



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

Finance (No. 2) Bill - second reading debate (Commons) - April 15

The **Finance (No. 2) Bill** obtained a second reading by a majority of 72. Certain clauses will now be debated in committee on the floor of the House, and the rest will be considered by a Public Bill Committee.

Court of appeal dismisses human rights challenge to Immigration Rule

The Home Office was successful in defending Immigration Rules changes introduced to test migrants English language capabilities. The Court of Appeal announced at 10am, on Friday 12 April, that it had dismissed an appeal by Mrs Saiqa Bibi and Mrs Saffana Abdulla Mohammed Ali in their Judicial Review challenging the lawfulness of part of the family Immigration Rules. Read the [Court of Appeal judgment](#)

Briefing on missing persons and the presumption of death

A missing person may be reported to the police. In addition, a number of organisations offer assistance in searching for a missing person. The Government supported the Bill which is now the Presumption of Death Act 2013 (the Act), having received Royal Assent on 26 March 2013. [Missing persons and the presumption of death \(PDF, 13 pages, 320.7 KB\)](#)

Background briefing on the standards regime in England

The new standards arrangements replace the Labour Government's ethical framework for local councillors that was introduced by the Local Government Act 2000 and amended by the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

- [Local government: the standards regime in England \(PDF, 9 pages, 96.52 KB\)](#)

Motion to the House of TREATMENT OF 17 YEAR OLDS IN POLICE CUSTODY

That this House condemns the exclusion of 17 year olds from the specific protection given to juveniles in the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, which remains inconsistent with domestic and international legislation which states that a human is a child until the age of 18 and that 17 year olds in police custody are consequently not provided with an appropriate adult as a matter of course; notes with great sadness the tragic consequences this has had on the Thornber and Lawton family whose 17 year old sons Edward Thornber, who was arrested for the possession of cannabis, and Joe Lawton, arrested for drink driving,

committed suicide as a result; and calls on the Government for a change of law so that 17 year olds are treated as children when arrested and in police custody, as requested by a 52,000 signature petition presented to 10 Downing Street on 28 March 2013.

2. Policing and crime key developments

Police and Crime Commissioners are in breach of the law by failing to declare their expenses, according to analysis by *The Times*.

More than half of the 41 commissioners in England and Wales have not published their spending despite legislation that requires quarterly disclosures ([Times](#)).

[THINK! urges motorcyclists to 'stay in control'](#)

A new THINK! road safety initiative to encourage motorcyclists to improve their defensive riding skills has been launched today (18 April 2013) by the Road Safety Minister [Stephen Hammond](#). See the department's [annual road casualty statistics of 2011](#) for further information.

[Police powers and procedures in England and Wales 2011/12](#)

Figures were published on 18 April on a range of police powers and procedures. The National Statistics release contains figures on Arrests, Detentions, Road Checks, Intimate Searches, Stops and Searches, Breath Tests and Fixed Penalty Notices. These statistics show that:

- There were 1.2 million persons arrested by the police for recorded crimes in 2011/12, down 9% on 2010/11.
- The number of recorded crimes decreased by 4% over the same period.
- The police stopped and searched 1.1 million persons and/or vehicles under section 1 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) in 2011/12, 7% less than in 2010/11. Resultant arrests fell by 6%. Stops and searches on suspicion of drugs accounted for 50% of the overall total.
- They also made 46,961 stops and searches in anticipation of violence (under section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994), down 25% on 2010/11.
- The police issued 1.5 million fixed penalty notices for motoring offences in 2011, down 18% on 2010. Speed limit offences accounted for over half of them.
- The police carried out 685,992 screening breath tests during 2011, 7% fewer than in 2010. The number of positive or refused tests also fell by 4% and accounted for 12% of the total.

The statistical release, 'Police Powers and Procedures, England and Wales 2011/12' contains statistics at police force area level, with analyses by age and gender. There is also a limited analysis of arrests and stops and searches by ethnicity of those arrested or stopped. A more comprehensive analysis will be published by the Ministry of Justice, in its next 'Statistics on Race and the Criminal Justice System' release, in the autumn of 2013.

Lord Chancellor's speech on transforming youth custody

Focused on better education for young offenders to stop them embarking on a life of crime.

Lords EU Committee to publish report on 2014 EU police and criminal justice opt-out decision

The House of Lords EU Committee has announced that it will publish its report on the opt-out decision on Tuesday 23 April, following the joint inquiry by the Justice, Institutions and Consumer Protection and the Home Affairs, Health and Education EU Sub-Committees.

