective at fighting crime than ever.

We’ve always been the party which is tough on crime, and we’re focused on ensuring offenders are accountable for their crimes.

But we’re also delivering world-leading rehabilitation and prevention work that is driving down offending and putting more criminals on the path to better lives.

We’re also investing in preventing young people taking a criminal path because we know that intervening earlier is our best chance to make a difference, and we are clamping down hard on drugs and organised crime.

Policy highlights

• Funded 1125 new police staff over the next four years
• 94 per cent of people feel safe or very safe in their neighbourhoods during the day
• Rolled out smarter policing and better technology, freeing up the equivalent of 620 officers for frontline work
• Invested an extra $503m over four years in Law and Order, with $388m of that going directly to Police
• Prioritised clamping down on burglaries, aiming to attend 98 per cent of calls within 48 hours
• Making sure 95 per cent of New Zealanders live within 25km of a round-the-clock Police base by 2022
• Targeting organised crime with 80 new specialist staff, and freezing hundreds of millions in criminal assets
• Clamping down on P supply
• Enabled police to use digital devices to take statements from victims of family violence at the scene
• 20 ethnic liaison officers to reach out to a range of communities

“Last year Customs and Police seized more methamphetamine than ever before, and we’re going to stop even more reaching our streets in 2017.”

− Police spokesperson Paula Bennett
Coming down hard on gangs

Organised crime cartels and serious gangs are targeting New Zealand, increasing their efforts to push dangerous drugs into our communities.

We’re committed to stopping them, to stamping out P labs and disrupting the gang’s supply networks to and within New Zealand.

We’re hitting them where it hurts – dismantling their businesses, seizing their assets and locking them up.

We’ve funded 80 specialists for the Police’s organised crime team and we’re continuing to toughen our laws to target gangs and criminal networks.

We’re banning gang members and serious criminals from holding firearms licences and giving Police tough new powers to search gang member’s cars and houses to look for illegal firearms.

More police in rural communities

While generally resilient, these rural and small town communities can feel the geographic isolation from support services. We are:

- Funding 140 sworn officers to bolster high demand regional police stations
- Upgrading up to 20 regional stations from ‘business hours’ to 24/7 Police bases
- Providing 12 new mobile police stations for smaller towns and more isolated rural areas

Fighting crime from the sky

- We’re funding 24/7 Air Support capability for Auckland
- The Eagle Police helicopter plays a significant role in combatting serious crime, and reduces the risk of serious injury in vehicular pursuits from 11 per cent to 2 per cent
- It will now respond within 10–15 minutes 24/7 – it’s currently only available around 3 hours of every 8 hour shift
- It will reduce the 3am spike in criminal offending in Auckland and save lives across the North Island through its search and rescue capability with the best infra-red camera in the country

“We’ve put a clear stake in the ground. Gangs need to front up to the harm their drug dealing is causing in our families and communities.”

- Police spokesperson Paula Bennett
National is...

**Fighting retail crime**

- We’ve established a new $1.8m fund to help small dairies and superettes make their shops safer and less of a target for criminals
- We will bring in new instant fines for first-time offenders caught shoplifting small value items
- Police are aggressively focusing on young offenders committing aggravated robberies, and targeting high-risk areas
- We’re bringing in tough new restrictions on the worst young offenders which will get them off the streets faster and stop them leaving a trail of victims

**Delivering a new non-emergency number**

- We are replacing more than 300 different local station numbers with a national single non-emergency number from 2018
- More than 1.8 million calls are made to local stations each year, but it’s hard to find the phone number and what time to call
- With $20.1 million funded in Budget 2017 the new phone system will improve service, reduce demand on front-counters and help Police get valuable crime-fighting information
- Police will recruit 50 new communications centre call-takers
- Combined with 880 new officers, this will ensure Police are more easily contacted and can respond faster when necessary, keeping communities safer

Our results...

**Reducing crime and providing the right powers for Police**

- The crime rate has fallen since 2011 when we brought in firm targets:
  - Total crime is down 14 per cent
  - Violent crime is down 2 per cent
  - Youth crime is down 32 per cent
  - Re-offending is down 4.4 per cent.
- The Family Violence Integrated Safety Response pilots have helped over 24,000 people keep safe through personalised family safety plans in the last year
- We’ve seen a 38 per cent decrease in Māori youth offending from 2010 to 2016 and a 23 per cent drop in Māori adults offending
- The Police now have stronger powers to prosecute cyber harassment through the Harmful Digital Communications Act
- We’ve given Police the ability to identify and monitor offenders returning to New Zealand from Australia
What we will do next...

Disrupt and dismantle organised crime

Gangs and organised crime groups are leaving trails of victims by peddling drugs and violence and National is focused on clamping down on them and holding them to account.

A re-elected National Government will invest $80m over four years to tackle methamphetamine with a range of tough measures to clamp down hard on organised crime and drug dealers.

We will also fund more treatment places for those addicted to methamphetamine and other drugs.

We will:

- Fund new drug dogs to search domestic airports and ferries to stop the distribution of P
- Tighten border controls, including searching more containers and mail coming into New Zealand
- Bring in compulsory police checks for all staff with access to baggage handling, port operational areas and mail sorting centres
- Help communities fighting meth to reduce harm to their families, including a $40m investment to provide more treatment
- Share Government information about gang members and their families
- Toughen sentences for suppliers of synthetic cannabis
- Create a new offence of Willful Contamination of a Property to charge people contaminating houses with high levels of meth
- Notify landlords if Police are called more than three times in any 12-month period to a rental property
- Work with NGOs and invest in education and resources to prevent people getting addicted to meth and other serious drugs
- Ensure compulsory reporting to Oranga Tamariki if children are found to be in a house which has been contaminated with meth
What we will do next...

Target illegal firearms

We will bring in strong new powers for Police to make sure the most dangerous gang members don’t have firearms, while not putting unnecessary restrictions on legal gun owners.

• We’ll put in place new Firearms Prohibition Orders which will apply to the toughest gang members with serious offending histories
• Police will be able to search their cars and houses to look for illegal firearms
• Gang members won’t be able to hold firearms licences
• Police will work alongside firearms owners to help them not become targets of criminals

Our priorities for Police

New Zealand is the fourth safest country in the world, but we can do better. We will ensure this through:

• Faster response times
• Fewer victims
• Reducing reoffending
• Reducing harm from family violence
• Reducing harm caused by methamphetamine and other drugs
• Evidence-based policing

Under the National-led government we’ve put more than 2000 more Police on the frontline since 2009.

Don’t put it all at risk

− We’re making real progress addressing the core drivers of crime in New Zealand, and the social investment approach is changing lives
− We’re focused on making sure Police focus their resources on the crimes and risks that matter – not low-value activities that don’t make our streets and homes any safer
− It’s important we have a modern Police force that reflects society and uses its resources in a highly-effective, targeted way
− New Zealand Police are committed to a high-quality workforce that reflects all New Zealand and is removing gender and ethnic barriers – not to be politically correct, but because it gets better results