



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, reviews, inspections and audits across policing and crime)
4. **Consultations** (police and crime bulletins, research, consultations and press releases)

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1. Legislation

[New powers to tackle anti-social behaviour](#)

The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill was introduced into the House of Commons on 9th May 2013.

[Offender Rehabilitation Bill](#)

This bill has been published and makes provision about the release and supervision after release, of offenders.

[An independent panel will be established to review the police handling of the Daniel Morgan murder investigation](#), Home Secretary Theresa May announced.

Mr Morgan was killed in south-east London in March 1987 but no one has been successfully prosecuted despite five police investigations. Two years ago the Metropolitan Police acknowledged its "repeated failure" to tackle corruption within the force which helped protect those responsible for the murder from being brought to justice.

2. Policing and crime key developments

LESSONS FROM THE OXFORD SEXUAL ABUSE CASE

That this House of Commons notes the recent convictions of a number of men in Oxford for the sustained and systematic sexual abuse of girls and young women; further notes that both Oxfordshire Social Services and Thames Valley Police failed to act sufficiently on complaints and warning signs over a number of years whilst this abuse was taking place; urges the police and social services across the country to note carefully the lessons of the Oxford convictions and previous failures, for example in Rochdale, in order to tighten up procedures and to ensure allegations of sexual abuse are properly and thoroughly investigated and prosecutions brought; further notes that sexual abuse takes place in all communities but that there has been a particular focus on perpetrators of sexual abuse in recent media coverage; and applauds the efforts now being made by many within communities to educate on issues of sexual abuse, for example, by the recent setting up of the Community Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation which was launched in Bradford on 10 May 2013.

[Review into Riot Damages Act announced](#)

The Home Secretary has commissioned an independent review of the Riot (Damages) Act 1886. This will be led by Neil Kinghan, a former civil servant, and is expected to conclude by the end of September 2013. The review will examine the existing criteria which determine when compensation is payable under the Riot (Damages) Act. This includes looking at key issues involving the definition of a riot, who should be liable and what level of entitlement should be afforded under the Act. However, his remit appears to be wider than just a reviewing process as the review will ensure that the Act "protects the vulnerable and provides value for money".

[What Works Centre](#)

The College of Policing is commissioning a three year programme to bring together the current evidence base on 'what works' is reducing crime. Submissions are required by 18th June 2013. Potential applicants are invited to learn more about the call for bids at a pre-application event, to be held at our offices in Ryton-on-Dunsmore (near Coventry) on **Monday 20 May**

Police take DNA samples from children every 10 minutes, says Howard League

Police take a DNA sample from a child every 10 minutes in England and Wales, figures obtained by the Howard League for Penal Reform reveal today (20 May). New research by the charity has found that officers took swabs from almost 54,000 boys and girls aged 17 or under during 2011. They included at least 368 10-year-olds and 1,030 11-year-olds, meaning that on average officers took samples from 27 primary school-age children every week.

[Hampshire](#) – Joint inspection of police custody suites

This report is one of a series on police custody inspections carried out jointly by HMIC and HMI Prisons. The inspections look at strategy, treatment and conditions, individual rights and health care. They also make a key contribution to the United Kingdom's response to its international obligation to ensure regular and independent inspection of all places of detention.

[Government announces traffic courts in every area](#)

Every area is to have a dedicated 'Traffic Court' to deal with low-level road traffic offences, Justice Minister Damian Green. Local areas are being urged to work with the judiciary to set up the courts as part of proposals to reduce delays and focus more on serious and contested cases. This forms part of the Government's vision for a more efficient and effective criminal justice system that meet the needs of victims, witnesses and communities.

[Home Secretary speech to Police Federation Annual Conference 2013](#)

Life should mean life for anybody who murders a police officer. Being a police officer is a tough, dangerous job. Those of us who work behind desks should never forget that you face the possibility of an encounter with lethal danger every day. You know it the moment you leave the station to do your job.

Damian Green speech to the Police Federation

Reforms are designed to meet the unique set of challenges, to deliver a more professional police force with the skills to meet the challenges of the modern age, but also one in which the unwritten contract between public and police is constantly renewed and strengthened. Police and Crime Commissioners are in place to build a direct link between officers and the people they serve. Of course we would have liked a bigger turnout in the first elections.

But PCCs are here to stay. And they will get stronger as the electorate grows used to voting for them.

[Serco and G4S face billing probe over electronic tagging](#)

Two major private security firms face an investigation into whether they were overpaid for contracts to electronically tag criminals. G4S and Serco will be investigated after Ministry of Justice officials identified potential "billing" issues.

[Fire Service Changes 'Could Save Millions'](#)

Despite a 40% reduction in call-outs, spending on fire services has remained the same, prompting calls for a major overhaul.

3. Reports

[Metropolitan Police give out cautions for a quarter of ALL crimes](#) including rapes, drug trafficking and robbery

- **Scotland Yard gave out 30,000 cautions in a year - some for serious crimes**
- **5,000 cautions for violence, 131 for robbery and five given to rapists**
- **'Criminals are getting away with serious offences,' says**
- The data came to light thanks to a Freedom of Information request by Tony Arbour, a Conservative member of the London Assembly.
- Among the cautions issued were 5,843 for violent attacks, 165 for sexual offence and five for rape - usually punished by several years in prison.
- In addition, 180 criminals received cautions for grievous bodily harm or wounding, while 131 robbers and 318 drug traffickers were cautioned for their crimes.

