



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 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

[SI 2013/2907 The Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 \(Victims' Code of Practice\) Order 2013](#)

This Order brings the revised code of practice entitled 'The Code of Practice for Victims of Crime' into operation on **10 December 2013**. The revised code of practice replaces the code of practice that was brought into operation on 3 April 2006 by SI 2006/629. PCCs are 'service providers' and therefore signpost victims to the relevant pages of the GOV.UK website.

[SI 2013 No. 2319 The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 \(Transitional Provision\) Order 2013](#)

[Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill](#)

[Offender Rehabilitation Bill](#) - Report, together with formal minutes.

[Immigration Bill - amendments to be considered at remaining stages](#)

[The Police \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013](#) - These Regulations amend the Police Regulations 2003 to implement recommendations 3, 16, 17 and 18 of the Independent Review of Police Officer and Staff Remuneration and Conditions: Final Report.

[Circular 016/2013. Firearms \(Amendment\) Rules 2013 and Firearms](#)

[\(Amendment\)\(No.2\) Rules 2013](#) - This circular advises recipients that the provisions as indicated in the Firearms (Amendment) Rules 2013 and the Firearms (Amendment) (No. 2) Rules 2013 can now be used.

[European Commission's proposals on Eurojust and the European Public Prosecutor's Office](#) - The government has decided not to opt in to the European Commission's proposal for a Regulation on the European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Co-operation (Eurojust)

at this time. The government will, however, conduct a thorough review of the final agreed text to inform active consideration of opting into the Eurojust Regulation post adoption.

[Attorney General and the Lord Chief Justice issue revised guidance to the legal profession on disclosure](#)

The Attorney General, Dominic Grieve QC MP and the Lord Chief Justice for England and Wales the Lord Thomas have published a revised judicial protocol and revised guidance on the disclosure of unused material in criminal cases.

[PM taskforce recommends new powers to tackle extremism.](#)

New measures to tackle extremism and radicalisation across the UK have been proposed by the Prime Minister's Extremism Taskforce.

[Judicial protocol on the disclosure of unused material in criminal cases](#) - The Lord Chief Justice has issued a new protocol on the disclosure of unused material in criminal cases. It is intended to complement the new guidance produced by the Attorney General, and the two documents should be read together.

[Draft tax legislation published in Finance Bill 2014](#)

2. Policing and crime key developments

[Government response to the Electoral Commission reports on the 2012 PCC elections](#)

Police and Crime Commissioner elections in England and Wales: report on the administration of the elections held on 15 November 2012 and 2012 Police and Crime Commissioner elections spending report November 2013.

[PCCs collaborate to combat violence against women](#)

Three north east PCCs have coordinated to provide the region with a comprehensive strategy to tackle violence against women and girls.

[Victims put first in the criminal justice system](#) - People who fall prey to criminals will now receive more support than ever before to help bring offenders to justice and move on with their lives, Justice Secretary Chris Grayling has announced.

[Leaflet for victims reporting a crime](#) - A leaflet for police forces to give to victims of crime setting out what they can expect from the criminal justice system.

[The code of practice for victims of crime and supporting public information materials](#) -

Code of practice governing services to be provided in England and Wales to victims of criminal conduct which occurred in England and Wales.

[Leadership and standards in the police – Follow up: Volume 1](#). Home Affairs Committee Report.

[Leadership and standards in the police – Follow up: Volume 2](#). Home Affairs Committee Report.

[Surrey and Sussex police forces to merge more services.](#)

Two police forces looking at ways to merge services in a bid to modernise and make savings are appointing a "head of change" to oversee the process.

[Why foreign criminals get softer sentences.](#)

Foreign criminals are ending up with shorter jail terms than British offenders because police are failing to carry out adequate background checks, a former intelligence chief has warned.

[A call for an honest debate on rape](#)

Deputy Assistant Commissioner Martin Hewitt, the national lead for adult sexual offences, has called for an open and honest debate about the criminal justice process in rape cases.

[Police operations to remove 'legal highs' from the streets](#)

Police, National Crime Agency (NCA), Border Force, Her Majesty's Prisons and Trading Standards have taken part in a week of enforcement on new psychoactive substances (NPS) – so called legal highs – from 25 November to 1 December.

