



## 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

**[Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill](#)** - The **Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill** completed the commons committee stage on 16 July 2013.

**[Home Office Publishes Domestic Violence and Abuse Chapter to the Guidance on Firearms Licensing Law](#)** - The Home Office has published a Domestic Violence Chapter to add to the Guide on Firearms Licensing Law. It follows the introduction of the new non-statutory definition of domestic violence and abuse which was introduced on 31 March 2013.

**[Sexual Impropriety in Employment Bill 2013](#)** - A Bill to require that claims by employees alleging sexual impropriety be limited to cases where the alleged misconduct is contrary to the criminal law and has been reported to the police.

**[Forced marriage](#)** - Following consultation, the Government has introduced clauses in the Anti-social Behaviour Crime and Policing Bill which will criminalise both forced marriage and breach of a Forced Marriage Protection Order.

**[The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 \(Transitional Provision\) Order 2013](#)** - Part 3 of Schedule 15 to the 2011 Act provides for the making of transfer schemes under which existing police civilian staff are to become employees of the relevant chief constable or the Commissioner. When these transfer schemes take effect, it will be for chief constables and the Commissioner to account for the pension liabilities in relation to these staff.

**[The Crime and Courts Act 2013 \(Consequential Amendments and Saving Provision\) Order 2013](#)** - References to the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) and the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) in legislation are to be removed and replaced with references to the National Crime Agency (NCA) from 7 October 2013.

**[Review of the Firearms law: guidance to the police](#)** - A list of the organisations contacted by the Home Office for comment on the guidance on the review of the firearms law.

[Guide on Firearms Licensing Law, 2012 - 2013](#) - Updated 19.09/13.

## 2. Policing and crime key developments

### [Police forces have been saddled with 178 NEW targets by their own crime commissioners despite government pledge to end box-ticking culture](#)

Despite Theresa May's pledge to have 'only one target, to reduce crime', officers are having to deal with many more brought in by PCCs, it emerged.

### [Police Procurement leading to waste](#)

- Police forces waste millions on uniforms because they cannot agree on how many pockets their kit should have.
- Handcuffs ranged in price from £14 to £43.
- Different forces disagree on what boots to buy and what paper to use.
- Forces could save money by bulk buying, Public Accounts Committee found.

### [Police officers' most ludicrous injuries revealed:](#)

A series of bizarre office-based injury claims submitted by officers has shone a light on the extraordinary 'compensation culture' at the heart of many police forces across the UK. In one staggering claim, a constable insisted he injured his back reaching to switch on a computer while another said he had hurt himself 'doing the washing'.

- Freedom of Information request shines light on office-based injuries.
- Kent Police officer sustained an injury after being 'run over by office chair'.
- Forces refuse to divulge how much compensation claimants were paid.

[Public Accounts Committee - Fourteenth Report](#). Integration across government and Whole-Place Community Budgets. Central government often fails to work in an integrated way because it is structured around individual departments that struggle to look beyond their own 'silos'.

### [Organised crime, corruption and money laundering: MEPs table crackdown hit list](#)

Measures to crack down on organised crime, corruption and money laundering are set out in an EU action plan for 2014-2019, drawn up by a European Parliament committee established for this sole purpose and tabled on Tuesday. Attacking organised crime's financial assets and sources of income tops the list.

### [In focus: Alcohol harm](#) Police chiefs to highlight impact of excessive drinking.

Police forces have launched a week-long campaign highlighting the realities faced by those dealing with drunkenness and alcohol-related incidents. In Focus: Alcohol Harm initiative will see forces out on the streets with mobile custody suites and medical triage facilities to deal with the drunk and disorderly. Neighbourhood policing teams, special constables, police cadets and volunteers such as street pastors will be deployed in drinking hotspots. Police will be addressing new students at fresher's weeks on staying safe and providing awareness training on vulnerability with security and bar staff.

[The Association of Chief Police Officers \(ACPO\) has called for drunk and disorderly individuals to be held in privately run cells](#) with a subsequent fixed charge, not in those paid for by the police. Adrian Lee, Chief Constable of Northamptonshire Police and the

ACPO lead for alcohol and licensing, has said that the taxpayer should not be responsible for the cost of drunken disorder; Steve White, Vice-Chair of the Police Federation, however criticised the plans as “neither a viable nor long-term solution to binge drinking”.

