



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

[Government to create new domestic abuse offence](#)

Home Secretary Theresa May has announced a new domestic abuse offence of coercive and controlling behaviour.

[Remaining stages \(Commons\) of the International Development \(Official Development Assistance Target\) Bill \(Private Bill\)](#)

[Counter-Terrorism and Security Bill: Amendments to be moved in Committee](#) – 2nd reading

[The Immigration Act 2014 \(Transitional and Saving Provisions\) Order 2014](#)

[New powers to tackle sham marriage announced](#)

[The Crime and Courts Act 2013 \(Commencement No. 11\) Order 2014](#)

[The Regulation of Investigatory Powers \(Covert Human Intelligence Sources: Code of Practice\) Order 2014](#)

[Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014](#)

[Dangerous dogs: tough new law to prevent attacks](#)

[Consumers given new weapon in fight against rogue traders](#)

[Fraud, bribery and money laundering offences guideline comes into effect](#)

[Serious Crime Bill](#)

[The Modern Slavery Bill](#)

Social Action, Responsibility and Heroism Bill

The Public Bill Committee is expected to report to the House by **14 October 2014**.

[Upcoming secondary legislation published](#)

[Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Bill - Committee stage report](#)

[Civil injunctions - update](#)

The statutory instrument to ensure that legal aid services are available to young people who are the subject to Part 1 injunction proceedings under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 has been completed, that is: the availability of civil legal aid for advocacy in respect of proceedings in the magistrates' court and in respect of appeals to the Crown Court from the Youth Court in connection with Part 1 injunctions. The Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 (Amendment of Schedule 1) (Advocacy Exceptions) Order 2014 No. 3305 has been published to legislation.gov.uk.

The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) are now proceeding with a further statutory instrument to amend the civil and criminal legal aid contracts and remuneration schemes to ensure that ensure that services are available from legal aid providers in Part 1 injunction cases. MoJ expect to have made the necessary operational and legislative legal aid changes by early 2015, after which the Part 1 injunction can come into force.

SI 2014/3207 Proceeds of Crime (Disclosure Orders: Confiscation Investigations) (Specified Person) Order 2014

SI 2014/3192 Crime (International Co-operation) Act 2003 (Commencement No 6) Order 2014

SI 2014/3191 Criminal Justice and Data Protection (Protocol No 36) (Amendment) Regulations 2014

2. Strategic policing and crime news

[Cyber security boost for UK firms following Cameron's meeting with Obama](#)

New measures to help UK businesses face the cyber security challenge and help our cyber security companies tap into the US market have been announced today, as the Prime Minister visits the United States with UK cyber security firms.

[Terrorist attacks in Paris: Statement by the Home Secretary](#)

[Lords statement on the Terrorist Attack in Paris](#)

[ACPO comment on UK counter-terrorism](#)

[New regulations prevent police officers retiring or resigning to avoid dismissal](#)

New regulations which stop police officers from resigning or retiring if they are subject to an allegation that could lead to dismissal have come into force.

Policing Minister urges police forces to take up new mobile drug testing device

Policing Minister Mike Penning formally announced the type approval of the first mobile drug testing device at the Roads Policing Conference.

Crown Prosecution Service

A protocol between the police and Crown Prosecution Service in the investigation and prosecution of allegations of rape

Crown Prosecution Service

Domestic Abuse Guidelines for Prosecutors

Transform Justice

Do Magistrates get the training and development they need?

Police staff to strike over ‘plummeting’ pay levels say UNITE

Members of the country's largest union, Unite, working for police forces in England and Wales will be taking part in a 24 hour strike on Friday 23 January in a dispute over a one per cent pay offer.

3. Developments and reports

South Oxfordshire council fires: Car hits offices and man arrested

A man has been arrested on suspicion of arson after fires caused severe damage to council offices in South Oxfordshire. Could planning row be to blame?

Council starts petition for domestic abuse offender database

A London borough has begun a petition to encourage creation of a national register of domestic abuse offenders.

Restorative Justice and Domestic Abuse

IARS is currently undertaking a 2 year EU funded research project entitled 'Restorative Justice in cases of domestic violence: Best practice examples between increasing mutual understanding and awareness of specific protection needs'. IARS are looking to speak to anyone who has had personal experience of domestic violence in any capacity whether they have been through a restorative justice process or not and to practitioners who work in the field of domestic violence, and who may have experience of restorative practices, or an interest in the field.

David Cameron speech – Britain living within its means

Birmingham hits back after ‘terror expert’ claims it is ‘totally Muslim’

Birmingham City Council has dismissed ‘curious’ comments made by a Fox News ‘terror expert’, who claimed the region was ‘totally Muslim’.

