



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

Modern slavery white paper published - A flagship Bill to tackle modern slavery, the first of its kind in Europe, has been published by the Home Secretary Theresa May.

Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act - The Bill received Royal Assent on 13 March. It contains a variety of provisions of significant note to Police and Crime Commissioners, including:

The Legislation slims down the existing 19 powers to tackle ASB to six new powers.

- Of these new powers, the Injunction to Prevent Nuisance and Annoyance (IPNA), is intended to nip emerging Anti-Social Behaviour in the bud and therefore uses the lower civil law standard of proof on the balance of probabilities – a feature which was the focus of some debate during the Bill's progress through Parliament.
- The IPNA also uses a different evidential test – *conduct capable of causing nuisance and annoyance* – from that in the other five powers where the test relates to *behaviour that has caused or is likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress*.

In addition to the six new powers, the Act introduces two new measures to tackle ASB: the Community Remedy; and, the Community Trigger.

- The Community Trigger gives victims and communities a right to request a review of a case and bring agencies together to provide a joined-up response. A summary report of the initial pilots can be found [here](#) with further assessment of each use of a trigger [here](#). The PCC must be consulted in establishing the Trigger procedure and any time the procedure is reviewed. PCCs may also wish to consider an ongoing oversight role.
- The Community Remedy gives victims a say in out of court punishment for offenders in incidents involving low-level crime and Anti-Social Behaviour. There is a duty on the PCC to consult the public and community representatives in establishing the content of the Community Remedy document which must also be published. It is anticipated

that a Community Remedy process will be established by Autumn 2014 in every area, with consultation and publication complete.

Police and Crime Commissioners will play a key role in convening agencies to build these measures locally, and in designing what they may include.

This is also the Act which widens the commissioning powers available to PCCs, including those that PCCs will be able to use in their victims' commissioning from October 2014 and further defines the role of the College of Policing.

The Act additionally includes provisions on extradition, forced marriage, firearms and dangerous dogs.

Offender Rehabilitation Bill – Received Royal Assent.

The Offender Rehabilitation Bill today received Royal Assent. It provides many of the measures which underpin the Transforming Rehabilitation programme, including:

- provisions to provide rehabilitative services to offenders sentenced to short term sentences
- new drug requirements expanding post-release or community based drug testing
- a new Rehabilitation Activity Requirement providing greater flexibility to new rehabilitative service providers to develop innovative rehabilitative approaches, and,
- requiring specific provision to be in place to meet the needs of female offenders.

Immigration Bill - amendments to be considered at remaining stages

Children and Families Act 2014 receives Royal Assent

The new Children and Families Act - given royal assent today - will mean changes to the law to give greater protection to vulnerable children, better support for children whose parents are separating, a new system to help children with special educational needs and disabilities, and help for parents to balance work and family life.

International Development (Gender Equality) Act

Received Royal Assent to promote gender equality in the provision by the Government of development assistance and humanitarian assistance to countries outside the United Kingdom; and for connected purposes.

Counter-terrorism Bill Committee Stage Report - This paper has been published for the Report Stage debate on the Counter-Terrorism Bill. The bill is wide-ranging but the most contentious provisions relate to pre-charge detention, post charge questioning and inquests and inquiries.

Criminal Justice and Courts Bill - The Criminal Justice and Courts Bill second reading is on the 24th February.

Pensions Bill: Amendments to be moved on Report

SI 2014 No. 239 The Police Act 1997 (Criminal records) (Amendment) Regulations 2014

This statutory instrument was laid before Parliament on 13 February and comes into force on 10 March. It concerns fees for criminal conviction certificates.

MEPs tighten up rules to protect personal data in the digital era

MEPs inserted stronger safeguards for EU citizens' personal data that gets transferred to non-EU countries in a major overhaul of the EU's data protection laws voted on Wednesday. The new rules aim both to give people more control over their personal data and to make it easier for firms to work across borders, by ensuring that the same rules apply in all EU member states. MEPs also increased the fines to be imposed on firms that break the rules, to up to €100 million or 5% of global turnover.

2. Policing and crime key developments

Leicestershire Police and Crime Commissioner

Sir Clive Loader is going to court to challenge plans to build thousands of homes, claiming his force will struggle to provide policing to the new development.

Most officers can be trusted, says Sir Hugh

President of the [Association of Chief Police Officers](#) Sir Hugh Orde has reassured the public regarding the integrity of "the overwhelming majority" of police officers, after a difficult period for the Service.

Chief argues collective reputation is one of the service's most valuable assets and suggests a more professional approach is key to maintaining it.

Further professionalisation of the Police Service is needed to maintain its reputation and meet constantly shifting public expectations placed on it, a senior officer has suggested. Thames Valley Police Chief Constable Sara Thornton.

