



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

[Freedom of Information \(FOI\) Act](#)

New FOI exemption for research information. The new research exemption in the FOIA came into force on 1 October 2014.

[Law changing on enforced subject access requests](#)

The law on enforced subject access requests will change on 1 December 2014. The change to Section 56 of the DPA means that organisations will no longer be able to force individuals to make subject access requests for information about their criminal past in order to reveal the results to them.

[Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014](#)

The Home Office has delayed the commencement of the Civil injunction date of the new tools and powers to the 20th October.

[The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 \(Publication of Public Spaces Protection Orders\) Regulations 2014](#)

[The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 \(Commencement No. 7, Saving and Transitional Provisions\) Order 2014](#)

[The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 \(Commencement No. 6\) Order 2014](#)

This Order brings into force various provisions of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, including provision relating to the recovery of possession of dwelling houses on anti-social behaviour grounds, and the procedure to be followed in connection with the review of a decision of a landlord to seek an order for possession of a dwelling house under section 84A of the Housing Act 1985.

[The Children and Families Act 2014 \(Commencement No. 4\) Order 2014](#)

These Regulations commence certain sections in Part 5 (tobacco, nicotine products and smoking) of the Children and Families Act 2014 for the purposes of making orders or regulations only, on 1st October 2014.

[The Police \(Complaints and Misconduct\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2014](#)

[The Political Parties, Elections and Referendums \(Civil Sanctions\) \(Amendment\) \(No.2\) Order 2014](#)

[The Equality Act 2010 \(Equal Pay Audits\) Regulations 2014](#)

[The Police \(Amendment\) Regulations 2014](#)

[The Police \(Promotion\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2014](#)

[The Appointment of Chief Officers of Police \(Overseas Police Forces\) Regulations 2014](#)

[Review could expand Social Value Act](#)

[Data Retention and Investigatory Powers Act 2014](#)

[Immigration Act 2014](#)

[Care Act 2014](#)

[Offender Rehabilitation Act 2014](#)

[The Licensing Act 2003 \(Mandatory Licensing Conditions\) \(Amendment\) Order 2014](#)

[The Legislative Reform \(Clinical Commissioning Groups\) Order 2014](#)

2. Strategic policing and crime news

[Tailored local support for victims of crime takes effect](#)

Victims of crime will get local support tailored to their needs as responsibility for funding the majority of services to support victim's moves from the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) to Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs).

[New agreement on closer working to improve public trust in policing](#)

Three national bodies, the College of Policing, HMIC and IPCC, have signed a concordat in relation to their promotion of good practice and continuous improvement in policing.

[Policing and Mental Health Summit](#)

The Home Office is working with Black Mental Health UK on preparations for a policing and mental health summit. The event will take place on 23rd October at Central Westminster Hall and aim to:

- challenge the police and other services on their current practices related to the treatment of vulnerable people.
- enable the police and other services to share good practice and develop new ideas on issues such as the identification of people with mental health issues, transportation, and the use of physical restraint.
- agree further actions required by central government and national agencies to improve practice around working with vulnerable people.

Local Government Association

Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation: Resource for councillors.

Rotherham official must explain discrepancy in testimony – MPs

The former director of children's services at Rotherham, Joyce Thacker, has been asked by MPs for a "full explanation" as to why she omitted key information when giving evidence to the House of Commons Home Affairs Committee.

New national standards for family court experts come into force

New national standards designed to raise the quality of expert witness evidence in family court cases and speed up proceedings became law on Wednesday 1 October 2014.

£10m LIBOR boost to support emergency services

The government is allocating nearly £10m to help support 200,000 emergency services personnel and volunteers, funded through LIBOR fines. This funding will be focused on mental health, physical recuperation and bereavement support. It is the first time that LIBOR funding has gone to support emergency services personnel. Over £8m of the funding will go to English charities, with the remaining £1.6m made available to the Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland Governments.

3. Developments and reports

Upcoming CCTV Code of Practice launch and new webinar service

The ICO is publishing its updated CCTV Code of Practice next month. The guidance takes into account developments in the use of CCTV and other forms of video surveillance since guidance was first published in 2000. This will include everything from automatic recognition of car number plates through to the personal information collected by flying drones.

