



## 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

### [Parliament has now dissolved in preparation for the General election](#)

Manifesto watch: where parties stand on key issues

### [Immigration Act 2014: appeals](#)

Policy guidance on the appeals process from the Immigration Act 2014.

### ['Legal highs' to be banned under temporary power](#)

Ban on five substances will come into force at 00:01 on Friday 10 April for up to 12 months.

[www.asbtools.co.uk](http://www.asbtools.co.uk) is a new website that allows practitioners to share their experiences of using the new ASB tools and powers which commenced on 20th October.

### [Historic law to end Modern Slavery passed](#)

A landmark Bill to help eradicate modern slavery received Royal Assent. The Modern Slavery Act 2015 is the first of its kind in Europe, and one of the first in the world, to specifically address slavery and trafficking in the 21st century.

### [The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 \(Risk of Being Drawn into Terrorism\) \(Amendment and Guidance\) Regulations 2015](#)

### [Serious Crime Bill: overarching documents](#)

### [New rules to crackdown on violent prisoners comes into force](#)

### [Bill on PCC recall](#)

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

### [Upcoming secondary legislation published](#)

## 2. Strategic policing and crime news

### [National Police Chiefs' Council](#)

A new body to co-ordinate operational policing and collaboration amongst forces at the national level has been established. The National Police Chiefs' Council replaces the Association of Chief Police Officers and is chaired by Chief Constable Sara Thornton.

### [Home Office](#)

Counting rules for recorded crime.

### [Police powers and procedures England and Wales year ending 31 March 2014](#)

### [Statistical news release: Police powers and procedures England and Wales year ending 31 2014](#)

### [Pre-release access: Police powers and procedures England and Wales year ending 31 March 2014](#)

## 3. Developments and reports

### [NCA: Lorry driver tried to smuggle £500k fake pound coins](#)

A lorry driver has been found guilty of attempting to smuggle half a million fake pound coins into the UK.

### [Fewer drivers punished for mobile use, police figures suggest](#)

The number of drivers given penalty points for using mobile phones at the wheel fell by 24% last year in England and Wales, police figures suggest.

### [Crime news: track legal aid applications with the CRM14 eForm](#)

The ideal way to track the progress of your criminal legal aid application is by using the CRM14 eForm.

### [Civil/crime news: changes to care legislation and financial eligibility rules](#)

Changes to means assessment guidance in England following implementation of Care Act 2014.

### [Standing Conference on Youth Justice](#)

Guide to the new anti-social behaviour powers.

### [Beyond Youth Custody](#)

Gang-involved young people - custody and beyond - a practitioners' guide

### [Demos](#)

Immigration on Twitter: Understanding public attitudes online

### [Burglar's family face £260k bill after trying to sue council for skylight fall](#)

A burglar has failed in a bid to sue a county council after falling through a school skylight and sustaining life-threatening injuries.

### [Charity calls for more effective way of treating those with complex needs](#)

A national programme to deliver public services to people with multiple and complex needs should be developed, according to a new manifesto from charity Revolving Doors Agency.

### [Immigration Rules appendix A: attributes](#)

Points needed for attributes for applicants in Tiers 1, 2, 4 and 5 of the points-based system.

### [Unemployment falls by 76,000](#)

- Comparing the estimates for the 3 months ending February 2015 with those for September to November 2014, employment continued to rise and unemployment continued to fall. These changes maintain the general direction of movement since late 2011/early 2012.
- There were 31.05 million people in work, 248,000 more than for September to November 2014 and 557,000 more than for a year earlier.
- The proportion of people aged from 16 to 64 in work (the employment rate) was 73.4%, the highest since comparable records began in 1971.
- There were 1.84 million unemployed people, 76,000 fewer than for September to November 2014 and 416,000 fewer than for a year earlier.
- The proportion of the economically active population who were unemployed (the unemployment rate) was 5.6%, lower than for September to November 2014 (5.8%) and for a year earlier (6.9%). The economically active population is those in work plus those seeking and available to work.
- There were 8.99 million people aged from 16 to 64 who were out of work and not seeking or available to work (known as economically inactive), 104,000 fewer than for September to November 2014 but 11,000 more than for a year earlier.
- The proportion of people aged from 16 to 64 who were economically inactive (the inactivity rate) was 22.1%, lower than for September to November 2014 (22.4%) but unchanged compared with a year earlier.
- Comparing the 3 months ending February 2015 with a year earlier, pay for employees in Great Britain increased by 1.7% including bonuses and by 1.8% excluding bonuses.

### [LGA joins website to help councils recruit young people](#)

The Local Government Association (LGA) has signed up to Plotr to encourage young people to consider a career in local government.

### [Councils cut £42m from sport budgets](#)

Councils have cut more than £42m from their sport and leisure budgets since 2010, according to new research.

