



Welcome to the Commissioner's weekly horizon scanning brief:

1. **Legislation** (Legislation, Home Office, APCC, press comments, reports and campaigns relating to strategy, policy and programmes)
2. **Strategic policing and crime news** (relevant crime and criminal justice information and partners' policy/reports/campaigns)
3. **Developments and reports** (covering research across political, economic, social, technological, environmental and organisations)
4. **Consultations** (police and crime bulletins, research, consultations and press releases)
5. **Reviews and Inspections** (covering various reviews, inspections and audits across policing)

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1. Legislation

[Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 Amendments](#)

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act, which has been updated to reflect the latest amendments.

[Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 overarching documents](#)

These documents contain some updates from when they were last published. They include a schedule of when the various sections of the Act are being implemented.

[Accountability System Statement updated](#)

The Accountability system statement for policing and crime reduction was also updated on 2 April.

[Offender Rehabilitation Act 2014](#)

It provides many of the measures which underpin the Transforming Rehabilitation programme.

[Criminal Justice and Courts Bill](#)

The Bill is to make provision about how offenders are dealt with before and after conviction; to amend the offence of possession of extreme pornographic images; to make provision about the proceedings and powers of courts and tribunals; to make provision about judicial review; and for connected purposes.

[Report stage \(Lords\) \(Day 1\) of the Immigration Bill - April 1](#)

The **Immigration Bill** had its first day of report stage in the Lords. Further progress will be made on April 3.

[Second reading \(Commons\) of the Finance \(No. 2\) Bill - April 1](#)

The Finance (No. 2) Bill was given a second reading in the Commons and now goes to committee for further consideration.

[Immigration Bill - amendments to be considered at remaining stages](#)

[Children and Families Act 2014 receives Royal Assent](#)

The new Children and Families Act - given royal assent today - will mean changes to the law to give greater protection to vulnerable children, better support for children whose parents are separating, a new system to help children with special educational needs and disabilities, and help for parents to balance work and family life.

[International Development \(Gender Equality\) Act](#)

Received Royal Assent to promote gender equality in the provision by the Government of development assistance and humanitarian assistance to countries outside the United Kingdom; and for connected purposes.

[The Police Act 1997 \(Criminal Records\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2014](#)

These Regulations insert a new regulation in the Police Act 1997 (Criminal Records) Regulations 2002 to prescribe a fee in relation to an application for the issue of a criminal conviction certificate within the meaning of section 112 of the Police Act 1997. These Regulations also prescribe the details to be provided in relation to a conditional caution and conviction disclosed under section 112 of the Act. Finally, these Regulations prescribe the meaning of 'central records', which are the records where convictions or conditional cautions are held for the purposes of section 112 of the Act.

[Home Office guidance on protecting crowded places: design and technical issues](#)

The Home Office has published updated guide gives advice about counter-terrorism protective security design. This guide is aimed at anyone involved in the planning, design and development of the built environment. It covers the preparation of local planning policy to the commissioning, planning, design and management of new development schemes through to detailed building design.

2. Strategic policing and crime news

[HMIC's interim report on crime data integrity published](#)

HMIC's interim report *Crime recording: A matter of fact – An interim report of the inspection of crime data integrity in police forces in England and Wales* has been published today. The report identifies serious concerns about the crime recording process. The findings include: weak or absent management and supervision of crime-recording; significant under-recording of crime; serious sexual offences not being recorded (with 14 rapes not recorded); a lack of victim focus by the police when making crime-recording decisions; and some offenders being issued with out-of-court disposals when their offending history could not justify it (in some cases HMIC states they should have been prosecuted).

The interim report is based on a sample of 13 forces and HMIC states that if the findings are representative across all forces and all crime types, this implies that 20 percent of crimes may be going unrecorded. However, the report also finds some strengths. When crime reports are recorded, the classification of the offence which is recorded is correct on almost every occasion. Also, by listening to calls made to the police, HMIC finds that victims of crime

receive a professional service with call-takers being polite, helpful and showing empathy to the needs of the victim during initial contact with the police.

Under-recording of crime is not acceptable say APCC

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) has published its interim report on crime data integrity which carried out inspections in 13 police forces. The inspection raised concerns that potentially a fifth of crimes in England and Wales could be going unrecorded by the police. HMIC also highlighted weak or absent management and supervision of crime-recording.

