



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

[Pensions Act 2014 has received Royal Assent.](#)

The Act contains a range of provisions to implement.

[Defence Reform Act 2014 has received Royal Assent.](#)

This act enables the MOD to deliver better value for money for the taxpayer and to make the armed forces better able to meet the challenges of tomorrow.

[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.

Community Trigger commencement date

Following discussion with the Home Office there is confirmation that a commencement date of 13th May has been announced for the Community Trigger and Community Remedy. This is an administrative process that allows you to begin the consultation needed to prepare for these two powers. You do not have to have them in place by this date, or publish any

processes by this date. Both tools will commence at the same time as the rest of the tools on a date yet to be announced, but thought to be October.

Offender Rehabilitation Act 2014

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

2. Strategic policing and crime news

Serious offenders are walking free from court with suspended sentences, says new research

Research from the Centre for Crime Prevention reveals an astonishing number of serious and repeat offenders' prison sentences are being suspended by the courts. Suspended sentences are now handed out for tens of thousands of violent, property and sexual offences each year, ranging from spitting at people to manslaughter. They include throwing fireworks into a crowd, theft, molesting children, assault, taking a bomb into a hotel, running a brothel, benefit fraud, burglary, faking one's death, strangling a cat and sex with a dog. One judge claims they are being used "A bit like confetti".

Extracts from Lords proceedings on Domestic Violence - May 13 (Includes mention of NOPCC hosting a conference with criminal justice partners)

the number of domestic violence cases referred to the Crown Prosecution Service by the police reduced in 2012-13. However, the conviction rate for such cases was 74.3%, its highest ever recorded level. The fall in referrals was considered in a report on the police response to domestic abuse published by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in March 2014. The Home Secretary will be chairing a national oversight group to monitor delivery against HMIC's recommendations, improve consistency in charging and ensure that the police make appropriate referrals to the CPS.

Era of bullying and secret accounts at Police Federation must end say MPs

On the eve of the Police Federation Annual Conference, the House of Commons Home Affairs Committee has highlighted the urgent need for further reform. The Committee found:

- Bullying is endemic in the higher echelons of the Federation.
- Political and Personal Campaigns.
- Dysfunctional relationships have seriously undermined the organisations' ability to speak with a powerful voice on behalf of its members.
- Rebate on subscriptions – the organisation has accrued substantial reserves of around £70 million which are disproportionate to its operating costs.

Firearms officers 'are set to quit'

Senior law enforcement professionals have voiced serious concerns that firearms officers may be tempted to hand in their tickets as disquiet grows about proposed new post incident procedures.

Police will work more closely with industry to combat ticket fraud, says ACPO

The national police lead on economic crime has revealed that ticketing fraud cost victims over £3.7m last year and called for ticket distributors to work with police to tackle it.

3. Developments and reports

[Call for case studies: A victim-led criminal justice system for Europe](#)

IARS (Independent Academic Research Studies) are looking for case studies to be published in a forthcoming book. They would like to hear from practitioners working with victims in the community or in the criminal justice system, those with examples of where the criminal justice system is delivered for the benefit of victims or examples of good restorative practice. Deadline for submission is 15th July 2014.

[E learning to support the Victims' Code](#)

The College of Policing has launched a new e-learning package for officers and staff to help them understand their new statutory obligations under the Victims' Code.

[New hate crime guidance](#)

The College of Policing has published new operational guidance for police officers responding to hate crimes.

[Public perceive alcohol adverts breach regulatory code](#)

Research undertaken by the University of Manchester found that the majority of the UK public perceive alcohol adverts to breach the Advertising Standard's Authority's Broadcast Committee of Advertising Practice (BCAP) suggesting that the current regulatory system for UK television is inadequate.

[Public Health England](#)

Public Health Outcomes Framework data update.

[Adfam](#)

Medications in drug treatment - tackling the risks to children.

[Cabinet Office](#)

Working with faith communities in civil protection.

[Centre for Mental Health](#)

Employment support and addiction: what works.

[Joseph Rowntree Foundation](#)

Smaller housing associations' capacity to develop new homes.

[Local Government Association](#)

Making Safeguarding Personal 2013-2014 - Report of findings.

[New Local Government Network](#)

Break on through: Overcoming barriers to integration.

[Social Market Foundation](#)

Breaking Bad Habits; Reforming rehabilitation services.

Women's Aid

Successful Commissioning: a guide for commissioning services that support women and children survivors of violence.

Largest employment rise in 40 years

New figures show that employment has seen the largest quarterly rise since records began.