### [Councils urged to tackle empty homes in new research](#)

The majority of the public believe councils should do more to bring empty homes back into use rather than building new houses, according to new research.

### [Government in Supreme Court over 'illegal' air pollution levels](#)

The Government could be forced to launch new air pollution plans following a hearing in the UK's highest court today.

### [Rise in food banks linked to cuts in welfare spending](#)

There is 'clear evidence' that food banks are opening in areas experiencing greater cuts in spending on local services and central welfare benefits and higher unemployment rates, an academic study has concluded.

### **Councils employ more than double the comms staff than central gov**

Local government employs twice as many communications officers than central government, according to new research conducted by Press Gazette. A freedom of information request by the website has revealed that councils employ at least 3,400 press officers and communication staff, with 44 councils having 20 or more roles in this area.

### **Calls for next government to set out 'serious' early action plans**

The next Government has been called on to put an early action plan approach at the centre of work undertaken during the first 100 days in office or risk the future of important public services.

### **New figures highlight poverty link to poor GCSE performance in Wales**

Pupils across Wales who are eligible for free school meals (FSMs) – a measure of deprivation – are statistically less likely to achieve five A\*-C GCSEs, including English or Welsh and maths (Level 2+), new data has revealed.

### **Report praises council's loneliness 'map'**

Councils have been urged to locate local lonely residents and follow town hall trailblazers by developing isolation maps.

### **ICT report describes urgent need to improve 'poor service' at council**

A report has slammed a council's ICT department, warning of 'poor service', a lack of strategy and a failure to engage with customers.

### **Planners and charities demand action on garden cities**

Politicians have been urged to stop blocking construction of garden cities in a new report from some of the country's top charities and planners.

### **Private landlords receive £9.3bn housing benefits a year, finds research**

Private landlords received £9.3bn last year in housing benefit, according to new research from GMB.

### **Councils urged to signpost support for blind veterans**

Local authorities have been urged to signpost the free support available for veterans suffering from sight loss, with research showing many ex-service personnel are missing out on services.

### **Guildford considers hybrid model of governance**

Guildford Borough Council looks set to adopt a hybrid system of governance in a bid to improve transparency and accountability.

### **Statistical releases: timetable for twelve months ahead**

DECC's timetable of statistical releases for twelve months ahead.

## 4. Consultations

### **Modern slavery and supply chains**

Open date: 12/02/2015

Close date: 07/05/2015

### **Strengthening rights for people with learning disabilities**

Consultation to seek the views to strengthen rights of people with learning disabilities, autism and mental health issues to enable them to live independently. Closes on the 29 May 2015.

### **Interim Report of the Review of the Implementation of the Welfare of Animals Act (NI) 2011**

Open date: 26/02/2015

Close date: 26/04/2015

### **Sentencing Council tackles dangerous dogs**

The Sentencing Council has published proposals for how courts should sentence people convicted of dangerous dog offences. The consultation is open until 9th June 2015.

### **Nice Domestic Violence Quality Standard Upcoming Consultation**

Nice are seeking views and comments on the draft guidance and guidelines for Domestic Violence from the Quality standards programme. The Consultation will run from 11 May to 9 June.

### **Ashfield Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report**

The Council has undertaken a Review of the Ashfield Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report. The Review is out for consultation over the period 16th March to 30th April 2015.

### **College of Policing published the Leadership Review interim report**

The College is seeking feedback on the 10 recommendations from the report and the APCC is planning to compile a co-ordinated response on behalf of Police and Crime Commissioners, under the auspices of the Workforce and EDHR Standing Group.

## 5. Reviews and Inspections

### **HM Inspector of Probation**

A joint inspection of the treatment of offenders with learning disabilities within the criminal justice system - phase two in custody and the community.

**CIPFA Police Network**

# Analysis of the main party manifestos

**Crime, policing and justice issues**

**17 April 2015**

## Introduction

The main political parties' manifestos have been published this week (with the exception of Plaid Cymru's which was published on 31 March). Below is a brief analysis of the crime, policing and justice issues. In the appendix, for reference, there are lists of election promises made by the various parties in their manifestos as sent out previously by e-mail to subscribers to the CIPFA Police Network. In relation to Scotland, the SNP have not yet launched a full manifesto as such, but a series of thematic manifestos. However, they have a vision on crime and justice on their website and it is included in the Appendix.

The analysis below is categorised into some key themes and what they might mean for police forces and PCCs in England and Wales. It is interesting to note that in recent elections, law and order was a key issue of the election campaigns but, at the time of writing, has yet to play a major part in the campaigns this time around.

