



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 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

[Modern slavery white paper published](#) - A flagship Bill to tackle modern slavery, the first of its kind in Europe, has been published by the Home Secretary Theresa May.

[SI 2013/2907 The Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 \(Victims' Code of Practice\) Order 2013](#)

[SI 2013 No. 2319 The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 \(Transitional Provision\) Order 2013](#)

[Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill](#)

[Offender Rehabilitation Bill](#) - Report, together with formal minutes.

[Immigration Bill - amendments to be considered at remaining stages](#)

European Council adopts financing programmes in the area of justice and fundamental rights
The European Council, meeting in Brussels today, adopted has without discussion two regulations establishing the financing programmes in the area of justice and fundamental rights within the framework of the Multiannual Financial Framework for the period 2014-2020.

Circular 017/2013. [Guidance on police officer and staff secondments](#) - This guidance was discussed and agreed by the Police Advisory Board for England and Wales.

[The Police Federation \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013](#)

2. Policing and crime key developments

[Provisional police funding announcement](#)

Published in December 2013, this police grant report sets out the Home Secretary's determination for 2014 to 2015 of the aggregate amount of grants for police purposes that she proposes to pay and the amount of grant she proposes to pay each local policing body.

[ACPO response to the 2014/15 Police Settlement.](#)

[Drug driving and amphetamine](#) - Proposed limit for amphetamine while driving consultation launched.

[Police dog units planned merger and cuts 'not acceptable'](#).

Plans to cut the number of police dogs and merge units for Avon and Somerset, Wiltshire and Gloucestershire have been criticised as "not acceptable".

[Heat maps for the provisional local government finance settlement](#)

These maps show the area spending power per dwelling in 2014 to 2015 and 2015 to 2016.

[Police 'manipulate' crime figures: Force watchdog says there is an 'incentive' to make performance look good](#)

The police watchdog has told MPs that it is 'almost certain that some manipulation is going on' in the recording of crime statistics by officers. Tom Winsor, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary, told the Home Affairs Select Committee 'in anything that gets measured' there is an 'incentive, resisted by many, to manipulate the process to make your own performance look good'.

[Winsor: My reforms 'misunderstood.](#)

[An overview of hate crime in England and Wales](#) - There are two main sources for the number of hate crime: the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) and police recorded crime.

[Proscribed terror groups or organisations](#) (updated) - This document lists the terrorist groups or organisations banned under UK law, and provides the criteria that are considered when deciding whether or not to proscribe a group or organisation.

[Youth violence falls in areas targeted by government's 'Ending Gangs' programme](#) -

Youth violence is continuing to fall in areas targeted by a government programme aimed at stamping out gangs and gang culture, according to a new report.

[Traffic courts up and running in twenty-nine areas](#)

All areas should have a dedicated traffic court within the next six months Justice Minister Damian Green has announced.

[Survey reinforces national concern on the detention of the mentally ill in police custody](#) - A survey undertaken by the Inspecting ranks in England and Wales has revealed stark findings on police custody matters. A core responsibility for the Inspecting ranks, custody services are clearly under extreme pressure. Notably, the results reinforce the

national call to have more active involvement from specialist services when it comes to the care of those with mental health problems.

[West Midlands Police release Lego video to beat the Christmas burglars.](#)

Lords to discuss future EU policing and security priorities with senior police figures. The House of Lords Home Affairs, Health and Education EU Sub-Committee have discussed policing and security in the future EU Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) programme with three senior police figures.

[National Audit Office report on Confiscation orders](#)

The National Audit Office has criticized the Government's implementation of its policy to deny criminals the proceeds of their crimes by confiscating their assets.

[Girls and Gangs](#)

The Centre for Social Justice is doing a short research brief on 'Girls and Gangs', which is to be completed early next year. They are looking for people with expertise in this area to interview over the next month as part of their evidence gathering process for this report. In particular they are looking to ask two questions:

- What is the reality of being a girl who is involved with a gang?
- What can we do to tackle this problem?

