



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

Queen's Speech 2014

Her Majesty's speech to both Houses of Parliament at the State Opening of Parliament 2014 – introduced the following 11 Bills:

- Armed Forces (Service Complaints and Financial Assistance) Bill
- Childcare Payments Bill
- Infrastructure Bill
- Modern Slavery Bill
- National Insurance Contributions Bill
- Private Pensions Bill
- Pensions Tax Bill
- Recall of MPs Bill
- Serious Crime Bill

This legislation will strengthen the ability of law enforcement agencies to disrupt serious and organised crime and strengthen and update laws to protect vulnerable individuals at risk of child cruelty, sexual exploitation and female genital mutilation

Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Bill

- Social Action, Responsibility and Heroism Bill

The following Bills will be published in draft:

- Protection of Charities Bill
- Riot (Damages) Bill
- National Park Authorities (Elections) Bill

Immigration Act 2014 has received Royal Assent.

The Immigration Bill has received Royal Assent making way for a series of reforms which will ensure our immigration system is fairer to British citizens and legitimate migrants and

tougher on those with no right to be here. The Immigration Act 2014 contains 77 clauses and makes fundamental changes to how our immigration system functions.

[Care Act 2014 has received Royal Assent.](#)

[Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 Amendments](#)

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act, which has been updated to reflect the latest amendments.

[Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 overarching documents](#)

These documents contain some updates from when they were last published. They include a schedule of when the various sections of the Act are being implemented.

[Home Office](#)

Guidance on implementing section 176 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014: Low level shoplifting.

[Changes to the Firearms Act 1968](#)

The changes made by Provisions 108-111 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 will commence on 14th July 2014.

[Offender Rehabilitation Act 2014](#)

It provides many of the measures which underpin the Transforming Rehabilitation programme.

[Dangerous dogs: owners face tougher sentences for attacks](#)

The changes to the Dangerous Dogs Act came into force on 13th May.

2. Strategic policing and crime news

[Chief Officers work on a new body to replace ACPO](#)

A team representing all chief officer ranks has been working hard on behalf of all ACPO members to develop proposals for a modernised, improved coordinating body. All chief officers will be consulted on the proposals, which will be debated at ACPO conference. Members will be balloted on the proposals.

[Trial of Child Advocate scheme launched](#)

On 4 June Minister for Modern Slavery, Karen Bradley, announced that Barnardo's would deliver trials of the new advocate scheme to provide a specialist advocate trained in the specific needs of victims of child trafficking. It starts in August.

[College of Policing publishes direct entry superintendents' training programme](#)

Under this new scheme, seven police forces are recruiting up to 20 leaders from outside the service to join at a senior rank. Their 14 month training programme will be followed by three months in a supervised and supported superintendent environment in early 2016. They will also be expected to lead a community partnership project.

[Home Office circular 10/2014](#)

This Home Office circular relates to the new offences around forcing someone to marry. The offences were included in the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act and came into

effect today (16 June). The circular summarises the offences of forcing someone to marry and breaching a Forced Marriage Protection Order, signposts the related guidance and gives contact details for the Home Office Forced Marriage Unit.

IPCC review finds significant failings in handling of complaints

An Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) review on the handling of discrimination complaints by three metropolitan forces found significant failings. The report was published on 5 June.

Ban on NBOMe and benzofurans comes into force

A dangerous group of drugs that puts users at high risk of overdose was permanently banned from Tuesday 10th June. NBOMe substances are permanently controlled as Class A under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. Other drugs affected by this new order include benzofurans which, like NBOMe, have been marketed as so-called 'legal highs'.

Commission launches inquiry into non-natural deaths of people with mental health conditions in state detention

The Equality and Human Rights Commission has launched an inquiry that will look at suicide, homicide and accidental deaths of people in psychiatric hospitals, prison and police custody in England and Wales, to identify what can be done to prevent more tragedies. A report on the findings will be published in spring 2015 with recommendations for action needed by the relevant bodies.

World Cup domestic violence campaign

From early June to mid July, a poster and online advertising campaign will be used to communicate important messages about the consequences of domestic violence to men aged 18 to 25.

Forced marriage now a crime

Forcing someone to marry against their will is now a criminal offence. New legislation introduced today (16 June) by the government is designed to help people in England and Wales. It also applies to UK nationals overseas who are at risk of becoming the victim of a forced marriage.

3. Developments and reports

HMIC's Strategic Policing Requirement

I am writing to advise you that HMIC is about to send you two reports, as part of the Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR) inspection 2013/14, titled:

- 'A report of how police forces in England and Wales deal with threats to public order';
and
- 'A report of how police forces in England and Wales deal with threats of a large-scale cyber incident (including criminal attack)'.

College: cybercrime is a top priority

The College of Policing has responded to the recent HMIC report detailing the gaps in UK forces' preparation for large-scale cyber-attack

[Department for Communities and Local Government](#)

Affordable homes delivered by local authority district.

[Department for Communities and Local Government](#)

Count of Traveller caravans: January 2014.

[Department for Education](#)

NEET statistics quarterly brief: January - March 2014.