## Analysis

### Approach to PCCs

Labour, the Liberal Democrats (who of course abided by the introduction of PCCs in their Coalition Agreement), the Green Party and Plaid Cymru have all said in their manifestos they want to scrap PCCs. The Labour manifesto did not say what they would replace them with, but from previous speeches it is likely that they will implement at least in part Lord Stevens' recommendations on council representation from all local areas, though likely to be councillors rather than chief executives. This may be rather similar to the previous police authorities, so we would have to see what the differences were and whether they were supplemented (as police authorities were) with independent members. The Liberal Democrats' manifesto states that they would replace PCCs with local councillors and use the money saved to focus on crime prevention, but there is no mention is made of how much money would be saved and what would be in place of OPCCs as support for those councillors. The Green Party want to return the role of PCCs to local government and Plaid Cymru wish to transfer police oversight in Wales to the Welsh Government.

The Conservatives (of course) want to retain PCCs, as they were a central promise in their previous manifesto and Coalition Agreement and wish to extend their role. UKIP want to reduce the number of forces and therefore the number of PCCs, with a review before the PCC elections in May 2016 on their role and remit, identifying best practice and redefining their role. A Conservative/UKIP coalition could result in a review being undertaken on the role and remit of PCCs to redefine their role and potentially extend it, but with no actual reduction in the numbers of forces or PCCs. Interestingly the issue of the democratic deficit in policing, so important to Conservatives, Labour and the Liberal Democrats in their 2010 manifestos, does not appear in relation to police oversight this time around.

### Collaboration

Labour, the Conservatives and the Liberal Democrats have called for more collaboration but, as expected, in different areas. As the Home Secretary and Policing Minister have

previously stated, and as set out in the criteria in the Police Innovation Fund and Fire and Rescue Transformation Fund, the Conservative manifesto says that it will expect police forces to work together more closely with other emergency services. Note this appears to mean more collaboration, rather than the integration the Home Secretary signalled in a speech last September, but focuses more on working with other emergency services locally than with other forces.

This is likely to work well in metropolitan areas, such as Greater Manchester, where fire and police will come under the remit of the elected mayor, but may not be as easy in other areas, such as county forces (especially those with combined fire authorities). If the role of the PCC was extended to include fire services, this may be easier but this is not specifically stated in the manifesto.

The Labour manifesto promises to mandate collaboration across forces to make forces work closer together. It doesn't give details of whether this is nationally, regionally or other collaboration, nor whether it covers policing services or resources (such as procurement of, say, uniforms for example). With the pressures on spending over the next Parliament, it is likely to be both. However, setting up national collaboration for example takes time before it is fully implemented and realises savings. The Liberal Democrat manifesto says it will encourage forces to collaborate at the national, regional and local levels to reduce back office costs (focusing therefore on support services) and deliver efficiencies. UKIP want to use a police led approach leading to collaboration and co-operation with the aim of then changing structures and the number of geographical forces.

In terms of whether forces collaborate with blue light services or other forces, again it is likely to be a bit of both. Some of the blue light collaborations are already bringing efficiencies are as force to force collaborations. HMIC and the House of Commons Public Accounts Committee (on procurement issues) feel that collaboration is patchy, lacking consistency and depth. But will collaboration be enough to deliver the longer term savings that need to be made and deliver the longer term policing aims?

## **Devolution**

Plaid Cymru promise to devolve responsibility for policing and criminal justice in Wales to the Welsh Government to allow Wales to set their own priorities, to keep Wales safe and provide appropriate sentencing. In the other manifestos, devolution is not mentioned in the crime and justice sections of the manifestos but elsewhere, but has real implications for policing and collaboration. The Silk Commission recommended that policing be devolved to Wales. The Conservatives have said in their manifesto that they would reserve policing and justice as matters for the UK Parliament. Labour manifesto states 'An all-Wales Policing Plan will give the Welsh people the ability to shape local policing in Wales' but does not specifically say that all powers would be devolved.

Perhaps more likely, or even alongside it, is the devolution of powers to cities such as that announced already for Greater Manchester. We are likely to end up (even with a Conservative led Government) with a situation of some areas being governed by PCCs and others being governed by elected city mayors. This isn't a problem in itself as the mayor may subsume the powers of the PCC, as currently happens in London and is planned for Greater Manchester, but what implications might this have for collaboration across force borders, both regionally and nationally if it is more widespread? The issue of metropolitan and non-metropolitan forces would perhaps be exacerbated and may result in forces collaborating who have more in common with one another, rather than what



would necessarily make sense geographically in some areas (as has already happened in some cases).

If either Labour or Conservative lead the Government, either will want more collaboration. A mixed picture of PCCs and elected mayors perhaps will not be a problem so much for the Conservative vision of closer working with other local blue light services but potentially causes more problems for the collaboration that Labour says it will mandate across force boundaries (though that of course depends upon what services/procurement the party wants to mandate and how such mandation is implemented). However, it could also be argued that in terms of depth of collaboration, and the level of realisable savings, a police force only has so much in common with other emergency services but has everything in common with other police forces.

