



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

[Counter Terrorism and Security Bill unveiled](#)

Urgently-needed legislation which will give the UK some of the toughest powers in the world to tackle the increasing threat from international terrorism has been introduced.

[New powers to tackle sham marriage announced](#)

New powers to enable the Home Office to tackle sham marriages have been announced by Immigration and Security Minister James Brokenshire.

Criminal Justice and Courts Bill

On 10 November the Government accepted an amendment at the Lords Third Reading of the Criminal Justice and Courts Bill to give 17 year olds detained in police custody the same rights as children aged 10-16. The Bill is expected to gain Royal Assent in the Spring of 2015.

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

New tools and powers, with the exception of Civil Injunction, come into effect.

[Dangerous dogs: tough new law to prevent attacks](#)

Police and local authorities are to be given new legal powers to tackle irresponsible dog ownership.

[Home Office](#)

Serious Crime Bill overview.

[Home Office](#)

Statutory instruments plan.

[Consumers given new weapon in fight against rogue traders](#)

Consumers will have greater powers to challenge unscrupulous rogue traders and get their

money back under new rights.

[Fraud, bribery and money laundering offences guideline comes into effect](#)

Following a period of training and implementation the definitive guideline on fraud, bribery and money laundering offences came into effect from 1st October 2014.

[Serious Crime Bill](#)

[The Modern Slavery Bill](#)

Social Action, Responsibility and Heroism Bill

The Public Bill Committee is expected to report to the House by **14 October 2014**.

[Upcoming secondary legislation published](#)

[Lords invited to endorse Government application to re-join EU justice and home affairs measure](#)

On Monday 17 November, the House of Lords will be invited to endorse the Government's decision to apply to re-join 35 EU justice and home affairs measures, including the European Arrest Warrant, which, along with some 95 other measures, the Government has opted out of with effect from 1 December 2014.

2. Strategic policing and crime news

[Don't make our officers be your unwanted Christmas guest: ACPO launches national anti-drink and drug driving campaign](#)

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the first campaign and comes with the tagline: "Don't make our officers be your unwanted Christmas guest".

[ACPO: public support vital in defeating terrorism](#)

National lead AC Mark Rowley said: "The danger posed by violent extremists has evolved. They are no longer a problem solely stemming from countries like Iraq and Afghanistan, far away in the minds of the public. Now, they are home grown, in our communities - radicalised by images and messages they read on social media and prepared to kill for their cause."

[Autumn Statement: Osborne claims deficit reduction remains on track](#)

Chancellor George Osborne today told Parliament the deficit had been halved since 2010 and is falling, despite recent concerns the Treasury's grip on retrenching public finances had been loosened.

[Osborne to announce £2bn extra funding for NHS in Autumn Statement](#)

George Osborne is set to use his Autumn Statement on Wednesday to announce an extra £2bn of funding to bolster and transform the NHS.

Autumn Statement 2014: SOLACE response

[New ASB tools and powers](#)

The first entries have been made to the website - with two local authorities sharing their experiences

[What Works findings on crime reduction published](#)

The College of Policing was selected to host the What Works Centre for Crime Reduction which draws together evidence and labels it by quality and cost. For the first time, the top findings from across the What Works Centre have been brought together to support local decision makers

[Home Office](#)

Home Office funding of the Prevent programme from 2011 to 2015.

[College publishes surveys on career support for black and minority ethnic police officers](#)

The College of Policing has published the results of two national surveys on the recruitment, retention and progression of black and minority ethnic (BME) police officers.

3. Developments and reports

[Campaign to tackle child sexual exploitation in South Yorkshire](#)

A South Yorkshire-wide **campaign** has been launched to raise awareness of the signs of child sexual exploitation, following the recent Rotherham scandal **highlighted by the Jay report**.

[Government action to eliminate violence against women and girls](#)

The Government has announced a £10million fund to support women's refuges in 100 areas across England. Bids should be submitted by 5pm on 16th January 2015.

[Launch of Government's Best Use of Stop and Search Scheme](#)

The Home Office has today launched the Best Use of Stop and Search Scheme, with thirty-five forces going live immediately. The voluntary scheme, which was announced by the Home Secretary in April, is part of a range of measures that will contribute to a reduction in the overall use of stop and search, lead to better and more intelligence-led stop and searches and more effective outcomes.

[Transport MEPs voted to close loophole on traffic offences involving cars from another member state](#)

EP Transport and Tourism committee MEPs approved proposed changes to the legal base of the directive on cross border information exchange for tracking of traffic offences committed by drivers in vehicles registered in another member state.