PHE supporting local council tobacco control

Public Health England is offering a £1,000 discount to councils undertaking a CLear peer assessment. The [CLear model](#) supports local authorities to review their current tobacco control efforts, and identify actions to further reduce smoking rates.

[Councils spending millions to 'prop up' drinks industry](#)

Councils are being forced to divert at least £1.5m a month from frontline services to 'subsidise' the drinks industry, town hall chiefs are warning.

[Public Health England](#)

Substance misuse treatment for young people in England during 2013-2014

[Children in council care and deprivation figures closely linked – ADCS](#)

Local authorities only place a child or young person into care when there is 'clear evidence' that they will suffer significant harm if action is not taken, the Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS) has told PSE.

[NHS crisis can only be solved when social care is adequately funded](#)

The crisis facing the NHS as hospitals struggle to cope with the massive rise in demand will not be solved until social care services are adequately funded, the Local Government Association has warned.

[Department for Communities and Local Government](#)

Engagement strategy to meet the needs of statistics users

[Department for Communities and Local Government](#)

Estimating the number of families eligible for the expanded Troubled Families programme

[Department for Communities and Local Government](#)

Troubled Families: progress information at September 2014 and families turned around at October 2014

[Department for Communities and Local Government](#)

Government action on antisemitism

[Home Office](#)

Khat fact sheets

[IPPR](#)

Back on the market: Bringing empty homes back into use

[Cuts putting a 'sledgehammer' to local government says report](#)

The future of local authority services are under threat - with many councils reducing statutory services due to austerity measures - a new report is warning.

[How safe are your cities' roads?](#)

The feeling of being safe when driving cannot be understated. However the amount spent on road safety varies hugely city to city. Statistics provided by the Department of Transport have revealed how much each city really spends on safety.

[New permanent secretary for DCLG appointed](#)

Sir Bob Kerslake's replacement as the permanent secretary for the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) has been revealed.

[Edinburgh to cut 1,200 jobs and bring in 'Tesco-style' self service](#)

City of Edinburgh Council has announced a reorganisation of services and a cut of up to 1,200 jobs as it looks plug a budget gap of £67m over the next three years.

Unemployed 'falling through cracks' in national work scheme – LGA

The number of unemployed people not claiming Jobseeker's Allowance has passed the one million mark for the first time, with many "falling through the cracks" in national work schemes, the Local Government Association (LGA) has stated.

Councils slam 'failing' government employment schemes

Over a million jobseekers are 'falling through the cracks' of government support, leaving councils to aid those 'forgotten' by national schemes – town halls claim.

Cost and risk main barriers to digital innovation

A lack of resources and high levels of perceived 'unacceptable' risk are holding back digital innovations in local government, according to new research.

Council backs new joint venture company despite privatisation fears

A Cheshire council's decision to back a new joint venture company has been blasted as 'wrong in every respect' by opposition councillors.

New fund to fight unauthorised development

The government has launched a £1m fund that it says will help councils "crack down" on unauthorised development and ensure that everyone plays by the planning rules.

Buses in crisis as councils cut services

Half of councils in England and Wales have withdrawn or reduced bus services in their area due to funding cuts, a Campaign for Better Transport (CBT) report has revealed.

Creation of new town and parish councils simplified

From today it will be easier for communities to set up new town and parish councils, under measures intended to remove 'bureaucratic burdens'.

Miliband talks of making academies accountable

A Labour government could hand oversight of academies back to local authorities, Ed Miliband has suggested.

Country's top cities named for new businesses

Birmingham has been named the top-performing UK city for new businesses outside of the south east, in a historic year for start-ups.

Department for Communities and Local Government

Plain English guide to the planning system

Council agendas modernised under new reforms

Councils will now be allowed to send agendas and meeting papers electronically, ending an out-dated 'budgetary burden'.

Housing benefit overpayments rise to £1.4bn, watchdog finds

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has been blasted by MPs for failing to tackle housing benefit fraud and error, as overpayments rise to £1.4bn.

Reform 'complex' election rules urges Commission

The 'complex and out-of-date' rules on standing for elections should be reformed, according to a new report from the Electoral Commission.

Councils warn school places at 'breaking point'

The cost of creating 900,000 extra school places could push schools to a 'tipping point', town hall chiefs are warning.

Councils spend £5bn 're-hiring staff'

Councils are spending up to £5bn to rehire staff they have previously made redundant, a new investigation has revealed.

Give councils resources to end homelessness, charity urges

Councils should be given more resources and stronger leadership to help them invest in accommodation and tackle homelessness, a charity has claimed.