ICO completes work to update FOI publication scheme and definition documents

The ICO has finished updating its definition documents and template guides for information for publication schemes.

National Child Victims of Crime Awareness Month

October is National Child Victims of Crime Awareness Month.

Schoolgirl sexual abuse letter causes 'undue' alarm in Havering

Havering Council has admitted warnings that young girls are being sexually exploited are 'nowhere near as significant as first feared', after a letter was accidentally sent to parents.

Department of Transport

Reported road casualties Great Britain: annual report 2013.

Care Quality Commission

A fresh start for the regulation and inspection of substance misuse services.

Clinks

Who cares? Where next for women offender services?

Demos

'How far we've travelled, and how far we have to go' - The future of disability.

Economic and Social Research Council

Integration and the drivers of racism.

Home Office

Reducing mobile phone theft and improving security.

Local Government Association

Healthy Homes: Healthy Lives.

Let's talk about sex

Howard League has published an independent review of sexual violence in prisons in England and Wales, which highlights it being at, is highest level since 2005.

Changes to safety in custody national statistics bulletin

Notice from the Ministry of Justice pre-announces to users that due to continuing interest in the latest deaths in prison custody figures for England and Wales, it has been decided to advance the timeliness of statistics on deaths in custody by 3 months.

Conservative Conference 2014

David Cameron's conference speech in full

Theresa May's speech to the Conservative Party Conference

Our values will prevail in the fight against terrorism and extremism.

Osborne to scrap pension 'death tax'

The Chancellor George Osborne is to scrap the 55% 'death tax' applied to defined contribution pension pots left by those aged 75 or over when they pass away.

Osborne announces two-year benefit freeze

Chancellor George Osborne has announced benefits will be frozen for two years, as part of the government's plan to eliminate the UK's budget deficit.

Hague: English votes for English laws

'English votes for English legislation' will be a key part of the Conservative's election campaign next year.

Pre-paid benefit card plan outlined by Iain Duncan Smith

Welfare claimants could receive benefits on a pre-paid card to curb spending on 'destructive habits', work and pensions secretary Iain Duncan Smith has announced.

[Worst austerity still to come, public sector warned](#)

Public sector austerity is set to continue for another five years, outgoing civil service chief Sir Bob Kerslake has warned. Speaking at the Institute for Government, he said that while the last five years of cuts had been challenging 'the second five years are likely to prove even harder'.

[BBC and Essex Police rise to FOI challenge as four councils monitored over delays](#)

The ICO has praised the BBC and Essex Police for 'rising to the FOI challenge' after both organisations addressed previous delays in their responses to FOI requests. The timeliness of the BBC and Essex Police's FOI responses were monitored between 1 May and 31 July 2014.

[Data Protection Act \(DPA\)](#)

Leaving for a new job? Don't walk off with personal information. The ICO has warned employees leaving for a new job that taking personal information collected by their former employer with them when they leave is a criminal offence.

[Government to face 72 hours of public sector strikes](#)

The government is facing 72 hours strike action this month as civil servants and public sector workers join NHS staff in planned walkouts. Members of the Public and Commercial Services (PCS) union will stage a 24-hour walkout on Wednesday 15 October. The union expects 250,000 of its members to take part in the action. This will follow a day of action from NHS workers on the Monday and a strike by council workers on Tuesday.

[Cyber security compliance required for government suppliers](#)

From 1 October 2014, suppliers will be required to comply with the new Cyber Essentials controls if bidding on government contracts that involve handling sensitive and personal information.

[New guide to using mobile apps securely, as global study raises privacy concerns](#)

A survey of over 1,200 mobile apps by 26 privacy regulators from across the world has shown that a high number of apps are accessing large amounts of personal information without adequately explaining how people's information is being used.

[Government announces above inflation rise for National Minimum Wage](#)

Over one million of Britain's lowest-paid workers are set to benefit as new National Minimum Wage (NMW) rates come into force from 1 October 2014. The rate rise to £6.50 per hour, the first real terms cash increase since 2008, follows the recommendations from the independent Low Pay Commission (LPC) in March this year and the call for faster, affordable rate rises by Business Secretary Vince Cable.

