



Commissioner's horizon scanning briefing

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1. Policy and Practice

[Examining the case for justice devolution](#) – 14th December 2016

Report from independent think tank GovernUp suggests that top-down reform of criminal justice is failing and proposes that PCCs or directly elected Mayors should be given the tools and powers to join up services across an area in order to deal with the root cause of crime. Recommendations include devolving youth justice services, youth custody, responsibility for cautions and other out of court disposals and the adult prison budget for short sentenced prisoners and women prisoners to PCCs and directly elected mayors. The report also recommends strengthening local oversight over CPS performance with local prosecutors working up joint PCC / CPS prosecution priorities and, in time, fully devolving probation services to PCCs and directly elected mayors

[Growing Up Digital Taskforce Report](#) – 4th January 2017

Children's Commissioner report sets out the case for a step change in how we prepare children for digital life and calling for the creation of a digital citizenship programme to be compulsory in every school from 4 to 14; simplified terms and conditions for digital services offered to children and a new Children's Digital Ombudsman

[More major retailers join scheme to help prevent sales of knives to under-18s](#) – 22nd December 2016

Boots UK, the Co-op, B&Q and Aldi have joined the list of major retailers that have committed to the [voluntary agreement](#) to ensure knives are packaged and displayed securely and not sold or delivered to people under 18

[Draft Institute for Apprenticeships guidance published](#) – 4th January 2017

Government guidance to help ensure apprenticeships are of the highest quality and deliver the skills that employers need. Includes details of how the new Institute for Apprenticeships will operate from April 2017

[IPCC Focus: Issue 10](#) – 19th December 2016

Guidance and practice advice on police conduct and complaints handling. Latest issue includes guidance on recording complaints and beginning investigations, in addition to updates on IPCC Statutory Guidance in relation to obtaining evidence, content of investigation reports and investigations following an upheld appeal

[Identifying and handling human rights complaints](#) – 21st December 2016

Updated guidance documents published by the Equality and Human Rights Commission

[Police Assessment and Recognition of Competence \(ARC\) model comes into effect](#) – 1st January 2017

The process for linking police constable pay to professional development goes live with competence graded against [College](#) assessments, relevant behaviours from the Policing Professional Framework and CPD reviews

2. Research, Development and Statistics

[Police officer retention in England and Wales](#) – 3rd January 2017

Institute of Fiscal Studies analysis of police officer labour market between 2004 and 2015 highlights that as exit rates have changed little over time, Police force numbers have been largely driven by changing entry rates. The primary exit route for police officers was through ordinary retirement (62%), while 7% took early retirement on the grounds of ill health and 27% were voluntary resignations. Of the third that leave the police and continue in employment, only 15% continue in protective services or elementary security occupations, with the majority going on to occupations not directly related to policing. Areas with higher wages and lower unemployment rates are statistically significantly associated with higher resignation rates. There was no evidence to suggest that variation in crime rates and workload affect exit from the police service

[Psychoactive substances ban 6 months on](#) – 29th December 2016

Home Office update six months after the [Psychoactive Substances Act](#) came into force (26th May 2016) notes that almost 500 people have been arrested for offences under the Act, 332 shops have been stopped from selling the Psychoactive substances and 31 headshops have been closed down. 4 people have been imprisoned for offences under the Act with other cases progressing through the criminal justice system

[Child sexual exploitation: support in children's homes](#) – 21st December 2016

Department for Education rapid review of the international evidence on CSE support provided to children placed in residential care who have experienced, or are at risk of, child sexual exploitation. The review highlights the benefits of more guidance on what children's homes can legally do to prevent children from running away and good interagency work to underpin efforts such as Joint protocols and information sharing on missing children and identifying and prosecuting CSE perpetrators. The study concludes that while awareness of CSE and the body of evidence available is increasing, more robust evidence is required to know what interventions work best in reducing the prevalence of CSE, increasing children's resilience to it and helping children to recover

[Stop and Search and knife crime](#) – 20th December 2016

Police Foundation blog examining the relationship between reasons for stops and searches and reasons for arrests suggests that there may be a potential link between falling numbers of stops and searches for drugs and rising knife crime. It also argues that stop and search may not be an efficient or effective way of 'taking knives off the streets' and that policing can only ever be one small part of a much larger task

Upcoming [Crime Reduction Systematic Reviews](#):

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| • Police responses to people with mental health problems | Pending |
| • Speed cameras to reduce speeding traffic and road traffic injuries | January 2017 |
| • The impact of police pre-arrest diversion – systematic review | February 2017 |
| • Effectiveness of asset-focussed interventions against organised crime | February 2017 |
| • Tagging as a method to reduce theft in retail environments | February 2017 |
| • Red light enforcement cameras to reduce traffic violations and injuries | February 2017 |
| • Diversity and organisational outcomes | February 2017 |
| • The effectiveness of electronic monitoring of offenders | February 2017 |
| • Personal security alarms for the prevention of assaults | February 2017 |