European Parliament approves big step forward in fight against cyber crime

The European Parliament today approved the introduction of a package of improvements to the EU's cyber-security operations. The measures had been agreed during detailed negotiations in Brussels led by the parliament's lead member on the dossier [Giles Chichester](#), Conservative MEP for the South West and Gibraltar.

West midlands Police

New digital fingerprint technology is aiding the fight against crime on the streets of West Midlands by allowing officers to ID crime suspects in seconds.

'Challenge it, report it, stop it': The Government has published its plan to tackle hate crime.

The plan sets out the government's role in supporting local areas to tackle the hatred that divides communities and ruins the lives of victims, often with tragic consequences. It also highlights a drive to encourage more victims to come forward and report incidents, which will provide the government and agencies with a clearer understanding of the problem so that further support can be targeted where it is most needed.

Cycle safety funding awarded to 78 schemes in England

Money will be made available to improve cyclist safety and the design and layout of roads at locations across the country. For Nottingham the list identifies:

- Nottingham City, Dunkirk Roundabout, Costs £340,000, matching funds £190,000, Grant £150,000, with grant of 44%.
- Nottingham City, Mansfield Road / Forest Road, Costs £300,000, matching funds £150,000, Grant £150,000, with grant of 50%.

POLKA to partially open to the public

The College of Policing is planning to open up part of the Police Online Knowledge Area (POLKA) to enable others to tap into the wealth of information around policing approaches to reducing crime.

National Stalking Awareness Day: April 18th

National Stalking Awareness Day exists to raise awareness about the crime of stalking. Each year we have a different 'theme' and because of the recent stalking law changes, this year's focus will be 'Know the Law, Use the Law'. Currently the law is slightly different in England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland but importantly stalking behaviour is against the law across the UK.

Women's Aid: Digital stalking: a guide to technology risks for victims

Women's Aid teamed up with national stalking charity Network for Surviving Stalking to launch a practical guide for victims of stalking. 'Digital stalking: a guide to technology risks for victims' is an important resource for all stalking victims, including the many survivors of domestic violence who are being stalked by an ex-partner. It explains the wide range of technological risks for those being stalked, including use of Spyware on personal computers,

tracking devices on mobile phones and tracking of information through social networking sites.

[Institute of Public Policy Research](#): Criminal justice reform: A revolution on the American right

The politics of crime in the United States are undergoing a remarkable change. After years of being reliably 'tough on crime', conservatives are now at the forefront of the movement for criminal justice reform. A recent article in the Washington Monthly, 'The Conservative War on Prisons', summed up this dramatic change succinctly: 'Right-wing operatives have decided that prisons are a lot like schools: hugely expensive, inefficient, and in need of root-and-branch reform.'

Prisoners are to face losing automatic access to gym equipment, games consoles and other perks under plans for a new regime of "tough justice", being finalised by the Justice Secretary, Chris Grayling MP.

Mr Grayling plans to raise the threshold of "good behaviour", requiring prisoners to work or enrol in education programmes to receive the privileges, in order to ensure that the justice system "properly punishes as well as reforms" ([Times](#); [Independent](#)).

[Communities and Local Government Select Committee – Decentralisation: an assessment of progress](#)

This session focused on Decentralisation: an assessment of progress, Greg Clark's mid-term review of the transfer of Government powers to local authorities and communities. The session also explored issues from the Committee's session with Graham Allen MP on codifying the relationship between central and local government.

Howard League for Penal Reform: Outlined that on International Women's Day this year there were just over 4,000 women in prison in England, making up just 5% of the prison population. However the statistics within this minority group are: 81% are convicted of **non-violent** crimes, over half are known **substance abusers**, and 53% of women in custody have experienced **emotional, physical or sexual abuse** in their pasts.

Women in custody also have a high **self-harm** and attempted suicide rate that goes hand in hand with the large percentage of women in custody with mental health issues.

Ministers welcome dramatic drop in railway cable theft

Cable theft on Britain's railways has more than halved thanks to a co-ordinated clampdown on metal theft. [New Network Rail figures](#) show a 67% drop in the total number of cable thefts over the past year. There has also been a 54% reduction in disruption to passenger journeys – which equates to just over 3,000 fewer hours in delays this year compared to the previous year.

Qatar: Police Clearance Procedure - government guidance for police forces

Applications for a Qatari residence permit will generally need to be accompanied by a valid Police Clearance Certificate. The [Metropolitan Police website](#) has information on how to apply for a Subject Access Request and links to all UK police forces.

New appointments to the Sentencing Council

Two new non-judicial members have been appointed to the Sentencing Council by the Lord Chancellor. They are Javed Khan, Chief Executive of Victim Support and Michael Caplan, QC.