[New firm to take on key Audit Commission roles](#)

A new company has been launched tasked with taking over key responsibilities from the Audit Commission after the public spending watchdog's closure next year.

[Passport Office to lose agency status](#)

Her Majesty's Passport Office (HMPO) is to lose its agency status and be brought into the Home Office, home secretary Theresa May has announced. The HMPO has been blamed for summer chaos as a backlog of passport applications reached nearly 550,000 in June. The move will make it directly accountable to ministers.

Communities won't accept 'half-measures' on devolution, cities warn

The Core Cities Group has warned communities will not accept 'half measures' over devolution in a strongly worded letter to Government. The group of 10 city leaders have written to William Hague, urging the Government to grant them devolved powers 'at the same speed' as Scotland.

Local and central government least trusted by staff, report finds

Local and central government are the industries least trusted by their own staff, with 'budget cuts and upheaval' causing employee concern – a report claims.

Councils see huge rise in Deprivation of Liberty (DoL) applications

The number of requests to ensure the freedom of vulnerable people are being protected have risen significantly, following a landmark ruling earlier this year. New figures show that the number of Deprivation of Liberty (DoL) applications have increased by 74% in 130 councils in the first three months of this year, compared to the total number of applications for the whole of last year.

LGA council pay offer still in the balance

Local government unions are to meet with employers and the Local Government Association (LGA) this week – following a new pay proposal.

Council spending on obesity up 21% – LGA

Council spending on tackling obesity is set to reach over £127m this year, a 21% increase on the previous year's figures when councils in England spent £105m, according to the Local Government Association (LGA).

£3bn needed for green highways improvements

A new report is calling for £3bn to be invested by the government in a range of 'green retrofit' improvements for existing roads. The report, by environment and transport groups including Campaign for Better Transport and Campaign to Protect Rural England, calls for the £3bn to be invested over the next five years and included in the upcoming Road Investment Strategy, which will be published by the government this autumn.

The [Better not bigger](#) report outlines many ways our existing road network needs to be updated to help tackle these problems, including; green bridges to reconnect habitats and landscapes that have been severed by major roads; design changes to reduce the visual and landscape impact of roads, including lighting; new barriers and better management to reduce traffic noise; safe crossings and routes to increase walking and cycling; new smart technology to help reduce disruption, through better speed control and information; and priority measures for buses and coaches, particularly near key junctions and urban areas.

DfE appoints Education Commissioner for Birmingham

Sir Mike Tomlinson has been appointed Education Commissioner to oversee Birmingham schools following [the Trojan Horse scandal](#).

Council leaders 'disappointed' by rejection of new pay deal

An offer to give council staff a 2.2% pay increase in a bid to avoid further strike action has been rejected, according to council bosses.

City's libraries poised for volunteer takeover

Volunteers are poised to take over almost half of a city's libraries as part of cost cutting plans to save £1.6m. Groups of residents have agreed to take charge of managing 13 branches in Sheffield, taking responsibility for fundraising and setting the programme of activities.

Department for Communities and Local Government

Live tables on homelessness

Councils use Scottish referendum to chase up decades-old unpaid tax

Local authorities are examining the Scottish independence electoral register in a bid to chase down unpaid council and decades-old poll tax debts.

Scottish councils miss recycling target

Councils in Scotland have missed their target to recycle 50% of household waste by 2013, according to new figures published by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (Sepa).

11 councils share £550k for self-building boost

Ministers have named 11 councils that will share half a million pounds to support self-builders get housing projects off the ground.

New Manual for developing NICE guidelines

The new manual for developing NICE guidelines has been published today, 1 October 2014, on the NICE website. The manual was approved by the NICE Board on 17 September, following a three month public consultation.

NICE quality standards programme

The new public health library of topics for quality standard and associated guideline development has been launched.

Axe falls on funding for Welsh councils

Funding for councils in Wales has been cut by £154m, leading to warnings of future redundancies and the closure of public services.

£300m renewable energy scheme unveiled

The Government has released details of a £300m fund to support renewable electricity projects.