## **Domestic violence and violence against women and girls**

The Coalition Government has published much on domestic violence and violence against women and girls. The Conservative manifesto says they will work with local authorities, NHS and PCCs on a secure future for specialist FGM and forced marriage units, refuges and rape crisis centres. The Labour Party promises a Violence Against Women and Girls Bill, with a commissioner to set minimum standards in tackling domestic and sexual violence and provide more stable funding for women's refuges. The Liberal Democrats promise a number of measures including ensuring teachers, social workers, police and health workers in areas where there is a high prevalence of female genital mutilation or forced marriage are trained to help those at risk, requiring the teaching of sexual consent in schools and improving the provision of rape crisis centres and refuges for domestic violence with a national network and funding. They also want to create a national helpline for victims of domestic violence and ensuring the CJS updates its practice in line with DPP guidance on sexual consent.

Plaid Cymru welcome stronger legislation on domestic abuse, extending it to include coercive and controlling behaviour. They also promise to ensure women in prison are treated fairly. The Green Party promises proper funding for women's refuges for survivors of domestic violence, make domestic abuse a specific criminal offence, and work to change attitudes towards rape, including improving initial response to women, early evidence collection and access to justice. UKIP says it will adopt a zero tolerance approach to female genital mutilation, forced marriage and honour killings.

## **Protection of children**

Following recent scandals, work is ongoing in police forces and other agencies and an inquiry into historical child abuse has been announced. The Labour Party promises new powers on child abuse to enable police to prevent an adult from contacting/communicating with a child if there is evidence of abuse, to strengthen the vetting and barring regime and a new child protection unit to work across Government. The Conservatives promise to continue to overhaul how police, social services and others work together to protect vulnerable children, especially from organised grooming. UKIP promise to prosecute all cases of adult sexual behaviour with under-age minors (age of consent will not be reviewed or changed). UKIP will also review what is and what is not a criminal offence and sentencing policy to address the changing nature of crime, likely to emphasise internet/cyber crime, sexual crime relating to minors, fraud, aggression, intimidation, people trafficking and gang masters and substance abuse.

## **Ethnic minority recruitment**

The Conservatives, Labour, Liberal Democrats and UKIP pledge to improve ethnic minority recruitment to ensure better representation of communities in policing (though the wording of UKIP's promise is not so specific).

## **Drug treatment/legal highs**

All parties' manifestos also cover the issue of so called legal highs. The Conservatives, Liberal Democrats and Labour wish to ban all legal highs. Labour calls for drug treatment to focus on the roots of addiction, with integration between health, police and local authorities. Liberal Democrats, the Green Party and Plaid Cymru all have similar pledges. The Liberal Democrats want to enable doctors to be able to prescribe cannabis for medicinal use, review the effectiveness of cannabis legislation, adopt the Portugal model for diverting into treatment or education those arrested for personal drug use and put the Department of Health in charge of drug policy. Plaid Cymru promise to support the decriminalisation of cannabis, with resources on policing it diverted into education and information programmes which aim to keep people safe from harm (though no details of what resources and how identifiable they are). It also supports a review of the Misuse of Drugs Act (with reference to legal highs). The Green Party manifesto states that drug addiction should be treated as a health issue. UKIP will not decriminalise illegal drugs but focus on drug suppliers not victims.

## **Victims**

The Conservative manifesto states the party wants to introduce a Victims' Law enshrining key rights for victims in legislation. They also promise greater opportunities for vulnerable victims and witnesses to give evidence outside court. Labour also advocate a Victims' Law with minimum standards from criminal justice agencies. The Liberal Democrats advocate a victims' Bill of Rights, the right for a victim to choose restorative justice and a right to review progress made by police in a case. Plaid Cymru also support a victims' Bill of Rights. In relation to hate crime, Labour promise to strengthen the law in this area and Liberal Democrats want to change sentencing guidelines. The Liberal Democrats want to implement a Modern Slavery Strategy to reduce trafficking and support victims.

## **Retention of DNA and data**

Labour promise changes to DNA retention. The Liberal Democrats have a number of measures in relation to data and free speech, including a second Freedoms Act, a digital Bill of Rights and legislation preventing police forces and intelligence agencies from obtaining data on UK residents that it would not be legal to obtain under UK law. UKIP promise to ensure police forces comply with the law and do not retain booking photographs, fingerprints, DNA or biometric data to individuals who have not been convicted of a crime. They also promise to reinstate DNA testing and retention for all convicted foreign criminals and amend the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 to enable police to keep samples from foreign suspects who are arrested but not charged in Britain.

