



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

[Remaining stages \(Commons\) of the International Development \(Official Development Assistance Target\) Bill \(Private Bill\)](#)

The **International Development (Official Development Assistance Target) Bill** completed all its stages in the Commons and now goes to the Lords for consideration.

[Counter-Terrorism and Security Bill: Amendments to be moved in Committee](#)

Counter-Terrorism and Security Bill: Amendments to be moved in Committee.

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. The Bill will, if enacted, create a general duty on specified authorities aimed at preventing people being drawn into terrorism. This creates a **new duty for Police and Crime Commissioners** (PCCs, police authorities and chief constables are all listed in Schedule 3 as a Specified Authorities).

[The Immigration Act 2014 \(Transitional and Saving Provisions\) Order 2014](#)

This Order expands the circumstances in which the relevant provisions have effect in relation to deportation decisions made by the Secretary of State in relation to people who are foreign criminals within the definition and in relation to family members of such foreign criminals.

[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.

[The Crime and Courts Act 2013 \(Commencement No. 11\) Order 2014](#)

This Order is the eleventh commencement order made under the Crime and Courts Act and brings into force certain amendments to the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 made by the 2013 Act, relating to the exercise of powers by 'appropriate officers' under the 2002 Act.

[The Regulation of Investigatory Powers \(Covert Human Intelligence Sources: Code of Practice\) Order 2014](#)

The revised code will replace the previous version and provides guidance in relation to the enhanced authorisation procedures that apply to local authorities.

[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.

[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](#)

[Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Bill - Committee stage report](#)

The Bill's scope includes among other things; public sector procurement which will have an **influence on PCC and chief constable procurement**. PCCs are classed as a Contracting Authority in Regulation 3 of the Public Contracts Regulation 2006 (as amended by The Local Policing Bodies (Consequential Amendments) Regulations 2011).

2. Strategic policing and crime news

[The police disciplinary system in England and Wales](#)

The final report of the Chapman Review on the police disciplinary system in England and Wales.

[Home Secretary: Police Integrity Statement](#)

This written ministerial statement was laid in the House of Commons by Theresa May.

[Response to the report 'An inspection of nationality casework'](#)

Home Office's response to the Independent Chief Inspector's report 'An inspection of nationality casework'.

[HMIP: Insights can be gained from listening to children in custody says Chief Inspector](#)

Policy makers involved in reshaping the youth custody estate should listen to what children tell us about themselves and their time in custody, said Nick Hardwick, Chief Inspector of Prisons. Today he published a thematic report on the results of surveys of children in custody. The report, *Children in Custody 2013-14: an analysis of 12-18-year-olds' perceptions of their experience in secure training centres and young offender institutions*, published jointly with the Youth Justice Board (YJB), sets out how children describe their own experience of imprisonment.

Ending online child sexual exploitation: UK leads Global Summit in London #WeProtect Children Online

Delegations from across the world will come together to make an unprecedented statement of action to end online child sexual exploitation. Representatives from more than 50 countries, 23 leading technology companies and nine non-governmental organisations will take part in the two day #WeProtect Children Online summit, in London on Wednesday and Thursday (10/11 December).

PCCs' commission into the single counter-terrorism grant in the East Midlands

HMIC has published its report into the effectiveness and efficiency of the single counter-terrorism grant in the East Midlands region.

Police and Crime Commissioners act on call handling concerns

Essex Police and Crime Commissioner and Chair of the APCC, Nick Alston said: "It is clearly unacceptable that, nationally, over a million calls to the police non-emergency 101 phone service were cut off or abandoned before contact was made during the last 12 months, an increase of over 25 per cent. A failure of the 101 service is also likely to create extra pressure on the crucial emergency 999 number.

PM announces new global action to deal with online child abuse

The Prime Minister announces new plans to tackle child abuse on the internet at the #WeProtect Children Global Summit in London:

- New unit to tackle paedophiles on the 'dark net'
- Google, Facebook, Yahoo, Microsoft and Twitter unveil new technical solutions to block and remove illegal child abuse material online
- New UK database enabling swifter identification and investigation by law enforcement of child abuse images
- New global action to build law enforcement networks and improve child protection in over 30 countries

Sex abuse victims to withdraw support from inquiry unless it's given more powers

Victims of alleged sex abuse have written to Theresa May saying they are going to pull their support for the historic sex abuse inquiry as they believe in its current form it is "not fit for purpose".

Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire Crisis Care Concordat

The Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat is a national agreement between services and agencies involved in the care and support of people in crisis. It sets out how organisations will work together better to make sure that people get the help they need when they are having a mental health crisis.

[Written statement on Police and National Crime Agency Remuneration Review Bodies – announcement of new Board Members](#)

This written ministerial statement was laid in the House of Commons by Theresa May.

[Written statement on Terrorism Prevention and Investigation Measures \(1 September 2014 to 30 November 2014\)](#)

[Home Office launches Security Innovation & Demonstration Centre](#)

Minister for Organised Crime, [Karen Bradley](#), officially launched the Security and Innovation Centre (SIDC). SIDC brings together government, industry and academia to explore security and policing challenges and enable the rapid development of technology. The launch of the centre will showcase the UK's current and future policing capabilities in realistic environments, such as a neighbourhood policing scene and a serious crime scene, to demonstrate the benefits of various technologies in cutting crime and protecting the public.

3. Developments and reports

[Knife offenders spending longer behind bars](#)

Criminals carrying knives are more likely to go to prison and get longer sentences, new statistics show. Figures published today by the Ministry of Justice reveal that the average prison sentence for knife possession in July to September 2014 had increased by almost 90 per cent since 2007 to 8.3 months.

[Violence Against Women and Girls Autumn Newsletter 2014](#)

[Female genital mutilation: the case for a national action plan](#)

The government would like to thank the Committee for its report published on 3 July on female genital mutilation (FGM).

[Data breaches costing local government millions, FOI reveals](#)

Data breaches have cost local government over £2.3m in fines since 2010, with council organisations named some of the worst for protecting confidential information.

[Councils criticised for switching off street lights](#)

Accidents in areas where councils have turned off street lights have continued to get worse, according to new research. The motoring group AA has cited government figures that show road safety has seen accidents fall by 18.6%, and 24% in the wet, snow or ice over the past five years. However, on unlit roads this reduction is only 12% and 16.7% in bad weather conditions.

[Adfam](#)

Families, drugs and alcohol - policy and research since 1984.

[Alcohol Research UK](#)

Roles of Alcohol in Intimate Partner Abuse. The study did not set out to focus on male to female abuse but the data available resulted in this being the focus.

[Violence toolkit for businesses](#)

A new violence toolkit for businesses alerts companies to the hidden issue of domestic violence at work.

[Criminal Justice Alliance](#)

To be fair: procedural fairness in the courts.

[Law Commission](#)

Rights to Light. The legal system recognises the value of natural light inside buildings, but because available space is finite it has to strike a balance between the importance of light and the importance of the construction of homes and offices, and the provision of jobs, schools and other essentials. The Law Commission's project on rights to light is about the way that the law strikes that balance.

[Mentor Adepis](#)

Involving families affected by substance misuse in alcohol and drug education.

[Ministry of Justice](#)

What would you do? (Restorative Justice Week 2014) - evaluation of the publicity campaign.

[Report: Lack of council support for runaways leaves children at risk](#)

Almost two-thirds of local authorities do not provide emergency accommodation for children under 16 who have run away from home, according to new research.

[Council not liable for foster care abuse finds court](#)

A judge has ruled a local authority can not be held legally responsible for abuse that happened to a woman in foster care and at the hands of her mother's partner.

[Councils should keep savings from tackling poverty says report](#)

A new report is calling for local authorities to be allowed to keep any savings made from tackling poverty and unemployment in their area.

[Council signs new joint-working deal with faith groups](#)

A council has become the first to sign a new 'Faith Covenant' with local religious groups, forming a contract for future collaboration.

