



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

[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](#)

Amendments moved by House of Lords.

[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](#)

Public Advocate Bill

Referendum (Local Authority Governance) Bill

[Rehabilitation of Offenders Bill](#)

[Regulation of Political Opinion Polling Bill](#)

Criminal Cases Review Commission (Information) Bill 2015-16

Riot Compensation Bill

Child Victims of Human Trafficking (Central Government Responsibility) Bill

2. Strategic policing and crime news

[Crime outcomes in England and Wales 2014 to 2015](#)

Crime outcomes in England and Wales 2014 to 2015' presents statistics on crime outcomes assigned by the police. This is the first bulletin based entirely on the new outcomes framework which was initially introduced in April 2013 and expanded further to a broader framework in April 2014. This also introduces a new preferred measure for outcomes data, by presenting the outcomes assigned by the police to all offences recorded in the year (2014 to 2015). It replaces the previous 'Crimes detected' bulletins, which focuses on a narrower subset of 'detections'.

[Police workforce, England and Wales: 31 March 2015](#)

Statistics cover police officers, police staff, police community support officers, designated officers and special constables.

Home Secretary announces terms of reference for undercover policing inquiry

The Inquiry, which was set up in March, will investigate undercover policing units – including the Special Demonstration Squad (SDS) and National Public Order Intelligence Unit – operating in England and Wales since 1968, including the extent to which they targeted individuals and groups such as political and social justice campaigns. Theresa May also establishes miscarriages of justice panel to sit alongside inquiry following Mark Ellison's review

Home Secretary statement on illegal immigration in Calais

This written ministerial statement was laid in the House of Commons on 14 July 2015 by Theresa May, Home Secretary.

Home Secretary statement on water cannons

Home Office response to 2015 consultation with users of Immigration Statistics

Guidance to users of the quarterly Immigration Statistics release who were asked to provide feedback and suggestions for improvement.

Inspection of honour based violence

In 2015, HMIC will be carrying out an inspection of the police response to so-called honour-based violence. At the request of the Home Secretary the inspection will include forced marriage and female genital mutilation.

Karen Bradley visits Forced Marriage Unit

The Minister for Preventing Abuse and Exploitation visited the Government's Forced Marriage Unit (FMU)

Membership of Home Affairs Select Committee announced

Justice Select Committee Membership: Communities and Local Government

The membership of the Communities and Local Government Select Committee has been approved by the House.

FGM awareness web app launched

An app called Petals has been developed by students at Coventry University with the help of local school children to allow teenagers to learn about female genital mutilation anonymously and get help if they are at risk.

Immigration Rules part 6A: the points-based system

Tiers 1, 2, 4 and 5 of the points-based system (paragraphs 245AAA to 245ZZE).

Police Service Supports Day of Memory for Britain's Lost Women

The National Police Chiefs' Council Lead on Honour-Based Abuse, Commander Mak Chishty, has spoken in support of the National Day of Memory for Britain's Lost Women – an anti-Honour-Based Abuse event coordinated by the charity Karma Nirvana and Cosmopolitan Magazine.

3. Developments and reports

[Child sex abuse has left 'permanent' scars](#)

The sexual abuse of children has left “permanent scars” not only on victims but on society as a whole, the chair of the Intendent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse has said. Speaking during the opening of the Inquiry, Justice Lowell Goddard said the task ahead was “daunting” but provides a unique opportunity to expose past failures of institutions to protect children and uncover “systemic failures”.

[Home Office sets out pay award for police officers](#)

Accepting the main recommendations of both the Police Remunerations Review Body (PRRB) and the Senior Salaries Review Body (SSRB) has set the increase in pay for police officers from 1 September 2015.

[Criminal record checks: guidance for employers](#)

How employers or organisations can request DBS checks for potential employees.

[£3.2m funding to help victims of domestic violence and abuse](#)

In the budget, the Chancellor has announced additional funding to ensure that no victim of domestic abuse is turned away from help. The funding will be open to proposals from local partnership that demonstrate how the needs of victims could be met in innovative ways.

[Annual ASB Awards](#)

Resolve are now accepting nominations for their annual ASB awards. Email to julie@resolve-asb.org.uk if you have examples of great work.

[Tackling LGBT bullying](#)

Education Secretary Nicky Morgan has spoken about the Government's plans to end lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) bullying in schools.

[Department for Communities and Local Government](#)

Homelessness prevention and relief: England 2014-2015. [Live tables on homelessness.](#)

[National Health Service](#)

Performance of mental health trusts in England.

[Home Office](#)

Psychoactive Substances Bill - overarching documents.

[Independent Advisory Panel on Deaths in Custody](#)

The Harris Review - Independent Review into Self-Inflicted Deaths in NOMS Custody of 18-24 year olds.