## **People with mental health issues**

The issue of the number of people with mental health issues having to be placed in police custody instead of an NHS/local authority based place of safety has been raised over recent years. The Conservative manifesto promises the provision of health and community based places of safety for people suffering mental health crises. The Liberal Democrats and Plaid Cymru focus on the mental health needs of offenders.

## **Counter-terrorism**

The Conservative manifesto promises to introduce new banning orders for extremist organisations and new extremism disruption order to prevent those seeking to radicalise young people online and a strategy to tackle 'infiltration of extremists in schools and other public services'. Labour want to reintroduce control orders and state it will be mandatory for anyone returning from the Syrian conflict to engage in a de-radicalisation programme. It also promises an overhaul of the Prevent programme. The Liberal Democrats promise to work with local religious and community leaders and others to counter narratives put forward by extremists and to ensure efforts to tackle terrorism do not alienate Muslims or other ethnic or faith groups. They would also review the process of assessing threats from different groups.

## **Reforms to youth justice**

Labour want to extend the reforms to youth justice, piloting a new approach for 18-20 year olds and to embed restorative justice. The Liberal Democrats promise to extend the role of the Youth Justice Board to all offenders under 21 and give them the power to commission mental health services.

## **Human Rights Act**

The Conservatives and UKIP want to repeal the Human Rights Act in favour of a Bill of Rights, while Plaid Cymru and the Green Party specifically state they wish to retain it.

## **Integrity**

The Conservatives pledge to overhaul the complaints system (but with no details). Plaid Cymru focus on stopping undercover agents forming relationships as part of their undercover work. The Labour Party pledge to introduce a new Police Standards Authority to replace the IPCC (but this does not mention HMIC which was included in Lord Stevens' original recommendation).

## **Conclusion**

The manifestos cover much of the same ground, but of course from different perspectives. It will be interesting to see what is actually agreed upon after the election depending, of course, on whether it is a minority Government or a coalition. We could end up with another sea change in policing accountability if the introduction of PCCs is reversed.

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## Appendix

### **The main parties' manifesto promises in relation to crime, policing and justice.**

#### **Conservative Party**

The Conservative Party manifesto was published on 14 March. In its section on *Fighting crime and standing up for victims*, if elected, it promises to:

- Ensure proper provision of health and community-based places of safety for people suffering mental health crises
- Extend the use of police-led prosecutions
- Increase the percentage of the value of assets seized from criminals that can be retained by police forces
- Reforms to police training to tackle cyber-crime and expand the number of 'Cyber Specials'
- We will enable fire and police services to work more closely together and develop the role of PCCs (note this seems to imply collaboration between fire and police rather than integration though doesn't actually specify and no detail is given as to how the role of the PCC might be developed)
- Improve the diversity of police recruitment (especially of black and ethnic minority officers) by supporting direct entry and fast track schemes such as Police Now
- Overhaul the complaints system (but no detail as to how)
- Use the Police Innovation Fund to accelerate the adoption of new technologies to transform the service received by the public
- Mandate changes to stop and search if it doesn't become more targeted and stop to arrest ratios don't improve
- Publish standards, performance data and a ranking system smartphone and tablet security
- Overhaul police cautions so offenders always have conditions attached to their punishment
- Ban all new psychoactive substances (legal highs)
- Make sobriety orders available to all courts in England and Wales
- Closing old prisons, building larger prisons and expanding payment by results
- Introduce random drug testing in prisons, new body scanners, greater use of mobile blocking technology and a strategy to tackle corruption in prisons
- Introduce a Victims' Law enshrining key rights for victims in legislation, including that of making a personal statement and having it read out in court before sentencing and before a Parole Board on a prisoner's release
- Greater opportunities for vulnerable victims and witnesses to give evidence outside court and national roll-out of pre-trial cross-examination for child victims

- Work with local authorities, NHS and PCCs to ensure a secure future for specialist FGM and forced marriage units, refuges and rape crisis centres
- Provide specialist victims' training for advocates before they become involved in serious sexual offences cases
- Continue to overhaul how police, social services and others work together to protect vulnerable children, especially from organised grooming
- New technology to monitor offenders and bring offenders to justice more quickly and to enable women with young children to serve their sentence in the community
- A new semi-custodial sentence for prolific criminals, 'allowing a short sharp spell in custody'
- Extend the scope of the Unduly Lenient Scheme for a wider range of sentences
- Review the legislation covering hate crimes
- Scrap the Human Rights Act and introduce a Bill of Rights
- Maintain the ability of authorities to intercept communications while strengthening oversight
- Introduce new Banning Orders for extremist organisations (but that fall short of terrorism legislation)
- Introduce new Extremism Disruption Orders to, for example, prevent those seeking to radicalise young people online
- A strategy to tackle 'infiltration of extremists' into schools and public services and strengthen Ofcom's role
- Enable employers to check whether an individual is an extremist and bar them from working with children and new measures to ensure colleges and universities do not give a platform to extremist speakers.