**Update on IPCC supervision of Operation Alice** The IPCC has been supervising two investigations following the incident on 19 September 2012 involving Mr Andrew Mitchell and a police officer.

**Hillsborough investigation** The IPCC is calling for witnesses who were at Hillsborough and gave their accounts to police to come forward as part of its investigation into the aftermath of the disaster.

**Daniel Pelka: Police say they should have done more to protect four year-old** Police have admitted they let down four-year-old Daniel Pelka, who was tortured and starved to death by his mother and stepfather despite officers visiting the home 27 times.

**Suspects on bail commit 56 murders last year, figures show** Criminals on bail commit one in seven murders: Suspects released by the courts responsible for a crime every ten minutes including two rapes a week:

- Last year 56 murders were carried out by people due to stand trial
- In 2007, Garry Newlove was killed by three teenagers - one was on bail

**Police face court over refusal to hand over reports on anti-Muslim 'bias'** Scotland Yard is facing court action next week after refusing to hand over the results of investigations it was ordered to conduct into claims that it used counter-terrorism powers to discriminate against and harass innocent Muslims.

**Christopher Jefferies told 'sorry' by police over arrest distress** The former landlord of murder victim Jo Yeates has been sent a letter by police saying "sorry" for distress he suffered during the probe into her death.

**'Having sex on duty is like taking a tea break'** -Why armed policeman who had 40-minute tryst with another man's wife while on patrol kept his job.

**Police officer on sick leave for two years flew to Barbados the day she was due to meet her bosses** Police officer on sick leave for two years flew to Barbados the day she was due to meet her bosses.

**Scotland Yard to 'downgrade' police entry tests to allow for ethnic minorities** SCOTLAND Yard wants to downgrade the importance of written English tests at police recruitment centres to make it easier for candidates from ethnic minorities to join the Met.

**Police pays £100,000 compensation to G20 protesters cleared of impersonating police** It is a fresh embarrassment to police bosses, who have had already to deal with the death of Ian Tomlinson at the protests.

**ACPO President: Force reorganisations 'inevitable'** A fundamental re-organisation of

structures is vital to ensure the Police Service continues to deliver in the face of diminishing budgets, the president of the Association of Chief Police Officers has said.

## [Custody supervision an issue, says IPCC.](#)

A senior official from the police watchdog has told custody sergeants that they must maintain close supervision of their staff amid concerns that checks and rousing visits are still not being carried out properly in some cases.

## [Shoplifting: Officers could lose entry powers.](#)

An expert in the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) has warned that making most shoplifting cases summary offences could deny the police the opportunity of much-used powers.

## [ACPO Speed Enforcement Policy Guidelines 2011 - 2015: Joining forces for safer roads.](#)

## [The police use of Automatic Number Plate Recognition.](#)

## [ACPO & APCC Guidelines on charging for police services.](#)

[£400 million investment opportunity in private rental market.](#) Bids have been invited for a share of at least £400m to build homes specifically for private rent. The funding, part of the Build to Rent fund for the first time supports developers and investors.

[14,000 troubled families turned around.](#) The Government has announced that the Troubled Families scheme has turned around the lives of 14,000 of England's toughest to tackle households in 15 months.

[Predator PC jailed for sex on job with victim of abuse.](#) A policeman who had sex with a domestic violence victim while on duty was jailed for 15 months.

[Police 'must be more proactive at inquests'.](#) Officers should proactively submit more detailed evidence about their policies, practices and workloads at inquests into deaths in police care, a coroner has insisted.

## [Independent research says more than a quarter of officers and staff experience](#)

[bullying from colleagues.](#) More than half of police officers and staff have suffered bullying in their forces – and more than a quarter face bullying from colleagues on a regular basis, a commission on the future of policing has said.

[Patchwork recording of restraint and force "a huge problem", officers told.](#) Forces that have stopped recording officers' use of force against detainees to cut bureaucracy must resume doing so as soon as possible, the national lead on custody and prisoner transportation has said.

