



## 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

### **Budget 2015: Finance Bill 2015 - Measures with immediate effect in March**

- [Corporation tax loss refresh prevention](#)
- [Entrepreneurs' Relief, joint ventures and partnerships](#)
- [Restricting Entrepreneur's Relief on associated disposals](#)

### **Local Government Transparency Code published**

DCLG published the 2015 Local Government Transparency Code which is currently recommended practice. However, the 2014 Code remains legally in force. The DCLG website states when regulations come into force making it a legal requirement for local authorities to publish the information specified in part 2 of the code 2015, the 2014 code will be revoked.

### **Draft Riot Compensation Bill published**

On 12 March the Home Office published a draft Riot Compensation Bill. It seeks to modernise the way in which the public can claim compensation for loss caused by riots.

**Part 1 of the new Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014** which relates to the new civil injunction power will now come into force on March 23rd 2015.

### **New Drug Driving laws come into force**

From Monday 2nd March new laws come into effect which introduce a new offence of driving while over the generally prescribed limit of drugs such as morphine and methadone. There will also be set limits for eight illegal drugs including heroin, cocaine, LSD and cannabis.

### **New rules to crackdown on violent prisoners comes into force**

The publication of a joint national protocol on crime committed in prison has set out clearly that when a serious assault on prison staff, the perpetrators will be prosecuted unless there is a good reason why not.

[Bill on PCC recall](#)

[MOJ: No more 'early release' for child rapists and terrorists](#)

[Home Office](#)

[Counter-Terrorism and Security Bill: Receives Royal Assent](#)

[Home Office publish code of practice on powers of entry](#)

[Proceeds of Crime Act Draft Code of Practice](#)

[Motion to approve an SI on Prevention and Suppression of Terrorism](#)

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

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

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

[The Modern Slavery Bill](#)

[Social Action, Responsibility and Heroism Bill received Royal Assent on 12 February](#)

[Upcoming secondary legislation published](#)

[Criminal Justice and Courts Bill received Royal Assent on 12 February](#)

[Home Office Circular 002/2015: Guidance to examining officers on the examination of goods under Schedule 7 to the Terrorism Act 2000](#)

The Home Office has published circular 002/2015, which relates to the examination of goods under Schedule 7 to the Terrorism Act 2000.

[European Parliament approves rules for safer and more eco-friendly lorries](#)

the European Parliament gave its final approval to new EU rules for safer and more eco-friendly lorries ([Directive 2013/0195](#)), put forward by the Commission. These rules will allow manufacturers to develop more aerodynamic lorries which will reduce fuel consumption by 7-10%, cut emissions of greenhouse gases, and also enhance road safety.

[Police Pension Scheme – 2015 members' guide](#)

The 2015 scheme is established by regulations (the Police Pensions Regulations 2015) made under the Public Service Pensions Act 2013. It will come into effect on 1 April 2015.

## 2. Strategic policing and crime news

[Prevent duty guidance](#)

The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 contains a duty on specified authorities to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. The government has produced guidance (issued under section 29 of the Act) for specified authorities,

which they must have regard to when complying with the duty. There are 2 versions of the guidance: one for authorities in England and Wales, and one for authorities in Scotland.

## [HASC follow-up report on FGM](#)

The Home Affairs Select Committee published a follow-up to its report on female Genital Mutilation (FGM).

## [Government's response to the annual report on the operation of Terrorism Acts](#)

The government's response to the annual report on the operation of the Terrorism Acts in 2013.

## [Update on the Committee on Standards in Public Life's inquiry into policing](#)

The Committee on Standards in Public Life's inquiry into policing leadership and ethics.

## [Budget 2015](#)

In a Budget which promised 'no gimmicks' in the run up to the General Election, Chancellor George Osborne delivered a speech which promised to take Britain from 'austerity to prosperity'.

## [Independent panel on Child Sexual Abuse – chair appointed and statutory inquiry](#)

On 12 March, Home Secretary Theresa May, published a Written Ministerial Statement on the appointment of Justice Lowell Goddard as chair of the independent panel on Child Sexual Abuse and that the inquiry itself will be statutory.

## [Sexual violence against children and vulnerable people: progress report](#)

A progress report by the national group on sexual violence against children and vulnerable people was published.