3. Inspections

Ongoing and upcoming inspection activity

- PEEL: Effectiveness - prevention, investigation, vulnerability, SPR, ROCU Report pending
- [JTAI Partnership response to children affected by domestic abuse](#) Report pending
- [HMIC: Modern Slavery](#) TBC
- Joint Inspections of Stalking and Harassment (HMIC-led) TBC
- HMIC Force Management Statement template issued April 2017
- Force Management Statement completion deadline October 2017
- HMIC: Counter-terrorism Unannounced visits
- [HMIC: Crime data integrity \(unannounced visits\)](#) Rolling programme
- Joint targeted [Child Protection Inspection](#) (Ofsted-led) Rolling programme
- Joint inspection of Police Custody Arrangements (HMI Prisons-led) Rolling programme

4. Reviews and Inquiries

[Integration Inquiry announced](#) - 3rd January 2017

Communities and Local Government Committee will hold a one-off evidence session on 9th January 2017 (4pm) to question Dame Louise Casey about her [report](#) on social integration which was published on 5th Dec 2016

[Government Response to the Transforming Rehabilitation Inquiry Report](#) – 19th December 2016

Government response to the Public Accounts Committee [report](#) published September 2016 commits to:- completing commercial negotiations with CRCs and reviewing the payment mechanism as part of the comprehensive review into probation services by May 2017; Identifying issues with supervision of short-term prisoners and setting out how they will be tackled by summer 2017; Improving usability of nDelius and implementing a fully functional and reliable link between NOMS and CRC systems by Summer 2017 and; updating the Committee on progress by December 2017. The response also notes that the Department has put in place a full Data Governance and Assurance Framework for CRC and NPS data, collated examples of good practice through a series of nine regional workshops and started work with Clinks to get a better perspective on the views and needs of the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) organisations working with offenders. The first set of adult proven reoffending statistics under the new arrangements in autumn 2017

[Government Response to the Antisemitism Inquiry Report](#) – 12th December 2016

Government response to the Home Affairs Committee [report](#) published October 2016 broadly accepts the IHRA definition of Antisemitism with some clarifications and makes commitments to ensure the CPS consider the words 'Zionist' or 'Zio' for inclusion as part of its current guidance for prosecutors. The response notes that advice is also being provided to individual police areas as part of the commitment to provide disaggregated data for all religious hate crime data within the Annual Data Requirement for police

[Forensic Science Regulator Annual Report](#) – 6th January 2016

Forensic Science Regulator Dr Gillian Tully raises concerns regarding the quality of forensic science work in England and Wales and calls for statutory powers to enforce standards to be introduced "as soon as possible". [BBC](#) and [Guardian](#) featured articles. [NPCC response](#)

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- **Reports in preparation:** [Lammy Review of BAME representation in the CJS](#) (Spring 2017)
 - **Evidence in progress:** [Child Sexual Abuse Independent Inquiry](#) (ongoing), [Implications of Brexit for the justice system inquiry](#) (10th January 2017), [Hate crime and its violent consequences inquiry](#) (10th January 2017), [Prison Reform inquiry](#) (14th December 2016), [Disclosure of youth criminal records](#) (6th December 2016), [EU policing and security issues](#) (6th December 2016), [Emergency Services Communications](#) (16th November 2016), [Syrian Resettlement Programme](#) (7th November 2016), [Apprenticeships inquiry](#) (2nd November 2016), [Sharia Law](#) (1st November 2016), [Undercover Policing inquiry](#) (ongoing)
 - **Reports awaiting government response:** [Reform of the Police Funding Formula](#) (Report published 11th December 2015), [Countering extremism inquiry](#) (Report published 25th August 2016), [Treatment of young adult offenders inquiry](#) (Report published 18th Oct), [Inquiry into the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse](#) (Report published 24th Nov), [Child Protection inquiry](#) (Report published 16th Dec), [Troubled Families Inquiry](#) (Report published 20th December 2016) [Support for ex-offenders inquiry](#) (Report published 16th December 2016)

5. Legislation

[Policing and Crime Bill](#) – Ping Pong Stage – 10th January 2017

[Supporting documents](#)

