



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 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

[Police saw Rotherham child sex abuse victims as prostitutes, says PCC](#)

Officers failed to act 10 years ago when reports warned about extent of problem because they did not understand what grooming was, says Alan Billings.

[Why 18C is the perfect temperature for crime](#)

A study of police records in Greater Manchester suggests that crime rates peak when the temperature reaches 18C, and fall when it gets any hotter.

[New national rural crime network launches](#)

A new National Rural Crime Network, endorsed by eighteen (18) of the UK's Police and Crime Commissioners, has been set up to help tackle rural crime more effectively in England and Wales.

[NCA review criticises police failings over Rotherham abuse](#)

The National Crime Agency (NCA) has criticised a catalogue of police failings that allowed criminals to sexually abuse more than 1,400 children in Rotherham over a 16-year period, in a new review of operations.

[Fed: crime stats are deceiving](#)

The Police Federation has said that the latest set of national crime statistics are highly misleading to the public.

[Parents back 20mph limit in towns and cities, finds poll](#)

Parents overwhelmingly support an across-the-board 20mph speed limit in towns and cities, according to the results of a survey by road safety campaigners Brake.

[The police pension scheme 2015: administrators' guide](#)

This scheme is established by regulations (the Police Pensions Regulations 2015) made under the Public Service Pensions Act 2013, which came into force on 1 April 2015.

3. Developments and reports

[Majority of 3,000 police accused of assault are still on duty](#)

Figures include two forces where less than 3% of officers facing allegations have been suspended or taken off beat.

[Beat Street: a different kind of kick for South Wales teens](#)

South Wales Police has launched Beat Street, a local football-based initiative to help combat underage drinking and antisocial behaviour.

[New relationship boosts West Mids missing persons effort](#)

West Midlands Police has announced a new partnership with four specialist volunteer groups, designed to bolster its missing persons investigations.

[More than 200,000 ballot papers stolen](#)

A van containing more than 200,000 UK ballot papers for this week's parliamentary and council elections has been stolen. Replacement ballot papers are being printed after a vehicle containing blank election ballot papers was stolen by thieves. The papers were headed for Eastbourne, Hastings, and Rye in time for voting on the 7 May. It is thought more than 200,000 ballot papers were in the van.

Lost, stolen and recovered mobiles, laptops and removable media

Annual figures for lost, stolen and recovered blackberries, mobile phones, laptops and removable media at the Home Office.

Outsourcing to grow by £20bn by 2020 finds analysis

The outsourcing of public services is set to grow by at least £20bn by 2020, according to new analysis by OC&C Strategy Consultants.

Local authorities risk irrelevance if they fail to harness the power of data

If councils fail to understand and harness the power of data they risk making themselves irrelevant to their citizens, according to a new report.

Cornwall Council funds living wage with pay freeze for higher earning staff

Cornwall Council is to become a living wage employer as it increases the pay of its lowest paid workers from minimum wage to £7.85 an hour. The council is funding the increase for 1,800 of its lowest-paid workers, which began this month, by instituting a pay freeze for other staff until 2017.

Councils failing to make homes safe for disabled people

Councils are failing to adapt the homes of disabled people within the one year legal limit, a new report from the charity Leonard Cheshire Disability has found.

'Worrying trend' as public sector employment reaches lowest level

With increased pressure on public services it is a "worrying trend" that overall employment in the sector has reached its lowest level since 1999, the Association of Professional Staffing Companies (APSCo) has said.

Town halls chiefs unite on devolution

Council chiefs from across the UK have joined forces to call for the next government to make devolution an 'urgent' priority.

'Plague of pests' warning over council cuts

Spending cuts could lead to an 'explosion' in the UK's pest population, according to warnings from the British Pest Control Association.

Barking mad! Council uses DNA testing to tackle dog poo

Pet owners who fail to pick up their dog's poo could soon be hounded down by a town hall through DNA testing. Barking and Dagenham is poised to become the first authority in the UK to deploy such a measure.

