



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. **Policing and crime key developments** (relevant crime and criminal justice information and partners' policy/reports/campaigns)
3. **Reports** (covering research, reviews, inspections and audits across policing and crime)
4. **Consultations** (police and crime bulletins, research, consultations and press releases)

1. Legislation

The Commons Select Committee: has published the written submissions for consideration of the Draft Anti-Social Behaviour Bill. <http://www.parliament.uk/documents/commons-committees/home-affairs/130110%20ASB%20written%20evidence.pdf>

Justice Select Committee: *Women offenders:* The inquiry will review progress and examine current and practice with respect to women offenders and those at risk at offending. <http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/justice-committee/news/women-offenders/>

Publication of draft legislation for Finance Bill 2013: The Government has published draft legislation for inclusion in Finance Bill 2013, in addition to that published on 11 December. http://www.parliament.uk/documents/commons-vote-office/January_2013/31-1-13/1.Treasury-PublicationdraftlegislationFinanceBill.pdf

New code ends 'tick box' regulation in sales of age restricted products: Age Restricted Products Code of Practice published by BIS will strengthen the protection of young people and reduce red tape for responsible businesses that sell age restricted products safely, legally and profitably. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-code-ends-tick-box-regulation-in-sales-of-age-restricted-products>

Planning measures will make best use of underused buildings for providing new homes: New permitted development rights will allow office space to be converted into homes without the need for planning permission. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/planning-measures-will-make-best-use-of-underused-buildings-for-providing-new-homes>

2. Policing and crime key developments

Community Safety Accreditation Schemes: The Home Office has published guidance for organisations seeking to use innovative solutions to local problems. <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/police/operational-policing/employers-guide?view=Binary>

Domestic Incident Trial: ACPO is conducting a trial in one police force that gives officers the discretion to decide whether to complete a Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Honour-based-violence (DASH) form after risk assessing and investigating a domestic incident.

<http://www.acpo.presscentre.com/Press-Releases/ACPO-comment-on-a-domestic-incident-trial-1e6.aspx>

Thirty years of seatbelt safety: Three decades of compulsory seatbelt use are being marked as the Government made a selection of historic THINK! adverts available online. The law requiring all drivers to wear their seatbelts came in to force thirty years - on 31st January 1983. <http://think.direct.gov.uk/seat-belts.html>.

Watchdog woefully under equipped: IPCC leaves public frustrated and without faith in the police says committee of MPs. The Home Affairs Committee publish its Report on *The Independent Police Complaints Commission*. <http://www.ipcc.gov.uk/en/Pages/default.aspx>

Police Service Strength England and Wales, 30 September 2012

Home Office Statistical Bulletin 01/13 contains the police service strength statistics for the 43 police forces of England and Wales and for British Transport Police, as at 30 September 2012. [Police Service Strength England and Wales, 30 September 2012 \(PDF file - 483kb\)](#)

The Minister of State for Immigration (Mark Harper): lay before the House a Statement of Changes in the Immigration Rules that will bring about urgent changes to tackle abuse in the Entrepreneur migration route while protecting genuine entrepreneurs. <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/visas-immigration/working/tier1/>

The Home Secretary, Theresa May, has proposed plans to create an accelerated promotion scheme for the brightest young police recruits, with the potential to be fast-tracked to chief constable rank in just ten years. The proposals are part of a policing recruitment overhaul, and would open up senior ranks to direct entry by outsiders for the first time ([Times](#); [Guardian](#); [BBC Online](#)).

The Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe, has suggested that public sector employees should face mandatory drugs tests at work. Staff such as teachers, transport workers and nurses should take random drugs tests, and that anyone who failed the tests and refused substance abuse help should lose their jobs ([Independent](#); [Mail](#)).

Three police forces have abandoned an outsourcing contract with the security company G4S after their newly appointed Police and Crime Commissioners vetoed the deal. The abandoned contract between G4S and the Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire Strategic Alliance had aimed to save £73 million through the outsourcing of support roles ([FT](#); [Telegraph](#); [Independent](#); [BBC Online](#)).

3. Reports

Local councils have only delivered half of the savings they need to make by 2015, while their ability to absorb spending cuts is decreasing due to a growing demand for public services, the National Audit Office (NAO) has warned. ([FT](#); [Times](#); [BBC Online](#)).