[Ministers call time on Costa del crime](#)

The end of the era when British criminals on the run can find sanctuary on Spain's southern 'Costas' is in sight, Home Office Security Minister James Brokenshire and Spanish Security Minister Francisco Martínez Vázquez jointly declared at a meeting in London, 17 December 2013.

['Police ignored victims of Rochdale child sex grooming gang because they were from COUNCIL ESTATES': Report reveals](#)

One of Britain's worst child sex-grooming gangs was allowed to flourish in Rochdale because police ignored their victims when they found out they were from council estates, the local MP has said.

[Crime and policing news update: December 2013](#) - Regular update on the latest news and information on police and crime issues.

3. Reports

[College of Policing review tries to prevent deaths in custody.](#)

The College of Policing is reviewing its training to try to prevent more people dying in police custody in England and Wales. It will be looking into areas such as how and when people should be restrained and how to deal with those who have mental health problems. Nearly 1,000 people have died in police custody over the past 20 years.

[Hillsborough families call for police officers who refused to cooperate with investigation to be named.](#)

A pre-inquest hearing into the 96 deaths has heard 13 retired officers had refused to be interviewed after their statements were found to have been altered. It was also revealed in the hearing that 10 minutes of footage from the Hillsborough disaster is missing from

handheld police tapes. The Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) had called 240 officers for interview after finding their statements on the 1989 disaster had been altered.

[Use of new psychoactive substances now an epidemic say MPs](#)

The Home Affairs Committee has today highlighted their concern around the increase in deaths last year associated with New Psychoactive Substances and prescription drugs.

[Criminal Justice statistics quarterly](#) - Reports presenting the key trends over twelve months of activity in the Criminal Justice System.

[‘Best in the business’ bidding to rehabilitate offenders](#)

Thirty bidders who have passed the first stage of a competition to win regional rehabilitation contracts and lead the new era in a fight against reoffending were named today by the Ministry of Justice.

[Response to inaccurate reports of 'censoring councils'](#)

Town hall pravdas are harmful to local democracy, as they represent unfair competition to the commercial press. Localism needs robust local scrutiny by an independent free press.

[Committee announces new inquiry into Local Government Chief Officers' Remuneration](#)

The Communities and Local Government Committee is to conduct an inquiry into the remuneration received by chief officers in local government.

[Powerful new THINK! Film shows effect of alcohol the morning after drinking](#) - A new video has launched to highlight the dangers of driving the morning after drinking.

The Chief Inspectors of Prisons and Probation have released a report recommending that the National Offender Management Service be the subject of a major policy review.

Chief Inspector of Probation Liz Calderbank and Chief Inspector of Prisons Nick Hardwick have said that they doubt whether the prison service will be able to meet the expectations set out in the Transforming Rehabilitation strategy. ([Guardian](#); [Times](#); [Mail](#); [BBC Online](#)).

The UK unemployment rate fell by 99,000 to 7.4 per cent in October, the lowest rate since early 2009, according to figures from the Office for National Statistics ([BBC Online](#)).

Official figures from the 2011 census have shown that almost four million immigrants have arrived in Britain since 2001.

7.5 million UK residents were born outside Britain, compared with 2 million 60 years ago ([Telegraph](#); [Times](#); [Mail](#)).

[Accelerating action to stop rogue EU benefit claims](#)

As part of the government's long-term plan for the economy, tough new rules have been brought in from the start of next year to stop people abusing Britain's benefit system.

[208,000 people escape long-term unemployment thanks to the Work Programme](#)

208,000 jobseekers have escaped long-term unemployment and found lasting work – normally at least 6 months – through the Work Programme.

