



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

Home Office

Serious Crime Bill overview.

Grayling proposes new law to tackle revenge porn

People who maliciously share sexually explicit pictures of former partners will face prosecution under new laws proposed.

Street trading and pedlar laws to be modernised

Reforms to street trading rules will make them both stronger and fairer

Dangerous dogs: tough new law to help prevent attacks

Tough new legal powers to help prevent thousands of dog attacks every year will be given to police forces and local authorities from Monday 20 October.

Home Office

Statutory instruments plan.

Consumers given new weapon in fight against rogue traders

Consumers will have greater powers to challenge unscrupulous rogue traders and get their money back under new rights.

Fraud, bribery and money laundering offences guideline comes into effect

Following a period of training and implementation the definitive guideline on fraud, bribery and money laundering offences came into effect from 1st October 2014.

Law changing on enforced subject access requests

The law on enforced subject access requests will change on 1 December 2014. The change to Section 56 of the DPA means that organisations will no longer be able to force individuals

to make subject access requests for information about their criminal past in order to reveal the results to them.

[Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014](#)

The Home Office has announced that there is a delay in the introduction of the Civil Injunction. This is to allow unavoidable and necessary changes to be made to the civil legal system to ensure that applications for advocacy assistance can be assessed for those involved in Civil Injunction hearings. This requires an amendment to the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 which should be completed by the end of January 2015. Until this change is made the ASBO and ASBI will remain in place. The Home Office has also announced that, in order to allow local councils time for the new powers to bed in and to make informed choices about whether to designate social providers in their area the power to issue the Community Protection Notice the Order made by the Secretary of State that will allow councils to do this. The CPN will still begin on 20th October but only police and councils will be able to issue them.

[The Modern Slavery Bill](#)

This Bill has now been committed to a Public Bill Committee. The Public Bill Committee is expected to report to the House by 14 October 2014.

Social Action, Responsibility and Heroism Bill

The Public Bill Committee is expected to report to the House by **14 October 2014**.

[Serious Crime Bill](#)

Report stage – further line by line examination of the Bill – begins on **14 October 2014**.

Criminal Justice and Courts Bill

Report stage – further line by line examination of the Bill – is scheduled for **20 October**.

[Upcoming secondary legislation published](#)

2. Strategic policing and crime news

[Crime statistics, period ending: June 2014](#)

Latest figures from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) show that, for the offences it covers, there were an estimated 7.1 million incidents of crime against households and resident adults (aged 16 and over) in England and Wales for the year ending June 2014. This represents a 16% decrease compared with the previous year's survey, and is the lowest estimate since the survey began in 1981.

[HMIC Report on Undercover policing](#)

The public and professional undercover officers deserve more: Inconsistencies and shortcomings in policies, systems and training threaten the effectiveness of undercover officers, a report by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) revealed today.

ACPO comment on HMIC Undercover Policing Report

"Undercover officers perform some of the most difficult roles in policing, Home Affairs Select Committee described undercover policing as 'a vital element in the fight against terrorism and serious and organised crime'.

[Police use of taser statistics, England and Wales: January to June 2014](#)

The figures presented in this report detail the number of times taser was used from 1 January to 30 June 2014.

[Home Secretary's College of Policing speech](#)

Speech given by Home Secretary Theresa May at the College of Policing Conference 2014 in Ryton.

Legacy of Rotherham negligence shows need for greater accountability of public officials

The Home Affairs Committee of the House of Commons has published its report, Child sexual exploitation and the response to localised grooming: follow-up.

[Big Business to be held to account to keep supply chains slavery free](#)

Big businesses will have to publicly state each year what action they have taken to ensure their supply chains are slavery free.

3. Developments and reports

[Department for Communities and Local Government](#)

Supporting people payments by results pilots: final evaluation.

[Alcohol Concern](#)

Alcohol Marketing at the FIFA World Cup 2014: A Frequency Analysis.

[European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction](#)

Synthetic drug production in Europe.

[Funding announced to curb forced marriage and female genital mutilation](#)

The Government has marked International Day of the Girl by announcing £330,000 to help tackle female genital mutilation and forced marriage. It includes £150,000 via the Department for Communities and Local Government, which will be spent on engagement activities in 'at risk' areas.

Largest fall in unemployment since records began

Unemployment has seen the largest annual fall since records began over 40 years ago. The number of unemployed people is now below 2 million for the first time since 2008, figures published today by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) show.

[Labour market statistics: October 2014](#)

- The main findings of this release are that employment continued to rise and unemployment continued to fall. These changes continue the general direction of movement since late 2011/early 2012.
- For June to August 2014, 73.0% of people aged from 16 to 64 were in work, up from 71.5% for a year earlier.

- The unemployment rate for June to August 2014 was 6.0%, the lowest since late 2008.

Ministry of Justice

Valuing every voice, respecting every right: making the case for the Mental Capacity Act.

Office of Children's Commissioner

'I think you need to show someone what help there is': Understanding parental alcohol misuse at a local level.

