



Weekly e Briefing: 19 December 2014



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

[Government to create new domestic abuse offence](#)

Home Secretary Theresa May has announced a new domestic abuse offence of coercive and controlling behaviour.

[Remaining stages \(Commons\) of the International Development \(Official Development Assistance Target\) Bill \(Private Bill\)](#)

[Counter-Terrorism and Security Bill: Amendments to be moved in Committee](#)

[The Immigration Act 2014 \(Transitional and Saving Provisions\) Order 2014](#)

[New powers to tackle sham marriage announced](#)

[The Crime and Courts Act 2013 \(Commencement No. 11\) Order 2014](#)

[The Regulation of Investigatory Powers \(Covert Human Intelligence Sources: Code of Practice\) Order 2014](#)

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

[Dangerous dogs: tough new law to prevent attacks](#)

[Consumers given new weapon in fight against rogue traders](#)

[Fraud, bribery and money laundering offences guideline comes into effect](#)



[Serious Crime Bill](#)

[The Modern Slavery Bill](#)

Social Action, Responsibility and Heroism Bill

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

[Upcoming secondary legislation published](#)

[Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Bill - Committee stage report](#)

2. Strategic policing and crime news

[Written statement on the Police Grant Report England and Wales](#)

Written Statement made by: The Minister of State for Policing, Criminal Justice and Victims (Mike Penning) on 17 Dec 2014.

[Police grant confirms real terms cut of £415 million to policing](#)

Jack Dromey MP, Labour's Shadow Police Minister, responding to the police grant settlement, said: "This statement confirms a real terms cut of £415 million on top of cuts to policing that have already seen 16,000 police officers go, including 8,000 from the front line."

[Written Statement on Local Government provisional settlement 2015/16](#)

The Minister for Local Government Kris Hopkins has announced the provisional local government finance settlement for 2015/16. In his speech, he mentions a 2% council tax referendum limit. This threshold will apply to all local authorities, including the Greater London Authority, fire authorities and police and crime commissioners.

APCC response to provisional 2015/16 police grant settlement (Includes mention of Nottinghamshire Police)

The Association of Police and Crime Commissioners has responded to the provisional 2015/16 police grant settlement announced. Paddy Tipping, **Nottinghamshire Police** and Crime Commissioner and Chair of the APCC's Resources, Efficiency and Strategic Finance Standing Group said: "This is another tough settlement, the consequences of which will clearly see forces reducing their spending in different ways. However, as officers and staff are the biggest expenditure in the budget, maintaining a strong front line presence will inevitably become much more challenging."

[LGA: Local Government finance settlement confirms 8.8% cut](#)

Today's Local Government Finance Settlement confirms that councils across England will receive 8.8 per cent less funding from government to run local services in April 2015.

[Written statement on the UK Anti-Corruption Plan](#)

[Police and crime commissioners: progress to date](#)

Response to the committee's specific conclusions and recommendations on PCCs includes the topics of:

- PCCs and the public and transparency
- training and transition



- work of commissioners and overall effectiveness to date
- appointment of deputy and assistant commissioners
- target-setting and crime statistics
- holding chief constables to account and removal
- developing and strengthening the role of police and crime panels and panel resources

[Home Office](#)

Counting rules for recorded crime. On 16 December the counting rules were updated to include the vision and purpose statements for crime recording (NCRS and HOOCR).

[Written statement on Transforming Rehabilitation: Update](#)

[Written statement on Statutory time limits for police bail](#)

[Publication of the Annual report on the National Security Strategy and Strategic Defence and Security Review](#)

[Government plan to fight corruption unveiled](#)

A wide-ranging and ambitious programme to boost the UK's ability to tackle corruption at home and abroad was announced by the government today.

[Table of New Owners of the CRSs](#)

The Secretary of State for Justice has announced that he is today signing contracts with the new owners of the 21 Community Rehabilitation Company formed under the Transforming Rehabilitation reforms.

