



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

Queen's Speech 2014

Introduced the following 11 Bills:

- Armed Forces (Service Complaints and Financial Assistance) Bill
- Childcare Payments Bill
- Infrastructure Bill
- [Modern Slavery Bill](#)
- National Insurance Contributions Bill
- Private Pensions Bill
- Pensions Tax Bill
- Recall of MPs Bill
- [Serious Crime Bill](#)
- Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Bill
- Social Action, Responsibility and Heroism Bill
- Protection of Charities Bill
- Riot (Damages) Bill
- National Park Authorities (Elections) Bill

Immigration Act 2014 has received Royal Assent.

The Immigration Bill has received Royal Assent making way for a series of reforms which will ensure our immigration system is fairer to British citizens and legitimate migrants and tougher on those with no right to be here. The Immigration Act 2014 contains 77 clauses and makes fundamental changes to how our immigration system functions.

Care Act 2014 has received Royal Assent.

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.

[Offender Rehabilitation Act 2014](#)

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

[Penalties for Disorderly Behaviour \(Amount of Penalty\) \(Amendment\) Order 2014](#)

The UK Government has taken the view that the risks and potential harms associated with khat are sufficient as to warrant its control as a Class C drug – alongside its active ingredients. This Order sets the amount of penalty that a person will have to pay when given a penalty notice for disorder (PND) for the offence of possession of khat.

[The Copyright \(Public Administration\) Regulations 2014](#)

These Regulations amend the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 which includes certain exceptions to copyright, which permits third parties to do certain acts without infringing copyright in a work. For example, an existing exception allows copying for purposes such as: research and private study; criticism, review and news reporting; educational use; use by libraries and archives; public administration; and making accessible materials for those with visual impairment.

[The Local Authorities \(Capital Finance and Accounting\) \(England\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2014](#)

These Regulations insert a new provision into the Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) Regulations 2003.

[The Flexible Working Regulations 2014](#)

This Order amends the Employment Rights Act 1996 Act to remove the restriction which limits the statutory right to request flexible working to parents and carers, thereby enabling more people to use the statutory right to request flexible working and, as a consequence, allow more employers to see the benefits of such arrangements. Related to this is:

[The Code of Practice \(Handling in a Reasonable Manner Requests to Work Flexibly\) Order 2014](#).

[The Terrorism Act 2000 \(Proscribed Organisations\) \(Amendment\) \(No. 2\) Order 2014](#)

This Order amends the Terrorism Act 2000 by adding groups to the list of proscribed organisations

[The Criminal Justice Act 1988 \(Reviews of Sentencing\) \(Amendment\) Order 2014](#)

[The Public Interest Reports and Recommendations \(Modification of Consideration Procedure\) Regulations 2014](#)

[The Local Audit \(Liability Limitation Agreements\) Regulations 2014](#)

2. Strategic policing and crime news

[Justice Secretary Chris Grayling speech to Reform Conference on Crime, Justice and Local Communities](#)

The Coalition Government has undertaken significant reform of the police and criminal justice system this Parliament. In addition to a real term decline of 23 per cent for the Ministry of Justice and Home Office budgets over this Spending Review period, there have been substantial structural reforms across the system.

[£12 million boost to local victims' services](#)

Communities across England and Wales are set to benefit from more than £12 million of innovative technologies and specialist services, funded by offenders, to support victims of crime. Successful projects put forward for funding by Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) include body-worn cameras to support victims of racial hate crime and capture evidence of new incidents, a specially designed audiovisual system to comfort young victims of sexual abuse during medical examinations and dedicated counselling for victims of female genital mutilation (FGM).

[Home Secretary announces review of undercover policing cases](#)

The Home Secretary has announced details of a review of criminal convictions in cases involving undercover police officers.

[Proscribed terror groups or organisations](#)

List of terrorist groups or organisations banned under UK law, and details of proscription criteria.