All the world's a stage

Professor Colin Rogers discusses why officers need to remember that they are always 'front stage':

IPCC: Cleveland under Sean Price like 'a medieval fiefdom'

The Independent Police Complaints Commission has commented on the CPS's decision not to prosecute following a criminal investigation into allegations of corruption at Cleveland Police under former chief constable Sean Price.

ACPO back domestic violence law launched on International Women's Day

A scheme which allows people to discover if their partner has a history of domestic violence has been introduced in England and Wales to coincide with [International Women's Day](#).

Theresa May statement on Justice and Home Affairs Council

The Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) Council was held on 3 and 4 March in Brussels. My Rt Hon Friend the Secretary of State for Justice (Chris Grayling MP) and I attended on behalf of the United Kingdom, The Lord Advocate, [Frank Mulholland](#) attended on behalf of the Scottish administration.

Clare Fraser, Researcher at Reform, wrote a feature for *Public Finance* last Friday on the future of Police and Crime Commissioners. Clare argued that as budgets continue to tighten, PCCs must continue to do and deliver more, though the easy gains may already have been made ([Public Finance](#)).

Written statement on the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill: Schedule 7

The Minister for Immigration and Security (James Brokenshire): Schedule 7 to the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill provides for new powers to search for and seize invalid travel documents, including cancelled passports, for police officers, immigration officers and designated customs officials. Subject to parliamentary approval, the bill is expected to receive Royal Assent shortly. The Schedule 7 provisions will commence the day after Royal Assent.

State Opening of Parliament

It has been announced that the Queen will open the final session of this Parliament on Tuesday June 3rd 2014.

Oral statement by Home Secretary Theresa May on The Ellison Review

In July 2012 Mark Ellison QC was commissioned to conduct a review examining allegations of corruption surrounding the initial, deeply flawed, investigation of the murder of Stephen Lawrence. Mr Ellison was also asked to examine whether the Metropolitan Police had evidence of corruption that it did not disclose to the Macpherson Inquiry.

Karen Bradley speech on e-crime

New minister with responsibility for Modern Slavery and Organised Crime in the Home Office. In 2011, CISCO estimated that the Internet connected over 10.3 billion processes, sources of data and 'things'. By 2020, CISCO stated that this has the potential to reach 50 billion .

Improvement and Efficiency award presented to Essex and Kent for pioneering service delivery at a lower cost.

Two forces that collaborate extensively have received an accolade in recognition of their efforts to improve the delivery of their service while making time and cost savings. Essex and Kent were presented with Police Project of the Year 2014 award.

3. Reports

Francis Maude launches Cyber Security Challenge Masterclass 2014

[Francis Maude](#), Cabinet Office Minister with responsibility for the UK Cyber Security Strategy, is to give the keynote speech (attached, under embargo) at the opening event for the Cyber Security Challenge Masterclass competition.

The 'cause' of disability hate crime within the UK - part 2

In part two of this guest blog, Lancaster University PhD research student Paul Dodenhoff discusses a theoretical framework of disability hate crime focusing on the individual.

Ministry of Justice

Victims of Human Trafficking and the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme.

European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights

Violence against women: an EU wide survey - Main results report.

Clare's Law rolled out nationally on International Women's Day

Clare's Law – a scheme allowing police to disclose details of an abusive partners' past – will be rolled out across England and Wales from today, International Women's Day.

[A call to end violence against women and girls: action plan 2014](#)

Action plan setting out the detail of the government's achievements on ending violence against women and girls.

[Ending violence against women and girls in the UK](#)

In the latest figures from 2012 to 2013 published by the ONS it is estimated that around 1.2 million women suffered domestic abuse and over 330,000 women were sexually assaulted. Domestic and sexual violence is often hidden away behind closed doors, with the victim suffering in silence.

[Violence against women and girls newsletter, spring 2014](#)

This is the spring 2014 edition of the violence against women and girls newsletter.

[Non EU migration continues to fall](#)

The latest immigration figures show that net migration from outside the EU continues to fall and is now at the lowest level since 1998. Immigration and Security Minister James Brokenshire, said: Uncontrolled, mass immigration makes it difficult to maintain social cohesion, puts pressure on our public services and forces down wages for people on low incomes.

[Immigration: building a more sustainable system](#)

The speech was made at the think-tank Demos in London today (Thursday 6 March). He talked about why controlling immigration is so important and how the government will work to bring down immigration further.

[Impact of migration on UK native employment: An analytical review of the evidence](#)

A controversial report on the impact of migrants on British jobs has been published - adding to a coalition row over immigration policy. Lib Dem Vince Cable has angered Tories by saying he is "intensely relaxed" about mass immigration. The impacts of migration on the UK are complex and wide-ranging, affecting economic, social and cultural aspects of life in the UK. This evidence review does not cover any of the social or cultural aspects. It focuses narrowly on one of the potential economic effects - the impact on the employment of existing UK residents.