- Places a statutory duty on police, fire and ambulance services to collaborate to improve efficiency and effectiveness. Enable PCCs to take on responsibility for fire and rescue services.
- Reforms the police complaints and disciplinary systems, including measures to extend disciplinary procedures to former officers (up to 12 months after leaving). Makes changes to governance of the IPCC.
- Enable chief officers to confer a wider range of policing powers on police civilian staff and volunteers.
- Introduces provisions in respect of breach of pre-charge bail conditions and makes changes to rules governing how police deal with people suffering mental crisis under s135 & s136 of Mental Health Act 1983
- Makes changes to terms of office for Deputy PCCs and would give the Home Secretary the power to change the name of a police area by order
- Provides statutory definition of the terms 'lethal', 'component part' and 'antique firearm' (Firearms Act 1968)
- Amends Licensing Act 2003 to make clear powdered and vaporised alcohol are both covered by the Act
- Makes provisions relating to the enforcement of EU, UN and other financial sanctions
- Mandates that offences relating to CSE (Sexual Offences Act 2003) cover streaming / transmission of indecent images of children. Enables Secretary of State to issue statutory guidance to local taxi and private hire licensing authorities with regard to the protection of children and vulnerable adults
- [Third reading in the Lords](#) took place on 19th December 2016

[Children and Social Work Bill](#) – Committee Stage in Commons – 10th January 2017

Bill to make provision about looked after children; ensure lessons are learned from serious child safeguarding cases; create a new 'power to innovate' giving local authorities the freedom to test out innovative new ways of working and introduce measures to improve how agencies share information;

- [Plans considered](#) for compulsory teaching of age-appropriate sex education and relationships education

[Digital Economy Bill](#) – Committee Stage in Lords – TBC

Bill to make provision about; restricting access to online pornography; protecting intellectual property related to electronic communications; [improving government data to transform public services](#) - allow public authorities to share personal data with other public authorities to improve the welfare of individuals (e.g. Troubled Families programme), measures to help detect and prevent government losses due to fraudulent activity, The Bill also proposes tougher penalties for nuisance callers and increasing the sentencing options for people who infringe copyright laws online. Royal Assent is expected spring 2017. [Commons analysis paper](#)

[Modern Slavery \(Transparency in Supply Chains\) Bill](#) – 2nd reading in Commons – 13th January 2017

Private Members' Bill to require commercial organisations and public bodies to include a statement on slavery and human trafficking in their annual report and accounts; and to require contracting authorities to exclude from procurement procedures economic operators who have not provided such a statement. [Briefing](#)

[National Citizen Service Bill](#) – 2nd reading in Commons – 16th January 2017

[NCS](#) brings different communities together and gives 15 to 17-year-olds the opportunity to take part in new experiences, develop skills and give back to communities across England. The Government has committed to offer an NCS place to everyone that wants one. [Lords briefing](#)

[Asset Freezing \(Compensation\) Bill](#) – 2nd reading in Commons – 20th January 2017

A Bill to make provision for the imposing of restrictions on assets owned by persons involved in supplying terrorist organisations in the United Kingdom with arms, for the purpose of securing compensation for citizens of the United Kingdom affected by the supply of such arms.

Criminal Finances Bill – Commons Report Stage – TBC

Tackle corruption, money laundering and tax evasion. Allow the Government to recoup more criminal assets by reforming the law on proceeds of crime, including provisions to strengthen our enforcement powers and protect the public. Introduction of a criminal offence for corporations who fail to stop their staff facilitating tax evasion; Improve the operation of the Suspicious Activity Reports (SARs) regime to encourage better use of public and private sector resources against the highest threats; to target entities that carry out money laundering instead of individual transactions; and to provide the National Crime Agency (NCA) with new powers; Improve the ability of law enforcement agencies and courts to recover criminal assets more effectively, particularly in cases such as those linked to grand corruption. [Explanatory documents](#) , [Commons Library Analysis](#) , [Consultation responses](#)

Homelessness Reduction Bill – Commons Committee Stage – 11th January 2017

Private Members Bill to place a duty on local authorities to help eligible people at risk of homelessness to secure accommodation, 56 days before they are threatened with homelessness, and to provide those who find themselves homeless with support for a further period of 56 days to help to secure accommodation. The bill will also ensure that other local services refer those either homeless or at risk of being homeless to local authority housing teams. Bill builds on the government's commitment in December 2015 to consider all options, including legislation, to prevent homelessness. The draft bill underwent scrutiny by the Communities and Local Government Select Committee and has received [government support](#) [Commons briefing](#) - 24th Oct 2016

Preventing & Combating Violence Against Women & DV Bill - Commons Committee Stage – TBC

Private Members' Bill to require UK to ratify the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (the Istanbul Convention)

Sexual Offences (Pardons Etc.) Bill – Commons 2nd reading – 20th January 2016

Private Members' Bill to formally pardon gay and bisexual men convicted for now abolished sexual offences and enable any mention of these offences to be removed from criminal record checks.