[Serious Crime Bill: Proceeds of Crime](#)

These documents form the 'proceeds of crime' section of the Serious Crime Bill.

[Justice Select Committee](#)

Crime reduction policies: a co-ordinated approach? - Final report on the Government's Transforming Rehabilitation Programme.

[CoPaCC](#)

PCCs and Innovation. CoPaCC is an independent organisation, established in early 2013 to compare the work of Police and Crime Commissioners through objective, evidence-based analysis; to use those comparisons to identify good practice; and to share that good practice.

[Service expresses sadness following death of Bob Jones](#)

Tributes are being paid to Bob Jones, the Police and Crime Commissioner for the West Midlands who died on Monday night.

[Justice Committee highlights risks in contracting out probation services](#)

The Justice Committee have welcomed extension of rehabilitation to prisoners on short sentences but warn there are risks in plans for contracting out probation services in a major report on crime reduction strategies.

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

The Ministry of Justice has announced that enforced subject access requests will become a criminal offence under new legislation set to be introduced on 1 December 2014.

Enforced subject access is where individuals are forced by someone like a prospective employer to make a data protection subject access request and reveal the results to them, typically in relation to criminal conviction data.

Updated guidance on charging for environmental information and property searches

The ICO has updated its guidance on [charging for information provided under the Environmental Information Regulations](#).

Complaints: More forces 'will be held to account'

The Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) has announced plans to create a stronger system of holding forces to account and ensuring they implement recommendations from complaint investigations.

Officers are at the point of collapse and burn out as a result of being unable to take time off, says Fed.

Concern is mounting that officers in Essex are finding it harder than ever to have their annual leave requests approved by their force.

Large scale reorganisation such as mergers is not the solution to austerity problems, says former ACPO finance lead

Pressure will continue to mount on the frontline of policing – even if there is regionalisation and forces are merged in the future, according to senior law enforcement analysts.

Government publishes explanation of policy on making roads safer

A policy paper on "Making roads safer" has been published by:

[Department for Transport](#), [Robert Goodwill MP](#), [Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency](#), [Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency](#), [Traffic Commissioners](#) and [Vehicle Certification Agency](#)

3. Developments and reports

Centre for Social Justice

Enough is Enough: A report on child protection and mental health services for children and young people.

Eric Pickles announces new fund to help councils fight fraud

Local Government Secretary Eric Pickles today announced a new multi-million pound fund to help councils claw back the taxpayers' money lost every year to fraud. In a speech to council finance chiefs, the Local Government Secretary challenged councils to use innovative financial management to address fraud, surplus assets and Council Tax collection. Taking such an approach would help local authorities make the sensible savings needed over the next few years to help reduce the deficit inherited from the last administration.

McLoughlin announces stepping up of aviation security

The safety and security of the public is our paramount concern. A decision to step up some of our aviation security measures has been taken. The majority of passengers should not experience significant disruption. There will be no change to the threat level, which remains at substantial.

Helping to reduce poverty and improve social justice

Poverty, as measured by a household's income relative to the national average, is often a symptom of deeper, more complex problems. Many of these problems are passed on from one generation to the next. For example, there are almost 300,000 households in the UK where none of the adults has ever worked, and 300,000 children have parents with serious drug problems. Children in families affected by these problems have reduced chances of success in their own lives.

[Making legal aid more effective](#)

The scope of legal aid in England and Wales has expanded since it was first established and the scheme now costs over £2 billion a year. Some issues that should not require any legal expertise to resolve - and could be better served with alternative methods - are contributing to this expense.

[Department for Communities and Local Government](#)

Response to consultation on local authority parking.

[Central government not tracking grant money spent by councils](#)

Central government departments that fund local authorities no longer get clarity on how that money gets spent, warns a new National Audit Office report. This is as a result of the increased flexibility given to local authorities by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) since 2010.