[Royal College of Emergency Medicine](#)

Alcohol - A toolkit for improving care.

[Youth Justice Board](#)

YOT practitioner's guide: injunctions to prevent gang related violence.

[Ofsted proposes joint targeted inspections for child protection](#)

Inspectors will have new powers to target local agencies that are failing to work together to safeguard children, under proposals launched.

Judge education on whether school leavers are earning or learning says LGA

Student performance should not just be judged on short-term measures such as exam league tables and Ofsted inspections, council leaders say.

Councils call for 'collective accountability' on educational success

Council leaders have stated that student performance shouldn't be judged on "short-term measures" such as exam league tables and Ofsted inspections, but instead on where people are finding employment or further learning opportunities once they have left school.

IFS study: 63% of children in poverty live in working families

The proportion of children in poverty living in a working family has increased in the last five years, an Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) report into living standards has revealed.

Half of disadvantaged two-year-olds are not benefiting from free childcare

Half of the disadvantaged English families with two-year-olds entitled to free childcare through a government scheme are not using it. This is despite the fact that the costs of keeping a two-year-old in full-time nursery education have reached £918 a month or around £11,000 a year, according to the Family and Childcare Trust.

Cornwall first county to win devolution deal

Cornwall is to become the first county to take over control of many local services from Whitehall, which is expected to bring "jobs and prosperity" to the area. The Cornwall devolution deal will give the area control of bus services, adult skills and regional investment, and health and social services will also be integrated.

London Right to Buy extension could be detrimental to mixed communities

There are "serious concerns" that the sale of additional affordable social housing stock in London, both housing association and local authority, could result in "considerable detriment" to the capital's mixed and balanced communities.

UK transport projects win EU funding

Rail and road transport projects across the UK have won tens of millions of pounds of EU funding under the Connecting Europe Facility scheme.

Public sector employment at all-time low

The number of people employed in the public sector is at an all-time low, according to this month's report from the Office for National Statistics.

Government launches Digital Marketplace buyer and supplier events

The Government Digital Service and the Crown Commercial Service, working with techUK, are running a series of Digital Marketplace buyer and supplier events.

Following increase in defence spending, PM calls for defence review to tackle extremism

The Prime Minister has asked the UK's Defence Chiefs and officials to consider investing more in Special Forces and readily deployable counter-terrorist capabilities as part of the

defence review. This would include future air surveillance (ISTAR) assets including more drones.

Autumn spending review will decide future of public services – LGA

The new chairman of the Local Government Association (LGA) has welcomed the move by the chancellor not to use his Summer Budget to further reduce in-year local government funding.

Cities and local government devolution bill

Adam Hewitt reports on the government's plans to reform local government and devolve further powers to combined authorities and city-regions.

Cornwall's devolution bid moves one step closer

Cornwall Council could become the first county to benefit from new [devolution powers announced in the Summer Budget](#), after councillors approved the 'Case for Cornwall' proposals.

Grabbing power

The leaders of the Greater Manchester health and social care devolution agenda spoke at the recent NHS Confederation annual conference in Liverpool to explain what they are doing and why.

Ombudsman warns of accountability risk

The Local Government Ombudsman (LGO) has warned that greater co-operation between council and health bodies could create accountability risks.

NHS urged to 'let go' of power to councils

The NHS should devolve more power to local authorities if it is to meet the increasing healthcare needs, a new report is arguing.

Cutting the cost of fraud collectively

Dean Langton, strategic director at Pendle Borough Council, explains how a consortium of councils is attempting to tackle fraud collectively.

Half of disadvantaged two-year-olds are not benefiting from free childcare

Half of the disadvantaged English families with two-year-olds entitled to free childcare through a government scheme are not using it.

Welfare cut costs must not 'simply transfer' to other services - CIPFA

The costs of delivering the government's £12bn cuts to direct welfare must not simply be transferred to other public services and the third sector, the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) has warned.

Unemployment rises by 15,000 - first increase since Q1 2013

There were 30.98 million people in work. This was 67,000 fewer than for the 3 months to February 2015, the first quarterly fall since February to April 2013. Comparing March to May 2015 with a year earlier, there were 265,000 more people in work (272,000 more people working full-time and 7,000 fewer people working part-time). The proportion of people aged from 16 to 64 in work (the employment rate) was 73.3%, little changed compared with the 3 months to February 2015 but higher than for a year earlier (72.9%).

Government launches Digital Marketplace buyer and supplier events

The Government Digital Service and the Crown Commercial Service, working with techUK, are running a series of Digital Marketplace buyer and supplier events.