"There are no excuses for lacking a victim focus when making crime-recording decisions. Police and Crime Commissioners are working to establish better services for victims in the criminal justice system and are scrutinising force performance to ensure those who want to report a crime feel confident to speak out. We are working closely with Chief Constables to ensure better consistency and scrutiny of crime recording at a local level.

Stop and search: Comprehensive package of reform for police stop and search powers

The Home Secretary gave a statement on the reform of stop and search. Five thousand consultation responses were received showing a very different pattern of response for those who had been stopped from those who hadn't. Mrs May also referred to the HMIC inspection finding that 27% of the stop and search records examined did not include reasonable grounds to search people. The Home Secretary announced that she intends to revise the Police and Criminal Evidence Act Code of Practice A to make clear what constitutes 'reasonable grounds for suspicion' and this revised code will emphasise that where officers are not using their powers properly they will be subject to formal performance or disciplinary proceedings. She has also written to PCCs and chief constables to tell them to adhere to the code. Otherwise the Government will make this a statutory requirement.

Mrs May has commissioned Alex Marshall, the chief executive of the College of Policing, to review the national training on stop and search in order to develop professional standards. The review will include the introduction of an assessment of officers' fitness to use stop and search powers. The Home Office will be working with PCCs and chief constables to explore recording information of stop and search via the new Emergency Services Network. The Home Office and College of Policing will launch a 'Best Use of Stop and Search' scheme in the summer, with a requirement for forces to introduce a stop and search complaints community trigger. Stop and search data will also be added to www.police.uk crime maps.

Home Office publishes summary of consultation responses on stop and search

The outcome from last year's consultation on stop and search was published yesterday.

Police and criminal justice: review of the balance of competences

The Foreign Secretary launched the balance of competences review in Parliament on 12 July 2012. This follows the Coalition's commitment to examine the balance of competences between the UK and the European Union. The review will provide an analysis of what the UK's membership of the EU means for the UK national interest. The Home Office and Ministry of Justice are leading on the strand of the review covering police and criminal justice. This call for evidence document sets out the background to the review and invites evidence from anyone with relevant knowledge, expertise or experience

[Response to Prisons and Probation Ombudsman reports on deaths in custody](#)

The past year has been a challenging one for all those involved with custody or probation. The prison population has stabilised but remains proportionately higher than anywhere else in Western Europe and it is also rapidly ageing. As resources have shrunk, so have regimes and staffing levels. Meanwhile, Ministers are understandably concerned that more needs to be done to rehabilitate prisoners and reduce future crime.

[Local government in England: capital finance - Commons Library briefing Note](#)

Local authorities are required to distinguish between capital and revenue finance in their accounting. They can access capital finance for infrastructure investment from a number of sources, but borrowing is the most common of these.

[Code of Ethics goes to forces](#)

On 24 April, it was announced by the College of Policing that a draft Code of Ethics had been sent to PCCs and chief constables. The Code defines exemplary behaviour within policing and has practical examples for officers and staff in their everyday roles. It sets out nine policing principles and ten standards of professional behaviour and emphasises what good policing should look like and how ethical officers and staff should behave. It will become a Code of Practice under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, expected by the summer, until which time it is a draft. It will apply in England and Wales.

[Stephen Greenhalgh co-authors report on policing for Reform think-tank](#)

In April, a report was published by the think-tank Reform entitled *The Police Mission in the twenty-first Century: rebalancing the role of the first public service*. It was co-authored by Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime in London, Stephen Greenhalgh, and Blair Gibbs principal advisor for the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC).

The report argues for a public debate on the police's role, saying it is time to look again at costs imposed on the police. It also wants to look how collaboration can be encouraged to support the police in preventing crime and meeting public demands. The key recommendations are: greater clarity of the police mission with boundaries to give officers a clearer sense of their role; a rebalancing of time and effort by police towards crime prevention aided by technology; and the 'active pursuit' of collaboration to help forces manage demand and reduce it over the longer-term.

[Special Constables' expenses and allowances](#)

Following consultation on Special Constables' expenses and allowances, the Home Office has produced guidance. This guidance supersedes Home Office Circulars 12/2006 and 40/2005.

[HMIC publishes latest crime comparator information](#)

The most recent crime and victim satisfaction data were published on 24 April on HMIC's crime and policing comparator.