[Knife possession sentencing quarterly brief, April to June 2013.](#) In Q2 2013, 4,000 disposals were given for possession of a knife or an offensive weapon, 6 % lower than in Q2 2012. The latest result continues the downward trend for the number of cautions or convictions given for these offences over the last four years.

## [Police whistleblower denied immunity from prosecution](#)

A former undercover police officer who blew the whistle on a covert Scotland Yard squad has been denied immunity from prosecution for potential breaches of the Official Secrets Act.

## [Six police face misconduct probe after disabled man's death](#)

The investigation was launched after Avon and Somerset Police referred itself to the IPCC after the death of Bijan Ebrahimi on 14 July this year in Bristol.

## [Major incidents: Single model will improve blue light response](#)

A single operating and decision making model has been drawn up for all three emergency services to mitigate overcome failings in the responses to several high-profile major and complex incidents.

## 3. Reports

[DPP sets out charging standards for benefit and tax credit fraud](#) - The Director of Public Prosecutions, Keir Starmer, QC, has published new guidelines for prosecutors dealing with fraud cases involving state benefits and tax credits. The charging standards will ensure a robust prosecutorial position is taken against those who commit fraud against the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and will ensure a consistent approach to prosecution across the wide spectrum of criminal fraud.

## [NAO criticises public sector reliance on legacy IT systems](#)

Old IT systems expose the public sector to risks, a new report from the NAO highlights, making performance “patchy”. In 2011-12 it is estimated that at least £480bn of government’s operating revenues were reliant to some extent on legacy IT. The report warns that failure to change these systems can develop inefficiencies.

## [Consultation to tackle zero-hours contract abuse](#)

Business secretary Vince Cable is to pledge the end of abuse of zero-hours contracts, as he addresses the Liberal Democrat conference in Glasgow today.

## [Childcare placements ‘indefensible’ – Gove](#)

Education secretary Michael Gove has criticised the care system for “bewildering regulations” that result in many children being placed away from their birthplace, or in areas with high crime rates.

## [Bottom 10 councils for recycling named](#)

There is a huge disparity between the amounts of refuse that English councils are managing to recycle, with the best-performing (Surrey Heath Borough Council) achieving a rate three times higher than the bottom-rated council, Ashford in Kent.

## [Three HUNDRED more men killed themselves in Britain in 2009 as financial crisis triggered spike in suicide rates around the world, new figures reveal](#)

A new study has found that there were around 5,000 extra suicides across Europe and North America the year following the 2008 banking crash.

## [Liberal Democrats pass policy motion to tackle race inequality in education and business](#)

A New Liberal Democrat Approach to Race Equality aimed at tackling inequalities in the education sector and improving race equality in private sector businesses.

## [Department for Communities and Local Government](#)

Live tables on homelessness.

## **Department for Communities and Local Government**

Troubled Families: Progress information at 30 June 2013 and families turned around at 29 July 2013.

## [Home Office](#)

Police use of TASER statistics - 2009-2011 data.

## [Centre for Mental Health](#)

Black and Minority Ethnic Communities, mental health and criminal justice

## [Department of Health](#)

Information: To share or not to share? Government response to Caldicott Review

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

A joint inspection of life sentence prisoners.

## [IARS](#)

Abused No More: The Voices of Refugee and Asylum-seeking Women

## [Joseph Rowntree Foundation](#)

Attitudes of different generations to the welfare system

## [LGiU](#)

House Proud: how councils can raise standards in the private rented sector.

## [Ministry of Justice](#)

Improving Judicial Diversity - Judicial Diversity Taskforce Annual Report 2013e.

## [New Philanthropy Capital](#)

Rebuilding the relationship between affordable housing and philanthropy.

## [Policy Exchange](#)

*Cultures of Dependency: Fact, fiction, solutions.* Individual cities rather than central government should be in charge of helping local people into work.

## [Social Mobility and Child Poverty Commission](#)

Social Mobility: The next steps.

## **Search begins to find best of private and voluntary sectors to tackle high reoffending rates**

A competition was launched today with more than 700 organisations from across the world looking to turn offenders' lives around, as part of an annual £450 million package of rehabilitation contracts across England and Wales.