[Written statement on Mental Health and Policing](#)

Norman Lamb (The Minister of State, Department of Health): The Government has today published the report of the Government's review of the operation of sections 135 and 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983. This has been an important piece of work, conducted jointly by the Home Office and the Department of Health.

[Home Secretary and Care Minister demand an end to mentally ill children being held in police cells](#)

The Government has announced its commitment to ending police cells being used to hold under-18s suffering a mental health crisis in the Review of the Operation of Section 135 and Section 136 on the Mental Health Act 1983.

[Home Secretary announces the reappointment of HMCIC Thomas Winsor](#)

The Home Secretary today announced that Thomas Winsor has been reappointed as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary (HMCIC).

3. Developments and reports

[Home Office](#)

Alcohol and late night refreshment licensing England and Wales 31st March 2014 data tables.



[Policy Exchange](#)

Swift and Certain: A new paradigm for criminal justice.

[Restorative Justice Council](#)

Restorative justice in the magistrates' court - Information pack.

[Minister praises pioneering anti-slavery academy in Derby](#)

Minister for Modern Slavery and Organised Crime Karen Bradley welcomes Derby's bid to become global city against slavery.

[Hundreds helped to leave gangs by charity project which earns praise of minister](#)

Around 200 of London's most prolific young offenders have left their violent past behind in the last year.

[Girls in the Criminal Justice System](#)

Report from the Joint Inspection by HM Inspectorate of Probation.

[Victim Support](#)

Suffering in silence: Children and unreported crime

[Clinks](#)

Improving outcomes for young black and/or Muslim men in the Criminal Justice System

[Home Office](#)

An Independent Review of the police disciplinary system in England and Wales.

[Home Office](#)

User guide to alcohol and late night refreshment licensing statistics.

[Public Health England](#)

Young people's hospital alcohol pathways - Support pack for A&E departments.

[Scottish Health Action on Alcohol Problems](#)

Alcohol and the Developing Adolescent Brain: Evidence Review.

[Public demand government action as England and Wales risk falling behind in fight against drink driving says Road Safety charity BRAKE](#)

Three quarters (74%) of UK drivers want a lower drink drive limit, according to a survey published by road safety charity Brake and Direct Line.

[Co-existing Substance Misuse and Mental Health Issues Profiling Tool](#)

This new tool has been developed to support an intelligence-driven approach to understanding and meeting need. It provides commissioners, service providers, clinicians, service users and families the means to benchmark their area against other areas.

[Justice Committee calls for urgent review of law of joint enterprise in murder cases](#)

The Law Commission should review the common-law doctrine of joint enterprise in murder cases as a matter of urgency, says the Justice Committee in a follow-up report published.



[HMIP report on prison communications - steps to prevent prisoners' calls to MPs being monitored largely in place](#)

Steps taken by the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) to prevent prisoners' phone calls to MPs being listened to or recorded in future have been largely, but not wholly effective, said Nick Hardwick, Chief Inspector of Prisons, in a published report of the first stage of an Inquiry into prison communications.

[Bullying rife in local government, finds survey](#)

Nearly three-quarters of council staff have experienced or witnessed inappropriate behaviour in the workplace, according to a new survey.

["Access to Work" – Government must do more to support disabled people in work](#)

Access to Work (AtW) is a unique government programme which offers practical support to disabled people to help them stay in, or gain, employment. But it is helping only a minority of the people it could benefit, due to inadequate funding and a lack of awareness of the programme, says the Work and Pensions Select Committee in its report published today.

[Millions of pounds to be invested in local infrastructure thanks to enterprise zones](#)

Enterprise zones have enabled councils to channel hundreds of millions of pounds into crucial infrastructure projects by allowing them to take advantage of top-class investment incentives that are driving forward the economy, Local Growth Minister [Penny Mordaunt](#) announced today (16 December 2014).

[Tri-county council alliance signed](#)

A tri-county council alliance has been agreed by Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Northamptonshire councils.