3. Developments and reports

[Written statement on Challenge it, Report it, Stop it - Delivering the Government's Hate Crime Action Plan](#)

The Minister of State for Crime Prevention (Norman Baker):

Today we are publishing our [progress report](#) on the coalition government's hate crime action plan. A copy will be placed in the House Library. Hate crime can have devastating consequences for victims and their families, and can also divide communities.

[Commercial victimisation survey – technical report](#)

This report provides information on survey design, weighting and survey response in relation to the Commercial victimisation survey undertaken in 2013.

[Westminster Hall debate on Prison Education and Welfare Services](#)

Mark Pritchard, secured the debate on education and welfare services in prisons – an important subject that affects the lives of thousands of prisoners throughout the UK, where 85,000 people are in prison. According to the Government's figures, 81,000 are men and just under 4,000 are women. More than half of the UK's prison population are in their 20s and 30s and therefore likely to have many years of freedom ahead of them upon their release.

[Ministry of Justice improvement plan published](#)

On 30 April, the Ministry of Justice published its improvement plan, based on four themes: performance; efficiency and innovation; capability; and strategic risk and leadership of change.

[Ministry of Justice](#)

Proven reoffending statistics quarterly statistics - July 2011 - June 2012.

[New app to help protect children](#)

Barnardo's have launched a new app to teach children about the dangers of child sexual exploitation.

[Transformation cost benefit analysis guidance published for partnerships](#)

This guidance, entitled *Supporting public service transformation: cost benefit analysis guidance for local partnerships* was published on 2 April. The aim is to help partnerships assess and evaluate public service transformation proposals and improve their understanding of fiscal, economic and public benefits and how these are apportioned across local and national organisations and communities. It has links to HM Treasury's *Green Book* on option appraisal.

[Letter to combined authorities](#)

The Minister for Local Government, Brandon Lewis, has written to three newly combined authorities (i.e. wef 1 April), on governance issues for the operation of the new combined authorities. The new authorities cover the economic renewal functions of councils regarding jobs investment and growth (i.e. some of the functions done at regional level under the previous government). The councils involved are: Barnsley, Rotherham, Doncaster and Sheffield; Halton, Knowsley, Liverpool, St Helens, Sefton and the Wirral; and West Yorkshire.

[Written statement on the Migration Advisory Committee triennial review](#)

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Theresa May): On 27 March 2012 I announced in Parliament, through a written Ministerial statement, the commencement of the triennial review of the Migration Advisory Committee. She has now announced the completion of the review.

The Migration Advisory Committee provides independent and evidence-based advice to Government on migration issues. The review concludes that the functions performed by the

Migration Advisory Committee are still required and that it should be retained as a non-departmental public body. The review also looked at the governance arrangements for the body in line with guidance on good corporate governance set out by the Cabinet Office. The report makes some recommendations in this respect; these will be implemented shortly.

[Suicides in prison - Statement by the Howard League](#)

Responding to the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman reports, published today (30 April), on self-inflicted deaths in custody, **Frances Crook, Chief Executive of the Howard League for Penal Reform**, said: "Each death in custody is a tragedy and almost all of them are preventable.

[Zero-hours contracts are just one part of the UK's in-work poverty problem](#)

Although they have become a totemic issue, zero-hours contracts are just one of the problems created by the low-pay, low-skill economy that currently traps 6.7 million people in working poverty, the independent Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) said in response to figures released by the ONS today.

[Recovery is not strong enough to survive higher interest rates, warns TUC](#)

TUC General Secretary **Frances O'Grady** Commenting on the preliminary estimate of GDP growth in the first quarter of 2014, published Tuesday by the Office for National Statistics.

[Office of National Statistics](#)

Crime in England and Wales, Year ending December 2013.

[Beyond Youth Custody](#)

Participatory approaches for young people in resettlement: a practitioner's guide.

[Centre for Public Health](#)

TTIG Merseyside and Cheshire Themed Report: Assaults in the home across Merseyside and Cheshire.

[Ministry of Justice](#)

Phase 2 report from the payment by results Social Impact Bond pilot at HMP Peterborough.

[Ministry of Justice](#)

Prisoners' experience of prison and outcomes on release.