[Proposals to reform court fees](#)

The Ministry of Justice is consulting on plans to reform the civil court fees. The consultation closes on 21st January 2014.

[Westminster Hall debate on Road Safety](#)

[Written statement on Drugs policy](#)

[Written statement on City Deals](#)

[Met chief calls for shake-up to tackle FGM.](#)

Scotland Yard chief Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe has called for an overhaul of the "whole system" for combating female genital mutilation.

['Prosecute jurors for internet research on their cases'](#)

The call comes after a number of jurors have been jailed for using the internet to supplement the evidence presented to them in court. It has been welcomed by the Attorney.

[Police crackdown on pirate site ads.](#)

Websites illegally hosting copyrighted content have been targeted by City of London Police.

[Police information review 'will improve data accuracy'.](#)

In a wide-ranging review, an overhaul of information management in the Police Service is being carried out - which will examine the quality of information held by forces locally as well as on systems such as the Police National Database.

[Approval given for agreement on EU funding for police cooperation](#)

The EU Permanent Representatives Committee (COREPER II), meeting in Brussels today, has approved the agreement with the European Parliament on the Regulation for the Internal Security Fund which sets out the funding guidelines in the new financial period of 2014–2020 for the financial support for police cooperation, preventing and combating crime and crisis management.

[Policing specialisms: Major collaboration deal agreed.](#)

Three forces have confirmed a major collaboration deal covering a raft of operational policing specialisms and support services. The tri-force agreement is between Bedfordshire Police, Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

[Ketamine 'should be upgraded to Class B'](#)

The Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs said new evidence had shown frequent ketamine use could cause "severe and disabling" bladder damage.

[New definitive guideline for sexual offences launched](#) – The Sentencing Council is publishing a new guideline for judges and magistrates on the sentencing of sexual offences. The new guideline, which has been issued following a public consultation, will come into effect on 1st April 2014.

[Serco and G4S Stripped of criminal electronic tagging contract.](#)

Rival firm Capital is to take over the contracts on an interim basis at the end of the financial year after the two firms were found to be overcharging the taxpayer.

3. Reports

[Drug strategy annual review: 2012 to 2013](#) - The second annual review of the drug strategy, 'Delivering within a new landscape', updates progress on the 3 strands of the strategy since May 2012.

[Forced marriage](#) – Information and practice guidelines for professionals protecting, advising and supporting victims.

[ECPAT UK urges MPs to put children at the heart of the Modern Slavery Bill](#) - The protection of child victims of trafficking should be a priority for MPs who are due to debate the Modern Slavery Bill in the House of Commons.

[Stop Press](#) – Latest edition. The quarterly Stop it Now! newsletter packed with news and updates from child abuse prevention campaign Stop it Now! UK and Ireland.

[Black Community Encouraged to become Police Officers](#)

THE METROPOLITAN Police Service is currently undertaking a comprehensive recruitment programme aimed at recruiting 5000 new officers by 2015. An essential component of the Mayor's vision for the MPS is that their officers and staff should reflect the city it serves.

[Further police scandals will 'dent public trust'](#)

Researcher warns that the "drip effect" of individual police scandals could result in a decline of public confidence.

[Rape referrals drop: Eight forces to be examined](#)

A major piece of research aims to give the Police Service a better understanding of why the number of rape cases referred to prosecutors has hit a five-year low – despite reporting and convictions of the crime being at their highest ever levels.

[Celebrities star in Home Office adverts to highlight teen relationship abuse](#)

Hollyoaks actors and boyband The Wanted star in new television adverts to support teenage

relationship campaign This is Abuse.

[New CAADA research to evaluate outcomes of the IDVA/MARAC model](#)

The outcomes of MARAC cases receiving IDVA support are to be explored in a pioneering new study. The project will follow the outcomes of families (including victims, perpetrators and any associated children) discussed at MARAC, with the aim of establishing how families are supported and whether their use of services – including the police, health and children's services – changes following IDVA/MARAC support.

[New Probation Institute to be established](#)

The Probation Institute will be an independent 'centre of excellence' for the rehabilitation sector. Once established, it will support professional development for all those who are managing offenders in the community.