- The Office for National Statistics (ONS) figures also show that the unemployment rate has fallen again to a new 5-year low.
- The number of people in a job rose 283,000 in the last 3 months, which is the largest quarterly rise in 43 years.
- A record 30.43 million people are now in work – with employment rising by 722,000 on the year.
- According to the figures the number of unemployed young people fell by 48,000 in the last 3 months, and has been falling now for the last 8 months.

"Not enough money for promoting local growth has reached businesses" says committee of MPs

"Despite the large sums available for promoting economic growth locally, little money has actually reached businesses. Of the £3.9 billion that has been allocated in total to these initiatives, only nearly £400 million had made it to local projects by the end of 2012-13.

Councils facing financial 'tipping point'

Councils across England are facing a financial "tipping point" and services like leisure facilities, children's centres and pothole repairs are likely to bear the brunt of funding cuts over the next two years, the Local Government Association (LGA) has stated. Fees and charges will rise, and reserves will shrink, its research shows.

CQC aims to clarify roles in safeguarding vulnerable adults

Health and care workers and organisations have been given new guidelines on the ways they must work together to prevent abuse and safeguard adult social care.

The new CQC document – '[Safeguarding Adults – Roles and Responsibilities in Health and Care Service](#)' – highlights that putting the person at the centre of adult social care is extremely important.

Agencies must ensure carers can speak English

Care agencies should ensure that carers they recruit can speak English before placing them in vulnerable people's homes, a government adviser has said. Dr Shereen Hussein, of King's College London's Social Care Workforce Research Unit and a scientific adviser to the Department of Health, added that poor language skills could lead to bad care and abuse.

In support of public services

Support roles in public services, such as finance and HR, are vitally important. But they must be enablers of change – focusing on the outcomes needed and not just whether inputs are organised in the right way.

UK great recession almost over, says economic institute

Britain's economy nearing its peak before the financial crisis, says NIESR as it raises its growth forecasts to 2.9% for 2014.

CIPFA and IIRC to bring integrated reporting to the public sector

The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and the International

Integrated Reporting Council (IIRC) are creating a public sector pioneer network to promote the implementation of integrated reporting (<IR>) in the public sector.

[Councils reveal concerns over LEPs](#)

The Government's local enterprise partnerships (LEPs) are under-funded and unaccountable, according to a survey of council leaders.

Work and Pensions committee announce new inquiry: Employment support for disabled people: Access to Work

The Work and Pensions Committee has decided to inquire into employment support for disabled people. It is likely to cover this broad topic in a number of short inquiries. It will begin by considering the Department for Work and Pensions' (DWP) Access to Work programme (AtW).

[Rail and road planning must be joined up – MPs](#)

Passenger and freight traffic must be better coordinated across the UK's road and rail infrastructure to deliver future prosperity, the Transport Committee has stated. Launching two reports – one examining the proposed planning policy framework for [nationally significant road and rail infrastructure projects](#) and the other examining the [strategic road network in England](#) – the MPs added that effective regulation and long-term funding plans are essential for investment in the country's transport network.

4. Consultations

[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>.

[Public Traffic Signs consultation](#)

The Department for Transport has launched a public consultation on proposed changes to the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2002. The consultation will close on 10 June 2014.

[Schedule 7 Code of Practice](#)

The statutory Code of Practice provides guidance to examining officers on the application and interpretation of Schedule 7. These have had to be revised code to ensure they reflect the changes introduced in the ASBCP Act. These changes will maintain the protection of the UK border as well as continuing to respect individuals' human rights. The Home Office welcomes your views on how adequately the changes in the ASBCP Act are reflected within the revised draft Code of Practice. You can respond via the [online survey](#).

[Review of the operation of Sections 135 and 136](#)

The Government is reviewing the operation of Sections 135 and 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983 to make sure the legislative framework offers the right support for people at the right time. The consultation is open until 3rd June 2014.

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.

Review of local authority role in housing supply

This call for evidence from the Government seeks ideas, evidence and good practice into how local authorities can help to increase housing supply in order to meet local housing need. The consultation is open until 23rd May 2014.

Using a legislative reform order to set up town and parish councils

The Government is consulting on a proposal to use a legislative reform order for making it easier to set up town and parish councils. The consultation is open until 22nd May 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

Child poverty: a draft strategy

Open date: 27/02/2014

Close date: 22/05/2014

Wildlife legislation in England: General and Class Licences

Open date: 24/02/2014

Close date: 19/05/2014

Draft Guidance on Police Post-incident Management

The IPCC has produced additional statutory guidance on police post-incident management, designed to achieve best evidence in investigations of deaths or serious injury. The IPCC are seeking feedback on the draft guidance from stakeholders. The consultation is open until 27 May 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
- Child Protection

Thematic Inspections Commencing in 2014/15

- Valuing the Police Programme – Phase 5
- Strategic Policing Requirement
- Police Integrity and Leadership
- 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.