Ending Gang and Youth Violence

The coalition has announced 10 new areas which will receive specialist support to tackle gang related crime.

Fire services improvement fund - public get a win-win: better local services and at lower cost

Fire Minister [Penny Mordaunt](#) announced the winners of a £75 million fund which will improve frontline services and save taxpayers over £300 million.

Four in ten abuse allegations occur in victim's own home

The majority of council investigations into allegations of abuse occurred in the victim's own home, [according to new figures](#). The statistics, released by the Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC), show that in 2013-14, 42% of allegations were reported to have occurred in the victim's home. Alleged abuse in care homes accounted for 36% of the investigations carried out by councils in the same time period.

Poor care goes unreported because it's too difficult to complain, finds report

An estimated 1,600 cases of poor care went unreported in Surrey over the last year because people were put off by complicated complaints procedures, a watchdog has warned.

Government announces plans to provide better access to mental health services

The Department of Health has set out its plans for achieve better access to mental health services over the next 5 years.

'Gobbledygook' council reports prove an education

Councils have come under fire for producing reports that are more complicated to read than university textbooks.

Councils more innovative than at any time since WWII, finds report

There is now more innovation in local government than any time since the post-war rebuilding of public services, [a new report has claimed](#).

Report predicts six scenarios for local government in 2020

Councils that fail to innovate and adapt to the tough funding climate will face a 'slow and painful demise' over the next five years, a new report has warned. Research by Grant Thornton UK LLP and the University of Birmingham's Institute for Local Government Studies (INLOGOV) suggests local authorities will need to make fundamental changes to survive.

Report: councils should take the lead in nurturing 'better business'

Councils have been urged to 'nudge or budge' businesses into taking a more socially responsible stance. A new report argues local authorities are well positioned to take a leading role and have a number of potential tools at their disposal.

Councils share £3m to speed up housing projects

The Government has announced 60 councils will share £3m to help kick-start stalled housing developments. It is expected the move will enable local authorities to deliver up to 25,000 new homes. The funding is designed to help projects where planning permission has been agreed but progress has been held up.

DWP under fire for £1.4bn of overpaid housing benefit

The Government's failure to provide councils with sufficient funding or incentives has contributed to housing benefit overpayments rocketing to £1.4bn, a spending watchdog has revealed.

Council shrinks cabinet and committees to make savings

Stockton Council is planning to reduce the size of its cabinet and axe two scrutiny committees in order to save £44,000 a year. The changes, yet to be finalised, are likely to see a number of elected members taking on extra responsibilities as the council sheds two cabinet posts.

Council leaders call for new powers to tackle fly-tippers

Local authorities should be able to issue fixed penalty notices to fly-tippers to help them recoup some the £36m spent every year clearing up dumped waste, according to council chiefs.

New 'children's services commissioner' for Rotherham

A children's social care commissioner has been appointed for Rotherham MBC by the education secretary, after a warning that there is a "widespread and serious failure in the council's ability to help and protect children and young people" from Ofsted.

Government may intervene in volunteer takeover of Sheffield libraries

The government may hold a local public inquiry into the decision by Sheffield City Council to turn over the running of half the city's libraries to community volunteers following funding cuts.

Scottish parties submit devolution plans to Smith Commission

Today marks the deadline for Scottish political parties to submit their views on how powers should be devolved from Westminster to Holyrood, following the No vote in the referendum on Scottish independence.

Councils tackling 'worst-ever' fly tipping as LGA demands more powers

Council chiefs are calling for greater powers to tackle the growing problem of fly-tipping, which is costing taxpayers millions. The Local Government Association (LGA) wants councils to have the "flexibility" to issue on-the-spot fixed penalty notices (FPNs) for some cases, such as dumping broken furniture, old televisions and mattresses.

NHS staff stage biggest strike the health service has seen in 32 years

About 400,000 NHS staff, including paramedics, nurses, midwives, occupational therapists and hospital managers, have walked out this morning as part of the biggest strike the health service has faced in 32 years.

LGA: Cut to council crisis funding would affect 'thousands'

Three-quarters of councils will scrap or shrink support for England's most vulnerable people if the Government cuts funding next year, leaders claim. The Local Government Association (LGA) today warned against plans to ditch the £347m Local Welfare Assistance fund, used by town halls to provide emergency support for people facing homelessness, care leavers and families struggling to put food on the table.

LGA reveals pay proposal for council staff

Council chiefs have revealed the extent of proposed pay rises for council staff, declaring unions made the 'right decision' in postponing strike action.

'No-one understands local government law' at Barnet Council, warns report

Nobody at Barnet Borough Council understands local government law, according to an external investigation into how two 'misleading' reports were presented at a council meeting.

Survey shows people with a learning disability turned away at polling stations

Nearly one in five people with a learning disability say they were turned away at the polling station in the recent local elections, according to a new survey.

Nine out of ten areas lack 24/7 end of life support, research shows

Research has revealed 92% of areas do not have round the clock support services for those who are dying.