[Public sector among worst performing sectors for customer service](#)

Improving customer service in the UK public sector will need a "shared vision" to be successful, according to the Institute of Customer Service. Its new report, 'Citizens and Customers: Further Building the Case for Customer Service in the Public Sector', based on responses from 6,000 customers and 24 interviews with public sector leaders, mentions the increasing expectations of customers and these demands that are continuing to challenge public services due to financial pressures.

[Department of Health](#)

Local authority health scrutiny.

[Joseph Rowntree Foundation](#)

The impact of welfare reform on social landlords and tenants.

[Ministry of Justice](#)

Criminal Justice and Courts Bill: fact sheets.

[Department for Transport](#)

Reported road casualties in Great Britain: main results 2013.

[Child poverty strategy 2014 to 2017](#)

The Government has published a document setting out the action they plan to take to reduce child poverty.

HM Inspectorate of Prisons' report of a review of the implementation of the Zahid Mubarek Inquiry recommendations - progress made but no room for complacency

There has been positive change in prisons since the racist murder of Zahid Mubarek in 2000, said Nick Hardwick, Chief Inspector of Prisons. However, he added that there was a danger

that, with the passage of time, the drive that led to those changes has been weakened or forgotten. Today he published the report of a review of the implementation of the Zahid Mubarek Inquiry recommendations.

Better Care Fund failure would be ‘catastrophic for an entire generation’

Falling budgets and rising demand are opening up a £5.8bn black hole in local authorities’ funding by the end of 2015/16, according to an analysis by the Local Government Association (LGA). The savings to be made by April 2015 to balance the books amount to 12.5% of council budgets, if services are to be maintained by 2013/14 levels during 2014/15. The LGA said demand in adult social care is a major cause of the funding problems – accounting for £1.9bn of the gap – making it vital that the new Better Care Fund succeeds.

Council may cut funding for abuse helpline

Oxfordshire County Council has announced it is reviewing whether or not to scrap funding for a number of services, including a domestic abuse helpline.

Government efficiency programmes saved £14.3bn

Efficiency and reform programmes set up by the government has saved a significant amount of taxpayer money last year, according to latest reports.

Solihull Council spends £5m on staff pay-offs

Over the last two years Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council has spent £5m in redundancy settlements. According to new figures, council bosses paid £2,079,000 to 95 people in 2013/14 for voluntary and compulsory redundancies. These job losses were mainly due to operational changes, alterations to accommodate new laws, and austerity measures.

Report shows a £5.8bn council funding ‘black hole’

A report by the Local Government Association has revealed that councils across England face a funding gap of £5.8bn. Councils in England face a funding gap of £5.8bn between March 2014 and the end of 2015/16, according to new figures published in the Local Government Association’s (LGA) Future Funding Outlook report.

Dropping double-yellow line ‘grace period’ a victory – LGA

Government plans to introduce a ‘grace period’ for motorists to park on double-yellow lines have been dropped in what the Local Government Association (LGA) calls a “victory for common sense”. Earlier this week, the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) released the response to its consultation on local authority parking, which said: “There were concerns that allowing free periods in places where parking is not permitted (such as on double-yellow lines), could lead to confusion and encourage more anti-social and potentially dangerous parking, and also lead to sequential parking in some popular areas where kerb-space might be continually occupied despite there being a restriction in place.”

New guidance to dismiss myths about budget-setting and scrutiny

New guidance to improve local authorities’ budget-making processes and financial scrutiny has been launched in Cardiff. The Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) and Grant Thornton said the ‘Raising the Stakes: financial scrutiny in challenging times’ guidance will offer practical advice to Welsh councillors and officers about the value of scrutiny and how it can improve financial planning and management.

[Mystery Shopper making a real difference 3 years on](#)

The government's Mystery Shopper service continues to improve the way public sector organisations buy goods and services. Mystery Shopper allows anyone to report issues that they encounter in supplying the public sector, and a [review](#) of the impact of the service, which is now 3 years old, shows that 79% of all closed cases have resulted in a positive outcome.