[Councils are turning away homeless teenagers, report claims](#)

Councils must 'fundamentally change' their approach to child homelessness, with many failing to comply with legal duties to protect teenagers – a charity has warned.

[One in ten council tenants is foreign](#)

One in ten council houses is now occupied by a foreigner, official figures from the Department for Communities and local government (DCLG) has revealed.

[Council Tax freeze and sensible savings 'will deliver fairer deal for hardworking families'](#)

Local Government Minister Kris Hopkins called on town halls to take up the offer of extra government funding to freeze Council Tax for hardworking families for a fifth successive year as he published the [provisional local government finance settlement for 2015 to 2016](#).

[50,000 NEETs 'missing' from official figures](#)

More than 50,000 young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEETs) have disappeared from official statistics, according to a report published by the Fabian Society.

[Prisons hit by staff shortages in run-up to Christmas says Howard League](#)

More than 230 prison officers are being asked to work in other prisons in the run-up to Christmas as governors across England and Wales face a major staffing crisis, plans seen by the Howard League for Penal Reform indicate.



[Keep public health cash ring-fenced, says health boss](#)

Cash for public health should be ring-fenced for the foreseeable future, according to the chief executive of Public Health England (PHE).

[Institute of Public Policy Research](#)

Not Home: The lives of hidden homeless households in unsupported temporary accommodation in England.

[Portas slams 'token gestures' to support high streets](#)

Retail guru Mary Portas has accused ministers of only making 'token gestures' in response to her [Government-backed review](#) on high streets.

[Implications of devolution for England](#)

The Command Paper was announced by Leader of the Commons [William Hague](#) in an oral statement to MPs. It sets out proposals for responding to the implications of devolution for England. It contains separate proposals from each of the coalition parties on how best to address these issues.

[Written statement on Local Government Improvement](#)

[Government tackles businesses' concerns over holiday pay ruling](#)

The government has taken action to reduce potential costs to employers and give certainty to workers on their rights following the recent court decisions on holiday pay.

[Local Government Association](#)

Reducing the strength: Guidance for councils considering setting up a scheme.

[Labour market statistics: December 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 August to October 2014, 73.0% of people aged from 16 to 64 were in work, up from 71.8% for a year earlier.
- The unemployment rate for August to October 2014 was 6.0%, down from 7.4% for a year earlier.

[Developers exploiting planning reform loopholes say MPs](#)

Councils that fail to adopt a Local Plan are allowing developers to drive forward 'inappropriate and unsustainable development', MPs are warning.

[Survey reveals rise in 'shadow IT'](#)

One fifth of IT spend in the public sector is being done by individual departments rather than chief information officers (CIOs), a new survey has revealed.

[Legal Aid Agency: Extending the contract period of the 2010 Standard Crime Contract](#)

The Legal Aid Agency (LAA) is contacting all 2010 Standard Crime Contract holders to extend the current crime contract to meet the government's commitment in its response to the Transforming Legal Aid: Crime Duty Contracts consultation.



[Jo Swinson pledges support for a new ranking of companies' human rights performance](#)

Business Minister [Jo Swinson](#) has put human rights at the heart of the corporate agenda by pledging Government support, including £80,000 start-up funding, for a new human rights benchmark that will assess and rank the corporate human rights performance of international companies. The project has been established by an international group led by Aviva Investors.

[Pickles tells councils to 'prove' value of top earning staff](#)

Building on a range of measures that target higher salaries in local authorities, the communities secretary has now instructed officials to investigate how even greater transparency can be achieved over the highest council wages and bonuses. Latest figures suggest over 2,000 council employees in the UK are earning more than £100,000 a year.

[Government has grounded excessive town hall pay but councils must do more to prove value of senior staff](#)

This government's focus on excessive pay has brought about a pay restraint among the vast majority of councils reducing the number of town hall staff on inflated salaries and ending an era of boomerang bosses. However, latest figures for the UK suggest more than 2,000 town hall staff were still taking home more than £100,000 a year.