[Department for Communities and Local Government](#)

Statutory homelessness - July - September 2013.

[Public Health England](#)

Substance Misuse among young people in England 2012-2013.

[Alcohol Academy](#)

Clarifying alcohol brief interventions: 2013 update.

[Alcohol Research UK](#)

Steps to Cope: A brief intervention for children and young people (CYP) living with parental substance misuse and/or parental mental health problems.

[Demos](#)

Irrational Optimists: The economic downturn has exposed pre-existing financial vulnerabilities in households across Britain.....

[Department for Health](#)

Behaviour management and reducing offending by children placed in children's homes.

[Equality and Human Rights Commission](#)

An Experimental Analysis of Examinations and Detentions under Schedule 7 of the Terrorism Act 2000.

[Home Office](#)

DBS - List of offences that will never be filtered from DBS checks.

[Home Office](#)

Tackling extremism in the UK - report from the Extremism Task Force.

[Home Office](#)

This is abuse - Discussion guide, help with using this campaign.

[Joseph Rowntree Foundation](#)

Monitoring poverty and social exclusion 2013.

[Ministry of Justice](#)

Accommodation, homelessness and reoffending of prisoners: Results from the Surveying Prisoner Crime Reduction (SPCR) survey.

[Ministry of Justice](#)

Local Commissioning of Victims' services - guidance for Police and Crime Commissioners.

[National Audit Office](#)

Programmes to help families facing multiple challenges.

[National Institute for Health Research](#)

The TARA Project: A longitudinal study of the service needs of homeless women.

[Transition Institute](#)

Social Value: A Commissioning Framework.

The Work and Pensions Secretary, Iain Duncan Smith MP, has admitted that the Universal Credit IT system is not suitable for the data of families or couples claiming benefits. Mr Duncan Smith also said that £91 million of software would be made defunct over the next five years as Universal Credit moved to a digital system ([FT](#); [Telegraph](#); [Guardian](#)).

The Border Force is “neglecting its duties” due to obsolete IT systems, according to the Public Accounts Committee. Margaret Hodge, Chair of the Committee, said “the Border Force prioritised passenger checks on arrival at the expense of other duties and weakened the security of our borders” ([Telegraph](#); [Mail](#); [Express](#); [BBC Online](#)).

Public Accounts Committee report - The Border Force: securing the border

The Border Force has a key national security role in helping to secure our border, but it still faces a range of important challenges.

[Crime Lords slip into Britain by private planes](#)

Labour MP Margaret Hodge made her waning in a damning report on staff shortages at our borders and huge gaps in data.

[Government announces billion pound boost for high street](#)

Communities Secretary Eric Pickles outlined the plan to make it easier for all the shops in Britain's high streets to grow, expand and take people on.

[NAO report: Managing the prison estate](#)

The current strategy for the prison estate in England and Wales has provided good quality accommodation, suitable for decades to come for prisoners with a wide range of security categorizations. The strategy is also a significant improvement in value for money over the short-term and reactive approaches of the early and middle 2000s.

[NAO reports on local growth mechanisms](#)

Not yet been demonstrated that Local Enterprise Partnerships, Enterprise Zones and City Deals, and funding mechanisms for supporting local economic growth, such as the Regional Growth Fund, are capable of delivering value for money.

[£375bn earmarked for new infrastructure investment](#)

The new government plan sets out investment for energy, transport, flood defence, waste, water and communications infrastructure up to 2030 and beyond with 6 major insurers announcing plans to collectively invest £25bn in UK infrastructure over the next five years.

New data from the Office of National Statistics (ONS) suggests the number of people in the UK aged over 65 is increasing, leading to worries of an overstretched pensions system. The ONS data finds that the number of over-65s is currently increasing by one percent every four years ([FT](#); [Mail](#)).

[Romanians arrested at seven times rate of Britons: 800 held in London last month](#)

Romanians are being arrested in London at seven times the rate of Britons, it was revealed yesterday.