[‘Insulting’ pay rise will see council workers strike](#)

Council workers across the country will undertake strike action on the 10 July following a 1 per cent pay rise offer. Around two million council workers, teaching staff, and members of the union [Unite](#) are set to strike on the 10 July against a 1 per cent pay rise offer. Described as ‘insulting’, anger stems from council workers experiencing four years of wage cuts, due to government public sector austerity pay policies.

[Statistics release: households below average incomes](#)

The number of people in relative poverty has fallen by 100,000 over the past year.

Communities and Local Government Committee to publish report on Devolution in England: the case for local government

The Communities and Local Government Committee will publish its First Report of Session 2014-15, *Devolution in England: the case for local government* (HC 503), on **Wednesday 9 July** at 00.01am. The report will be available on the internet at the time of publication, and will be accessible via the [Committee's webpage](#). Details of the inquiry can be found on the [Fiscal Devolution to Cities and City Regions](#) inquiry page.

[Britain faces farming land shortfall by 2030](#)

A new report published out by the University of Cambridge has revealed that Britain could fall short of 2m hectares of land for growing food by 2030. A new report published by the [University of Cambridge](#) has shown that the UK could see significant shortfalls of land to grow food due to the growth in population. The Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership's paper, 'The best use of UK agricultural land', stated that with the population in the UK expected to exceed 71 million by 2030, farming land would be needed for living space.

[Green Deal fund issues £8.5m in a fortnight](#)

The government's new Green Deal Home Improvement Fund issued around £8.5m in the first two weeks following its launch, according to industry estimates. Industry estimates suggested that the [Green Deal Home Improvement Fund](#) has awarded £8.5m during the first two weeks of the scheme.

[Scottish renewables power one million homes](#)

According to a new report the growth of independent renewable projects in Scotland means enough energy is produced to power one million homes. Scotland now produces enough energy to power one million homes. A new report stated the reason for this was a 50 per cent increase this year in the number of independent renewable projects.

[Green Deal fund issues £8.5m in a fortnight](#)

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4. Consultations

[Have your say on the National Minimum Wage](#)

Consultation closes on the 29 September 2014.

[Custody consultation looks at use of force](#)

The College of Policing has launched a consultation on new guidance covering the management of people who have been detained. The [document looks in particular at procedures for dealing with those placed in custody](#) – but not arrested - using the Mental Health Act, as well as recommending that any such decision is reviewed by a superintendent. The guidance also recommends that 'standard data' should be collected on the use of force on those who are being detained. Consultation closes on 12th August.

[Healthcare UK is holding its first open strategy consultation](#)

Healthcare UK is inviting its stakeholders to take part in an open consultation on the 24th July to review the 2014/15 business plan.

[Ministry of Justice seeks views on support for male sexual abuse survivors](#)

Having committed £500,000 to the first dedicated fund to support male victims of rape and sexual abuse, views are now sought about how to shape the way in which this pot of money is spent. The consultation is open until 13th July.

[Setting the 2020 persistent child poverty target](#)

The Government is seeking views on a proposed new persistent child poverty target for the UK to be achieved by 2020. The consultation runs until 14th August.

[HMIC asks public for views on new assessments of police forces in England and Wales](#)

HM Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) has launched a consultation in relation to its new approach to assessing police force performance in England and Wales. This new programme of inspections, or PEEL (police efficiency, effectiveness and legitimacy) assessments, will assess how well each of the 43 forces in England and Wales:

- provides value for money (efficiency);
- cuts crime (effectiveness); and
- provides a service that is fair and treats people properly (legitimacy).

Each force will be assessed against these three themes, and given one of four ratings for each theme:

- outstanding;
- good;
- requires improvement; or
- inadequate.

