

**BOOK REVIEW  
LAW ENFORCEMENT**

*OXFORD DICTIONARY OF LAW ENFORCEMENT*  
ISBN 978-0-19-280702-1

by Graham Gooch & Michael Williams

Oxford University Press ([www.oup.com](http://www.oup.com))  
Oxford Paperback Reference

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**A SUCCINCT NEW TOOL FOR STUDENTS OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE  
MANAGEMENT**

*A review by Phillip Taylor MBE Barrister-at-Law  
Abbey & Richmond Chambers*

This new publication is an adaptation of what many lawyers will remember as 'A Dictionary of Law' some years ago. OUP have excelled with this practical, succinct pocket dictionary which is an essential reference resource to dip into involving all matters criminal.

The Oxford Paperback Reference series remain the world's most trusted reference books. This new title on *law enforcement* fits in nicely with current trends in the criminal justice process at whatever level of involvement. The reader encounters words they may be unfamiliar with regularly as law enforcement becomes increasingly a multi-agency activity

Graham Gooch and Michael Williams have, between them, over 60 years' experience of the investigation and prosecution of serious crimes, expertise which meets the new needs of our law enforcement community. The original law dictionary has now been expanded to meet the needs of those enforcing the law. Gooch and Williams succeed with their aim in providing a clear definition of the terms which are new and specific to law enforcement. There are also more detailed explanations where necessary with key cases and statutory provisions cited where appropriate.

This dictionary has a very wide application because so many potential readers will find it of use as law enforcement becomes a major significant area of applied criminology. Years ago when I wrote a number of textbooks on Criminology and lectured the subject at University I was in

need of a pocket book of this size and detail to assist myself as well as the students whenever I needed to find a definition of worth. Gooch and Williams have come up with a work of worth which blends the difficulties of terms with an ease of understanding which clients and all associated with criminal justice management would welcome.

The scope of the book is also wide, providing a key reference source for students in further and higher education, with those studying for professional or vocational qualifications and the wider public. I was particularly taken with the clarity of explanation of what I term the 'scientific solutions' where I can be confronted with trying to explain in very simple English what DNA is, or what, say, 'fingertip bruising' is.

The work put into this dictionary should not be underestimated. It caters for the professional and the novice. It shows the way forward for a modern reference manual covering the framework we now have for law enforcement in all its new guises as regular bouts of criminal justice legislation are passed and alternative methods always being sought to deal with the perennial problems affecting criminal justice which have tended to repeat themselves throughout the ages.

This is a book for the 21<sup>st</sup> century and has excellent supplementary material including abbreviations and acronyms, recordable offences, disclosure code and disclosure guidelines. For instance, just take a quick flick through it and go to 'driving licence' which gives the reader exactly what he or she may be looking for regarding factual content when the memory can sometimes play tricks during a pressured conference, and you get the countries where our valid licences apply - not a piece of information I would normally have at my fingertips.

The new direction in which this and, I hope, other OUP dictionaries will go in the future offering the 'one-stop shop' for criminal justice definitions is to be welcomed. The unique team of a policeman and an intelligence officer compiling such a work is to be commended as the work of the two agencies tends to become ever closer because of the shrinking of the old 'splendid isolation' of our international bodies tasked with law enforcement towards a new age of threat which is far more legal than military in its makeup and needs good legal resources for assistance.

It is to be hoped that the dictionary will be regularly revised with new legislation and it becomes popular as an e-book which readers can view by visiting this website: [www.askoxford.com/shoponline/ebooks](http://www.askoxford.com/shoponline/ebooks)

Thank you, Messrs Gooch and Williams for setting a modern precedent with your endeavours- Dr Johnson would be very proud of you!