



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

[Amendments to the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001](#)

Summary of the 2015 amendments of the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001 that will affect vets.

[Summary of the Finance Bill 2015-16](#)

A Bill to grant certain duties, to alter other duties, and to amend the law relating to the National Debt and the Public Revenue, and to make further provision in connection with finance.

[Finance Bill: Explanatory notes](#)

The explanatory notes to the Finance Bill have now been published.

[Psychoactive Substances Bill](#)

[Welfare Reform and Work Bill](#)

[The Female Genital Mutilation Protection Order \(Relevant Third Party\) Regulations 2015](#)

[The Serious Crime Act 2015 \(Commencement No. 2\) Regulations 2015](#)

[The Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 \(Temporary Class Drug\) \(No. 2\) Order 2015](#)

[The Civil and Criminal Legal Aid \(Amendment\) Regulations 2015](#)

[The Criminal Legal Aid \(Remuneration etc.\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2015](#)

[The Deregulation Act 2015 \(Commencement No. 2 and Transitional Provisions\) Order 2015](#)

[The Civil Legal Aid \(Merits Criteria\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2015](#)

[The Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015](#)

[The Control of Major Accident Hazards \(Amendment\) Regulations 2015](#)

[Modern Slavery Act 2015](#)

[Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill](#)

[European Union Referendum Bill](#)

[Extremism Bill](#)

[Investigatory Powers Bill](#)

[Policing and Criminal Justice Bill](#)

[Psychoactive Substances Bill](#)

[Age of Criminal Responsibility Bill](#)

[Advertising of Prostitution \(Prohibition\) Bill](#)

[Rehabilitation of Offenders Bill](#)

[Regulation of Political Opinion Polling Bill](#)

2. Strategic policing and crime news

[Home Office publishes guidance on Common Law Police Disclosure](#)

The Home Office has published guidance on Common Law Police Disclosure (CLPD), which ensures that where there is a public protection risk, the police will pass information to the employer or regulatory body to allow them to act swiftly to mitigate any danger.

[Modern Slavery marketing campaign evaluation report](#)

An evaluation of the Home Office's 2014 marketing campaign to raise awareness and increase reporting of Modern Slavery in the UK.

[IFS paper analyses wage regulation and the quality of police officer recruits](#)

The Institute for Fiscal Studies has produced a paper analysing the impact of centrally regulated pay on the quality of applicants to be police officers in England and Wales using a unique dataset of individual test scores from the national assessment that is required of all applicants.

www.asbtools.co.uk is a website that allows you to keep up with developments in the use of the new ASB tools and powers and how others are using them.

Circular 006/2006: notifiable occupations scheme - revised guidance for police forces - no longer in use

****Please note**** The Home Office circulars which set out the Notifiable Occupations Scheme, HO 6/2006, HO 45/1986 and sections 4, 5, 18 and 19 of HO 47/2003, are no longer in use.

IPCC 'set to change name and structure'

Under the IPCC's proposal the organisation would be headed by a Police Ombudsman for England and Wales, a Crown appointee, with overall responsibility for its work and decision-making. Regional ombudsmen would have delegated responsibilities in the English regions and Wales.

Dominic Jerney appointed as Foreign Office International Counter-Extremism Coordinator

The FCO has welcomed Dominic Jerney's appointment as FCO International Counter-Extremism Coordinator. This is a new role which reflects the importance this government places on tackling extremism. Dominic will take up his new role on 4 September.

3. Developments and reports

Sex offender sentences hit record levels

Prison sentences given to sex offenders have reached record levels, statistics released today show.

College CEO comments on attendance at burglaries

Following discussion lately over police attendance at burglaries, Sara Thornton, the head of the National Police Chiefs' Council, has published a blog clarifying her comments:

Force undertakes a pilot to consider the use of forensic officers at burglaries

Leicestershire Constabulary has been undertaking a pilot looking at how forensic officers are deployed to burglaries and suspected burglaries.

It might be nothing, but it could mean everything

A booklet has been written by a researcher at University of Bristol with the aim of helping friends and family members to support victims of domestic abuse is being distributed to hundreds of locations across the city.