Unions launch blistering attack on Government's strike law overhaul

Unions have warned that a planned Government overhaul of strike laws will make it 'virtually impossible' for public sector staff to confront 'bad employers'.

Sweeping planning reforms must keep councils 'central' to process, warns LGA

Councils have warned communities risk being taken out of the planning process under new Treasury proposals designed to speed up house building.

Impact of council cuts 'not yet understood', warns care president

Children's care directors have issued a stark warning that the full impact of council cuts will take as long as three years to understand.

North West council balances budget but fears challenges ahead

A north west council has voiced concern about funding uncertainty despite balancing its books following a £14m cuts drive. Despite achieving its savings goals and managing to cut £14m in the last financial year, Wigan Council warned of 'tough times ahead' this week as the extent of future budget cuts won't become apparent until the autumn statement is published.

21 boroughs agree partnership on children's social care staffing

A total of 21 London boroughs have agreed to unite and address issues around recruiting and retaining children's social work employees.

Greater Manchester signs groundbreaking health leadership deal

A unique agreement has been signed between councils and health chiefs in Greater Manchester, setting out a vision for united local leadership.

Councils warn living wage will cost £1bn by 2020

Councils will have to find more than £1bn a year by 2020/21 to cover the costs of the new National Living Wage, according to estimates by the Local Government Association (LGA).

Public sector urged to 'ramp up' its digital skills

The public sector lacks the funding and expertise to successfully deliver digital public services, according to the results of a new survey.

Government accused of shedding localism agenda under new planning reforms

Planning reforms designed to speed up construction represent a 'shift away from localism', according to the chair of the Communities and Local Government Committee.

LEPs need clearer planning role finds study

The role Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) can play in devolution and promoting economic growth is being hindered by a lack of staff and a clear focus, a new study has found.

Councils urged to bring registrars into children's centres

Councils should bring together children's centres and registrars to help support vulnerable families at an early stage, according to children's charity Barnardo's.

Over-50s 'sleepwalking into old age' – NAPF

A new study suggests that too many people in their 50s are not adequately preparing for their retirement, which will leave them poorer than expected. The National Association of Pension Funds (NAPF) and the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) found that a third of people aged 52-64 have no idea what their workplace pension income will be in retirement.

6.1 million working people in poverty

More people in work are also living in poverty, a new report from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation has found. JRF warns that the Government must "give up the belief that welfare reform" is the solution, and that it will take more than simply increasing employment and pushing more people into university.

Public bodies leaking private data once a fortnight warns website

Public authorities have accidentally released personal information at least once a fortnight since 2009, according to analysis by mySociety.

Council considers smoking ban for beaches and parks

Smoking could be banned on beaches in Brighton and Hove under new plans to protect the health of children.

Councils failing to provide adequate holiday childcare finds survey

The majority of local authorities do not have enough childcare to meet demand in school holidays, a new survey has found.

Councils and landlords launch energy company to 'eradicate fuel poverty'

Councils and social landlords have formed the UK's first non-profit independent energy supply company to deliver power for hundreds of thousands of homes.

4. Consultations

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.

[Economic Affairs Select Committee: Devolution of public finances in the UK inquiry](#)

The Committee is conducting an inquiry into the possible models for devolution of the public finances in the United Kingdom. This follows on from the Committee's report of April 2013 on the Economic Implications for the United Kingdom of Scottish Independence and is intended to inform debate in the House on the Scotland Bill later this year. Closing date 21st August 2015.

[Cabinet Office: Third Party Campaigning Review: call for views and evidence](#)

Closing date 31 July.

Consultation on human trafficking

Open date: 29/05/2015

Close date: 29/07/2015

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

[HM Inspectorate of Prisons publishes prisoner communications report - majority of calls to MPs listened to in error](#)

There is no evidence of a widespread, deliberate attempt to monitor communications between prisoners and MPs and the majority of calls were downloaded for listening in error, said Nick Hardwick, Chief Inspector of Prisons. He has published a report of the second stage of an inquiry into prison communications.

HM Inspectorate of Prisons: Prisons in decline across all areas, warns Chief Inspector

Outcomes in prisons reported on by the inspectorate declined across all areas in 2014-15 and were the worst for ten years, said Nick Hardwick, Chief Inspector of Prisons. Today he published his last annual report before his term of office ends in January next year. However, the small number of women's prisons and establishments holding children had not declined in the same way as adult men's prisons, he added. All of the prisons inspectors were most concerned about in 2013-14 which had been inspected in 2014-15 had made significant improvements thanks to effective leadership, very hard work by staff and some investment in the environment.

Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary

In harm's way - the role of the police in keeping children safe.

Building the picture: an inspection of police information management

HMIC conducted a review of the business processes which police forces in England and Wales use to collect, record, process, evaluate and share information.