## **Green Party**

The Green Party's manifesto was published on 14 April. In its section on Crime and Punishment, if elected, it promises to:

- Treat drug addiction as a health issue
- Restrict use of stop and search powers
- Improve the design of our cities to provide safer streets and public spaces
- Focus on crime prevention measures, including more community policing under democratic control, more local police stations and the return of bus conductors and others who have an important effect on social order (though no detail of how it might be funded)
- Oppose the privatisation of policing and establish a Royal Commission on Policing
- Proper funding for Women's Refuges for survivors of domestic violence and make domestic abuse a specific criminal offence

- Work to change attitudes towards rape, including improving initial responses to women, early evidence collection and access to justice
- Abolish PCCs and return control of police to local government
- Greatly expand the use of restorative justice
- Oppose privatisation of the probation services
- Provide access to 'real work' and education for prisoners, with work including repairing damage done by crime
- Provide access to artistic and creative facilities for prisoners
- Provide access to literacy and numeracy classes for prisoners from the first day of imprisonment
- Operate a smaller prison system saving £5.5 billion over the course of the Parliament (with no details of how)
- Grant prisoners to right to vote
- Oppose the death penalty abroad.

## **Labour Party**

The Labour Party's manifesto was published on 13 April. In its section on safer communities, if elected, it promises to:

- Abolish police and crime commissioners (not stating exactly what will replace them, though likely to the reforms proposed by Lord Stevens to some degree)
- End the subsidy of firearms licenses
- Mandate collaboration (interesting, as not mergers but mandation of collaboration)
- All of the above three will be to safeguard 10,000 more police officers over the next three years
- New statutory Local Policing Commitment, guaranteeing neighbourhood policing in every area (similar to old policing pledge?)
- Giving people a role in setting priorities for neighbourhood policing and a say in the appointment of local police commanders
- All police officers to become chartered officers, with a registration at the College of Policing and to be able to be struck off for serious misconduct
- New Police Standards Authority to replace the IPCC (note it doesn't include replacement of HMIC there as proposed by Lord Stevens)
- Improve ethnic minority recruitment to ensure better representation of local communities
- Payback orders to replace low-level cautions

- Greater protection for staff in the frontline
- Extension of the reforms to youth justice, piloting a new approach for 18-20 year old offenders and work to embed restorative justice
- Drug treatment to focus on roots of addiction, with integration between health, police and local authorities
- Ban the sale and distribution of 'legal highs'
- New powers on child abuse to enable police to prevent an adult from contacting/communicating with a child if evidence of abuse and strengthening of vetting and barring regime
- A new child protection unit will be set up to work across government
- Prisons will be measured by how successful they are in reforming prisoners and reducing reoffending
- Creation of Chartered Prison Officers and tackle staff corruption
- Enact Britain's first Victims' Law with minimum standards of service from criminal justice agencies
- A Violence Against Women and Girls Bill, and a commissioner to be appointed to set minimum standards in tackling domestic and sexual violence and provide more stable funding for women's refuges
- Banning the use of community resolutions for domestic violence, tightening the gun licensing regime and changes to DNA retention
- On the scrapping of control orders, it says 'With Labour, dangerous suspects will be subject to proper controls'
- It will be mandatory for anyone returning from the Syrian conflict to engage in a de-radicalisation programme
- Investigative laws will be updated and oversight of intelligence agencies will be strengthened
- The Prevent programme will be overhauled to involve communities in countering extremist propaganda, stop young people being groomed and build resilient institutions
- The law on disability, homophobic and transphobic hate crime will be strengthened.

## **Liberal Democrats**

The Liberal Democrats party manifesto was published on 15 April. In its section on Freedom and opportunity, if elected, it promises to:

- Introduce a second Freedoms Act to protect free speech, stop 'heavy handed policing' and ban Mosquito devices
- Combat homophobic bullying, including in schools



- Fight discrimination in the criminal justice system and recruit more black, Asian and minority ethnic police officers
- Introduce a digital Bill of Rights on online data
- Ensure proper oversight of security services
- Legislate so that police forces and intelligence agencies should not obtain data on UK residents that it would not be legal to obtain in the UK under UK law
- Introduce restrictions on the indefinite use of police bail
- Require judicial authorisation for the use of undercover police officers to infiltrate alleged criminal groups
- Ensuring the Daniel Morgan inquiry is completed expeditiously and that Part 2 of the Leveson Inquiry starts as soon as the criminal prosecutions in the hacking scandal are completed
- Identify practical alternatives to using closed material procedures within the criminal justice system, including the provisions of the Justice and Security Act to restore open justice.