[Ministry of Justice](#)

The impact of experience in prison on the employment status of longer-sentenced prisoners after release.

[Ministry of Justice](#)

Transforming Rehabilitation: a summary of evidence on reducing reoffending.

[NCVO](#)

Paymeny by results and the voluntary sector.

[Public Health England](#)

Preventing drug-related deaths.

4. Consultations

Public Traffic Signs consultation

The Department for Transport has launched a public consultation on proposed changes to the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2002. The consultation will close on 10 June 2014.

Schedule 7 Code of Practice

The statutory Code of Practice provides guidance to examining officers on the application and interpretation of Schedule 7. These have had to be revised code to ensure they reflect the changes introduced in the ASBCP Act. These changes will maintain the protection of the UK border as well as continuing to respect individuals' human rights. The Home Office welcomes your views on how adequately the changes in the ASBCP Act are reflected within the revised draft Code of Practice. You can respond via the [online survey](#).

Review of the operation of Sections 135 and 136

The Government is reviewing the operation of Sections 135 and 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983 to make sure the legislative framework offers the right support for people at the right time. The consultation is open until 3rd June 2014.

Balance of competence review information rights

Open date: 27/03/2014

Close date: 01/07/2014

Public consultation on pre-charge bail

The College of Policing in partnership with the national policing lead for criminal justice, Chief Constable Chris Eyre, is consulting on new bail principles to support police use of pre-charge bail. The consultation is open until 19th June 2014.

Review of local authority role in housing supply

This call for evidence from the Government seeks ideas, evidence and good practice into how local authorities can help to increase housing supply in order to meet local housing need. The consultation is open until 23rd May 2014.

Using a legislative reform order to set up town and parish councils

The Government is consulting on a proposal to use a legislative reform order for making it easier to set up town and parish councils. The consultation is open until 22nd May 2014.

Public Consultation: Developing NICE guidelines: the manual

From 1 April 2014 NICE are inviting comments and feedback from stakeholders and the public on the new manual for developing NICE guidelines. Consultation closes 30 June 2014

Child poverty: a draft strategy

Open date: 27/02/2014

Close date: 22/05/2014

Wildlife legislation in England: General and Class Licences

Open date: 24/02/2014

Close date: 19/05/2014

Draft Guidance on Police Post-incident Management

The IPCC has produced additional statutory guidance on police post-incident management, designed to achieve best evidence in investigations of deaths or serious injury. The IPCC are seeking feedback on the draft guidance from stakeholders. The consultation is open until 27 May 2014.

Sentencing guidelines for theft

The consultation on the draft guideline on theft offences is open from 3 April 2014 to 26 June 2014. The Council is seeking views on:

- the principal factors that make any of the offences included within the draft guideline more or less serious;
- the additional factors that should influence the sentence;
- the approach taken to structuring the draft guidelines;
- the types and lengths of sentences that should be passed for theft offences; and
- anything else that you think should be considered.

5. Reviews and Inspections

HMIC provides assurance that chief constables are having regard to the Strategic Policing Requirement – but finds that more needs to be done

This inspection examined how well police forces have established the arrangements that the Strategic Policing Requirement requires them to have in place to counter a number of specified threats to national security and public safety. It is based on data and documentary evidence provided by all 43 police forces in England and Wales in July 2013. It includes supporting fieldwork, conducted in 18 forces, and in nine Regional Organised Crime Units (ROCs).

HMIC Programme

HMIC sets out its inspection programme and resources for the year ahead.

Thematic Inspections already Committed to in 2014/15:

- Making Best Use of Police Time
- Valuing the Police Programme – Phase 4
- Undercover Policing (Home Secretary Commission)
- Domestic Abuse (Home Secretary Commission)
- Crime Data Integrity
- Child Protection

Thematic Inspections Commencing in 2014/15

- Valuing the Police Programme – Phase 5
- Strategic Policing Requirement
- Police Integrity and Leadership
- Follow up to Mistakes Were Made Report
- Revisit of Stop and Search

- Protecting Vulnerable People Programme: Missing Children
- Police Management of Information
- Police National Database (PND) Audit
- Use of the Police National Computer (PNC) by Non-Police Organisations

Proposed Topics for New Thematic Inspections in 2014/15

- Modern Slavery
- So-Called Honour Based Violence (HBV)
- Cyber Crime.