Borough joins services with council owned company

A West Country borough has decided to join local authority owned company Ubico Ltd, in a move set to save it almost £100,000 a year. Tewkesbury Borough Council has agreed to unite with the company, which is also owned by Cheltenham Borough and Cotswold District councils.

Number of children being adopted reaches record levels

The number of children being adopted increased by 26% over the past year, according to official figures. The figures show that 5,000 children were placed into new homes over the past 12 months, an increase of 63% in the last three years.

4. Consultations

[Last chance to take part in our consultations on big data, privacy seals and data sharing code](#)

The ICO has extended the deadline for comments on the data protection issues relating to big data. The paper on big data and data protection sets out views and the ICO would like to hear thoughts on the questions set out at the end of the document. The closing date is the 17 October 2014.

[Accessing mental health services in London](#)

Open date: 26/09/2014

Close date: 11/09/2016

[Fair and effective market review's benchmarks to bring into UK regulatory scope](#)

Open date: 25/09/2014

Close date: 23/10/2014

[Transforming legal aid: crime duty contracts](#)

Earlier this year the Ministry of Justice, following detailed engagement with the Law Society, published proposals to help create a more sustainable legal aid market in criminal litigation. Further consultation until 15 Oct 2014.

[Home Office Consultation: Strengthening the law on domestic abuse](#)

The Home Office is consulting on whether the current law on domestic abuse needs to be strengthened to offer better protection to victims. The closing date for responding to the consultation is **15 October 2014**.

[Revised PACE code A](#)

The consultation runs until Monday 21 October 2014. The changes in this draft have been made in order to implement the government's commitment as set out in the consultation on stop and search.

[Strengthening the law on domestic violence](#)

This consultation seeks views on whether the current law on domestic abuse needs to be strengthened to offer better protection to victims. It is specifically focused on whether we should create a specific offence that captures patterns of coercive and controlling behaviour in intimate relationships, inline with the government's non-statutory definition of domestic abuse. Closing date 15 October 2014.

[Ketamine rescheduling consultation](#)

The Home Office is seeking views on the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) recommendation to reschedule ketamine to Schedule 2 of the Misuse of Drugs Regulation (as amended) (the 2001 Regulations). The consultation runs until 3rd November 2014.

[Framework regulation integrating business statistics \(FRIBS\)](#)

Close date: 07/10/2014

[Restricting non-residents' entitlement to the UK personal allowance](#)

Close date: 09/10/2014

[Data policy for a Public Data Corporation](#)

Views wanted on how to provide accessible public sector information. The consultation will close on 27 October 2014.

[HMRC Consultation: Tackling offshore tax evasion a new criminal offence](#)

The Government has announced its intention to introduce a new strict liability criminal offence. This consultation seeks views on the design of this offence. The consultation period runs to **31 October 2014**.

[Equality and Human Rights Commission call for evidence on religion or belief issues](#)

The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) has launched a major call for evidence from individuals and organisations about how their religion or belief, or that of other people, may have affected their experiences in the workplace and in using the services and facilities they need in everyday life. Feedback can be given by completing the online survey by **14 October 2014**.

5. Reviews and Inspections

[HM Inspectorate of Prisons and HM Inspectorate of Constabulary report on British Transport Police custody - generally positive](#)

Practice varied across British Transport Police custody suites, but overall detainees were properly cared for, said Nick Hardwick, Chief Inspector of Prisons, and Dru Sharpling, HM Inspector of Constabulary, publishing the report of an unannounced inspection.

[Lack of leadership in schools leading to disruptive behaviour – Ofsted](#)

Bad behaviour at schools with poor leadership is losing pupils an hour of learning a day, according to a new Ofsted report. The report, '[Below the radar: low-level disruption in the country's classrooms](#)', finds that low-level and persistent disruptive behaviour is impeding children's learning and damaging life chances. It says that two-thirds of teachers questioned complained that school leaders are failing to assert their authority when dealing with poor discipline and pupils' flouting of school rules.

[IPCC Learning the Lessons](#)

The IPCC publishes a regular Learning the Lessons Bulletin to help the police service learn lessons from completed investigations into police complaints and *conduct* matters undertaken by the IPCC or by the police service locally.