[Ending gang and youth violence: Review 2012 – 2013](#) - This review supplements findings presented in the ending gang and youth violence annual report 2013. Overall, the first year of the ending gang and youth violence programme was considered to be a success by the local priority areas, and reported benefits of the programme were accompanied by continued falls in police recorded youth violence. There were also lessons for the future, which are described in the review.

[Improved benefit test for migrants launched](#)

As part of the Government's long-term economic plan, a new, stronger, more robust test for migrants who want to claim income-related benefits is being rolled out to Jobcentres across England, Scotland and Wales this week.

[Now you can be an incorrigible rogue: 309 crimes are removed from law books.](#)

The offence, which came in under the Vagrancy Act 1824, is one of 309 to be repealed or removed from the statute book in the year to May. This is compared to 201 offences repealed in the previous 12 month period.

[Thousands of children aged 10-12 arrested for violent attacks, rape and firearms offences.](#)

[HMIC 'slow' to take up crime recording.](#)

[Experience drain could 'damage' policing standards.](#)

4. Consultations

[Data sharing between public bodies](#)

The Law Commission has published a consultation paper on the subject of data sharing between public bodies. The consultation will run until 16th December 2013.

[Environment Agency Charges Consultation for 2014](#)

This consultation sets out our charging proposals for our Environmental Permitting, Abstraction and EU Emissions Trading Schemes. The consultation will run until 20 December 2013.

[Rents for social housing from 2015 to 2016](#)

The Government has launched a consultation into proposed changes to rent policy for social housing, to apply from April 2015 onwards. The consultation will run until 24th December 2013.

[Competition and Markets Authority: vision, values and strategy](#)

This consultation sets out the Competition and Market Authority (CMA's) proposed: Vision, strategy and values. This was opened on the 1 October and is due to take full effect by 1 April 2014

[Legislative Reform Order: Changes to entertainment licensing](#)

This consultation is about implementing reforms to entertainment licensing via a Legislative Reform Order. It sets out proposals to amend the [Licensing Act 2003](#) so that certain entertainment activities in defined circumstances no longer require a licence before they can take place. The consultation closes on 17 December 2013.

Government ministers have announced a public consultation to decide on pension scheme charges, expected to cap management fees charged by pension providers at around 0.75 per cent.

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury, Sajid Javid MP, said the plans would ensure "someone's saving will deliver the biggest possible returns and not be eaten away at by a variety of charges and fees" ([F.T.](#); [Telegraph](#); [Times](#); [Mail](#); [Mirror](#); [BBC Online](#); [City A.M.](#)).

[Ministry of Justice Consultation on Transforming Management of Young Offenders](#)

The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) has today launched a consultation into proposals on changes to the way young adult offenders are managed in custody and access support and services to reduce their reoffending. Consultation closes 13 December.

[Transforming management of young adults in custody](#) - The Government believes that the context in which young adults are managed in custody has changed and therefore is proposing a new approach to managing young adults that takes into account the challenges of this age group as well as ensuring they benefit from wider reforms. The consultation closes on 19th December.

[24th December 2013 - Rents for social housing](#)

[New statutory powers for the Forensic Science Regulator](#) - The Government has launched a consultation seeking views on whether new powers should be given to the Forensic Science Regulator. The consultation runs until 3rd January 2014.

[Consultation on out of court disposals](#)

The Government has launched a consultation that sets out the current OOCd landscape and invites practitioners and the public to share their thoughts about how they should be reformed. The consultation runs until 9th January 2014.

[Review of UK and EU balance of competences: call for evidence on social and employment policy](#)

The government is carrying out a review of the balance of competences between the UK and the EU. The review will provide an analysis of what the EU does and how it affects the UK. The [Review of the balance of competencies detailed guide](#) provides full details of the review programme. Consultation closes 17 January 2014.

The Home Office have outlined plans to allow holidaymakers and business travellers to pay to skip passport queues when entering the UK. The proposal is part of a consultation paper which aims to cover the costs of the UK Border Force, using the income from passengers to help fund the UK's immigration system ([Telegraph](#); [Mail](#)).

[Local authority parking strategies](#)

The Government has launched a consultation in which it invites views on local authority parking strategies and government options for parking enforcement. The consultation is open until 14th February 2014.