[Hundreds declare themselves homeless in Stoke](#)

Council officials in Stoke-on-Trent are seeing a rise in desperate families declaring themselves homeless. Almost 200 people in the city declared themselves homeless between October and December 2013 in a bid to land a council house. That figure is up from the previous year that saw 46 families declare they had no where to live in the same three months.

[Councils spend £3m to support local poverty](#)

A BBC investigation has found UK councils provide £3 million worth of support to food bank. The Panorama investigation revealed that a third of all councils said they provide financial support to food banks. The Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) has said that it is now the responsibility of local authorities to provide support to the most vulnerable in their communities.

[Council Tax frozen for many this year](#)

New figures published show that 231 councils intend to take up the offer of additional central government funding to help freeze Council Tax this year. The government is providing up to £550m in extra Whitehall grants to local authorities that freeze their bills from this April.

[Boost flood protection and green taxes for economic growth](#)

Two studies published by the European Commission show how environment policy can spur economic growth by boosting flood protection and making more of a switch to greener taxes.

[Business Secretary Vince Cable's speech to the Mansion House trade and industry dinner, 6 March 2014](#)

And there have been massive challenges. In the wake of the financial crisis, BIS has had to do a lot more with a lot less – 28 per cent less, to be precise. When I and my team came into the department, it had undergone four name changes in three years and its future was in doubt.

[Department for Communities and Local Government](#)

Live tables on homelessness.

[Dyxxlexia Consultancy Malvern](#)

Releasing the potential of offenders with dyslexia.

Experts have called for police and social workers to be given the right of access to the homes of elderly people in order to combat rising levels of abuse. Experts including The Law Society have called for a change to the current law – under which a family member can prevent a social worker from entering the house, or from speaking to an elderly person alone – in order to give the elderly protections from abuse (*Times*).

[National Audit Office](#)

Probation: Landscape Overview.

[National Audit Office](#)

The Criminal Justice System: Landscape Review.

[New Economics Foundation/Centre for Justice Innovation](#)

Better courts: A snapshot of domestic violence courts in 2013.

The National Audit Office (NAO) found a fall of 12 per cent in spending on the elderly over the last two years. The report warns, “National and local government do not know whether the care and health systems can continue to absorb these cumulative pressures, and how long they can carry on doing so” (*Telegraph*).

An official enquiry by the National Audit Office (NAO) has claimed that adult social care in England is under increasing pressure and that the Government has “no idea” how long the system can cope. The NAO found that whilst demand for adult social care services was increasing, spending by local authorities had fallen by 8 per cent in real terms between 2010-11 and 2012-13 ([BBC Online](#)).

Public sector pay awards for 2014-15

The government has today set out the pay awards for over one million public sector workers in line with the policy of a one percent pay rise in 2014-15.

Public service pension reform nears conclusion

One of the final elements of the government's comprehensive public service pension reform programme has been set out by the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, [Danny Alexander](#), today.

NICE

Alcohol Use Disorders: Preventing harmful drinking.

St Mungos

Rebuilding Shattered Lives: Getting the right help at the right time for women who are homeless or at risk.

[National Inclusion Health Board](#)

Hidden needs: identifying key vulnerable groups in data collections: vulnerable migrants, gypsies and travellers, homeless people and sex workers.

First evaluation of tax arrangements for off-payroll contracts in the public sector published

The first evaluation of how new rules designed to ensure that those working as contractors or 'off-payroll' pay the proper tax was published today by the Chief Secretary to the Treasury [Danny Alexander](#). It shows that in 94% of cases (1,815) government contractors provided satisfactory assurance that their tax affairs were in order.

Westminster Hall debate on Local Government Funding - March 11

When looking purely at settlement funding, it may appear that the differences are fairly small, with all regions besides London seeing their local authority funding cut by approximately 40% between 2010-11 and 2015-16. However, when we look at actual revenue spending power, we see that there is extremely large inter-regional variation. Revenue spending power takes into account a range of other sources of funding to local authorities and gives a more real—in this instance—sense of the disparities between regions.

Councils must get better value from billions spent on procuring goods and services, say MPs

In a Report published by the Communities and Local Government Committee calls on local government to step up to the mark and get better value from the £45 billion it spends each year procuring goods and services.

The proportion of over-65s reviving care has fallen by a third since 2005-6 despite the rising number of elderly people, according to Age UK. The report by Age UK identified falling in funding as a major cause for concern, with councils forced to reduce their budget by 15 per cent in real terms over the past three years ([Telegraph](#); [Guardian](#); [Mirror](#); [BBC Online](#)).