[Homes and Communities Agency](#)

Housing Statistics June 2014

[Ministry of Justice](#)

Justice Data Lab statistics: June 2014.

[Fire and Rescue bulletin](#)

The May edition of the Fire and rescue bulletin was published on 27 May and highlights the consultation on firefighters' pension reform (see below).

[Alcohol Research Council](#)

'I have no clue what I drunk last night' - Using Smartphone technology to compare in-vivo and retrospective recording of alcohol consumption.

[Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary](#)

Strategic Policing Requirement: An inspection of how police forces in England and Wales deal with threats to public order.

[Home Office](#)

Police-led prosecutions: list of offences

[Thousands of children missing from council care](#)

Figures revealed under the Freedom of Information Act show that between January 2012 and December 2013 there were 24,320 missing children reported. The majority were teenagers, however, dozens were much younger. The figures included a one-year-old girl who disappeared in July 2013 and still remains missing. Of 138 councils in England and Wales, Kent County Council topped the list, with 458 children disappearing on 2,623 occasions.

[Collaboration on a social solution to the issue of mental health](#)

A current focus of the work in Alberta is understanding empirically how positive mental health education can support early childhood brain development through preventing toxic stress at critical periods of development. The Pfalzklimum is using lessons learned from the Alberta Family Wellness Initiative's work to create a strategy to improve family and community resilience through an education change process organized around a "core-story".

Domestic violence can 'scar'

Scientists from Tulane University School of Medicine in New Orleans, Louisiana, found that the more fractured families are by domestic violence or trauma, the more likely that children will bear the scars down to their DNA.

Wolverhampton Council axe wardens

Wolverhampton City Council has said under proposed plans the neighbourhood wardens will become the latest casualties of austerity cuts implemented by the authority. The council has been forced to make £123m worth of cuts to bring spending under control. This has included cutting 2,000 jobs over the next five years, reducing the opening hours of libraries, shutting local youth clubs, charging admission to Wolverhampton's art gallery, imposing Sunday parking charges, and increasing council tax. Now, the council has announced 18 neighbourhood wardens will be scrapped, saving a total of £480,000 a year.

A Remuneration practices: call for evidence

The [Budget 2014](#) the government announced a call for evidence on remuneration practices in the 21st century to inform future tax policy changes. This call for evidence requests information to improve the government's understanding of the wider picture around remuneration including the factors and issues that influence businesses' and individuals' decisions when negotiating remuneration packages.

Home Office

Police-led prosecutions: list of offences

Home Office

Serious Crime Bill: Protection of children/miscellaneous - Documents that form the 'protection of children/miscellaneous' section of the Serious Crime Bill

Ministry of Justice

Mental Capacity Act: government response to the House of Lords Select Committee report

Ministry of Justice

Social Action, Responsibility and Heroism Bill: fact sheet

Public Health England

'Don't just screen, intervene': improved guidance to improve the health of people living with a mental illness

Third Sector Research Council

From outcomes-based commissioning to social value? Implications for performance managing the third sector

Reform: Going with the change: Allowing new models of healthcare to be provided for NHS patients

Reform have published a new report co-authored by Professor Paul Corrigan, former Health Adviser to Tony Blair, and Mike Parish, on the role of new entrants in transforming health and care services. The report argues that within a decade new service models from within the public or the independent sector will make major changes to the way nearly 75 per cent of NHS hospitals and GP practices operate.

Cameron's Government needs to answer why so criminals are waltzing out of open prisons - Sadiq Khan

[Sadiq Khan](#) MP, Labour's Shadow Justice Secretary, responding to reports that there are 90 inmates on the run from Ford Open Prison, said: "It is shocking that so many have absconded from Ford Prison."

National Wildlife Crime Unit Report

a report from Nevin Hunter, Head of the National Wildlife Crime Unit, entitled “Wildlife Crime across England and Wales 2012-2014: The National Wildlife Crime Unit perspective”.

Working dads need a paid ‘daddy month’, says Think Tank

Working fathers should be given the chance to play a bigger role in early parenting, through an entitlement to four weeks of paid leave following the birth of their child, according to the think tank IPPR.

Government continues reducing size of public sector estate

The government reduced the size of its estate by another 500,000 sq m in 2013, saving £240m on running costs compared to a 2009-10 baseline, the Cabinet Office has said.

Government boosts funding to tackle homelessness

A new funding pot of £65m from across Whitehall is being offered to local authorities to tackle homelessness.

Councils want tougher powers to tackle rogue landlords

Local government chiefs are calling for tougher fines and a more streamlined prosecution system to take on ‘rogue’ landlords who exploit tenants by letting sub-standard properties.

Poor digital connectivity costing public sector ‘billions’

Public sector organisations are missing out on potential savings of more than £7bn thanks to inefficiencies caused by ‘poor staff connectivity’ and ‘digital technology on the move’.

According to a [new study by O2 and the Centre for Economic and Business Research \(Cebr\)](#), many public bodies are still facing challenges when it comes to embracing technology. This is despite the government’s ambition for a public sector that is ‘digital by default’.

Councils facing financial crisis, survey shows

More than two-thirds of council leaders believe that some local authorities will get into financial difficulties within the next 12 months, a new PwC report has revealed.