Department of Transport

Reported road casualties in Great Britain, provisional estimates involving illegal alcohol levels: 2014.

Alcohol Concern

The Recovery Partnership Review of Alcohol Treatment Services.

National Assembly for Wales - Health and Social Care Committee

Alcohol and Substance Misuse.

National Offender Management Service

What works in reducing re-offending in young adults?

Prison Reform Trust

Why focus on reducing women's imprisonment?

The Journal of Mental Health Training, Education and Practice

Young offenders with mental health problems in transition.

University of Manchester

National Confidential Inquiry into suicide and homicide by people with mental illness.

Figures reveal increase in school truancy fines

Tougher rules on school attendance have led to thousands of parents being prosecuted for their child skipping school, new figures have revealed.

Councils prepare to extend superfast broadband scheme

The government's rollout of superfast broadband is on track to reach 95% of the UK by 2017, with new figures showing more than three million homes and businesses now have access to internet speeds greater than 24 Mbps.

Government saves £330 million for taxpayers through more efficient communications

Statistics released today show the Government Communications Profession saved £330 million in 2014 to 2015 against a 2009 to 2010 baseline.

Study launched into quality of care in local areas

A pilot project into how well coordinated health and social care services are in local areas is to be conducted by the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

Devolution of powers to the Midlands underway

Derbyshire and Nottingham met with the Government to discuss proposals to devolve more power and responsibilities to the Midlands.

LEPs and SMEs can now apply for EU development funding

Local enterprise partnerships (LEPs) and individual local firms will be able to apply for a share of the £2.6bn European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) in a "major shift to more localised spending".

West Midlands warned it has been 'outmanoeuvred' by Greater Manchester

The West Midlands has been 'outmanoeuvred' on devolution by Greater Manchester in the national push for a Northern Powerhouse, according to Birmingham's former council leader.

Gloucestershire pushes for devolution

Public authorities in Gloucestershire have submitted their bid to the government asking for greater control over the county's economy, public sector and healthcare services.

Oldham consults on £30m budget cuts

Oldham Council has launched a consultation on its proposals to save £30m during 2016/17.

Academic review reveals local council tax challenges around the world

An 'unwillingness' to reform the council tax system has created 'greater problems' for today's policy makers, according to an academic review of local government funding.

Council first to launch anti-fraud app

Bromley Council are ahead of the curve as the first council to introduce an app so people can report suspected fraud directly to the council.

New county alliance seeks £3bn transport investment

Three county councils have united to fight for greater infrastructure investment as part of a groundbreaking strategic alliance to boost economic growth.

Benefit cap moves tens of thousands back into work figures show

The **benefit cap** is providing an incentive to work for over 25,000 people, according to official figures published by the Government.

Fewer public sector employers planning pay rises for staff

The proportion of public sector employers planning a basic pay increase for staff has fallen again as uncertainty in the sector rises.

Nearly half of kids in capital not 'school ready' by age five

Almost half of London children are not 'school ready' by age five and will therefore struggle with literacy, numeracy, physical and social skills, a **new report** by Public Health England (PHE) has suggested today (10 August).

City council transfers disability service to staff-led mutual

A council learning disability service used by more than 1,000 people has been taken over by a new social enterprise owned and led by its staff.

Council tax cuts for unpaid carers could save £220m a year

Unpaid carers should have their council tax reduced in recognition of the vital role they play in the 'chronically-underfunded' social care system, according to local government leaders.

Only one in 20 eligible carers claim benefits credit

Almost all carers who are entitled to Carer's Credit to fill gaps in their National Insurance (NI) record are not claiming it, the Department for Work and Pensions has revealed today (10 August).

Court to investigate claims that councils failed in their foster duties

A judicial review will examine whether three top-tier councils are failing to comply with their legal duties by favouring in-house foster placements over those offered through voluntary sector providers.

Councils to help 'pick up the pieces' after Kids Company closure

Councils will help to "pick up the pieces" after the children's charity Kids Company closed its doors yesterday evening, the Local Government Association (LGA) has said.