[Recruiting the right talent: analysis of employers links with schools and the role of the National Careers Service](#)

The Department for Business, Innovation & Skills has published research and analysis looking at the role of the National Careers Service in helping employers to work with schools, to the benefit of individuals and businesses.

[Books For Prisoners: Hundreds of books delivered to Ministry of Justice by Howard League and PEN](#)

The Howard League for Penal Reform and English PEN delivered hundreds of books to the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and urged the department to send them on to prisoners.

[Labour's Zero-Based Review: More than £500 million in efficiency savings identified in local government budget](#)

Labour Party shadow ministers today announced proposals to drive further £500m back office and shared service efficiencies from local government.

Public services still 'at risk' following Autumn Statement

The chancellor's Autumn Statement failed to show how public services can continue to be delivered under ongoing budget reductions, according to many local government experts.

Single-tier authorities are in the most financial trouble – survey

Single-tier authorities are facing greater financial challenges than their county and district counterparts, because of their responsibility for demand-led statutory services such as social care, according to a new analysis. Grant Thornton's **fourth annual report on the financial resilience of the local government sector in England** revealed that all single-tier authorities show strategic financial planning as an area of concern, which reflects the scale of savings required over the next few years.

District councils 'most resilient in local government'

District councils are proving more financially resilient amid government funding cuts than their larger counterparts, a report by Grant Thornton has found.

Autumn Statement: Local road funding reforms and allocations revealed

The National Infrastructure Plan (NIP) 2014 published in tandem with the Autumn Statement today has confirmed regional roads cash allocations for the next parliament together with controversial reforms to the local capital maintenance funding.

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.

Council parking 'profits' surge to record high says report from the RAC Foundation

In 2013-14 councils in England generated a combined 'profit' of £667 million from their day to day, on and off street parking operations. This is a 12% increase on the 2012-13 amount of £594 million. £296 million (44%) of the overall total was generated by councils in London.

LGA responds to RAC Foundation parking report

Responding to the RAC Foundation report on council parking income, Cllr Peter Box, Local Government Association Transport Spokesman, said:

"This misleading RAC Foundation report is yet again based on the deep-rooted misconception that councils make a profit from parking. On-street parking revenue is spent on paying for parking services and any surplus is spent on essential transport projects. This report shows parking fines have gone down and that councils have become more efficient at running parking services. This means councils can spend the extra income on filling potholes and tackling the £12 billion repair bill to bring our roads up to scratch."

Osborne plans business rates review

A review of business rates to help High Street shops compete with internet retailers is among measures expected in George Osborne's Autumn Statement.

'It will be much harder to keep public sector wages down' as economy recovers – IFS

The next government will find it much harder to keep public sector pay down, especially if there is a boost in private sector wages, the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) has stated.

One million more public sector jobs set to be lost

A further one million public sector jobs are expected to be lost over the next five years, as a squeeze on public spending continues. Forecasts from the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) predict the total number of people employed on government services will have fallen by 1.3m at the beginning of 2020.

[Birmingham to cut 6,000 jobs under £300m saving plan](#)

Some 6,000 more jobs will be cut at Birmingham City Council over the next four years, under efforts to save over £300m.

[Over a tenth of council staff on low-income tax credits](#)

Over a tenth of the local government workforce is receiving Working Tax Credits, over twice as high as the rest of the public sector.

[Watchdog raises accountability concerns in final report](#)

Only 11% of parish councils - 1,015 in total - had their accounts qualified in 2013/14 - according to a new report from the Audit Commission.

[Westminster failing to reflect concerns of public sector bosses](#)

Political manifestos are failing to match the priorities of managers in the public sector, a new report reveals.

[Councils to receive cash rewards for tackling housing benefit fraud](#)

The government will provide cash rewards to councils that reduce the amount of money lost through fraud and error in housing benefit, it has been announced. This announcement follows a **National Audit Office (NAO) report that recently revealed fraud and mistakes in housing benefit have led to overpayments costing £1.4bn**, a jump of 40% in the last three years.

[Employer engagement in England's education system not meaningful: IPPR says](#)

Government should create structure to engage employers in education
Businesses in England should move on from bemoaning the lack of young people's skills and push for 'employer engagement' in education to become meaningful, according to a new report from IPPR published today.