Government must take responsibility for VAT fraud, says Lords committee

The Government is not doing enough to ensure that fraud committed against the EU is detected, investigated and punished, says the House of Lords Justice, Institutions and Consumer Protection EU Sub-Committee in its report, *The fight against fraud on the EU's finances*.

A cap on certain benefit payments, set to be imposed across England, Scotland and Wales in July, is to be rolled out in four London boroughs from 15 April.

Jobseeker's allowance, income support, child and housing benefit are among the credits that will contribute to a cap of £500 a week for couples and lone parents and £350 for single people in Haringey, Enfield, Croydon and Bromley ([Guardian](#); [Independent](#); [BBC Online](#)).

The Department for Work and Pensions has disclosed that the money likely to be saved from the benefit cap, introduced in four London boroughs yesterday, is less than half the amount originally envisaged by the Treasury.

A spokesman for the Department said that because the Government had revised the number of families affected by the cap from 55,000 to 40,000, with the resulting savings falling from £270 million to £110 million in the first year ([Times](#)).

Four out of every five companies believe that efforts by the Government to remove barriers to job creation are having no impact on their business, according to a survey of 700 companies by Barclays Corporate.

Businesses are also divided over the likely impact of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, George Osborne MP's, "shares for workers' rights" plan, with a third of businesses believing that the scheme will not be popular among small and medium sized enterprises ([FT](#)).

Enterprise zones set up across Britain by the Government in 2011 have so far produced 1,700 jobs, significantly short of the 30,000 target by 2015.

Keith Wakefield, Labour leader of Leeds City Council, said that "we have got the zones in the right place but we do not have the demand" and that there need to be greater incentives to "persuade businesses to invest" ([FT](#)).

Increased spending by shoppers and a revival in the housing market will lead to a minor economic recovery in the UK this year, according to financial services firm Ernst and Young.

The ITEM Club, Ernst and Young's quarterly economic audit, predicts that the economy will expand by 0.6 per cent this year, with the recession in Europe and a lack of business confidence decreasing the likelihood of growth driven by a rise in exports ([FT](#)).

Job losses in the public sector will accelerate in the run up to the next General Election, with a further 340,000 posts expected to be cut, according to a study by The Jobs Economist think tank.

Dr John Philpott, Director of the think tank, says that based on the current projections from the Office for Budget Responsibility, the proportion of people employed in the public sector by 2018 will be lower than at any time since the Second World War (Telegraph print only).

The number of households in England will increase by 2.2 million over the 10 years to 2021, with a rise of 221,000 in London alone, a rate more than double that of the North and Midlands, according to the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

Across England last year 115,000 new houses were completed, however the ONS projects that demand for households will increase at nearly twice this rate ([Times](#)).

Transport Committee asks for views on road safety and low carbon vehicles, ahead of parliamentary debates

The House of Commons will be debating Transport Committee reports into road safety and low carbon vehicles on Thursday 25th April.

Public sector pay has grown three times faster than that in the private sector, according to the latest figures from the Office for National Statistics.

Private sector workers' pay rose by just 0.5 per cent between December 2012 and February 2013, compared to the same period last year, whilst public sector workers saw a 1.7 per cent increase over the same period ([Telegraph](#)).

[Gov.uk Wins Design of the Year Award](#)

Designed by the Government Digital Service, the site is a portal for all of the UK government's websites.

3. Reports

[Launch of Nottinghamshire Growth Plan](#)

Nottinghamshire County Council has facilitated the development of a Nottinghamshire Growth Plan in recent months. Positive and constructive feedback from the business community and our public and voluntary sector partners has been factored into the final version of the Growth Plan.

Grayling explains review of cautions

The Secretary of State for Justice, together with the Home Secretary and the Attorney General, on 3rd April launched 2013 a review of simple cautions. This will examine the way in which simple cautions are currently used, and consider the need for any changes to policy or practice to ensure that there is transparency, accountability and public confidence in the use of simple cautions as a disposal. The review will report to criminal justice ministers by the end of May 2013 and any government proposals stemming from consideration of this will be brought forward in due course.

Minister explains consultation on Improving the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime

Written Ministerial Statement by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Mrs Helen Grant): On 29 March, the Government launched the Improving the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime consultation. The Government wants to do all it can to ensure the right services and support is in place to help victims through what is often a sensitive, worrying and emotional time. Last year we published our response to the 'Getting it right for victims and witnesses' consultation in which we made a commitment to revise the current Code of Practice for Victims of Crime ('Victims' Code').

[New statutory guidance on Health and Wellbeing Strategies](#)

Local authorities will have increasing responsibility for dealing with air quality in their areas, according to a public health specialist at the Greater London Authority (GLA) and Transport for London (TfL).