Call for ban on smoking in public places

Smoking should be banned in public places such as parks and outside schools, according to a new report on how to cut the number of people who smoke.

£36m fund launched for starter homes

Ministers have launched a £36m fund to accelerate the provision of homes for first-time buyers on brownfield sites.

[Operation reveals extent of under-age cigarette sales](#)

An investigation has found almost a fifth of retailers sell cigarettes to children with the figure rising to around a quarter in London.

[Bury recycling rates tops charts due to pioneer scheme](#)

Bury has cut its landfill waste by nearly 4,000 tonnes and increased its recycling rate by over 10% since becoming the first council in the country to adopt a **controversial** three-weekly grey bin collection policy last year

[‘Novelty’ vehicles should be licensed, says LGA](#)

Council leaders have called for ‘novelty’ vehicles such as limousines and rickshaws to be subject to the same safety and criminal checks as London’s black cabs.

[Councils attacked for ‘shockingly lax’ attitude to data security](#)

Local authorities recorded 4,236 data breaches over a three year period, according to a new report from privacy campaign group Big Brother Watch.

[Councils forced to refund millions after ‘unfair’ business rate ruling](#)

Councils in Worcestershire have warned that changes to the way business rates are calculated for GP surgeries will cost local authorities millions of pounds.

[Taxi drivers become council’s ‘eyes and ears’ on child sexual exploitation](#)

Taxi drivers have been given a safeguarding handbook to help them act as a city’s ‘eyes and ears’ on issues including child sexual exploitation.

[Blueprint unveiled for Northern Powerhouse](#)

A **blueprint** showing how £13bn of investment in transport will create the Northern Powerhouse has been unveiled today by the Government.

[Welsh councils should list assets communities can take over](#)

Communities should be informed of available assets to ensure they are not lost during austerity measures.

[Gloucestershire seeks devolution powers from ministers](#)

Gloucestershire has submitted a devolution bid to the government in the hopes of gaining more power from ministers.

[Three-weekly refuse collection for East Devon residents](#)

Two areas of East Devon are set to see their refuse collected once every three weeks under a new pilot scheme.

[Government says landlords must evict illegal tenants](#)

A clamp down on illegal immigration means landlords will have a responsibility to evict tenants who have been denied asylum in the UK.

[DWP statistical summaries 2015](#)

Monthly and quarterly DWP statistical summaries for 2015.

[Census output area data on workless benefit claimants: to Feb 2015](#)

Number of people by area claiming Jobseeker's Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance, Income Support and other income-related benefits.

County to cut 2,500 jobs amid £685m savings drive

Lancashire County Council has been told it will need to find an additional £233m of cutbacks by April 2020 to cover funding reductions from central government and growing demand for services.

1,200 staff to transfer to private company at Yorkshire council

Wakefield Council is currently in negotiations with firms Carillion, Cofely Workplace and Interserve over a deal to run town hall services including those provided to local schools.

Council workers must speak fluent English

Tighter laws will mean public sector personnel including council employees, social workers and Jobcentre Plus staff will be excluded from customer-facing roles unless they have language skills equivalent to GCSE grade C.

Councils asked how best to manage £200m public health cuts

Councils have been asked how the £200m reduction in public health funding should be implemented in a [new consultation document](#).

Pickles to probe election fraud after Tower Hamlets scandal

Sir Eric Pickles has announced today (13 August) plans to review election fraud to determine what needs to be changed after a “wake-up call” from the recent election court ruling in Tower Hamlets.

Jobless total grows by 25,000

Unemployment has continued to grow throughout the UK for the second month in a row, according to [figures](#) released by the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

Ombudsman warns councils not to house young people in B&Bs

The Local Government Ombudsman (LGO) has reiterated that the use of B&B accommodation by councils is not suitable to house young homeless people – even in an emergency.

Council chiefs critical of Ofsted's child safeguarding inspection plans

Council chiefs have stated that Ofsted plans to introduce new multi-agency child safeguarding inspections from this autumn lack “clarity” and could add “pressure” to already stretched services.

Councils breach data protection laws ‘four times a day’

Sensitive and confidential information is lost or stolen by councils an average of four times a day, a campaign group has found through Freedom of Information requests.