### 3. Developments and reports

#### [Forces must prioritise crimes, says Met Commissioner](#)

Met Commissioner Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe has spoken about the on-going effects of austerity on British policing, saying that forces will inevitably need to prioritise crime types in order to continue to operate effectively.

#### [Home Secretary's speech at the Serious Organised Crime Exchange](#)

We have dramatically reformed our approach to serious and organised crime but we still face big challenges

#### [Ministry of Justice](#)

Government response to the Victims' Commissioner's Review of Complaints and Resolution for Victims of Crime.

#### [Circular 006/2015: linking police officer pay progression to performance](#)

This circular covers the amendments to the Secretary of State's determinations made under the Police Regulations 2003.

#### [Home Affairs Committee publishes report on Police Bail](#)

The Home Affairs Committee of the House of Commons published their 17th report of this session of Parliament on Police Bail.

## [Home Affairs Select Committee](#)

Female genital mutilation - follow up.

## [House of Commons Justice Committee](#)

Appointment of HM Chief Inspector of the Crown Prosecution Service.

## [College of Policing publishes report on national demand](#)

The College of Policing has published an analysis of estimating demand on the police service. It is intended that this national report provides a template for local reports to be done. It sets out that although police recorded crime and incidents over the last 10 years have been falling, the trend is now slowing and some crime types are increasing. Police officer numbers have fallen over the past five years stating that in 2014 there was one police officer for every 445 members of the public, an increase of over 50 people since 2010. The changing crime mix means that the costs of crime for the police have not fallen as much as numbers of crimes. Incidents involving mental health issues are increasing and demand resulting from statutory requirements such as Multi-Agency Public Protection Panels appear to be rising. Two indications of emerging pressure on police resilience include reduced levels of police visibility and increasing requests for mutual aid.

## [All councils should be reinspected following Rotherham child abuse, say MPs](#)

All local authorities in England should be examined by Ofsted to ensure they are tackling child sexual exploitation (CSE), a report from a panel of MPs is demanding.

## [Up to 500 children at risk of sexual exploitation in West Midlands](#)

Almost 500 children and young people in the West Midlands have been the victims of sexual exploitation in the past six months, according to a new report published.

## [Social workers say threat of prison will make children less safe](#)

Government plans to take [criminal action against council staff](#) that fail to protect children will 'scapegoat' workers, according to the British Association of Social Workers (BASW).

## [Budget 2015: Budget lacks funding or devolution assurances needed to save local services says LGA](#)

Responding to the Chancellor's Budget announcement today, Local Government Association Chair Cllr David Sparks, said:

"This Budget has acknowledged the need for changes to the way public services are funded and delivered and for more of the important decisions to be made closer to the people who use them. But it has not protected funding or delivered the bold approach to English devolution which will be essential to the survival of our libraries, children's centres, parks and local buses in the next few years."

## [Budget 2015: Osborne launches 20 housing zones](#)

The Government has revealed plans to introduce 20 new housing zones, which could provide up to 45,000 homes on brownfield sites across the country.

## [Budget 2015: Regional transport strategies unveiled](#)

Chancellor George Osborne announced major transport investment strategies for the North, the South West and London in his Budget today, alongside a range of wider infrastructure boosts.

## **[Budget 2015: Fears councils will 'struggle' to cope with funding cuts](#)**

Council leaders have attacked Budget announcement for failing to protect funding for local services and limiting devolution to a handful of places. The Local Government Association (LGA) said while it welcomed the news a number of places will be allowed to retain a [greater share of business rates](#), this approach should be rolled across the country.

## **[Further streamlining ahead for local government workforce](#)**

Whatever the outcome of the forthcoming election, one thing remains almost certain - austerity measures and spending cuts for local government will continue.

## **[Beep Beep! campaign urges drivers to slow down to save little lives, as three in five parents report speeding around their child's school](#)**

Road safety charity Brake and Churchill Insurance are urging drivers to 'go 20' and take more care in communities, as their latest survey puts the spotlight on irresponsible driving around schools and nurseries. Three in five parents (59%) reported witnessing speeding outside their child's school or nursery in the past year, with the same number (60%) also reporting drivers pulling out or turning without looking properly.

