



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)

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1. Legislation

[Winsor part 2 changes now effective](#)

The Home Office has published the amendments to the Secretary of State's determinations under the Police Regulations 2003. This follows the Home Secretary's decision to accept the findings of the Police Arbitration Tribunal (PAT) in relation to the Winsor Part 2 Report.

2. Policing and crime key developments

[Extended definition of domestic violence takes effect](#)

With effect from 31st March 2013 the new wider definition of domestic violence will take effect which is expanded to cover more victims. For the first time, young people aged 16 and 17 and coercive control (a pattern of controlling behaviour) will be included.

[Home Office: Ending violence against women and girls: action plan 2013.](#)

Police and Crime Commissioners are now in place and accountable to local communities to cut crime. The new arrangements in the devolved health and care system, including Health and Wellbeing Boards, will be introduced in April 2013. And changes to the way victims' services are commissioned are being established. The latest Action Plan frames central Government activity against this changing delivery landscape, focusing on the areas where central Government can add value: supporting transition to new commissioning arrangements; horizon scanning to identify learning from wider reforms; and supporting and embedding new initiatives and approaches to end violence against women and girls.

[Home Office: Human Trafficking practical guidance.](#)

The International Labour Organization estimates that there are almost 21 million people in forced labour, including forced sexual exploitation. Of those 5.5 million are children. Men, women and children are exploited from all over the world and, in the UK alone potential victims have been identified from over 90 different countries.

[MOJ: Launch of cautions review](#)

A review aimed at stopping serious and repeat offenders from escaping with a caution has been launched.

[New National Standards for youth justice services](#)

These new standards have been launched and apply to those organisations providing statutory youth justice services, including youth offending teams and the secure estate which includes secure children's homes, secure training centres and young offender institutions.

[National survey of needle and syringe programmes](#)

Public Health England, NICE and the National Needle Exchange Forum are carrying out a survey with commissioners and providers.

[Statistics on the police use of firearms in England and Wales 2010 to 2011](#)

The document contains annual information on the number of police force operations for which use of firearms were authorised, and the number of authorised firearms officers between 2002/03 to 2010/11. The latest figures from 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011 show that:

- The number of police operations in which firearms were authorised was 17,209 – a decrease of 1,347 (7%) on the previous year.
- The number of Authorised Firearms Officers (AFO's) was 6,653 – a decrease of 326 (5%) officers overall on the previous year.
- The number of operations involving armed response vehicles was 13,346 – a decrease of 743 (6%) on the previous year.
- The Police discharged a conventional firearm in 3 incidents (down from 6 incidents in 2009-10).

[Demos publication: Policing in an information age](#)

The widespread adoption of social media is changing the way we communicate, and in turn changing the nature of criminal activity and crime prevention. Platforms like Twitter and Facebook allow the police to include the public in law enforcement in new, potentially transformative ways. But they also make these engagements more difficult to control, and open to misuse and reputational damage. They allow the police to gather powerful, recent and possibly decisive intelligence – social media intelligence or 'SOCMINT' - in the interests of public safety. But there is a risk that this will be done in a way that is unsound, unsafe, and radically undermining of public trust.

This paper summarises the key opportunities and difficulties social media presents for engagement, intelligence and enforcement as the technology becomes an inevitable part of 21st Century policing. It also proposes a clear legal framework that police should use when monitoring social media that follows the principles at the heart of the British model of policing: legitimacy, accountability and proportionality.

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

Personal, situational and incidental vulnerabilities to anti-social behaviour harm: a follow up study. This study makes a significant contribution to the evidence base around the impacts of antisocial behaviour (ASB) upon victims and „what works“ in terms of police responses to such problems.

[Home Office](#)

Introduction to counting rules for recorded crime.

[CIPFAstats Timetable 2013/14](#)

The timetable of questionnaires and data releases for the coming year has now been published. You can also see which questionnaires have been published and whether your authority has responded by logging onto CIPFAstats.net and clicking on [questionnaires](#). To check responses click on the [responses button](#).

3. Reports

Adfam: Out of Focus: how families are affected by alcohol use and how they look for help.

Adfam commissioned this scoping study to look at the help seeking behaviour of family members of alcohol misusers. Problematic alcohol use is a serious problem which affects a large number of individuals and their families in the UK: the Government recently estimated that for every 100,000 British people, 3,000 show signs of drink dependence (with another 500 being moderately or severely dependent), 13,000 binge drink and 21,500 regularly drink over the lower-risk limit.

Deputy Prime Minister: Make drunk louts pay their A&E and jail costs

Nick Clegg, said he supported the idea of imposing levies on people who get “blind drunk” and end up in hospital or at a police station. Experts have estimated that around 2 million visits are made to A&E every year for alcohol-related illnesses and injuries.

Risk, bureaucracy and missing persons: An evaluation of a new approach to the initial police response: College of Policing

Three forces piloted a new approach to missing persons for a three month period. While officers were previously required to attend all incidents as the default initial response, the pilot introduced a new risk assessment process and ‘absence’ category. During the pilot, this category of incidents (involving a person who was not where they were expected to be but not thought to be at risk of harm) were to be monitored by police call handlers without officers being deployed immediately.