[Independent Police Complaints Commission](#)

In 2011, through the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act, the Government freed up the IPCC to deal with the most serious complaints and gave the IPCC more flexibility in the way it carries out its administrative functions. In 2012, the Police (Complaints and Conduct) Act gave the IPCC two new powers to assist in the investigation of allegations of police wrongdoing in connection with the Hillsborough disaster. These powers will also have wider application to other cases. The Government intends to legislate to further strengthen the IPCC's powers as soon as Parliamentary time allows. In this context the Government welcomes, and is grateful for, the support of the Committee on legislating quickly with the Police (Complaints and Conduct) Act 2012.

[Ministerial Statement - European Arrest Warrant Data](#)

A statement from the Home Secretary regarding an error in the way the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) has captured and reported the number of outgoing European Arrest Warrants (EAW) that have been issued since 2009/10. The Chair of SOCA has assured the Home Secretary that there is no evidence to suggest that this error in data capture has had any operational impact on the way in which EAWs have been processed by SOCA, or any other part of the criminal justice system, or therefore on public protection. The Home Secretary has initiated HMIC to undertake an audit.

[House of Commons briefing note on speed cameras](#)

The paper outlines the legislative basis for speed cameras, the types of cameras in use and includes information on their funding. It also discusses issues surrounding their efficacy. As part of the National Safety Camera Partnership programme, police forces round the country were able to form a partnership with the local traffic authority and magistrates court. A partnership funding scheme was made available nationally in August 2001. This followed a pilot scheme in eight police force areas. There are now over 30 such Partnerships in England and the Road Casualty Reduction Partnership in Wales. Road safety funding is devolved in both Wales and Scotland. When the funding criteria changed in 2007 the Partnerships in England widened their scope and are now involved in all forms of road safety (and as such many no longer mention 'cameras' in their name). It is a matter for them to decide how they manage their budgets and what they spend their money on – whether that be cameras or other road safety initiatives such as traffic calming or driver education. A number of local areas have switched off their speed cameras over the past couple of years.

[Mental Health Foundation: *Losing track of time: Dementia and an ageing prison population.*](#)

Dementia presents a looming problem for prisons responsible for a rapidly growing population of older people, yet to date it remains largely overlooked. The last decade has seen increasing academic interest in the impact of this demographic shift on a criminal justice systems designed to house younger people, however the issue of dementia has attracted little attention. The aims of this report are to scope existing research on treating and managing male offenders with cognitive impairment to identify and share examples of good practice employed by a handful of prisons around the globe.

[National Offender Management Service](#)

Business Plan 2013-2014.

[New statutory guidance on Health and Wellbeing Strategies](#)

Outlines Clinical Commissioning Groups of their responsible authority role within community safety. The document will not ensure Commissioners have a seat on Health and Wellbeing Boards but does support the case for this to happen.

[Equality and Human Rights Commission](#)

Managing and supporting staff experiencing domestic abuse. The guidance includes practical tips for employers to recognise when an employee may be affected by domestic abuse. It explains how to respond and offer support, and provides details of organisations to turn to for further information and advice. Employers may wish to develop a workplace policy to raise awareness of domestic abuse, identify responsibilities and ensure provision, support and safety. The guidance sets out key elements that could be included in an effective policy.

[Revolving Doors Agency: Healthcare in police custody: Users' views](#)

Launching [Healthcare in police custody: Users' views](#). This briefing paper, the latest in our [SPARK](#) series of resources, has been developed with members of [Rethink](#) and [Revolving Doors Agency's](#) service user groups and members of the [Working for Justice Group](#). Using their experience of detention in police custody while requiring support for a physical or mental health issues or a learning disability, the contributors present innovative, yet practical solutions to improve the experience and outcomes of detainees with healthcare or other support needs in police custody.

Older workers are a "vital and untapped resource for business", says Pensions Minister. Employers who ignore Britain's growing older population could suffer skills shortages and lose an important competitive edge, according to a new government guide.

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/employing-older-workers.pdf>

[£1.7m Gold Standard sets new homelessness benchmark](#)

A new scheme led by a small expert team based at Winchester City Council and supported by the National Homelessness Advice Service will help councils across the country to deliver the best possible service

[Launch of Whole Place Community Budgets website](#)

This website has been launched to help local police forces, health providers, councils and other agencies explore new ways of rewiring public services around local people.