## **[Better justice for road crime victims: Brake supports launch of MP's manifesto for change](#)**

Brake, the road safety charity, has lent its support to a manifesto on criminal driving, launched at the Houses of Parliament this week by Leeds North West MP Greg Mulholland.

## **[Report by ACMD on cocaine powder](#)**

A report was published on 12 March by the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) on the use of cocaine powder, its prevalence, patterns of use and its impact on society.

## **[College of Policing guidance for police on identifying families needing support](#)**

New guidance was launched in March by the College of Policing and the Early Intervention Foundation to help police officers prevent crime and other problems by intervening early to help children and families where things are at risk of going wrong. It gives warning signs on when a child, young person or family need help.

## **[Home Office](#)**

Ending Gang and Youth Violence Programme: Annual Report 2014/15

## **[Home Office](#)**

New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) resource pack.

## **[Guidance on head shops](#)**

Home Office guidance was published on 11 March advising local authorities and other public sector bodies on the types of offences head shops may be committing.

## **[Accountability system statement](#)**

The updated accountability system statement for crime and policing was published by the Home Office on 10 March.

## [Violence against women and girls – Spring newsletter and communications pack](#)

The latest newsletter on action against violence against women and girls was published on 10 March.

## [A violence against women and girls communications insight pack](#)

It covers a wide range of information on this issue and signposts where to get further information and research.

## [A violence against women and girls progress report](#)

A progress report on the work done over the past five years on this issue was also published.

## [Mental health social worker programme given £1.6m funding boost](#)

The care and support minister has announced a government fund which will be provided for a training scheme to fast-track graduates into mental health social work.

## [Thousands of women win equal pay fight at council](#)

Around 4,000 women are due to receive equal wage payouts after North Lanarkshire Council confirmed it had settled a series of long running claims.

## [Councils blasted for 'appalling' treatment of vulnerable teens](#)

Thousands of vulnerable teenagers are being turned away by their local council when they seek help after facing homelessness, a new report is warning. [Research from the Children's Society](#) found that of the 12,000 teenagers aged 16 and 17 asking their local council for help every year, only one in 12 were given the right response and support. Half of these vulnerable teenagers were not properly assessed by the council, with 8,000 sent home without measures put into place to ensure they were not being abused or neglected.

## [LABOUR MARKET STATISTICS, MARCH 2015](#)

### [Justice Committee calls for better prison policy in a time of austerity](#)

In a major report published today (March 18), the Justice Committee concludes that levels of prison safety have reduced when measured against all criteria. The Committee supports the Government's rationale of running prisons more efficiently and reducing expenditure through benchmarking and through replacing old prisons, but believes that it is of crucial importance that in doing so safety, decency, security and programmes of rehabilitation are maintained.

### [Justice committee says Appointment of HM Chief Inspector of Prisons is a matter of concern](#)

In a short Report published today the Justice Committee raises several concerns about the process to appoint a successor to Nick Hardwick, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons, when his term of office comes to an end in July 2015. The Committee publishes with its report correspondence with the Secretary of State for Justice, Rt Hon Chris Grayling MP, and the Commissioner for Public Appointments, Sir David Normington GCB.

### [Raising awareness about selling alcohol to drunks](#)

A new poster campaign to help licensees raise awareness of the laws on buying alcohol for drunks has been launched by the British Beer and Pub Association, National Pubwatch and Drinkaware with input from the Home Office.



## [Alcohol Concern](#)

Accuracy of Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test (AUDIT) for detecting problem drinking in 18-35 year olds in England.

## [Cabinet Office](#)

Evaluating youth social action: an interim report.

## [Demos](#)

Evidence in the youth sector - Review on social and emotional learning.

## [Centre for Social Justice](#)

Drugs in Prison

## [Teenagers NEET hits new low: Figures show 16- to 18-year-olds not in education, employment or training \(NEET\) at lowest level since comparable records began in 2011](#)

The number of 16- to 18-year-olds not in education, employment or training (NEET) has fallen to its lowest level since comparable records began in 2011, figures reveal.

## [European Regional Development Fund](#)

Launch of the England European Regional Development Fund Operational Programme for 2014 to 2020 of €3.6 billion (approximately £2.9 billion) England European Regional Development Fund [Operational Programme for 2014 to 2020](#).

## [Government creates new business to save up to £105 million in IT costs](#)

There will be a £105 million boost for taxpayers over 7 years from a joint venture to revolutionise hosting government computer servers.

