



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](#)

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

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

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

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

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

2. Strategic policing and crime news

[Home Affairs Select Committee \(HASC\) Report – inquiry into PCCs](#)

The report finds that it is still too early to tell whether or not the introduction of PCCs has been a success. It says the concept of PCCs is still on probation. It says that police and crime panels have struggled to understand their powers and define their role. The report states that many of the difficulties faced by PCCs could have been avoided if they had been given the opportunity to find their feet before commencing their job. It also states that the appointment of deputies needs to be more transparent and changes are required regarding the removal or suspension of chief constables.

[Home Affairs Select Committee \(HASC\) Report – Counter Terrorism](#)

The oversight system for the intelligence services requires strengthening and the responsibility for counter-terrorism policing should be transferred from the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) to the National Crime Agency (NCA), a Parliamentary report has concluded.

[NCA – National Strategic Assessment of Serious and Organised Crime 2014](#)

The Assessment has been produced outlining the continuing change in the UK's law enforcement landscape, starting with PCC elections, followed by the launch of the NCA and publication of the Government's Serious and Organised Crime Strategy in October 2013.

ACPO response to Home Affairs Committee report on counter-terrorism

Statement on behalf of Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) Terrorism and Allied Matters (TAM) Board consisting of Assistant Commissioner Cressida Dick, Chief Constable Sara Thornton, Chief Constable Peter Fahy, Chief Constable Chris Sims, Chief Constable Mark Gilmore and Chief Constable Matt Baggott.

[Serious offenders are walking free from court with suspended sentences, new research](#)

Research from the Centre for Crime Prevention reveals an astonishing number of serious and repeat offenders' prison sentences are being suspended by the courts.

[Re-designing forces: Promising practice heralds new era](#)

As chiefs battle to maintain an effective policing presence while achieving financial savings many senior leaders have found ever more creative ways to re-design their forces as a new policing era dawns. Jasmin McDermott reports.

[Collaboration 'will not save visible policing'](#)

Sharp end reductions cannot be met by efficiency measures, according to senior policing professionals.

Officers face 'double jeopardy' in professional standards probes

Federation official argues officers are subject to double standards by police watchdog despite being acquitted at court.

Police and prison officer killers to face life in prison

Anyone who kills a police or prison officer in the course of their duty will face spending the rest of their lives behind bars, Justice Secretary [Chris Grayling](#) has announced. The changes to the law being made by the Ministry of Justice will mean that judges will start by considering a whole life term when deciding the sentence for killing either a police or prison officer in the course of their duty. This is an increase from the current starting point of a 30-year minimum term. Judges would retain the discretion to determine the appropriate sentence in each case - a whole life term will not be mandatory.

3. Developments and reports

Cautious optimism

On Monday, the Home Affairs Select Committee published a [report on Police and Crime Commissioners](#), stating that "PCCs have provided greater clarity of leadership for policing within their areas", but that it is too early to tell whether their introduction has been a success.

Hate crime: Report finds significant progress in reducing hate crime

A report on the progress made in the past 2 years has been published. Achievements include: better education of secondary school pupils, improved recording by police and work with major internet service providers in the UK and USA to reduce the harm caused by hate material on the internet. The report also discusses the spike in anti-Muslim sentiment following the murder of Lee Rigby.

£30 million boost to improve the lives of Britain's most vulnerable young people

Social Impact Bonds will be used to help 14-24 year olds develop the crucial skills to improve their educational achievement and employability and prevent them from falling into a situation where they are not in education, employment or training (NEET).

Concerns about crime data integrity

The interim HMIC report on crime data integrity identifies serious concerns about the crime-recording process.

Service Transformation Challenge Panel: call for evidence

On 2 April 2014, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury and Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government launched an independent Service Transformation Challenge Panel to advise what needs to happen nationally and locally to increase the pace and scale of service transformation. The panel will provide further support and challenge, and make a set of recommendations, on what needs to happen locally and nationally to increase the pace of integration between local public services.

[First victims spared harrowing court room under pre-recorded evidence pilot](#)

A pilot has begun to allow the most vulnerable victims and witnesses to give their evidence and be cross-examined away from live courtroom. The pilots are in three Crown courts - Leeds, Liverpool and Kingston-upon-Thames.

[Government announces reform of police stop and search](#)

The Home Secretary has announced that she intends to revise the Police and Criminal Evidence Act Code of Practice to make clear what constitutes 'reasonable grounds for suspicion' - the legal basis upon which officers carry out the vast majority of stops.

[Homophobic Bullying in Schools project gets underway](#)

The contract for this project and the first phase will now be taken forward.