The evaluation found promising qualitative evidence of the pilot having achieved its primary aim – to make the initial police response to missing persons reports more proportionate to risk. It was thought – as a side benefit – that a more proportionate approach might also help free up police capacity. The evaluation found consistent evidence of the pilot having achieved this secondary aim.

Children’s Commissioner: ‘They go the extra mile’ – Reducing inequality in school exclusions

Last year, the Commissioner published “*They Never Give Up on You*” – the report of the first Inquiry undertaken by the office – into school exclusions. One of the key findings concerned the inequalities present in the children who are excluded from school – either permanently or for a fixed period of time. Simply put, children with special educational needs (SEN), children from low income families, boys, and children from some ethnic groups are much more likely to be excluded. When a child has two or more of these characteristics, the differences in exclusions rates can be enormous.

Department for Communities and Local Government

Council tax levels set by local authorities in England: 2013-2014

[Joseph Rowntree Foundation](#): Paper on the impact of localising council tax benefit
Changes to Council Tax benefits will affect poorer households and create inconsistencies in neighbouring areas. Multiple schemes will add complexity and reduce transparency.

[Home Office and DCLG to share Whitehall offices](#)

In 2014 DCLG will move to the Home Office headquarters at Marsham Street.

[Drive to get more social tenants online](#)

Landlords can bid for a share of £400k from the Government as part of Digital Deal to get more social tenants on line and share the benefits of digital living.

[£9.5m crackdown on social housing cheats](#)

62 councils will benefit from a share of this fund to bolster their activity to crack down on social housing fraud and ensure homes go to those who most need them. [The list](#) does not include Nottingham or Nottinghamshire.

[Third Sector Research Council](#): What the public think of the Big Society

Based on 100 written responses to a Mass Observation Archive directive commissioned by the Third Sector Research Centre, this paper explores individuals' awareness of, and feelings around, the concept of 'Big Society'.

[Revitalising green management systems](#)

Environmental management systems and standards have grown in stature in the 20 years since the ISO 14001 was introduced, says BSI.

The National Institute of Economic and Social Research has estimated that the UK economy grew by 0.1 per cent in the 3 months leading up to March, allaying fears of a triple-dip recession.

The Office for National Statistics has also reported a 0.8 per cent increase in factory output between January and February ([Telegraph](#); [Guardian](#)).

The new dual system of finance regulation will see regulatory fees payable by firms reaching £646.3 million this year, a rise of 15 per cent compared to last year.

The Financial Conduct Authority, to whom £432.1 million of fees will be payable, has said: "The FCA is fully committed to improving the value for money of the services it provides to stakeholders" ([Times](#); [City A.M.](#)).

[Highly-qualified apprentices 'more valuable' than graduates](#)

Apprentices who have done the highest, degree-level apprenticeship are more desirable to employers than people with standard university degrees, new research suggests. In a survey of 500 firms commissioned by BIS and conducted by ICM, in which potential employees were 'rated' out of 10, degree-level apprenticeships scored the highest with 7.98, above normal university graduates on 7.58.

4. Consultations

[Improving the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime](#)

The Government have launched a consultation which sets out their plans to reform the Victims' Code to give them clearer entitlements from criminal justice agencies and better tailor the service to individual need. The consultation runs until 10th May 2013.

Protection of Freedoms Act 2012

The Government has launched a consultation on the draft statutory guidance that will permit the police and other law enforcement agencies to extend the period of retention of DNA and fingerprints for the purposes of national security. The consultation runs until 20th May 2013.

New Enquiry: Crime reduction policies: A co-ordinated approach

The Justice Select Committee has decided to hold an inquiry into crime reduction policies and is inviting online submissions on a number of issues surrounding the Government's approach to crime reduction covering:

- To what extent is the approach taken cross-departmental?
- How are resources for such policies—from within and outside the criminal justice system—allocated and targeted?
- How reliable is the evidence on which these policies are based?
- What impact have recent spending reductions had on the implementation of crime reduction policies?
- What impact has there been on the way in which resources for crime reduction are channelled at local level?
- What contribution do existing sentencing, prison and probation policies make to the reduction of crime?
- How cost-effective and sustainable are the Government's strategies for punishment and reform and their proposals for transforming rehabilitation?

The Committee invites written submissions on these issues by noon on Friday 17 May 2013.

Sentencing guidelines for environmental offences

The Council is consulting on a new guideline for environmental offences and would welcome the views of those who are affected by, or concerned with, this type of offending. The consultation is seeking views on:

- the principal factors that make an environmental offence more or less serious;
- the additional factors that should influence the sentence;
- the sentences that should be given for environmental offences; and
- anything else you think should be considered.

The consultation will run from 14 March 2013 to 6 June 2013 and hopes both criminal justice professionals and the general public will respond.