[Immigration Bill could give rise to homelessness and discrimination, says Human Rights Committee](#)

Provisions in the Immigration Bill barring some people from renting or occupying property in the private rented sector on the basis of their immigration status could give rise to homelessness and to discrimination, says the Joint Committee on Human Rights in a Report published today. The Committee accepts that the measures in the Bill serve the legitimate aim of immigration control, but is concerned that some of them may be applied in practice in a way which breaches human rights in particular cases.

[‘Zero Hours Contracts’ are a valuable part of a flexible labour market, says IoD](#)

Employers could be banned from preventing staff on zero-hours contracts from working elsewhere as part of a crackdown on abuse of the controversial deals, Vince Cable will announce on Wednesday.

The Prime Minister David Cameron MP has said that rules to prevent EU migrants from claiming benefits will be put in place for when the UK’s borders are opened to Romanian and Bulgarian immigrants in January.

Under these rules new arrivals to the UK will have to wait three months before they can start claiming benefits, and will have them cut off after six months unless they can prove a realistic chance of employment ([Telegraph](#); [Guardian](#); [Mail](#); [BBC Online](#)).

A joint committee of peers and MPs has recommended that all inmates in jail serving less than twelve months should be allowed to vote, as well as prisoners serving the last six months of their sentences.

The Committee said that continuing the blanket ban on prisoner voting could lead to compensation payments of £3.5 million if the European Court of Human Rights were to start hearing cases from prisoners ([Times](#); [Mail](#); [BBC Online](#)).

[Sentencing Council launches new definitive guideline for sexual offences](#)

The new guideline for judges and magistrates will come into effect on 1st April 2014.

[Review into new 'legal highs'](#)

The Government has announced a review into new psychoactive substances.

[Opportunity for young people with experience of using drug and alcohol services](#)

The 'Youth Social Behaviour and Network Therapy Study is a project in which researchers are looking at how to adapt an intervention developed for adults using drug and alcohol services so that it can be used with young people and are looking for young people (aged 12-18) who have experienced drug and alcohol services to work on the project.

[Alcohol Concern](#)

Demon Drink? Alcohol and Youth Offending in London.

[Department of Health](#)

Mental health dashboard.

[Department of Health](#)

Public health grants to local authorities 2013/2014 and 2014/2015.

[Harm Reduction International](#)

Injecting Drug Use Among Under 18s.

[Home Office](#)

Drug strategy annual review: delivering within a new landscape.

[Home Office](#)

Ending gang and youth violence: review 2012 to 2013.

[Home Office](#)

Government response to the Electoral Commission reports on the 2012 PCC elections.

[Institute of Alcohol Studies](#)

Analysis of the Home Office Consultation on Minimum Unit Pricing.

[Local Government Information Unit](#)

The Future Town Hall: How will government be different 30 years from now?

[Ministry of Justice](#)

The code of practice for victims of crime.

[Ministry of Justice](#)

Evaluation of the Employment and Reoffending pilot: Lessons learnt from the planning and early implementation phase.

[Ministry of Justice](#)

Leaflet for victims reporting a crime - resource for police forces.

[Ministry of Justice](#)

Making a Victim Personal Statement.

[Ministry of Justice](#)

The strength and skills of the Judiciary in the Magistrates' Courts.

[Ministry of Justice](#)

The Witness Charter: standards of care for witnesses in the Criminal Justice System.

[Ministry of Justice](#)

Victim Personal Statement - A guide for police officers, investigators and criminal justice practitioners.

[National Audit Office](#)

Departmental Overview: The performance of the Home Office 2012-2013.

[National Audit Office](#)

Managing the prison estate.

[National Housing Federation](#)

Home Truths 2013/14: The housing market in England.

[New Local Government Network](#)

Healthy Dialogues: Embedding Health in Local Government.

[Police Foundation/Oxford Policing Policy Forum](#)

Are we doing enough of the right things to tackle domestic abuse?

[The King's Fund](#)

Improving the public's health: A resource for local authorities

[We're in! The mental health challenge - Local councils championing mental health](#)

Councillors' guide to mental health.