Council rebukes criticism surrounding 20mph plans

Edinburgh Council has attempted to bust the 'myths' surrounding its plan to become the first 20mph city in Scotland.

Motorists 'bite back' in UK's first National Pothole Day

Motorists are 'biting back' today in the UK's first National Pothole Day, shaming roads 'blighted' by damage and 'savaged' local maintenance budgets.

New social media network goes live

Local authorities are being urged to join a new social media network, in a bid to be more transparent.

Great British High Streets 2015

Following the huge response to the Great British High Streets competition towns and villages are being urged to make one of their resolutions to enter this year's awards.

Weekend cold snap could put 'unprecedented strain' on 'under-funded' services

Severe winter weather this weekend could put 'chronically under-funded' health and social care services under 'unprecedented strain', councils fear.

4. Consultations

Robbery guideline consultation

The Sentencing Council has launched a consultation on the draft guideline on robbery. The consultation closes 23rd January 2015.

Changing existing regulations for an emergency alert system

In the [Strategic Defence and Security Review](#), we committed to evaluate options for rapidly notifying people affected by an emergency. This would help them protect themselves. In autumn 2013 the government, working with local emergency response agencies and the mobile phone networks, completed the [mobile alerting trials for public emergencies](#). The trials found that a 'location-based SMS' service would be the most effective way to alert

people in affected areas. However existing Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations 2003 may restrict the operation of such a system. Closing date, 26th January 2015.

Proposal to use a Legislative Reform Order in forming a combined authority or economic prosperity board

The government is proposing to seek Parliament's approval to make amendments to [Part 6 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009](#), relating to combined authorities and economic prosperity boards, through a Legislative Reform Order. Closes on the 26th January 2015.

Prevent duty

The Counter-Terrorism and Security Bill, which is currently before Parliament, seeks to place a duty on specified authorities (identified in full in Schedule 3 to the bill, and set out in this draft guidance) to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. Closes 30th January 2015.

31st January 2015 - Guidance for healthcare professionals on information sharing

Schedule 7 to the Terrorism Act 2000: draft code of practice

Schedule 7 to the Terrorism Act 2000 ('Schedule 7') allows an examining officer to stop and question individuals travelling through ports, airports, international rail stations or the border area. When necessary they may also detain and search individuals. The aim is to determine whether that person appears to be someone who is or has been concerned in the commission, preparation or instigation of acts of terrorism. Closes on 30th January 2015.

Privacy and Civil Liberties Board

Open date: 17/12/2014
Close date: 30/01/2015

Working together to safeguard children: revisions

Open date: 06/01/2015
Close date: 03/02/2015

Pre-charge bail: consultation on statutory time limits and related changes

Open date: 17/12/2014
Close date: 08/02/2015

Consultation on 2015-16 Draft Budget Proposals

Open date: 03/12/2014
Close date: 03/02/2015

Waste crime: new regulations for dealing with seized property in suspected waste offences

Consultation on proposals for new laws to allow the seizure of vehicles for suspected waste crime offences. The draft regulations will help us reduce illegal waste activity, giving enforcement authorities better tools to use in the investigation and prosecution of suspected offences. Close date 3rd February 2015.

Improving police integrity: reforming the police complaints and disciplinary systems

Consultation seeks views on proposals to reform the police complaints and disciplinary system.

[Improving police integrity: reforming the police complaints and disciplinary systems](#)

The Government is consulting on proposals for changes to the way in which complaints against the police are dealt with including transferring responsibility to Police and Crime Commissioners. The consultation is open until 5th February.

[Consultation on revisions to PACE Codes](#)

Open date: 14/11/2014

Close date: 06/02/2015

[Pre-charge bail: consultation on statutory time limits and related changes](#)

The government is consulting on a series of measures whose overall impact should be to reduce both the number of individuals subject to, and the average duration of, pre-charge bail. Closes on the 8th February 2015.

[Offences against the person](#)

The Law Commission is consulting on 'Offences against the person'. The consultation runs until 11th February 2015.

[Domestic abuse consultation](#)

The College of Policing is currently developing guidance on the subject of domestic abuse and is looking for feedback on the content of the guidance. The consultation is open until 18th February 2015.

[Use of Expert Witnesses in Courts in NI](#)

Open date: 13/11/2014

Close date: 20/02/2015

[Proposal to extend the power of the Criminal Cases Review Commission](#)

Open date: 01/12/2014

Close date: 27/02/2015

5. Reviews and Inspections

HMIC: West Yorkshire Police national child protection inspection report

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) is inspecting the child protection work of every police force in England and Wales.

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

Girls in the Criminal Justice System.

[Full Joint Inspection of Youth Offending Work in Lambeth](#)