HMIC will publish the results of these assessments in a user-friendly format, making it easy for the public to tell at a glance how well their local force is performing and, over time, whether it is improving or deteriorating. This consultation gives the public the opportunity to have their say on the approach used to make these assessments, as well as the way they will be presented. The consultation period will run from today until Friday 29 August 2014 so everyone with an interest in policing – including the public and the service – will have an opportunity to have their say.

[European Regional Development Fund strategic environmental assessment](#)

This consultation seeks views on the European Regional Development Fund strategic environmental assessment for England 2014 to 2020. Consultation closes on the 09/07/2014.

[Setting the 2020 persistent child poverty target](#)

Seeking views on a proposed new persistent child poverty target for the UK, to be achieved by 2020. Consultation closes on the 14/08/2014.

[Protecting personal health and care data](#)

Seeks views on proposals to introduce tighter controls and safeguards on the use of personal health and care data. Consultation closes on the 08/08/2014.

[Recovery of public sector exit payments](#)

This consultation seeks views on the government's plans to legislate for the recovery of exit payments when high earners return to the same part of the public sector within twelve months of leaving. Consultation closes on the 17/09/2014.

[Consultation into police use of pre-charge bail extended](#)

Police forces, stakeholders and members of the public now have an extra four weeks to comment on new principles to govern the use of this police power. The consultation now closes on 21st July 2014.

[Accounts and Audit Regulations consultation 2014 - earlier closure of accounts](#)

The Local Audit Consultation which **proposals include the earlier preparation and publication of the Statement of Accounts**. In January 2014, the Local Audit and Accountability Act received Royal Assent. Secondary legislation is needed to give effect to the new local audit arrangements and the consultation covers the detail of this. The Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011 set out requirements on financial management, internal control, internal audit, the content of published accounts and procedures affecting the published accounts, public rights and the audit itself for all relevant authorities except health service bodies. New Accounts and Audit Regulations, to be made under Section 32 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, will play a similar role in the new local audit framework. One of the proposals is to bring forward, from 2017/18, the existing dates of 30 June and 30 September to 31 May and 31 July, for accounts being signed and certified by the Responsible Financial Officer and then approved and published. The consultation is open until **18 July 2014**.

[Integrated inspections to assess the contribution of all professionals to the help, care and protection of children and young people](#)

The consultation launch of the targeted programme of integrated inspections. This marks a major step forward in the way that the contribution of local agencies is assessed with regards to the help, care and protection of children, young people and families.

Under proposals published, from April 2015, Ofsted, the Care Quality Commission, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation, and where appropriate, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons will work together to carry out a targeted programme of 'integrated' inspections.

The consultation will run from 23 June – 12 September 2014 (12 weeks).

[Traineeships: funding reform in England](#)

This is a joint consultation from the Department for Education and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. We are asking for views on how government funding for the traineeships programme in England can be used to deliver the best possible results for young people.

[19th June 2014 - Pre-charge bail](#)

[26th June 2014 - Sentencing guidelines for theft](#)

[NICE quality standards – the process guide](#)

The second update to the process guide for developing NICE quality standards is now available for comment in draft form. Note that the process guide is provisional and may change after consultation. **Consultation dates: Tuesday 10 June - Wednesday 3 September 2014**

[Reform of the Riot \(Damages\) Act](#)

Consultation on proposals to reform and modernise the Riot (Damages) Act 1886. The consultation will close on 1 August 2014.

[Proposed changes to guidance on domestic violence](#)

The Director of Public Prosecutions, Alison Saunders, has proposed changes to the way the CPS considers domestic violence cases and has published draft guidance, which is out for consultation, that explains the impact of domestic abuse on different groups to help prosecutors to adopt a tailored approach taking into account their particular support needs. The consultation is open until 9th July 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.

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 – July 2014
- Child Protection – July 2014

Thematic Inspections Commencing in 2014/15

- Valuing the Police Programme – Phase 5
- Strategic Policing Requirement
- Police Integrity and Leadership (Police Integrity and Corruption)
- 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.