Return school accountability to local authorities – LGA

The Local Government Association (LGA) has called for a return of school accountability to local councils, stating that the current system is “confusing and fragmented”. Following the publication of Ofsted’s reports into [allegations about an Islamic extremist ‘Trojan Horse’ operation](#) taking place within a number of Birmingham schools, Cllr David Simmonds, Chair of the LGA’s Children and Young People Board, said: “This has been an unsettling time for parents and children and it is vital they are at the forefront of any action taken in response to these investigations.”

4. Consultations

Traineeships: funding reform in England

This is a joint consultation from the Department for Education and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. We are asking for views on how government funding for the

traineeships programme in England can be used to deliver the best possible results for young people.

[19th June 2014 - Pre-charge bail](#)

[26th June 2014 - Sentencing guidelines for theft](#)

[NICE quality standards – the process guide](#)

The second update to the process guide for developing NICE quality standards is now available for comment in draft form. Note that the process guide is provisional and may change after consultation. **Consultation dates: Tuesday 10 June - Wednesday 3 September 2014**

[Reform of the Riot \(Damages\) Act](#)

Consultation on proposals to reform and modernise the Riot (Damages) Act 1886. The consultation will close on 1 August 2014.

[Tax-Free Childcare: consultation on childcare account provision](#)

The consultation seeks views on options for the government to deliver Tax-Free Childcare itself, through National Savings and Investments (NS&I), or within HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC). This will mean all interested parties will have had an opportunity to comment on all of the options for account provision across public and private sectors. The government will consider responses to this consultation alongside the response to the previous consultation before it makes its final decision on the provision of childcare accounts. The consultation closes on 27 June 2014.

Read the [consultation on the implementation of the Tax-Free Childcare scheme](#) published in August 2013.

Read the [government's response](#) to the August consultation which set out details on the design of Tax-Free Childcare.

[Proposed changes to guidance on domestic violence](#)

The Director of Public Prosecutions, Alison Saunders, has proposed changes to the way the CPS considers domestic violence cases and has published draft guidance, which is out for consultation, that explains the impact of domestic abuse on different groups to help prosecutors to adopt a tailored approach taking into account their particular support needs. The consultation is open until 9th July 2014.

[Banning the sale of alcohol below the cost of duty plus VAT](#)

The Home Office has published guidance for suppliers of alcohol and local authorities in England and Wales for banning the sale of alcohol below the cost of duty plus VAT

[Data policy for a Public Data Corporation](#)

Views wanted on how to provide accessible public sector information. The consultation will close on 27 October 2014.

E-petition – Exempt Victims of Domestic Abuse who have had a Police Assessment and/or have a Safe/Panic Room from the Spare Room Subsidy:

<http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/64544>.

Balance of competence review information rights

Open date: 27/03/2014

Close date: 01/07/2014

Public consultation on pre-charge bail

The College of Policing in partnership with the national policing lead for criminal justice, Chief Constable Chris Eyre, is consulting on new bail principles to support police use of pre-charge bail. The consultation is open until 19th June 2014.

Public Consultation: Developing NICE guidelines: the manual

From 1 April 2014 NICE are inviting comments and feedback from stakeholders and the public on the new manual for developing NICE guidelines. Consultation closes 30 June 2014.

Sentencing guidelines for theft

The consultation on the draft guideline on theft offences is open from 3 April 2014 to 26 June 2014. The Council is seeking views on:

- the principal factors that make any of the offences included within the draft guideline more or less serious;
- the additional factors that should influence the sentence;
- the approach taken to structuring the draft guidelines;
- the types and lengths of sentences that should be passed for theft offences; and
- anything else that you think should be considered.

5. Reviews and Inspections

HMIC provides assurance that chief constables are having regard to the Strategic Policing Requirement – but finds that more needs to be done

This inspection examined how well police forces have established the arrangements that the Strategic Policing Requirement requires them to have in place to counter a number of specified threats to national security and public safety. It is based on data and documentary evidence provided by all 43 police forces in England and Wales in July 2013. It includes supporting fieldwork, conducted in 18 forces, and in nine Regional Organised Crime Units (ROCs).

HMIC Programme

HMIC sets out its inspection programme and resources for the year ahead.

Thematic Inspections already Committed to in 2014/15:

- Making Best Use of Police Time
- Valuing the Police Programme – Phase 4
- Undercover Policing (Home Secretary Commission)
- Domestic Abuse (Home Secretary Commission)
- Crime Data Integrity – July 2014
- Child Protection – July 2014

Thematic Inspections Commencing in 2014/15

- Valuing the Police Programme – Phase 5
- Strategic Policing Requirement

- Police Integrity and Leadership (Police Integrity and Corruption)
- Follow up to Mistakes Were Made Report
- Revisit of Stop and Search
- Protecting Vulnerable People Programme: Missing Children
- Police Management of Information
- Police National Database (PND) Audit
- Use of the Police National Computer (PNC) by Non-Police Organisations

Proposed Topics for New Thematic Inspections in 2014/15

- Modern Slavery
- So-Called Honour Based Violence (HBV)
- Cyber Crime.