[Media blamed for prejudice against migrant communities](#)

A University of Manchester has found evidence which shows the media bears some of the blame for stirring up prejudice against migrant communities.

[Tackling child trafficking in the UK](#)

The Equality and Human Rights Commission has written to the United Nations making recommendations on tackling child trafficking in the UK.

[Troubled families progress](#)

The Government has announced that 40,000 families have been turned around by the innovative Troubled Families Programme and that results have doubled in the last 6 months.

[Centre for Mental Health](#)

Keys to diversion - Best practice for offenders with multiple needs.

[Department of Health](#)

Responsibility deal pledge on alcohol unit reduction: 1st report.

[Ministry of Justice](#)

Sex Offender management and dynamic risk: Pilot evaluation of the Active Risk Management System (ARMS).

[Councils reaching "end of the road" for managing cuts through efficiency savings says LGA](#)

Popular local services like leisure facilities, children's centres and pothole repairs are likely to bear the brunt of funding cuts over the next two years, a survey of councils' financial strategies suggests. Following £10 billion worth of cuts in the past three years many councils are starting to reach "the end of the road" for saving money through becoming more efficient. Research carried out by the Local Government Association suggests that the impact of spending reductions will start to become increasingly visible over the next two years, as councils tackle a further £10 billion cut in government funding.

[Better pension management proposals to save money for taxpayer](#)

Proposals have been published for better pension management to help deliver substantial annual savings for taxpayers. The government proposals draw on a public call for evidence and a report from city pension's experts, Hymans Robertson.

[Shared Lives programme helping thousands of people](#)

Thousands of disabled and older vulnerable people are living independently thanks to schemes run through councils. The schemes are helping families to share their homes to help vulnerable people live more independent and happier lives, which The Local Government Association (LGA) is highlighting.

[Commissioners consider global approach to data protection enforcement](#)

The ICO welcomed more than 40 data protection authority colleagues from across Europe and beyond for a meeting on global enforcement on 2 and 3 April 2014. The annual event aims to promote joint working between our organisations to better protect the privacy rights of the public.

European Road Safety Day 2014: Safer and smarter roads needed in the EU

On Europe Day, 9 May 2014, the European Commission and the Greek EU Presidency are hosting together the 6th European Road Safety Day in Athens. The topic to be discussed by experts, policy makers, industry and NGOs is: how to make EU roads safer and smarter.

[Road traffic estimates Great Britain: Jan to Mar Q1 2014](#)

Department for Transport – National Statistics. From January to March 2014 (Quarter 1) All Motor Vehicle Traffic increased by 4.1% when compared to the same quarter in 2013.

Comparing quarter 1 (January to March) 2014 with the same quarter of the previous year:

- all motor vehicle traffic increased by 4.1 %, to 78.5 billion vehicle miles.
- car and LGV traffic increased by 3.8% and 7.3% respectively.
- traffic volumes increased across all road classifications.

Solace calls on local government to ‘reclaim children’s services’ from national Government and inspectorates

On 8 May 2014 Solace released ‘Reclaiming children’s services’. This report outlines the views of Solace members on the future approach local government should take to improving the lives of children and young people. This is a short statement from Graeme McDonald, Director of Solace, to accompany the release.

[Over 2000 new jobs and apprenticeships from leading STEM organisations](#)

At the launch of a new campaign to boost participation in science, technology, engineering and maths (the ‘STEM’ subjects) at school and beyond, the government welcomed over 170 leading businesses and institutions offering over 2,000 jobs and apprenticeships.

BBC monitored over FOI response times

This week, the [ICO announced that the BBC, Essex Police and Greenwich Council are being monitored](#) over the timeliness of their FOI response times. All three organisations were the subject of a significant number of complaints to our office over delays in their response times. In each case the organisation failed to respond within the statutory time limit of 20 working days, or after 40 working days where the law allows a public authority to extend the deadline.

Being second best

On Wednesday, Pearson published the [2014 Learning Curve Index](#) analysis of education

systems across the world, which placed the UK second in Europe and sixth globally.

Council asset programme opens to new applicants

Local authorities can apply for a programme to help save money and create new homes and jobs through better use of their assets.

National map of shared services 2014

The LGA has re-launched the national shared services compendium and map which now shows that at least 337 councils across the country are engaged in 383 shared service arrangements resulting in £357 million of efficiency savings. At least 95 per cent of all English councils are sharing services with other councils.

4. Consultations

E-petition – Exempt Victims of Domestic Abuse who have had a Police Assessment and/or have a Safe/Panic Room from the Spare Room Subsidy:

<http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/64544>.

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.