



## 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

Her Majesty's speech to both Houses of Parliament at the State Opening of Parliament 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

*This legislation will strengthen the ability of law enforcement agencies to disrupt serious and organised crime and strengthen and update laws to protect vulnerable individuals at risk of child cruelty, sexual exploitation and female genital mutilation*

Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Bill

- Social Action, Responsibility and Heroism Bill

The following Bills will be published in draft:

- 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.

## [Changes to the Firearms Act 1968](#)

The changes made by Provisions 108-111 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 will commence on 14th July 2014.

## [Offender Rehabilitation Act 2014](#)

It provides many of the measures which underpin the Transforming Rehabilitation programme.

## [Dangerous dogs:owners face tougher sentences for attacks](#)

The changes to the Dangerous Dogs Act came into force on 13th May.

## [SI 2014 /1237 The Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 \(Codes of Practice\) \(Revisions to Codes C and H\) Order 2014](#)

This Order brings into force two revised codes of practice under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, which will supersede the corresponding existing codes of practice.

## [Revised Draft Code of Practice Published: Schedule 7 Terrorism Act 2000](#)

The Home Office has issued a Revised draft Code of Practice in relation to Schedule 7 to the Terrorism Act 2000 and is currently analysing feedback from a recent consultation on the draft Code.

## 2. Strategic policing and crime news

### [Home Office: New offence of police corruption.](#)

It would cover cases in which a police officer acts improperly with a view to obtaining an advantage for themselves or someone else – or causing some form of detriment to someone else. It would also be used when an officer “fails to act” for a corrupt purpose, for example if they know a suspect did not commit a particular crime but hide that knowledge because they have a relationship with the guilty party. It says it would also apply when an officer threatens to do something, or not do something, for an improper purpose. The new offence would carry a maximum sentence of 14 years’ imprisonment. It would supplement the existing offence of misconduct in public office and is being brought forward as an amendment to the Criminal Justice and Courts Bill.

## **Ban on NBOMe and benzofurans comes into force**

Drugs order also controls tramadol as a Class C substance and upgrades ketamine to Class B. NBOMe compounds are highly potent hallucinogens similar to LSD, with side effects including increased heart rate, high blood pressure and paranoia.

## **A new poster campaign ahead of the start of the 2014 World Cup directs young men to Respect's Phoneline for advice and support**

The Home Secretary has launched a new campaign ahead of the start of the 2014 World Cup, urging young men to think about the devastating consequences of domestic abuse. Posters are going up in hundreds of male toilets across pubs and bars in England, and digital adverts are also featuring on the Sky Sports website and app.

## **Crown Prosecution Service and Police announce new measures to tackle rape**

A new national rape action plan has been published that sets out a commitment to addressing the issues preventing rape cases from successfully progressing through the criminal justice system.

## **Game of Fraud**

Crimestoppers has launched its Game of Fraud to educate the public about potential scams

## **National investigation into child suicide launched**

The University of Manchester is setting up the first investigation into suicide in children and young people. This investigation will examine causes and recommend prevention strategies

## **New campaign to tackle female genital mutilation**

A new campaign from the Home Office calls on mothers and carers to end Female Genital Mutilation with advice and support for communities

## **3. Developments and reports**

### **Reform research programme: "How to run a country".**

two former Cabinet Secretaries called for a full inquiry into "government" and not just the Civil Service, including the role of ministers and Parliament. On Thursday, *Reform* launched a major programme of work on "How to run a country" generate ideas for comprehensive reform of public governance.

### **Home Office**

Crime against businesses: detailed findings from the 2013 Commercial Victimisation Survey.

### **Charity to provide specialist support for child victims of trafficking**

Barnardo's are to deliver trials of new child advocates for victims of human trafficking in a pilot funded by the Home Office.

### **NHS and councils need multi-year funding settlements – LGA**

Local Government Association (LGA) chief executive Carolyn Downs has backed NHS Confederation calls for a long-term, multi-year funding settlement for the health service – and said local government should get one too.

## **Hackers are holding the world to ransom: Cyber attacks cost the global economy more than £328 billion a year, claims report**

A security report by McAfee, and comes in the wake of Operation Tovar, which disrupted the viruses that led to the National Crime Agency issuing a two-week alert.

## **Welfare reforms making food poverty worse – charities**

More than 20 million meals were given out by food banks and food aid charities in the last year, a 54% increase on the previous 12 months, according to a new report.

## **Ofsted to publish reports on 'Trojan Horse' schools**

Ofsted will publish reports later today triggered by an alleged operation by Muslim fundamentalists to "take over" state schools in Birmingham.

## **Empty homes figures rising in a third of local authorities**

In more than a third of English council areas the number of homes that have been empty for more than six months is on the rise, according to new analysis from the charity Empty Homes Agency.

## **Councils could help 95% of young people into work or learning says LGA**

Almost all young people could either be in work or learning by 2020 if local authorities were able to lead on youth employment schemes, council leaders pledged today.

The Local Government Association, which represents over 370 councils in England and Wales, is warning that without a complete overhaul of the Government's approach to youth services, hundreds of thousands of young people could miss out on the chance to get into education or employment. Currently almost 800,000 young people across England are not in any employment, education or training (NEET).

## **Barnardo's: on the Outside:**

Identifying and supporting children with a parent in prison.

## **Equality and Human Rights Commission**

Human Rights: Human Lives - A Guide to the Human Rights Act for Public Authorities.

## **Home Office**

Violence against women and girls - communications insight pack.

## **Public Health England**

Khat - advice for local commissioners

## **Public Health England**

The role of addiction specialist doctors in recovery orientated treatment systems

## **Third Sector Research Centre**

Public sector commissioning of local mental health services from the third sector.

## **4. Consultations**

## **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.

## **Tax-Free Childcare: consultation on childcare account provision**

The consultation seeks views on options for the government to deliver Tax-Free Childcare itself, through National Savings and Investments (NS&I), or within HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC). This will mean all interested parties will have had an opportunity to comment on all of the options for account provision across public and private sectors. The government will consider responses to this consultation alongside the response to the previous consultation before it makes its final decision on the provision of childcare accounts. The consultation closes on 27 June 2014.

Read the [consultation on the implementation of the Tax-Free Childcare scheme](#) published in August 2013.

Read the [government's response](#) to the August consultation which set out details on the design of Tax-Free Childcare.

## **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.

## **Banning the sale of alcohol below the cost of duty plus VAT**

The Home Office has published guidance for suppliers of alcohol and local authorities in England and Wales for banning the sale of alcohol below the cost of duty plus VAT

## **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.

**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>.

## **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.

## 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.

## 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 – 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.