Michelle Mone OBE to lead government review on supporting business start-ups

Leading entrepreneur and businesswoman, Michelle Mone OBE, has been appointed to conduct an independent review to encourage further business start-ups and entrepreneurship in disadvantaged communities, including areas of high unemployment.

4. Consultations

[Fourth Assembly Health and Social Care Committee Legacy](#)

Open date: 30/07/2015

Close date: 26/09/2015

[Joint targeted area inspections](#)

A joint consultation document from Ofsted, the Care Quality Commission, HMI Constabulary and HMI Probation. Closes 11 August 2015.

[Victims Code](#)

Closes 16 August 2015.

[Justice Committee - Young Adult Offenders](#)

Closes 30 September.

[Redundancy payments to council staff to be capped at £95,000](#)

Redundancy pay-offs for senior local authority staff will be capped at £95,000, under new plans published for [consultation](#).

[Minister of Policing launches consultation on police funding reform](#)

Plans to reform the current arrangements for allocating central government funding to 43 police forces has been announced. The consultation is open until 15th September.

[Tackling the hidden economy: Extension of data-gathering powers](#)

A consultation on the best way to implement extended data-gathering powers. Closes 14 October 2015.

[Consultation on the draft statutory multi-agency practice guidance on Female Genital Mutilation \(FGM\)](#)

This consultation seeks views on the draft statutory multi-agency practice guidance on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) for frontline professionals in England and Wales.

[Consultation on future social care health topics](#)

The Health and Social Care Act 2012 set out a responsibility for NICE to develop quality standards and guidelines for social care in England. In 2013, the Department of Health (DH) ran a consultation to identify social care topics suitable for developing into NICE guidelines and quality standards. An initial set of topics has been referred by the DH and Department for Education (DfE). Consultation open until 9 October 2015.

[Written statement on Consulting on revisions to the Victims' Code](#)

The previous government updated the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime (the Victims' Code) in 2013 to give victims clear entitlements - including the right to ask to read their personal statement to the court - and to give greater flexibility to core criminal justice agencies to tailor services according to individual need. The Government is consulting on some additional changes we plan to make to the Victims' Code as part of our commitment to implement the EU Victims' Directive by 16 November 2015.

[Consultation on Proceeds of Crime Act](#)

The Home Office has opened a consultation as the operation of certain powers within POCA

are subject to guidance issued by the Secretary of State. The existing codes need to be updated due to provisions in the Serious Crime Act 2015. The consultation runs until 2nd October 2015.

Law Commission lays out DoLS replacement in consultation

The Law Commission has unveiled its proposals for a framework to replace what it calls the “deeply flawed” Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS). Consultation is open until the 2 November 2015.

Office of Rail and Road: Highways England: enforcement policy

This document sets out how we intend to enforce compliance by Highways England with the Road Investment Strategy and statutory directions and guidance issued to it by the Secretary of State, as well as the options available to us in taking enforcement action (both statutory and non-statutory) against Highways England. Closing date 25 September.

The Law Commission: Transition to the New Sentencing Code

The law on sentencing affects all criminal cases, and is applied in hundreds of thousands of trials and thousands of appeals each year. Currently, the law lacks coherence and clarity: it is spread across many statutes, and frequent updates are brought into force at different times by different statutory instruments and have a variety of transitional arrangements. Closing date 26 August.

Public consultation on proposed topics for the 2021 Census questionnaire in England and Wales

Open date: 04/06/2015

Close date: 27/08/2015

Consultation on Proposal for a Cyber Resilience Strategy for Scotland

Open date: 05/06/2015

Close date: 28/08/2015

5. Reviews and Inspections

IPCC: Two police officers to face misconduct hearings over meeting with Andrew Mitchell MP

Two police officers will face misconduct hearings over their *conduct* following a meeting with Andrew Mitchell MP at his Sutton Coldfield constituency office in October 2012.

CQC will always take ‘tough action’ over poor care – Sutcliffe

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has warned it will always take tough action against providers that deliver “unacceptable” care, the regulator’s chief inspector of adult social care has warned.