[Council bond agency green lit to launch](#)

Plans for the UK's first municipal bonds have been green lit to launch, following a show of 'overwhelming appetite' from councils.

['NHS in Birmingham is simply not pulling its weight in protecting children'](#)

The NHS in Birmingham must share the blame for the city's consistent failures to protect children, the council's children's commissioner has claimed.

[Sheffield second city-region in England to get devolution package](#)

Sheffield has agreed a devolution deal with Whitehall that will see more powers over transport, skills, housing and economic development transfer to the city region's combined authorities.

[Councils pool resources to make borrowing cheaper for one another](#)

The UK's first 'municipal bonds agency' has moved a step closer, with 48 councils signed up to become investors.

[Council senior staff pay-offs 'unacceptable' – government](#)

The government says it is "unacceptable" when councils pay off senior staff instead of investigating misconduct and under-performance.

[Local government workers get half of total public sector Working Tax Credit](#)

The local government workforce accounts for half of public sector Working Tax Credit (WTC) expenditure, despite it making up only a quarter of the public sector workforce, research from the New Policy Institute has revealed.

[Councils lack resources to cope with ageing population – IPPR North](#)

Local authorities are worried they will lack resources to address the challenges that arise from an ageing population, according to IPPR North.



[Greater control over rail links for city regions – ICE](#)

The Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE) has urged policy makers to give city regions greater influence over national rail and road networks.

[Cities should 'keep more of savings made from tackling unemployment'](#)

City regions should keep more of the savings they make by reducing unemployment and poverty, a new report from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) has recommended.

[Back-to-work schemes 'damaging' for people with mental health problems](#)

Government back-to-work schemes are ineffective and damaging to those with mental health problems, according to campaigners.

[Extracts from the code of practice for the housing and care of animals used for scientific purposes](#)

Sets out the standards of care and accommodation of animals required by the Animals (Scientific) Procedures Act 1986.

[Home Secretary announces the reappointment of HMCIC Thomas Winsor](#)

Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary Thomas Winsor has been reappointed for five years.

4. Consultations

[UK Borders Act 2007: sanctions for non-compliance with the biometric registration regulations](#)

Consultation closes on the 23 December 2014.

[A proposal to increase firearms licensing fees administered by the police](#)

This consultation seeks views on whether firearms licensing fees administered by the police should be increased. The Home Office also welcomes comments on how the review process should be managed. Closes 29th December 2014.

[Changes to the police disciplinary system](#)

This consultation seeks views on proposals for changes to the police disciplinary system, and strengthening protections for police whistleblowers. Closes 2nd January 2-15.

[Next steps to zero carbon homes: small sites exemption](#)

Open date: 18/11/2014

Close date: 07/01/2015

[Department for Work and Pensions](#)

The Occupational Pension Schemes (Levies) (Amendment) Regulations 2015. Closes 9 January.

[Government launches consultation into mandatory reporting of FGM](#)

The Government has launched a consultation seeking views on how best to introduce mandatory reporting of female genital mutilation (FGM). The consultation runs to 12th January 2015.

[Local government finance settlement 2015 to 2016](#)



Closes 15th January 2015.

[Triennial Review of Information Commissioner's Office](#)

This review is now open for comment and runs until 16th January 2015.

[Robbery guideline consultation](#)

The Sentencing Council has launched a consultation on the draft guideline on robbery. The consultation closes 23rd January 2015.

[Changing existing regulations for an emergency alert system](#)

In the [Strategic Defence and Security Review](#), we committed to evaluate options for rapidly notifying people affected by an emergency. This would help them protect themselves. In autumn 2013 the government, working with local emergency response agencies and the mobile phone networks, completed the [mobile alerting trials for public emergencies](#). The trials found that a 'location-based SMS' service would be the most effective way to alert people in affected areas. However existing Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations 2003 may restrict the operation of such a system. Closing date, 26th January 2015.