[Association of Colleges response to IPPR report "Avoiding the same old mistakes: Lessons for reform of 14-19 education in England"](#)

In response to IPPR's report "Avoiding the same old mistakes: Lessons for reform of 14-19 education in England" Martin Doel, Chief Executive of the Association of Colleges, said: "Further education colleges are uniquely well placed to take on the role of expanding higher technical, professional and vocational education but to do this there needs to be a two-way street with employers being fully engaged as partners in this work. We must work together continuously to co-create meaningful qualifications for today's fast-changing global skills economy."

[Government unveils plans to build and sell homes on public sector land](#)

The government has unveiled plans that could mean it directly commissions, builds and even sells homes on public sector land.

[Demand for national action to end UK hunger scandal](#)

MPs and peers have made a joint call to set up a new body tasked with eliminating hunger in the UK.

[Council uses cuts to end home help charges](#)

Hammersmith and Fulham Council has announced it is abolishing home care charges for elderly and disabled people. The move will cost the London borough £324,000 in lost income and will be paid for using money saved through cuts to PR, council publications and lamp post banners.

[Debt hotspots report reveals rising council tax arrears](#)

Council tax arrears are now the most common form of debt, according to a report. They now account for around 12% of debt problems reported to Citizens Advice, overtaking credit cards and unsecured loans during the last year.

[Government re-launches Green Deal with £30m boost](#)

The Government is to make a further £30m available to help make homes in England and Wales more energy efficient.

[Air pollution now a 'public health crisis'](#)

Building new schools, hospitals and care homes next to air pollution hotspots should be made illegal to help reduce the tens of thousands of deaths caused by particulate pollution, according to a new report from MPs.

[Cabinet Office spends £12.4m on IT services business case assessment](#)

As part of its IT transformation project, which will include a new official security tier, the CO is building a new enterprise IT service for its official information to replace its legacy service, which is nearing end of its contract with the existing supplier.

4. Consultations

[Consultation on Victim Charter May 2014](#)

Open date: 14/10/2014
Close date: 14/12/2014

[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.

[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.

[NHS Health Check programme: priorities for research](#)

Open date: 20/11/2014
Close date: 19/12/2014

[Proposals to amend regulations relating to the use of capital receipts](#)

Closes 19th December.

[UK Borders Act 2007: sanctions for non-compliance with the biometric registration regulations](#)

Consultation closes on the 23 December 2014.

[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.

[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.

[Next steps to zero carbon homes: small sites exemption](#)

Open date: 18/11/2014

Close date: 07/01/2015

[Department for Work and Pensions](#)

The Occupational Pension Schemes (Levies) (Amendment) Regulations 2015. Closes 9 January.

[Government launches consultation into mandatory reporting of FGM](#)

The Government has launched a consultation seeking views on how best to introduce mandatory reporting of female genital mutilation (FGM). The consultation runs to 12th January 2015.

[Triennial Review of Information Commissioner's Office](#)

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

[Robbery guideline consultation](#)

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

[31st January 2015 - Guidance for healthcare professionals on information sharing](#)

[Consultation on 2015-16 Draft Budget Proposals](#)

Open date: 03/12/2014

Close date: 03/02/2015

[Improving police integrity: reforming the police complaints and disciplinary systems](#)

Consultation seeks views on proposals to reform the police complaints and disciplinary system.

[Consultation on revisions to PACE Codes](#)

Open date: 14/11/2014

Close date: 06/02/2015

[Offences against the person](#)

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

[Use of Expert Witnesses in Courts in NI](#)

Open date: 13/11/2014

Close date: 20/02/2015

[Proposal to extend the power of the Criminal Cases Review Commission](#)

Open date: 01/12/2014

Close date: 27/02/2015

5. Reviews and Inspections

[Greater Manchester Police inspected on child protection](#)

HM Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) has published an inspection report into the child protection work carried out by Greater Manchester Police, following an inspection in July 2014. This is part of a rolling programme of child protection inspections of all police forces in England and Wales.

[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.