The Chief Executive of Blackrock, Larry Fink, has called for pensions to be made compulsory after the publication of a report by Scottish Widows. The report on savings found the number of people with no savings rose from 17 per cent last year to 19 per cent this year, and found that 15 per cent were unsure of how much they had saved ([City A.M.](#)).

A report by the Defence Select Committee has raised concerns about planned cuts to the Army. The Committee has voiced its worries regarding the Army 2020 Plan, under which personnel numbers would be cut from 102,000 to 82,000 by 2018, stating that such a reduced force may be unable to meet Britain's future security requirements ([FT](#); [BBC Online](#)).

Christopher Graham reappointed Information Commissioner

The Ministry of Justice has announced the reappointment of Christopher Graham as the Information Commissioner for another two years. This will follow on from his current appointment ending on 28 June this year and will bring Mr Graham's total tenure

Communicating information under the FOI Act and the EIR

For the first time, the ICO has published separate guidance documents on the FOI Act and Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) provisions explaining how to make information available in response to a request. '[Means of communicating information](#)' explains section 11 of the FOI Act and '[Form and format of information](#)' deals with regulation 6 of the EIR. The new guidance explains what a public authority has to do when a requester expresses a preference for how they want to receive information and highlights the similarities and the differences between the two regimes.

New consumer movement *The Big Deal* has been launched in a bid to deliver cheaper energy bills by bringing people together to harness their collective buying power. It comes as new polling by *Populus* finds record levels of public discontent with the energy market, energy companies and politicians' responses ([Daily Mail](#); [The Big Deal](#)).

4. Consultations

[College of Policing's Strategic Intent](#)

Consultation on ideas and views on this important strategic intent.

[Climate Change - Enforcement and Sanctions Guidance](#)

This consultation explains a proposed approach to enforcement for the European Union Emissions Trading System, CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme and Climate Change Agreements. Closing date 21 March 2014.

[Government announces consultation into surveillance](#)

The Government has announced a consultation on covert surveillance and covert human intelligence sources codes of practice. The consultation runs until 27th March 2014.

[Written statement on Consultation on fees under the Licensing Act 2003](#)

The Minister of State for Crime Prevention (Norman Baker): Has informed Parliament of the publication of a public consultation on the move from centrally-set to locally-set fees under the Licensing Act 2003. The consultation will run for 8 weeks, from 13 February to 10 April.

[Prevention of Offending by Young People](#)

Open date: 05/02/2014

Close date: 30/04/2014

Fees under Licensing Act 2003

The Government is consulting on details of the move from centrally set to locally set fees under the Licensing Act 2003. The consultation is open until 10th April 2014.

Community engagement

NICE is developing public health guideline Community Engagement (update of PH9). All registered stakeholders for the above public health guideline are invited to comment on the draft scope. Closing date 19/03/2014.

Wales Rural Development Programme 2014-2020: Final Proposals

This consultation invites comments on the Welsh Government's strategy and priorities for the delivery of the Wales Rural Development Programme 2014-2020. Closing date 14/04/2014.

Interventions to reduce substance misuse among vulnerable young people

NICE are undertaking a consultation to decide if this guidance needs to be updated. The consultation runs until 28 February 2014.

UK Commission for Employment and Skills (UKCES) triennial review 2014: call for evidence

Open date: 24/02/2014

Close date: 14/03/2014

Proposal to Authorise Motor Sport Events on Public Roads

Open date: 27/02/2014

Close date: 10/04/2014

Child poverty: a draft strategy

Open date: 27/02/2014

Close date: 22/05/2014

Call for evidence: transport investment and economic performance

Open date: 24/02/2014

Close date: 24/03/2014

Wildlife legislation in England: General and Class Licences

Open date: 24/02/2014

Close date: 19/05/2014

Alcohol: preventing harmful alcohol use in the community

Open date: 27/02/2014

Close date: 27/03/2014

World Cup licensing hours – consultation

The government is consulting on whether to relax licensing hours nationally to mark England's participation in the FIFA World Cup 2014. The purpose of any national relaxation of licensing hours during the World Cup would be to enable all pubs and other on-trade premises to sell alcohol and late night refreshment to people watching England's World Cup matches live. The consultation is from 13-26 March 2014.

5. Reviews and Inspections

Promising practice: HMIC 'to provide examples to College'

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) is poised to work more closely with the College of Policing in future to ensure that examples of promising practice identified during its fieldwork are channelled into an online knowledge

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.

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.

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary

Police Custody: Good practice examples.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

The Home Affairs Committee has announced an inquiry into female genital mutilation (FGM).

Joint inspection of police custody facilities

On 7 January, HMIC announced that under the scrutiny requirements of the UN Optional Protocol against Torture, the UK is obliged to ensure regular and independent inspection of all places of detention.