



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

First Police and Crime Commissioner by-election to take place on 21st August

Following the sudden and untimely death of West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner, Bob Jones, the by-election will take place on 21st August.

PM and DPM to announce emergency security legislation

Emergency legislation to ensure that UK law enforcement and intelligence agencies can maintain their ability to access the telecommunications data they need to investigate criminal activity and protect the public will be announced today by the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister. This has cross party agreement.

Ministers must be accountable for quality of police recorded crime statistics, says committee chairman

Public Sector strike: Cabinet Office statement

Statement of changes in Immigration Rules

Communications data and interception: Statement by the Home Secretary

Home Secretary, Theresa May, made a statement in the House of Commons on the use of communications data and interception.

Finding The Costs Of Freedom

Solace launches new research demonstrating the long term impact of domestic violence. Solace Women's Aid has launched the findings of a 3 year research project, **Finding the Costs of Freedom**, that examines how women and children rebuild their lives after domestic violence. Conducted in partnership with the Child and Woman Abuse Studies Unit (CWASU), this is the first longitudinal study of it's kind in Europe.

Home Affairs Select Committee report on female genital mutilation

Please find attached the Home Affairs Select Committee report on female genital mutilation (FGM). The report claims that failures by Ministers, Police and other agencies have led to the "preventable mutilation of thousands of girls".

Home Secretary oral statement on child abuse

A statement about the sexual abuse of children, allegations that evidence of the sexual abuse of children was suppressed by people in positions of power, and the government's intended response. The Home Secretary confirmed that the Chief Executive of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) will lead a review of historical child sex abuse allegations. The independent inquiry panel will be made of experts in child protection to consider whether public bodies – and other non-state institutions – have taken seriously their duty of care to protect children from sexual abuse.

New initiative to improve police training in domestic abuse

The College of Policing will be working with CAADA to review and improve the training that frontline and specialist officers receive.

Child Sexual Abuse Within the Family Setting

The Children's Commissioner has announced a national Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse in

the Family Environment (Intrafamilial).

Rt Hon Sadiq Khan MP, speaking at a major Reform policy conference on Wednesday:

“Still too many people are committing crimes, too many communities are blighted by crime and too much hard-pressed taxpayers’ money is spent on dealing with the fall-out of crime. And we know that whichever party is successful in 2015 won’t have pots of money to spend. If we’re to cut crime further, sparing victims of crime and the taxpayer, then our focus must be doing more to reduce re-offending. And achieving this by doing more with less.”

Cyber attackers becoming more sophisticated

More than a third of public sector organisations have been hit by a ‘distributed denial of service’ (DDoS) cyber-attack in the last year, research suggests.

Five countries unite over cybercrime

Cybercrime will be discussed by Attorneys General from Australia, Canada, New Zealand, UK and the USA.

Environmental offences guidance comes into force

The Sentencing Council has published guidance on sentencing environmental offences that came into force on 1st July .

European Observatory on Alternatives to Imprisonment

Centre for Crime and Justice Studies are the UK partner in a two year pan-European project that aims to establish a comparative picture of the alternatives to custody available across eight European countries and identify those measures which have achieved a decrease in recidivism and detention rates.

Fight against metal theft receives further government funding

The Home Office and Department of Transport have announced a further £500,000 funding for the National Metal Theft Taskforce.

Independent Police Complaints Commission

Public Confidence in the Police Complaints System.

Institute of Public Policy Research

Everyday Justice: Mobilising the power of victims, communities and public services to reduce crime.

Policy Press

Understanding restorative justice: How empathy can close the gap created by crime.

Treasury publishes current list of designated persons, terrorism and terrorist financing

Red tape cut to reduce licensing burden on entertainment

Parliamentary papers to reduce the licensing burden on forms of entertainment regulated by the 2003 Licensing Act have been laid today in the name of the Minister for Sport, Tourism and Equalities, Helen Grant.

Authorities fail to recoup £2.5bn in Council Tax

According to new figures released by the Department for Communities and Local Government, local authorities failed to collect £2.5bn of Council Tax last year.

[Councils can borrow money to build homes](#)

The Housing Minister has announced that councils will be able to borrow money to build over 1,000 homes in their area.

3. Developments and reports

[Director of Public Prosecutions announces highest level of convictions for domestic abuse](#)

Speaking this week at the Women's Aid conference, the DPP has announced that over 74% of those prosecuted for domestic abuse offences were convicted.

[Cautious welcome from LGA for Adonis £30bn devolution plans](#)

The Adonis Growth Review is recommending major devolutions to the cities and counties of England to boost growth, with “serious responsibility for planning and delivering infrastructure, including planning transport, housing and training”. The [proposals](#) could see £30bn devolved from central to local government over the next Parliament.

[Crisis in adult social care as budgets fall further](#)

The annual budget survey by the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (Adass) shows that councils have had to make cuts of 26% in their social care budgets (£3.53bn), once inflation and demographic pressures are accounted for.

[Use surplus NHS land for supported housing – think tank](#)

Housing associations could help save the NHS £6bn over 25 years if they worked together to use surplus land for supported housing, a new report argues.

[First wave of £12bn government Growth Deals announced](#)

The government has laid out its plans in a series of ‘Growth Deals’ to invest £12bn in local economies providing funds to support training, jobs, housing development, superfast broadband networks and infrastructure projects.

[Reducing local A&E admissions linked to extra ‘Better Care’ funding](#)

Up to £1bn of the Better Care Fund will be allocated to local areas to spend on out-of-hospital services according to the level of reduction in emergency admissions they achieve, the government has revealed.

[Government will ‘not budge’ on public sector pay](#)

The government will ‘not budge’ on changes to pay and pensions for public sector workers, and new laws could be proposed to curb industrial action in the future, Francis Maude has stated.

[Committee calls for Government to tackle the ‘English Question’ and devolve financial powers in England](#)

With the Government handing greater economic freedom to Scotland and Wales, the Communities and Local Government (CLG) Committee has urged Ministers and general election manifesto writers to show the same enthusiasm for devolution elsewhere in the

UK—by allowing local communities in England to take greater control over how money is raised and spent in their areas.

[New powers called for by councils to help future millions trapped in unemployment "twilight zone"](#)

Radical new powers must be given to councils to help transform the lives of millions of people who could be trapped in a future unemployment “twilight zone”, the new leader of the local government in England and Wales has stated.

[Growth deals: Firing up local economies](#)

As part of its long-term economic plan to secure Britain’s future, the Government today is agreeing a series of Growth Deals with businesses and local authorities across England.

[Miliband heralds new deal for England](#)

Ed miliband has declared that the next Labour government will back a new deal for England with people-powered public services and more power for local communities.

[Army of civil servants](#)

On Tuesday, it was announced that thousands of civil servants will be encouraged to join the Army reserves to help the Government fill a gap in numbers.

[Department for Communities and Local Government](#)

Fire Monitor Statistics - April 2013 - March 2014.

[National Audit Office](#)

Using alternatives to regulation to achieve policy objectives.

[New Local Government Network](#)

Right Tier, Right Now.

[Bridging the divide between academic and vocational education](#)

Our economy is recovering and youth unemployment is falling. The UK is set to grow faster than any advanced economy this year, and there are more jobs in every part of the nation.

[Eric Pickles calls for the newspaper industry and councils to work together on new pilots](#)

Speaking to council leaders at Local Government Association (LGA) annual conference, Local Government Secretary Eric Pickles today called for new technology and innovation to bring municipal statutory notices into the modern 21st century era.

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.