Stalking (Sentencing) Bill - Commons 2nd reading – 20th January 2017

Private Member's Bill to increase the maximum sentences available to the court for stalking offences

[Commons Briefing paper](#)

Road Traffic Offenders (Surrender of Driving Licences) Bill - Commons 2nd reading – 27th January 2017

Private Members' Bill to make provision about the surrender / production of driving licences or test certificates in relation to certain offences; and identifying persons / securing payment in connection with fixed penalty notices

Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (Amendment) Bill - Commons 2nd reading – 27th January 2017

Private Members' Bill to repeal CT and Security Act 2015 provisions requiring teachers, carers and responsible adults to report signs of extremism or radicalisation amongst children in pre-school educational settings

Unlawful Killing (Recovery of Remains) Bill - Commons 2nd reading – 3rd February 2017

Private Members' Bill to remove eligibility for parole, create a separate offence and make provision about available sentences in cases where a person, convicted of unlawfully killing another person, has not provided relevant knowledge in their possession for the purposes locating and recovering the remains

British Victims of Terrorism (Asset-Freezing & Compensation) Bill - 2nd reading – 24th February 2017

Private Members' Bill to make provision about the freezing and seizing of assets belonging to states or organisations who sponsor or perpetrate acts of terrorism for the purposes of enabling compensation to be paid

Malicious Communications (Social Media) Bill - Commons 2nd reading – 24th March 2017

Private Members' Bill to make provision about offences, penalties and sentences in relation to communications containing threats transmitted or broadcast using online social media

6. Consultations

[Leveson Inquiry and its Implications](#)

Government consultation on issues relating Section 40 of the Crime and Courts Act 2013 (incentives to join a recognised regulator) and whether, as criminal cases associated with the Leveson Inquiry are entering their final stages, whether Part 2 of the inquiry remains appropriate, proportionate and in the public interest

Open date: 01/11/2016

Close date: 10/01/2017

[Breach guideline](#)

Sentencing Council consultation on proposed sentencing guideline on breach of court order offences including breach of a Community Order, Suspended Sentence Order, Protective Order, Criminal Behaviour Order, Anti-Social Behaviour Order, Sexual Harm Prevention Order, Sexual Offence Prevention Order, Post Sentence Supervision, Failing to Surrender to Bail and Failing to Comply with Notification Requirement

Open date: 25/10/2016

Close date: 25/01/2017

[Provisional Police Grant Report 2017 to 2018](#)

Home Office consultation on the provisional police grant report which sets out the aggregate amount of grants proposed for the police in England and Wales for 2017 to 2018 and the proposed amount of grant for each local policing body

Open date: 15/12/2016

Close date: 26/01/2017

[Crime Severity Score for England and Wales](#)

ONS consultation on proposed methodology and use. Feedback can be sent to crimestatistics@ons.gsi.gov.uk or submitted via the [template](#) provided the end of January

Open date: 30/11/2016

Close date: 31/01/2017

[Institute for Apprenticeships: draft strategic guidance](#)

Department for Education consultation on draft strategic guidance for the Institute for Apprenticeships, setting out the government's views on how the institute should carry out its functions

Open date: 04/01/2017

Close date: 31/01/2017

[Driving offences and penalties relating to causing death or serious injury](#)

Ministry of Justice consultation for those with an interest in road traffic legislation on the distinction between 'careless' and 'dangerous' driving, a perceived 'gap in the law' for causing serious injury by careless driving, maximum penalties for causing death and driving disqualifications

Open date: 05/12/2016

Close date: 01/02/2017

[Draft regulations for the Apprenticeship Levy](#)

HM Revenue and Customs technical consultation for large employers, employer advisers, and payroll agencies on draft regulations covering calculation, reporting, payment and recovery of the Apprenticeship Levy

Open date: 14/12/2016

Close date: 03/02/2017

'Banning order offences' under the Housing and Planning Act 2016

DCLG consultation seeking views and comments on which offences should constitute 'banning order offences' as defined by section 14 of the Housing and Planning Act 2016

Open date: 13/12/2016

Close date: 10/02/2017

New expectations for adult male prisons

HMI Prisons consultation seeks stakeholder views on proposed updates to the 'Expectations for adult male prisons' inspection criteria. The review aims to ensure that Expectations reflect the new prison reform agenda, evolving human rights standards and maximise impact in improving outcomes for prisoners. Respondents have the option to respond only to the areas of most interest to them

Open date: 03/01/2017

Close date: 17/02/2017

Home Office Circular 43/2001

Home Office consultation on updated Home Office circular guidance (43/2001) for PCCs receiving a request for financial assistance from officers (or former officers) facing legal proceedings. Changes have been made to take account of the Police Act 1996 and the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011. Feedback can be submitted to policeresourcespolicy@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Open date: 09/12/2016

Close date: 03/03/2017