In its section on Secure Communities it promises to:

- Scrap PCCs, replacing them with Police Boards made up of local councillors from across the force area (similar to old police authorities – would they also have independent members?) and use the money saved to focus on crime prevention (doesn't give details of how much money would be saved and what would be there in the place of OPCCs in terms of support for the Boards)
- Design out opportunities for crime, by improving the built environment, use new technologies and by community resilience
- Strengthen the What Works centre in the College of Policing and require HMIC to scrutinise the use of evidence in designing local policing plans
- Work towards publishing business by business data for crimes on commercial premises, look into mandatory reporting of fraud losses by credit and debit card providers
- Encourage police forces and other emergency service to collaborate (note not integrate) at local, regional and national levels to reduce back office costs and deliver efficiencies
- Expand Police Now
- Look into transferring more serious national crime to the NCA, enabling local forces to focus on local crime and ASB
- Step up work with EU partners to tackle serious and organised crime
- Enact a victims' Bill of Rights
- Create a single point of contact for victims
- Change sentencing guidelines for hate crimes

- Give victims a right to review progress made by police including cases where police have declined to investigate
- Give victims a right to choose restorative justice
- Implement a Modern Slavery Strategy to reduce trafficking and support victims
- Action to tackle violence against women and girls to include ensuring teachers, social workers, police officers and health workers in areas where there is a high prevalence of female genital mutilation or forced marriage are trained to help those at risk, requiring the teaching of sexual consent in schools, improve the provision of rape crisis centres and refuges for domestic violence with a national network and funding, creating a national helpline for victims of domestic violence and ensuring the CJS updates its practice in line with DPP guidance on sexual consent
- Prioritise prison for dangerous offenders and those who commit the most serious offences with increased use of non-custodial punishments
- Promote community justice panels
- Extend the role of the Youth Justice Board to all offenders under 21 and give them power to commission mental health services
- Create a Women's Justice Board
- Ensure prisoners received an education and skills assessment in week one of custody, to start a course/support within a month
- A new measure to assess progress in reducing reoffending, providing education and tackling addiction and mental health issues with more independence for Chief Inspectors of Prisons and Probation
- Provide experts in courts and police stations to identify where mental health/drug addiction is behind offending behaviour. Pilot US style drug and alcohol courts
- Strengthen the 'realistic prospect of custody' test
- Review the criminal Legal Aid market and reduce pressure on the criminal Legal Aid budget
- Review the civil Legal Aid, judicial review and court fees
- Retain access to recoverable success fees and insurance premiums in asbestosis claims
- Promote the use of alternative buildings for magistrates' courts and Community Justice Panels (and others)
- Support civil justice online and expand alternative resolution programmes
- Work with religious and community leaders, civil society groups and others on countering narratives put forward by extremists
- Ensure efforts to tackle terrorism do not alienate Muslims or other ethnic or faith groups
- Review the process of assessing threats against different ethnic and religious communities

- Adopt Portugal's approach for diverting into treatment or education those arrested for possession of drugs for personal use
- Legislate to end use of imprisonment for possession of drugs for personal use
- Review the effectiveness of the cannabis legislation experiments in the US and Uruguay
- Legislate to make the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs independent
- Enable doctors to prescribe cannabis for medicinal use
- Put the Department of Health in charge of drug policy rather than the Home Office.

## **Plaid Cymru**

Plaid Cymru's manifesto was published way on 31 March. In its section on Working for a Safer Wales, if elected, it promises to:

- Devolve decisions on policing and criminal justice in Wales to the Welsh Government to allow Wales to set their own priorities to keep Wales safe and provide appropriate sentencing
- Focus on crime prevention using restorative justice and rehabilitation through probation
- Tackle mental health issues amongst prisoners to prevent future criminal behaviour
- Scrap PCCs and transfer police oversight to the Welsh Government, with effective scrutiny from the elected AMs
- Introduce a Victims' Bill of Rights and train professionals in the CJS
- Welcome stronger legislation to tackle domestic abuse, giving police and courts power to tackle all forms of abuse including coercive and controlling behaviour
- Reverse Legal Aid reforms to allow fair access justice and to monitor its implementation
- Identify suitable sites for appropriate prison facilities for women and for young offenders
- Ensure women in prison are treated fairly
- Oppose the development of a privately built and run super-prison at Wrexham
- Help prisoners develop reading and literacy skills to help them find a job away from a life of crime
- Invest in a long term substance use strategy which focuses on harm reduction to treat problematic substance users as patients rather than criminals
- In the context of legal highs, support an impact assessment on the Misuse of Drugs Act to review its effectiveness in dealing with today's substance problems