[Finance settlement "confirms councils will be at the sharp end of spending cuts" – LGA](#)

Today's settlement confirms that councils will continue to be at the sharp end of public sector spending cuts up to 2016, but that Government has started to listen to local authorities and made some important concessions without which local services would have suffered.

[Youth Justice Board](#)

Children and Young People in Custody 2012-13. An analysis of 15-18 year olds' perceptions of their experiences in young offender institutions.

[Young Minds](#)

Same Old.... the experiences of young offenders with mental health needs.

[Public health should be 'top of local government agenda'](#)

Public health interventions provide good value for money and have a "compelling business case", The King's Fund has stated. New guidance offers evidence for the economic benefits of effective public health action for local authorities.

[Mandatory transparency code for councils](#)

Councils will be required to publish additional information about their operation. The transparency code will become mandatory for councils with gross income or expenditure above £6.5m. It includes quarterly information on public expenditure exceeding £500, and procurement information about contracts and tenders, as well as annual details on land and assets, their constitution, pay multiple, money raised from parking charges, subsidies given to trade unions, and grants given to voluntary and community groups.

[Department for Communities and Local Government](#)

Live tables on homelessness.

[Ministry of Justice](#)

Youth Justice Interventions: findings from the Juvenile Cohort Study.

More than half of firms expect to create new jobs - a post-recession first - CBI/Accenture survey

More companies expect to create jobs than not over the next 12 months for the first time since the onset of the recession in 2008, according to a new survey by the CBI and Accenture.

A study by researchers at the London School of Economics has revealed that nearly 500,000 fewer old and disabled people are receiving publicly-funded care and support than would have been the case before the financial crash. The report warned that with fewer people receiving help at home, more are likely to turn to the NHS, which could cost the taxpayer more ([Telegraph](#); [Times](#); [Guardian](#)).

The Prime Minister David Cameron will today announce improvements to support for children with parents serving in the Armed Forces.

Mr Cameron will announce that funding for schemes to help the children deal with stress and school transitions will be doubled to £6 million a year, and will be extended to 2018 ([Times](#), print only; [Guardian](#)).

4. Consultations

[Competition and Markets Authority: vision, values and strategy](#)

This consultation sets out the Competition and Market Authority (CMA's) proposed: Vision, strategy and values. This was opened on the 1 October and is due to take full effect by 1 April 2014

[New statutory powers for the Forensic Science Regulator](#) - The Government has launched a consultation seeking views on whether new powers should be given to the Forensic Science Regulator. The consultation runs until 3rd January 2014.

[Consultation on out of court disposals](#)

The Government has launched a consultation that sets out the current OOCOD landscape and invites practitioners and the public to share their thoughts about how they should be reformed. The consultation runs until 9th January 2014.

[Review of UK and EU balance of competences: call for evidence on social and employment policy](#)

The government is carrying out a review of the balance of competences between the UK and the EU. The review will provide an analysis of what the EU does and how it affects the UK. The [Review of the balance of competencies detailed guide](#) provides full details of the review programme. Consultation closes 17 January 2014.

The Home Office have outlined plans to allow holidaymakers and business travellers to pay to skip passport queues when entering the UK. The proposal is part of a consultation paper which aims to cover the costs of the UK Border Force, using the income from passengers to help fund the UK's immigration system ([Telegraph](#); [Mail](#)).

[Local authority parking strategies](#)

The Government has launched a consultation in which it invites views on local authority parking strategies and government options for parking enforcement. The consultation is open until 14th February 2014.

The Public Accounts Committee has revealed that up to £55 billion a year is being lost to the taxpayer due to fraud, error and unpaid taxes. The Committee called on the Treasury to develop a strategy for tackling fraud through the public sector ([Times](#); [Mirror](#); [BBC Online](#)).

[Government approves low-level lights to boost cyclists' safety](#)

More than 80% of cyclists favoured the use of low-level signals during the track-based trials of the system, which works by repeating the signal displayed on main traffic lights at the eye level of cyclists.