## [New social impact bonds to support public services](#)

New social impact bonds help disadvantaged young people, children in care and those with long term health conditions and mental illness.

## [New National Minimum Wage rates announced](#)

From Thursday 1 October 2015, the adult rate of the National Minimum Wage (NMW) will rise by 20p.

## [New era where families are rewarded for recycling - not fined or bullied](#)

Millions of families across the country who recycle their household rubbish will now be rewarded with cash prizes, shopping vouchers and loyalty points.

## [Boost for business as government backs new enterprise zones](#)

The government outlines plans to launch 2 new enterprise zones while extending several more of the thriving business hubs.

## [Earlier flood protection for thousands of homes across England](#)

Budget announcement: More than 31,000 homes and businesses will be better protected from the risk of flooding sooner

## [Ministers back plan for better local services](#)

Last year the independent Service Transformation Challenge Panel called for troubled families-style reforms - where local services are built around the people using them- to reach into other areas such as employment, early years and social care. And, as new figures this week showed that the government's Troubled Families programme has now turned around more than 105,000 families while saving taxpayers an estimated £1.2 billion, ministers gave their formal approval of the Panel's recommendations, with a commitment to go further and faster in the coming years.

### **Tens of thousands get involved in Community Organisers programme**

Community Organisers have put in more than 500,000 hours and have mobilised more than 21,000 people to take action on the things that matter most in their communities.

### **New pathways for the UK's future cyber security experts**

Francis Maude has announced new initiatives to help young people find a career in cyber security. The UK cyber security industry is worth £6 billion, employs over 40,000 people and is expected to grow significantly in coming years. With awareness of cyber threats increasing, businesses and government are taking steps to encourage people studying or entering the job market to see cyber security as an exciting and rewarding career to fill an increasing demand in this sector.

### **Maintaining social care services could become 'impossible' in two years**

Elderly and disabled people could be forced to go without social care support if billions of pounds are not provided for the system, service directors fear.

### **Eight sites chosen to blend health and social care budgets**

The first eight sites to blend health and social care funding for individuals have been announced, in a move to give users more control over their personal care. The successful sites are in Barnsley, Cheshire West and Cheshire, Luton, Stockton on Tees, Tower Hamlets, Hampshire, Portsmouth and a consortium in the South West.

### **Public sector hiring expectations climb to four-year high**

A survey from ManpowerGroup has found the public sector's hiring intentions of +12% in the run-up to May's General Election are double the national average.

### **Watch: Game of Thrones spoof shames 'unfair' council funding**

Councils are warning that 'winter is coming' for budget cuts in a new Game of Thrones parody unveiled by England's cities. Devised by town hall group SIGOMA, the 'Game of Cuts' spoof portrays Lord Ned Starp of the North and Midlands and his companion from the Southern Ports as they voice their fury about funding reductions.

### **Business rates to be radically reformed**

A 'radical' review of business rates is to be conducted by the Government in order to create a 'fair and efficient' system.

### **Public want new legal rights over outsourcing, poll reveals**

Communities want stronger powers over public service outsourcing alongside greater transparency surrounding contracts, according to a survey.

### **Children with learning disabilities face Portage 'postcode lottery'**



One in five local authorities are failing to provide 'invaluable' services for children with a learning disability, according to new research. Portage is a home visiting educational service for pre-school children with learning disabilities, which helps parents identify what their child can do and encourage future development.

### **Call for social care to be free at end of life**

In a new report, the health select committee said it 'strongly recommended' the change to 'ensure that no one dies in hospital for want of a social care package of support'.

### **New Institute to provide housing finance support**

A Housing Finance Institute is to be set up by Government in a bid to address the skills and knowledge gap in delivering local authority housing.

### **Councils forced to water down licensing on private landlords**

Councils have been forced to water down local regulations on licensing private landlords as part of reforms introduced by the government. Since 2010, local councils have had the power to licence landlords across an entire borough or jurisdiction in order to combat issues such as anti-social behaviour in so-called 'hotspot areas'.

### **New guidance for smaller authorities on new local audit regime**

On 11 March, the Department for Communities and Local Government published guidance on changes to the local audit and accountability framework for smaller authorities.