## **New guidance published requiring councillors to register trade union membership**

Government [guidance on openness and transparency](#) of a councillor's personal interests has been revised to include specifically registering union memberships. In addition a council's own code of conduct, guided by the [7 principles of public life](#), should now specify a requirement to register personal trade union interests.

## **4. Consultations**

### **[New consultation: Stop and search](#)**

This consultation seeks views on the police powers of stop and search. The consultation runs up to 24 September 2013.

### **[Proposals for the use of capital receipts from asset sales to invest in reforming services](#)** - This consultation closes on the 24 September.

### **[Proposed changes to Codes of Practice C \(Detention\) and H \(Detention – Terrorism\)](#)**

This consultation runs until Wednesday 25 September 2013.

### **[Hate Crime-The Case for Extending the Existing Offences](#)** - The consultation closes on the 27 September.

### **[Views sought on changes to the alcohol and drugs reporting framework](#)**

The consultation runs until September.

### **[Corporate responsibility: call for views](#)**

Corporate responsibility is sometimes known as corporate social responsibility. It is defined as the responsibility of an organisation for the impacts of its decisions on society and the environment above and beyond its legal obligations, through transparent and ethical behaviour. The closing date for consultation responses is 27 September.

### **[Domestic violence and abuse – identification and prevention](#)**

NICE is developing public health programme guidance on 'Domestic violence and abuse: how social care, health services and those they work with can identify, prevent and reduce domestic violence and abuse'. The consultation period runs from 2<sup>nd</sup> August – 27<sup>th</sup> September.

### **[Forensic Science Codes of Practice: Guidance on validation consultation](#)**

Comments should be sent on the feedback form provided to [FSRConsultation5@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:FSRConsultation5@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk) and should be submitted by 27 September 2013.

### **[Assisted Areas Map 2014 to 2020](#)**

This consultation closes on the 30 September.

### **[Local Government Finance Settlement 2014-15 and 2015-16: technical consultation](#)**

The closing date for consultation responses is 2 October.

### **[Sentencing Council Launches Public Consultation on the Sentencing of Fraud, Bribery and Money Laundering Offences](#)**

The consultation closes on 4 October 2013.

## [Consultation on prescription drug tramadol](#)

The deadline for responses is 11 October 2013.

## [Greater flexibility for change of use](#)

In order to support the Government's priorities for making better use of existing buildings a consultation on proposed changes to planning regulations has been launched and will run until 15 October.

## [Alcohol fraud: next steps](#)

This consultation provides further details and seeks views on the next steps the Government plans to take to tackle existing and emerging threats to the UK alcohol duty regime. The consultation runs until 28 October.

## **Conducting Privacy Impact Assessments Code of Practice consultation**

The ICO is consulting on its draft '[Conducting privacy impact assessments code of practice](#)' and would like to hear views. The deadline for responses is 5 November.

## [Do drug and alcohol workers need a Voluntary Professional Register?](#)

Skills for Justice is carrying out a consultation and are seeking views of practitioners, employers, membership organisations, commissioners of services and policy makers.

## [Biodiversity offsetting in England](#)

Biodiversity offsetting ensures that when a development damages nature (and this damage cannot be avoided) new, bigger or better nature sites will be created. This consultation sets out proposals for biodiversity offsetting and how it might be introduced in England. The consultation provides an overview of biodiversity offsetting, explores how it might operate, and introduces the key issues that would need to be addressed. The consultation is open until 7 November 2013.

## [Consultation on enabling targeted, local alternatives to personal licences to sell alcohol](#)

The Minister of State for Crime Prevention (Jeremy Browne): A consultation on enabling targeted, local alternatives to personal licences to sell alcohol has been launched.

## [Registration of providers of social work services](#)

In January and February of this year, the department consulted on proposals to commence part 1 of the Children and Young Persons Act 2008 (CYPA). This would allow all local authorities (LAs) in England to delegate care functions to external providers. At the same time, the department also consulted on a second proposal to remove the CYPA's requirement for these providers to register with Ofsted. The department is now withdrawing its second proposal and is setting up arrangements to require external providers of social care services to register with Ofsted, where they are having functions delegated to them by LAs. It is therefore consulting on regulations for registration and fitness that will underpin this.