UK risks breaching human rights vows over housing, charities warn

The Government is at risk of breaching human rights commitments to provide people with suitable housing, a coalition of charities has warned.

[LGA launches social media learning hub for councils](#)

A new social media hub has been launched to help local government get to grips with Twitter and online communication.

[Research shows decline in living standards](#)

Living standards between 2010 and 2014 were the worst for at least half a century, new analysis from TUC is arguing. The analysis, using data from the Office for National Statistics (ONS), found the five-year period was the only one in at least 50 years where real disposable household income per head fell rather than growing.

[Councils urged to work together on scrutiny](#)

A new guide to help councils work together on scrutiny and improve accountability has been launched.

[Study warns of life expectancy time bomb](#)

People will live longer than official estimates suggest, leading to a future funding gap in health and social care provision, a new study is warning. [Researchers at Imperial College London](#) found life expectancy in England and Wales is likely to increase from 79.5 years in 2012 to 85.7 years in 2030 for men. Women are expected to live to 87.6 years in 2030, compared to 83.3 in 2012

[Town dependency tool launched](#)

A tool to measure how independent or dependent towns and cities are across Scotland has been launched. The online tool uses seven levels to score a town's inter-relationships in order to gauge how dependent they are on others. It also flags up issues that need to be addressed such as weaknesses in the local economy.

[Fiscal freedom for councils would unlock empty homes says think tank](#)

Councils should be allowed to decide their own taxes and funding scheme for empty homes, under plans published by think tank IPPR North. IPPR North is calling for 'radical' reforms to bring nearly a quarter of a million empty homes back into use. It argues bringing the 218,000 long-term empty homes back into use could ease the housing crisis and reduce homelessness.

[Sustainable Energy and Utility Model](#)

Special report – by Brookfield Utilities UK (BUUK) are part of Brookfield Asset Management, a NYSE and Toronto top 500 listed global investor in infrastructure, is the UK's leading provider of energy and multi utility infrastructure, making c2,500 new utility connections each week.

[First chief digital officer for Wales](#)

The Welsh government has announced it will appoint a chief digital officer to oversee public sector delivery. In a bid to transform public sector delivery of digital services at a national and local level the Welsh government has announced it will appoint a chief digital officer.

[Transparency overhaul underway in Wales](#)

Community and town councils in Wales are set to be more open and transparent as new regulations come into force on the 1 May.

[Lessons from private/public sector partnerships](#)

Louise Fullwood, Partner at Pinsent Masons LLP details the seven features of highly effective public – private sector joint ventures.

[Children's services increasingly likely to face cuts](#)

Children's services are increasingly likely to face cuts as councils grapple with a worsening financial environment, LGC's latest confidence survey has found.

[Transform cities into powerhouses for 'staggering' national gain, says report](#)

Devolving power to 26 of Britain's smaller cities could transform them into economic powerhouses and save the government £2.5bn a year, a think tank claims.

4. Consultations

[Local Government Association](#)

Remodelling public protection: The future of councils' regulatory services.

[Modern slavery and supply chains](#)

Open date: 12/02/2015

Close date: 07/05/2015

[Department for Communities and Local Government](#)

Parking reform: tackling unfair practices. Closes 27 May 2015.

[Cabinet Office](#)

Public service ombudsman. Closes 16 June 2015.

[Department for Communities and Local Government](#)

Extending the remit of the Local Government Ombudsman to larger parish and town councils. Closes 30 June 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.

[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.

[Open access restriction at Cooplaw: how to comment](#)

Open date: 17/04/2015

Close date: 15/05/2015

5. Reviews and Inspections

[IPCC investigates death of man restrained by police outside Devon pub](#)

Devon and Cornwall police launch criminal inquiry into death of man who fell unconscious while he was being restrained after disturbance in Paignton.

[Inspection regime failing to protect vulnerable says report](#)

Ofsted inspections of children's services are 'outdated' and 'one-dimensional,' according to a new report from Impower.

[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.