### **Council tax base in England – updated estimates**

These updated estimates were published by DCLG on 9 March.

### **£10 million for women threatened by domestic violence**

On 9 March, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Eric Pickles, announced £10 million for domestic violence refuges across the country and to boost provision for vulnerable victims of domestic violence.

### **Fire and rescue bulletin 55 published**

This bulletin was published on 4 March.

### **Greater Manchester to control £6 billion NHS budget**

In addition to the devolution announced for Greater Manchester in November, it has been February that Greater Manchester is to become the first English region to get full control of its health spending, as part of an extension of devolved powers.

### **Response on devolution in England**

This report is the Government's response to the Local Government Select Committee's report on devolution in England.

### **Government's response to Sir Brian Leveson's review of efficiency**

The Government's response to Sir Brian Leveson's review of efficiency of criminal proceedings was published on 12 March. The Government accepts all of the recommendations in principle.

### **100 Day countdown to Armed Forces Day 2015**

100 days until Armed Forces Day 2015, taking place on Saturday 27 June.

## [Largest ever consultation reveals widespread confusion over laws protecting religion and belief](#)

The Equality and Human Rights Commission has found, in its widespread public consultation, that there is widespread public confusion and misunderstanding about the laws protecting freedom of religion or belief.

## [New fund to improve the health of homeless people](#)

Homeless people will benefit from a new £55million fund to upgrade existing accommodation and provide new housing

## [New measures to help create a bigger and better private rented sector](#)

New measures have been announced a range of measures that will ensure tenants know their rights and where to go if they have a problem with their home.

## [New wave of innovation to update statutory notices for 21st Century](#)

The government has announced £950,000 of funding for 23 local pilot programmes as part of efforts to help councils to bring their public information requirements in line with the modern media.

## 4. Consultations

### [Debate on the future of policing](#)

On 5 March, HMIC hosted a debate on the future of policing to examine the fundamental aspects of how policing is organised and resourced. It also consulted on five questions, the responses to which can be submitted online. The deadline is 23 March.

- What should be the role and mission of the service in the future? What does this mean for policing priorities?
- In the future, which policing functions should be provided at a local and/or regional and/or national basis? How prescriptive should this be?
- Are there successful models which bring together local public services to prevent and reduce crime and/or keep victims safe which could be adopted more widely?
- How should the funding available for policing be distributed to match demand, maintain viable forces and encourage efficiency? How should local freedoms and flexibilities to raise additional funds be provided?
- At what point might a force be deemed unviable? What are the warning signs that this is likely to happen?

### [Law Commission consultation on electoral law The Law Commission has launched a consultation on electoral law reform.](#)

This is a joint project by the Law Commission of England and Wales, the Scottish Law Commission and the Northern Ireland Law Commission. Closes 31 March 2015.

### [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

### [Drug misuse prevention](#)

NICE are seeking views on their draft scope for drug misuse prevention. The consultation is open until 1st April 2015.

### [Written statement on Motorcycle compulsory basic training consultation](#)

A public consultation on proposals to strengthen the structure and delivery of the course. In 2013, motorcyclists accounted for 22% of all road user deaths despite representing only 1% of vehicle traffic; 19% of all reported motorcycle casualties involved young riders aged 19 and under.

### [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 attached Review is out for consultation over the period 16th March to 30th April 2015.

## 5. Reviews and Inspections

### [HMIC's first inspection report on the National Crime Agency](#)

This report was published on 12 March. The report finds that the NCA has already made significant achievements in its relationships with other organisations and in the sharing of intelligence, but there are considerable challenges in making the necessary investments in technology and analytical capability. It adds that most of the nineteen areas that need improvement relate to the way the NCA obtains and works with criminal intelligence.

### [Ombudsman sets out lessons to halt rise in prison suicides](#)

There is no simple answer to why the number of prisoners committing suicide rose so sharply last year, but the rise was unacceptable, said Nigel Newcomen, the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman (PPO). Today he published a thematic report on lessons to be learned from investigations into self-inflicted deaths of prisoners in 2013/14.

### [Triennial review of IPCC](#)

On 12 March, the triennial review of the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) was announced by the Home Office and Security Industry Authority (SIA).

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

Joint thematic inspection of resettlement services to children by Youth Offending Teams and partner agencies.