The Public Accounts Committee has revealed that up to £55 billion a year is being lost to the taxpayer due to fraud, error and unpaid taxes. The Committee called on the Treasury to develop a strategy for tackling fraud through the public sector ([Times](#); [Mirror](#); [BBC Online](#)).

[Government approves low-level lights to boost cyclists' safety](#)

More than 80% of cyclists favoured the use of low-level signals during the track-based trials of the system, which works by repeating the signal displayed on main traffic lights at the eye level of cyclists.

5. Reviews and Inspections

[Making best use of police time](#) - As part of the HMIC Business Plan for 2013/14, it was agreed that HMIC would undertake work to assess the effectiveness of certain aspects of policing activity. Data and document collection has begun.

[Terms of reference for the investigation into the conduct of three Police Federation representatives](#) - Following this incident on 12 October 2012 Mr Mitchell attended a meeting with three Police Federation representatives: Inspector Ken MacKaill of West Mercia Constabulary, Detective Sergeant (DS) Stuart Hinton of Warwickshire Police and Sergeant (PS) Chris Jones of West Midlands Police at his constituency offices in Sutton Coldfield. Immediately after the meeting Inspector MacKaill gave a statement to the media in which he said that Mr Mitchell had "refused to elaborate" on the events of 19 September and that he should therefore resign.

HMIC: Crime Data Integrity Inspection

This inspection covers three stages to begin in December 2013.

[HMIC: Value for Money Profiles](#)

Profiles for forces and local policing bodies to assist in making budget decisions.

[HMIC Published: Working Together](#). A review of the arrangements for collaboration between the five East Midlands police forces, commissioned by the police and crime commissioners in the region has been published.

[Her Majesty's Inspector of Probation](#): Published Victim Contact: An inspection of the Victim Contact Arrangements in Probation Trusts.

[HMIC published findings from an inspection of South Yorkshire Police's response to child sexual exploitation](#). This inspection was commissioned by the PCC for South Yorkshire.

[Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary's \(HMIC\) approach to monitoring forces – An overview for the public, forces and local policing bodies](#)

Her Majesty's Inspectors of Constabulary (HMIs) routinely monitor the performance of all police forces to identify apparent issues for closer scrutiny, ensure emerging problems with efficiency and effectiveness are spotted quickly, and problems are resolved quickly with Chief Constables and local policing bodies.

[HMIC: Domestic Violence](#): On 9 September, the Home Secretary commissioned HMIC to look at the effectiveness of the police response to cases of domestic violence and abuse. Started for Nottinghamshire on the 4 November. This is a Home Secretary commissioned Thematic due to be completed by April 2014.

CJJI: Child Protection Arrangements. In June 2013, the HMIC Board agreed a series of child sexual exploitation related inspections to be conducted over the next three years.

HMIC: National Thematic Review – Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR). The scope of the inspection is subject to further development but the focus is in the prevention of crime.

CJJI: National, Thematic Review: Road Traffic Offences Involving Fatalities

In the light of continuing concern about traffic offences involving fatalities, despite the introduction of new offences in 2008, the review will analyse and assess the quality of police/CPS investigation and prosecution of such cases, and the progress made by the CPS following HMCPSP's 2008 review, establish good practice and make recommendations for positive change. Inspection in 2013/14.

CJJI Inspection: Integrated Offender Management (IOM)

IOM provides an overarching framework for agencies to prioritise interventions with offenders of greatest concern in their locality. This inspection is intended to assist in assessing the impact of IOM and disseminating good practice.

HMCPSP Inspection: Statutory Charging

The previous joint report in 2008 highlighted a number of concerns over the efficiency of the operation of the statutory charging scheme (whereby the CPS took over the responsibility from the police for determining whether an alleged offender should be charged in the more serious or contested cases, by virtue of the Criminal Justice Act 2003). With changes in the landscape implemented in 2010–11 and 2012–13, this follow-up was postponed to 2013-14.

HMIC: Crime Data Integrity. This inspection will examine the effectiveness of the police in dealing with reports of crime by members of the public. The scope is subject to development but is likely to build on the findings of HMIC's previous inspections in this area. Scoping work will include consultation with the Crime Statistics Advisory Committee.

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

Police Custody: Good practice examples.