5. Reviews and Inspections

[Making best use of police time](#) - As part of the HMIC Business Plan for 2013/14, it was agreed that HMIC would undertake work to assess the effectiveness of certain aspects of policing activity. Data and document collection has begun.

[Terms of reference for the investigation into the conduct of three Police Federation representatives](#) - Following this incident on 12 October 2012 Mr Mitchell attended a meeting with three Police Federation representatives: Inspector Ken MacKaill of West Mercia Constabulary, Detective Sergeant (DS) Stuart Hinton of Warwickshire Police and Sergeant (PS) Chris Jones of West Midlands Police at his constituency offices in Sutton Coldfield. Immediately after the meeting Inspector MacKaill gave a statement to the media in which he said that Mr Mitchell had "refused to elaborate" on the events of 19 September and that he should therefore resign.

HMIC: Crime Data Integrity Inspection

This inspection covers three stages to begin in December 2013.

[HMIC: Value for Money Profiles](#)

Profiles for forces and local policing bodies to assist in making budget decisions.

[HMIC Published: Working Together](#). A review of the arrangements for collaboration between the five East Midlands police forces, commissioned by the police and crime commissioners in the region has been published.

[Her Majesty's Inspector of Probation](#): Published Victim Contact: An inspection of the Victim Contact Arrangements in Probation Trusts.

[HMIC published findings from an inspection of South Yorkshire Police's response to child sexual exploitation](#). This inspection was commissioned by the PCC for South Yorkshire.

[Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary's \(HMIC\) approach to monitoring forces – An overview for the public, forces and local policing bodies](#)

Her Majesty's Inspectors of Constabulary (HMIs) routinely monitor the performance of all police forces to identify apparent issues for closer scrutiny, ensure emerging problems with efficiency and effectiveness are spotted quickly, and problems are resolved quickly with Chief Constables and local policing bodies.

HMIC: Domestic Violence: On 9 September, the Home Secretary commissioned HMIC to look at the effectiveness of the police response to cases of domestic violence and abuse. Started for Nottinghamshire on the 4 November. This is a Home Secretary commissioned Thematic due to be completed by April 2014.

CJJI: Child Protection Arrangements. In June 2013, the HMIC Board agreed a series of child sexual exploitation related inspections to be conducted over the next three years.

HMIC: National Thematic Review – Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR). The scope of the inspection is subject to further development but the focus is in the prevention of crime.

CJJI: National, Thematic Review: Road Traffic Offences Involving Fatalities

In the light of continuing concern about traffic offences involving fatalities, despite the introduction of new offences in 2008, the review will analyse and assess the quality of police/CPS investigation and prosecution of such cases, and the progress made by the CPS following HMCPSP's 2008 review, establish good practice and make recommendations for positive change. Inspection in 2013/14.

CJJI Inspection: Integrated Offender Management (IOM)

IOM provides an overarching framework for agencies to prioritise interventions with offenders of greatest concern in their locality. This inspection is intended to assist in assessing the impact of IOM and disseminating good practice.

HMCPSP Inspection: Statutory Charging

The previous joint report in 2008 highlighted a number of concerns over the efficiency of the operation of the statutory charging scheme (whereby the CPS took over the responsibility from the police for determining whether an alleged offender should be charged in the more serious or contested cases, by virtue of the Criminal Justice Act 2003). With changes in the landscape implemented in 2010–11 and 2012–13, this follow-up was postponed to 2013-14.

HMIC: Crime Data Integrity. This inspection will examine the effectiveness of the police in dealing with reports of crime by members of the public. The scope is subject to development but is likely to build on the findings of HMIC's previous inspections in this area. Scoping work will include consultation with the Crime Statistics Advisory Committee.

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary

Police Custody: Good practice examples.

College of Policing's Strategic Intent

Consultation on ideas and views on this important strategic intent.