The Government is set to unveil a £62 million investment boost for cycling infrastructure, half of which will be set aside so cities can bid for money to improve their roads ([Guardian](#)).

A 5 per cent rise in the number of people sectioned under the Mental Health Act over the past year has led to severe overcrowding on wards, with many being held at risk of neglect and abuse according to a report by the Care Quality Commission (CQC). ([Times](#); [Guardian](#); [Mail](#)).

Health and social care spending could double by 2061 and amount to half of all Government public spending according to a report by the King's Fund. The Chief Executive of the NHS Confederation, Mike Farrar, said: "Addressing these issues will require some tough choices and it is essential that we have open and honest conversations with the public about what we can afford in the future and how we will fund it" ([FT](#); [Telegraph](#); [Guardian](#); [Mail](#)).

An audit carried out by the Department of Health has revealed that only one-third of Accident & Emergency departments are successfully sharing gun and knife crime data with police and local councils, as part of a Coalition pledge to reduce crime. ([Independent](#); [BBC Online](#)).

A report by the Resolution Foundation has found that millions of low income households could face council tax increases as most councils in England will pass on the 10 per cent cut on the total subsidy budget imposed by central government. ([The Independent](#); [BBC Online](#)).

Department for Communities and Local Government: *The Cost of Troubled Families:* This report makes the case for all local agencies (local authorities, the police, health services and others) to examine what they spend on troubled families, how they spend it, and how effective that expenditure is in helping turn lives around and preventing the emergence of future troubled families. https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/68744/The_Cost_of_Troubled_Families_v1.pdf

Home Office: *Crime Against Businesses: Headline findings from the 2012 Commercial Victimization Survey:* This is the first release of data from the 2012 Commercial Victimization Survey (CVS), which examines the extent of crime against businesses in England and Wales. The CVS was previously run in 1994 and 2002, and is planned to be repeated in 2013 and 2014. <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/crime-research/crime-business-prem-2012/>

National Treatment Agency:

- *Drug treatment activity in England 2011-12*
- *Alcohol treatment activity in England 2011-12*
- *Substance misuse among young people: the data for 2011-12*

<http://www.nta.nhs.uk/statistics.aspx>

Office for National Statistics: *Crime in England and Wales Year Ending September 2012:* Latest figures from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) estimate that there were 8.9 million crimes against adults in England and Wales in the year ending September 2012, an 8% decrease compared with the previous year's survey. This reduction was driven by statistically significant decreases in vandalism, burglary and vehicle-related theft. <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/crime-stats/crime-statistics/period-ending-sept-2012/stb-crime-in-england-and-wales--year-ending-sept-2012.html>

Squaring the circle – *how can welfare reform produce a more reciprocal benefits system:* This paper is the second in a series investigating how we can promote financial security and wellbeing at a time of declining living standards and constrained public spending.
<http://www.demos.co.uk/publications/squaring-the-circle>

Local Government Association: Tackling drugs and alcohol – *local government's new public health role:* Public health will become the responsibility of local government when it transfers from the NHS to local authorities in April 2013. This briefing for councillors and officers explains the challenges facing councils and the opportunities they have to tackle drug and alcohol problems and reduce health inequalities in local communities.
http://www.local.gov.uk/c/document_library/get_file?uuid=ef73ac40-827e-4e7f-bb27-9b19fff157c0&groupId=10171

London Assembly/Police and Crime Panel: Duty of Care: Supporting victims of crime: Too often the support given to victims and survivors of crime by the police, and other agencies that make up our criminal justice system, is simply not good enough. They are let down by the system designed to protect and care for them.
<http://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/13-01-23-victim-care-final-report-NON-Embargoed.pdf>

World Health Organisation: Alcohol problems in the criminal justice system: an opportunity for intervention: Alcohol and crime, especially violent crime, are linked. Many prisoners are incarcerated because of alcohol related crime.
http://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/181068/e96751-ver-2.pdf

4. Consultations

New proposals to allow people to join the police force without starting at constable rank: were revealed by the Home Office. Currently all recruits to the police have to start at the lowest rank and work their way up, meaning new recruits have to serve at least 20 years before becoming a chief constable. Tom Winsor, in his independent review of police pay and conditions, recommended allowing skilled applicants from outside policing to join at inspector, superintendent or chief constable level. The consultation seeks views on how it should be done by 28 March.
<https://www.homeofficesurveys.homeoffice.gov.uk/v.asp?i=68945munng>

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