[Government announces plans for £15bn Road Investment Strategy](#)

A tunnel under Stonehenge and transforming roads into 'smart motorways' are among the projects in the government's £15bn **Road Investment Strategy**, the details of which were announced by the Department for Transport and the Treasury. Money for the new initiative, which covers investment lasting up to 2021, was first announced last year. It will triple investment in the roads by the end of the decade, the government said, with the announcement coming as a report from the RAC Foundation predicts there could be an additional seven million road users in England and Wales – taking the total to 43 million – within 20 years.

[Leaders of 119 councils demand devolution and end to austerity](#)

The leaders of 119 councils in England have united to demand an end to austerity and greater power to match Scottish devolution commitments.

[Joseph Rowntree Foundation](#)

Monitoring poverty and social exclusion 2014.

[Public Health England](#)

Drug treatment in England 2013-14.

[Clinks](#)

Barnardo's: Domestic Violence Protection Project.

[Clinks, Drugscope, Homeless Link and MInd](#)

Voices from the Frontline: Listening to people with multiple needs and those who support them

[Demos](#)

Feeling the effects: Romania: A Demos and IPP report on parenting and alcohol.

[Department for Communities and Local Government](#)

Supplementary guidance on domestic abuse and homelessness

[Her Majesty's Inspector of Policing](#)

State of policing: the annual assessment of policing in England and Wales 2013/14

[Home Office](#)

Home Office powers of entry review: final report

[National Audit Office](#)

Departmental Overview: The performance of the Home Office 2013-14.

[Service Transformation Challenge Panel](#)

Bolder, Braver and Better: why we need local deals to save public services.

[Councils 'failing to deliver disabled-friendly homes'](#)

Up to 300,000 disabled people will be left on housing waiting lists this winter, with many of them having to 'make do' in accommodation that does not meet their needs, a new report has revealed. The '**No Place Like Home**' study by Leonard Cheshire Disability found that 84% of councils have 'no information' about wheelchair-accessible housing. This, according to the charity, is leaving disabled people on housing waiting lists living in severe discomfort.

[DCLG names successful bidders to Counter Fraud Fund](#)

A series of council-led anti-fraud projects have been given a share of £16m funding to clamp down on social housing tenancy cheats, business rates evasion, procurement fraud and social care and health tourism.

[Cameron proposes four-year ban on in-work benefits for new EU migrants](#)

Immigrants from the EU will have to work in Britain for four years before they are eligible to claim benefits, David Cameron proposed in a major speech on immigration today.

Winners of Transformation Challenge Award announced

The government has announced the names of 73 successful bidders for the Transformation Challenge Award, with a total of £89.4m to be distributed. In total, the 73 successful bids involve 287 partners including 122 local authorities and 165 other organisations across the public, private and voluntary sectors.

Universal Credit may not prove value for money – NAO

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) twin-track approach to rolling out its 'live service' while simultaneously developing its new 'digital service', means Universal Credit may not be value for money regardless of how it is implemented and the cost of doing so.

Councils fail to collect £4.55bn in council tax and business rates

The local spending watchdog said local authorities in England gathered on average 97% of the council tax they were owed in 2013-14, down 0.4% on the previous year. Rates varied from 91.7% up to 99.3% in some authorities. Had the previous year's collection rate been maintained, councils would have collected around an additional £94m in 2013/14.

Panel calls for councils to get greater flexibility to deliver services

Strong performing councils should be given greater flexibility over how services are delivered and funded, and a £5bn transformation fund should be created from existing pots of cash, according to a new report from the independent Service Transformation Challenge Panel.

Gritting salt stockpiles rise in 18% of councils, poll reveals

Almost a fifth of councils are raising gritting salt stockpiles this winter, with 49% of town halls preparing to share supplies – a poll reveals.

Council uncovers illegal flats with trees growing through walls

Council officers have repossessed 'appalling and dangerous' flats in Clapham, one of which had a tree growing through the wall.

Survey shows public support for tackling empty homes

Nearly three-quarters (74%) of the general public would like their local council to prioritise bringing empty homes back into use, according to a new survey.

Pension funds to pool £10bn assets

Two Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) funds are to pool their combined assets of over £10bn.

1,400 flood defence projects win funding

Over 1,400 flood defence projects have been chosen to receive government investment, in moves expected to improve protection for 300,000 homes.

Councils fail to agree voluntary mergers

Just six of the 22 local authorities in Wales have submitted voluntary merger plans in time for the government's deadline.