[Prevent duty](#)

The Counter-Terrorism and Security Bill, which is currently before Parliament, seeks to place a duty on specified authorities (identified in full in Schedule 3 to the bill, and set out in this draft guidance) to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. Closes 20th January 2015.

[31st January 2015](#) - *Guidance for healthcare professionals on information sharing*

[Schedule 7 to the Terrorism Act 2000: draft code of practice](#)

Schedule 7 to the Terrorism Act 2000 ('Schedule 7') allows an examining officer to stop and question individuals travelling through ports, airports, international rail stations or the border area. When necessary they may also detain and search individuals. The aim is to determine whether that person appears to be someone who is or has been concerned in the commission, preparation or instigation of acts of terrorism. Closes on 30th January 2015.

[Consultation on 2015-16 Draft Budget Proposals](#)

Open date: 03/12/2014

Close date: 03/02/2015

[Waste crime: new regulations for dealing with seized property in suspected waste offences](#)

Consultation on proposals for new laws to allow the seizure of vehicles for suspected waste crime offences. The draft regulations will help us reduce illegal waste activity, giving enforcement authorities better tools to use in the investigation and prosecution of suspected offences. Close date 3rd February 2015.

[Improving police integrity: reforming the police complaints and disciplinary systems](#)

Consultation seeks views on proposals to reform the police complaints and disciplinary system.



[Improving police integrity: reforming the police complaints and disciplinary systems](#)

The Government is consulting on proposals for changes to the way in which complaints against the police are dealt with including transferring responsibility to Police and Crime Commissioners. The consultation is open until 5th February.

[Consultation on revisions to PACE Codes](#)

Open date: 14/11/2014

Close date: 06/02/2015

[Pre-charge bail: consultation on statutory time limits and related changes](#)

The government is consulting on a series of measures whose overall impact should be to reduce both the number of individuals subject to, and the average duration of, pre-charge bail. Closes on the 8th February 2015.

[Offences against the person](#)

The Law Commission is consulting on 'Offences against the person'. The consultation runs until 11th February 2015.

[Domestic abuse consultation](#)

The College of Policing is currently developing guidance on the subject of domestic abuse and is looking for feedback on the content of the guidance. The consultation is open until 18th February 2015.

[Use of Expert Witnesses in Courts in NI](#)

Open date: 13/11/2014

Close date: 20/02/2015

[Proposal to extend the power of the Criminal Cases Review Commission](#)

Open date: 01/12/2014

Close date: 27/02/2015

5. Reviews and Inspections

[Achieving best evidence in child abuse cases – joint inspection published](#)

This joint inspection was published today by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) and Her Majesty's Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate (HMCPSI). It sets out 11 recommendations for improvement, including better training and additional guidance for staging the sensitive interviews.

[Use of Intercept as evidence](#)

The Government published its review of whether Intercept could be introduced as evidence. The review concluded that the introduction of intercept as evidence could only be achieved at significant cost and that the benefits of introducing intercept as evidence would be uncertain. Indeed, on some assumptions, the review concluded that the introduction of intercept as evidence may lead to a decrease in successful prosecution. The review therefore concluded that intercept as evidence should not be introduced at this time, but that the Government would keep it under review.

[Greater Manchester Police inspected on child protection](#)



HM Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) has published an inspection report into the child protection work carried out by Greater Manchester Police, following an inspection in July 2014. This is part of a rolling programme of child protection inspections of all police forces in England and Wales.

[IPCC to investigate ten officers following Rotherham scandal](#)

The Independent Police Complaints Commission is launching an investigation into the conduct of ten South Yorkshire officers in relation to their handling of reported child sexual exploitation.

[IPPC: monthly update about the investigations into the Hillsborough disaster](#)

[HMIC: Crime recording thematic to be published](#)

[IPCC investigates force that gave killer back his guns](#)

The Independent Police Complaints Commission is investigating Surrey Police's decision to return confiscated licensed guns to a man who went on to kill two women.