- Support the decriminalisation of cannabis, with resources on policing it diverted into education and information programmes which aim to keep people safe from harm (though no details of what resources and how identifiable they are)
- Oppose the privatisation of the probation service and bring the Welsh probation service back into public control to ensure the best results for communities
- Support intelligence-led, cross-border crime-fighting initiatives across the British Isles, Europe and Worldwide with emphasis on preventing terrorism and ending human trafficking
- Stop undercover agents forming relationships as part of their undercover work
- Introduce a Welsh legal jurisdiction to codify their laws, making it clear which legislation applies only to Wales
- Oppose any moves from a UK Government to withdraw from the Human Rights Act and European Convention on Human Rights
- Allow for Magistrates' Courts hearings to be held in alternative locations such as council chambers and other public buildings where safe and appropriate
- Create ex-servicemen's courts to better recognise particular problems faced by ex-members of the Armed Services.

## **Scottish National Party**

At the time of writing the Scottish National Party has now published a manifesto as such with a section on justice issues, but the vision on the website states that the SNP will:

- Keep police on Scotland's streets – a commitment to keep the 1000 extra police in communities.
- Extend the Cashback for Communities scheme.
- Introduce new Serious Crime Prevention Orders allowing them to restrict the activities of people involved in serious and organised crime.
- Introduce minimum pricing on alcohol to reduce the flow of the cheap alcohol and make town centres and neighbourhoods safer and more pleasant places to live.
- Extend the successful schemes that have seen a 30% reduction in knife crime in Scotland since 2007 and support the ground-breaking police efforts to tackle gang violence.

## **UKIP**

UKIP published its manifesto on 15 April. In its section on *Crime and justice*, if elected, it promises to:

- Leave the EU to prevent those with criminal convictions coming to the UK
- Remove the UK from the jurisdiction of the European Court of Human Rights, with the UK's Supreme Court acting as the final authority on Human Rights

- Repeal the Human Rights Act and replace it with a UK Bill of Rights, which would comply with the UN Declaration of Human Rights and apply in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland
- Reverse the opt-in to EU law and justice measures, including the European Arrest Warrant and European Investigation Orders
- Reduce the number of territorial police forces, via a police led approach leading to collaboration and co-operation with the aim of then changing structures
- Reduce the number of PCCs in line with reducing the number of forces
- Review the role and remit of PCCs before the next set of PCC elections (i.e. May 2016) to identify best practice achieved so far and establish a new terms of reference of the role and remit of PCCs
- Not outsourcing or privatising policing (but this is in the context of keeping sworn and warranted officers under the Crown, so would it also apply to support services and police staff work?)
- Refusing to allow the reintroduction or deployment of the Euro Gendarmerie force within the UK
- Invest in new technology to combat crime
- Ensure police forces comply with the law and do not retain booking photographs, fingerprints, DNA or biometric data to individuals who have not been convicted of a crime
- Seek to match the make-up of the police force to the UK's population profile (note the use of terminology, which differs from that of the other parties)
- Review what is and what is not a criminal offence and sentencing policy to address the changing nature of crime, likely to emphasise internet/cyber crime, sexual crime relating to minors, fraud, aggression, intimidation, people trafficking and gang masters and substance abuse
- Prosecute all cases of adult sexual behaviour with under-age minors (age of consent will not be reviewed or changed)
- Adopt a zero tolerance approach to cultural practices that are either illegal or 'which conflict with British values and customs', including forced marriages, female genital mutilation and honour killings
- Introduce personal weapons legislation to reflect progress made on knife crime
- Not decriminalise illegal drugs but focus on ensuring drug suppliers not victims (users?) face the full force of the law
- Decriminalise non-payment of the TV licence fee which will become a civil offence
- Re-establish prison capacity and free up space by removing foreign criminals
- Support purpose-built prison facilities and upgrade of older prisons but not reduce prison places
- Introduce a system whereby suitably qualified prisoners will be paid to teach prisoners with a low standard of literacy and numeracy (though this would presumably need close monitoring by prison staff)

- Prisoners must sign an education covenant requiring them to complete their studies on release and any money earned in prison must first be used to pay any compensation due to victims and thereafter towards further studies
- Prisoners will not be given the vote
- If convicted of any crime, foreign nationals will potentially forfeit any entitlement to a UK passport and to unrestricted entry to the country
- Introduce a fast-track deportation scheme to safeguard national security and ease overcrowding in prisons
- Foreign prisoners who receive custodial sentences will be returned to their country of origin and if the appeal they must do so from their home country or the country to which they are deported, paying their own costs or being funded by their home nation
- Reinstate DNA testing and retention for all convicted foreign criminals and amend the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 to enable police to keep samples from foreign suspects who are arrested but not charged in Britain.

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