Report calls for radical reforms to council budgeting

Councils should radically reform the way they approach budgeting, focusing on outcomes rather than outputs, a new report is arguing.

Home care nearing 'crisis' point warns report

Council cuts and poor employment practices means the home care service system is heading towards a 'crisis', a new report is warning.

4. Consultations

Triennial Review of Information Commissioner's Office

This review is now open for comment and runs until 16th January 2015.

A proposal to increase firearms licensing fees administered by the police

This consultation seeks views on whether firearms licensing fees administered by the police should be increased. The Home Office also welcomes comments on how the review process should be managed. Closes 29th December 2014.

Proceeds of Crime Act 2002: codes of practice consultation

The Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 provides for a statutory consultation on new codes of practice and on any amendments to existing codes. The codes will then be subject to parliamentary approval before coming into force. Responses by 14th December 2014.

Offences against the person

The Law Commission is consulting on 'Offences against the person'. The consultation runs until 11th February 2015.

Changes to the police disciplinary system

This consultation seeks views on proposals for changes to the police disciplinary system, and strengthening protections for police whistleblowers. Closes 2nd January 2-15.

23rd January 2015 - Robbery sentencing guideline

31st January 2015 - Guidance for healthcare professionals on information sharing

11th February 2015 - Offences against the person

English indices of deprivation

The Government is updating the indices of deprivation for publication in the summer of 2015. They are consulting on final proposals for updating the indices. The consultation closes on 19th December 2014.

Consultation on revisions to PACE Codes

Open date: 14/11/2014

Close date: 06/02/2015

Use of Expert Witnesses in Courts in NI

Open date: 13/11/2014

Close date: 20/02/2015

Judicial Pensions Regulations (NI) 2015 - Transitional and Consequential Amendments to PSPA

Open date: 12/11/2014

Close date: 12/01/2015

Proposals to amend regulations relating to the use of capital receipts

Seeking views on proposed amendments to the regulations governing the use of receipts arising from the disposal of council housing assets and use of the receipt arising from such disposals. The consultation proposes that the existing arrangements are retained for 2015 to 2016 and 2016 to 2017 with adaptations to take account of possible housing stock transfers and errors made in the calculations for previous years. Closes 19th December.

HM Inspectorate of Prisons – stakeholder survey

Each year HM Inspectorate of Prisons conducts a survey of its stakeholders, in order to gather feedback on its activities, and to inform future policy and practice. Our 2014 survey is now ready and we would very much welcome your views. Closing date 3 December.

UK Borders Act 2007: sanctions for non-compliance with the biometric registration regulations

This consultation seeks comments on amendments to the code of practice following the extension of the biometric immigration document scheme for overseas applicants. Consultation closes on the 23 December 2014.

Robbery guideline consultation

The Sentencing Council has launched a consultation on the draft guideline on robbery. The consultation closes 23rd January 2015.

Consultation on Victim Charter May 2014

Open date: 14/10/2014

Close date: 14/12/2014

Proposed merger of the local justice areas in North Yorkshire

This consultation was published on 1 October and closes on 31 December. Yorkshire.

Adult social work: knowledge and skills

Open date: 10/10/2014

Close date: 12/12/2014

Next steps to zero carbon homes: small sites exemption

Open date: 18/11/2014

Close date: 07/01/2015

Improving children and young people's mental health services

Open date: 19/11/2014

Close date: 05/12/2014

NHS Health Check programme: priorities for research

Open date: 20/11/2014

Close date: 19/12/2014

Localisation and social security

Open date: 18/11/2014

Close date: 12/12/2014

5. Reviews and Inspections

[IPCC to investigate ten officers following Rotherham scandal](#)

The Independent Police Complaints Commission is launching an investigation into the conduct of ten South Yorkshire officers in relation to their handling of reported child sexual exploitation.

[IPPC: monthly update about the investigations into the Hillsborough disaster](#)

[HMIC: Crime recording thematic to be published](#)

[IPCC investigates force that gave killer back his guns](#)

The Independent Police Complaints Commission is investigating Surrey Police's decision to return confiscated licensed guns to a man who went on to kill two women.

[West Midlands Police inspected on child protection](#)

HM Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) has today published an inspection report into the child protection work carried out by West Midlands Police, following an inspection in June 2014.

[2014 Value for money profiles](#)

HMIC has published the latest value for money profiles which provide comparative data on a wide range of policing activities.

[HMIC Website](#)

Published the first 2014 PEEL update.