[Economic and Social Research Council](#): From boys to men: Phase one findings. The *From Boys to Men* Project was funded by the Economic and Social Research Council to explore why some boys become domestic abuse perpetrators when others do not. In so doing, it sought to establish what more could be done to reduce the number of young men who become perpetrators. The study involved three phases of data collection including: Phase 1 - a survey of school children aged 13-14, Phase 2 - focus groups with 69 young people aged 13-19, and Phase 3 - life history interviews with 30 young men, aged 16-21, who had experienced domestic violence as victims, perpetrators or witnesses.

[Home Office](#)

Statistics on the police use of firearms in England and Wales 2010 – 2011.

[Office for National Statistics](#)

A short story of anti-social behaviour.

Adfam: Discussion Paper on funding Family Support

In May 2010, the Coalition Government stated that deficit reduction was the most urgent issue facing Britain, aiming to save £20 billion per year by the end of the current Parliament in 2015. There is also evidence that these budgetary cuts are being implemented unevenly, and in some areas are disproportionately affecting the voluntary sector: roughly two-thirds of reported cuts identified Local Government as a source of funding. Even in areas that are highly supportive of the voluntary sector, the trend of increasing investment from the state has gone, perhaps permanently. To compound this, voluntary and charitable organisations have recently experienced a reduction in giving and donating from the public, which dropped 20% (or £2.3 billion) in real terms between 2010/11 and 2011/12.

NI child abuse levels 'disturbing' says NSPCC report

Fewer children are suffering violent deaths in Northern Ireland but the level of child abuse remains disturbing and often "hidden", according to a new report. The report, How Safe are our Children, found that for every child in the UK subject to a protection plan or on child protection registers, eight more have suffered maltreatment. The charity estimates it would cost up to £0.5bn every year to provide protection plans to just a quarter of these "hidden children". The report, a UK-wide study, stresses the need for early intervention.

Brighton considers drug-use rooms in bid to reduce deaths

Brighton could become the first city in the UK to provide rooms where people would be able to use illegal drugs safely without the fear of prosecution. Their use is one of the recommendations in an independent report commissioned by Brighton and Hove City Council. ([bbc news](#)) Sussex Police welcomed the report but emphasised the importance of a "holistic approach" to illegal drugs.

Unemployment rises by 70,000 for period September to November 2012

- The employment rate for those aged from 16 to 64 for December 2012 to February 2013 was 71.4%, virtually unchanged from September to November 2012. There were 29.70 million people in employment aged 16 and over, little changed (down 2,000) from September to November 2012.
- The unemployment rate for December 2012 to February 2013 was 7.9% of the economically active population, up 0.2 percentage points from September to November 2012. There were 2.56 million unemployed people, up 70,000 from September to November 2012.
- The inactivity rate for those aged from 16 to 64 for December 2012 to February 2013 was 22.2% (the lowest since 1991), down 0.2 percentage points from September to November 2012. There were 8.95 million economically inactive people aged from 16 to 64, down 57,000 from September to November 2012.

Between December 2011 to February 2012 and December 2012 to February 2013 total pay rose by 0.8% (the lowest growth rate since September to November 2009) and regular pay rose by 1.0% (the lowest growth rate since records began in 2001).

[Labour Market Statistics, April 2013](#)

The Communities and Local Government Secretary, Eric Pickles MP, has said that he is willing to agree a "sensible compromise" after Ministers called for a rethink of proposed reforms to planning legislation.

The rebellion against the relaxation of planning laws, a proposal intended to "revitalise the economy", came as backbenchers said it would guarantee disputes between neighbours ([Telegraph](#); [Times](#); [Guardian](#); [Independent](#); [Mail](#)).

4. Consultations

[Child Sexual Exploitation – Starting a national conversation](#)

This 8 week National Conversation, launched by the Local Government Association, to gather views, ideas and existing practice, drawing on the wide range of experience in councils and partner agencies.

[Transforming legal aid: Delivering a more credible and efficient system](#)

A consultation has been opened by the Government to look at ways of boosting public confidence in the legal aid system and tackle the towering bills. The consultation runs until 4th June 2013.

[Homes and Communities Agency](#)

Discussion Paper: Protecting social housing assets in a more diverse sector. It includes proposals to help insulate social housing assets from commercial risks, a proposition on 'living wills' that we think will support risk management and help mitigate the impact of financial distress, and some ideas about how the consents regime might change to enable transactions between not-for-profit and for-profit providers in a way that protects the taxpayer. The Regulation Committee is open-minded about exactly how its objectives should best be achieved, and this document is designed to start a period of intensive dialogue with the sector. This will lead to a formal consultation on changes to the Regulatory Framework later this year which will address any statutory consultation requirements that arise from proposed amendments to the Framework. The feedback over the next eight weeks will determine the form and length of the formal consultation.