Essex calls on Government to devolve powers

Council leaders in Essex have entered the devolution debate by arguing the county should have greater freedom to decide how and where public money is spent locally.

County consults residents on £90m annual savings

Lincolnshire County Council still needs to save £90m a year, warning services will be reduced or closed in the future.

4. Consultations

Plans for Secure College rules consultation

The purpose of the rules will be to set out the core parameters within which Secure Colleges will be required to operate to ensure that young people are detained safely and securely, and that their educational and rehabilitative needs are addressed. Consultation closes on 27 November 2014.

Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2014: better governance and improved accountability

This consultation seeks views on new governance arrangements for the Local Government Pension Scheme in England and Wales, which came into force on 1 April 2014. The consultation invites responses from interested parties on the draft regulations which are to come into force from January 2015 onwards.

Proposed merger of the local justice areas in North Yorkshire

This consultation was published on 1 October and closes on 31 December. It consults on the merger of the four local justice areas in North Yorkshire into one local justice area. It seeks the views of people or organisations that may be affected including magistrates, other judicial office holders, court users, stakeholders and public authorities and charities in North Yorkshire.

Local policing – accountability, leadership and ethics

The independent Committee on Standards in Public Life has launched an inquiry into the accountability structures of the police. The current model as a whole, and individual elements of it, have been the subject of criticism. Much of this relates to standards issues, yet the relationship between standards and governance structures has been relatively underexplored. They intend to look at the structures in place for ensuring ethical standards in the conduct and performance of Police and Crime Panels, Police and Crime Commissioners, and Chief Constables. Then go on to consider how effective those structures are, what works well and, if there are shortcomings, identify what would be expected to see – in any model for police accountability. They will be seeking the necessary assurance that ethical standards in public life are, and are capable of being, upheld. Consultation closes 30 November 2014.

Last chance to take part in our consultations on big data, privacy seals and data sharing code

The ICO has extended the deadline for comments on the data protection issues relating to big data. The paper on big data and data protection sets out views and the ICO would like to hear thoughts on the questions set out at the end of the document. The closing date is the 17 October 2014.

Fair and effective market review's benchmarks to bring into UK regulatory scope

Open date: 25/09/2014

Close date: 23/10/2014

Revised PACE code A

The consultation runs until Monday 21 October 2014. The changes in this draft have been made in order to implement the government's commitment as set out in the consultation on stop and search.

Ketamine rescheduling consultation

The Home Office is seeking views on the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) recommendation to reschedule ketamine to Schedule 2 of the Misuse of Drugs Regulation (as amended) (the 2001 Regulations). The consultation runs until 3rd November 2014.

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.

HMRC Consultation: Tackling offshore tax evasion a new criminal offence

The Government has announced its intention to introduce a new strict liability criminal offence. This consultation seeks views on the design of this offence. The consultation period runs to **31 October 2014**.

[Disclosure review: revision of the Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996 Code of Practice](#)

Open date: 10/10/2014

Close date: 07/11/2014

[Adult social work: knowledge and skills](#)

Open date: 10/10/2014

Close date: 12/12/2014

5. Reviews and Inspections

[Strategic Policing Requirement](#)

In April 2014, HMIC published a report on the arrangements that police forces have in place to meet the Strategic Policing Requirement

HMIC publish report 'Core Business: An Inspection into Crime Prevention, Police Attendance and the Use of Police Time'

[Inspectorate: South Yorkshire needs to improve on child safeguarding](#)

South Yorkshire Police has responded to criticism of its child protection work, following the recent publication of an inspection report by HMIC.

[HM Inspectorate of Prisons and HM Inspectorate of Constabulary report on British Transport Police custody - generally positive](#)

Practice varied across British Transport Police custody suites, but overall detainees were properly cared for, said Nick Hardwick, Chief Inspector of Prisons, and Dru Sharpling, HM Inspector of Constabulary, publishing the report of an unannounced inspection.

[Lack of leadership in schools leading to disruptive behaviour – Ofsted](#)

Bad behaviour at schools with poor leadership is losing pupils an hour of learning a day, according to a new Ofsted report. The report, '[Below the radar: low-level disruption in the country's classrooms](#)', finds that low-level and persistent disruptive behaviour is impeding children's learning and damaging life chances. It says that two-thirds of teachers questioned complained that school leaders are failing to assert their authority when dealing with poor discipline and pupils' flouting of school rules.

[IPCC Learning the Lessons](#)

The IPCC publishes a regular Learning the Lessons Bulletin to help the police service learn lessons from completed investigations into police complaints and *conduct* matters undertaken by the IPCC or by the police service locally.

[IPCC Investigation into Kent PCC](#)

The IPCC is investigating whether the Police and Crime Commissioner for Kent was legally insured to drive when she was involved in a road traffic accident last month.

[IPCC investigation into the deputy Lancashire deputy PCC](#)

An investigation into allegations against the deputy Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire, Ibrahim Master, is to be managed by the IPCC.