Digital Pathfinders and Open Standards Testing

The College of Policing have circulated a letter to Police and Crime Commissioners for their information. It represents an invitation to forces to contribute to two programmes the College are developing to transform policing through technology.

Reforming the fire service could save tens of millions of pounds a year, according to a review commissioned by the Government.

The review by Sir Ken Knight, Former Chief Fire and Rescue Officer, revealed that although there are 40 per cent fewer fire incidents compared with a decade ago, the number of fire fighters has remained the same, and suggested that having 46 separate fire services does not deliver efficiency ([Mail](#); [BBC Online](#)).

[Credit rating scheme to help 5.2 million tenants](#)

Social landlords are planning to hand over rental payment data to a credit ratings company to build their tenants' credit history and help them access more affordable finance.

[Mental Health Awareness Week](#)

This week is Mental Health Awareness Week and is, this year, themed around physical activity and wellbeing.

[New model to build more social homes](#)

Social landlords are exploring the possibility of using a new development model which enables councils to build and retain new housing without breaching government imposed borrowing caps.

Unemployment rises by 15,000

- The employment rate for those aged from 16 to 64 for January to March 2013 was 71.4%, down 0.2 percentage points from October to December 2012. There were 29.71 million people in employment aged 16 and over, down 43,000 from October to December 2012.
- The unemployment rate for January to March 2013 was 7.8% of the economically active population, up 0.1 percentage points from October to December 2012. There were 2.52 million unemployed people, up 15,000 from October to December 2012.
- The inactivity rate for those aged from 16 to 64 for January to March 2013 was 22.4%, up 0.1 percentage points from October to December 2012. There were 9.00 million economically inactive people aged from 16 to 64, up 47,000 from October to December 2012.

Between January to March 2012 and January to March 2013 total pay rose by 0.4% (the lowest growth rate since March to May 2009) and regular pay rose by 0.8% (the lowest growth rate since comparable records began in 2001).

Department of Health

Public Health Outcomes Framework Data Update: Indicators updated 8 May 2013.

Ministry of Justice

Offender Management statistics (quarterly) October – December 2012 .

Office of National Statistics

Crime Statistics – Focus on property crime 2011/12.

Public Health England

The Public Health Outcomes Framework indicator 2.15 (successful completion of drug treatment) has been updated to report users of opiates and users of other drugs separately. The outcomes for these two groups vary markedly as do the proportions of the two groups in each local authority. Separation of the two groups will therefore enable more meaningful comparisons to be made.

Centre for Cities

Ways and Means: money management and power in local government.

New Guidance for Businesses

The Commission is working in partnership with businesses to help them to meet their obligations under equality law and understand how they can identify human rights risks.

Best councils to do business with awards

The [best councils to do business with](#) were honoured by Local Government Minister Brandon Lewis and the Prime Minister's Enterprise Adviser Lord Young at a Downing Street. Councils are responsible for procuring £58 billion of goods and services and the government is determined to ensure local authorities explore smart ways of finding savings and supporting their local economy through better procurement processes so they can help thousands more small businesses get off the ground. Micro businesses, which have less than 10 employees,

are important to economic growth and make up 95% of all businesses. Lord Young recently [recommended](#) making it easier for small businesses to bid for £230 billion a year of public sector contracts.

[Equality and Human Rights](#)

The Equality and Human Rights Commission intervened in a judicial review at the High Court involving MA and nine others who fear losing their homes as a result of new housing benefit regulations. Most of the claimants are disabled, or share their home with a disabled person. The changes to the regulations mean they are defined as under-occupying their properties and liable to benefit reductions of between 14 to 25 per cent. The Commission is intervening as an independent third party expert to assist the court on discrimination law and human rights. It will submit that the new regulations potentially breach the right of people not to be discriminated against in the enjoyment of their rights (A.14) and their right to a family life (A.8).

[Commission publishes new framework agreement with government](#)

The Equality and Human Rights Commission has published a new framework document today which sets out its relationship with government and how it operates as an independent Arm's Length Body (ALB).

[New guidance launched to help employers support staff experiencing domestic abuse](#)

The Equality and Human Rights Commission have issued new guidance to help employers manage and support employees affected by domestic abuse, which one in four women will experience at some point in their lifetime.

Nearly a quarter of a million people under the age of 19 are caring for a relative, according to a study by the Children's Society.

The study argued that this responsibility could damage young people's chances of success in both education and the job market ([BBC Online](#)).

4. Consultations

[Consultation on Draft Statutory Guidance on the Making or Renewing of National Security Determinations Allowing the Retention of Biometric Data](#)

The Home Office has published a consultation on draft statutory guidance relating to the retention of DNA profiles and fingerprints. The Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 came into force last year and reformed the system of retention destruction and the use of DNA and fingerprint data by the police and other law enforcement authorities, ensuring that only those convicted of a criminal offence will have their fingerprints and DNA retained indefinitely. The consultation closes on 20 May 2013. Responses to the consultation should be sent to: Counter-Terrorism Legislation Team 5th Floor Peel Building Office for Security and Counter-Terrorism.

Take part in our new cyber-security survey

Dods Government are running a new project on cyber-security in the public sector, in association with our research partner McAfee. We aim to build up a picture of awareness of cyber-security risks across central and local government and to gain understanding of the solutions that will be needed in the future. We hope that you will be able to take part in the research and share your views.