



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

[General Election 2015](#)

Completed update on the new MPs.

[New Enterprise Bill](#)

- Government commits to Enterprise Bill in first Queen's Speech
- Red tape to be cut by at least £10 billion and for the first time target independent regulators
- EU Commission also set to unveil plans to cut EU red tape today
- New Small Business Conciliation Service to help settle disputes over payment

[Immigration Act 2014: appeals](#)

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

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

[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](#)

2. Strategic policing and crime news

Prime Minister: "We will control and reduce immigration"

The Prime Minister will pledge to help millions of working people by putting new laws to control immigration in next week's Queen's Speech.

- Far-reaching Immigration Bill will be in the first Queen's Speech
- 'Whole of government' approach to clamp down on illegal immigration
- New offence of illegal working so police can seize wages, making sure illegal working doesn't pay

Theresa May Police Federation Speech

Mrs May begins her speech by remembering those fallen in the line of duty including DC Sharon Garrett, PC Kevin Stoodley, PC Russ Wylie and remembering PC Neil Doyle. She then talks about the reform of the last five years and responds to criticism over cuts to funding for police, specifically referencing the fall in recorded crime, protection of the frontline service and the increase in public confidence in the police. She also refers to the increase of usable reserves for 2013/14 by £250 million and that they increased in 34 forces in the country.

Mrs May then turns to reform over the next five years, saying it will mean working to understand and reduce demand on policing, facing up to the changing nature of crime and the impact on police forces, including much greater reporting of crimes such as child sexual abuse. In terms of technology she refers to the use of handheld technology, and transforming the use of police cars to be mobile police stations (similar to the changes made for ambulances).

The Home Secretary makes two announcements:

Firstly, a new Policing Bill, to be included in the Queen's Speech on 27 May, which will allow further reforms to free up police time and put policing 'back in the hands of the professionals'. The Government will extend the use of police-led prosecutions to reduce the time waiting for the Crown Prosecution Service, will overhaul the police complaints and disciplinary systems and change the oversight of pre-charge bail. In relation to mental health, the Bill will include provisions to cut the use of police cells for S135 and 136 detentions, reduce the current 72 hour maximum period of detention for medical assessment and enable more places to be designated as places of safety (with a commitment of up to £15 million to do so).

In relation to closer working with the Fire and Rescue Service, the Home Secretary says that in addition to the Bill, the Government will make further changes to enable closer working between the Police Service and the Fire and Rescue Service. She also says that there will be changes to allow the police to retain a greater share of assets seized from criminals.

Secondly, a major independent review of the use of crime and performance targets in forces, to be led by Irene Curtis, President of the Superintendents' Association. This review will examine the use of targets in each force to make it clear as to how and why targets are being used and analyse their impact on police officers' ability to fight crime. Mrs May states it is not a criticism of the use of data to understand and manage operational challenges of chief constables, nor rebuke PCCs, and argues that targets distort operational reality by focusing

on certain crime types (priority crimes) and ignoring others (specifically referencing child sexual abuse). She says the government has got rid of national targets and now wants to do so for those set at the local level.

[Osborne set to deliver Budget in July](#)

Chancellor George Osborne has confirmed he will deliver a summer Budget on 8 July, where is expected to detail £12bn of cuts to welfare.

[Police pension scheme 2015: purchase of added pension factors and guidance](#)

Guidance on the factors for determining the amount of added pension to be credited to a member's pension account in respect of lump sum and periodical payments.

[Requests to reconsider human rights claims decided before 6 April 2015](#)

This guidance replaces the requests for removal decisions guidance. It follows changes to appeals and removals introduced by the Immigration Act 2014.

[Chancellor sets out budget priorities in CBI speech](#)

In a speech to the CBI Annual Dinner, the Chancellor will said that dealing with our debts, rebalancing our economy and major reforms to build our productivity will be the major themes for his July 8th Budget.

3. Developments and reports

[PCC says referendum rules are 'affront to democracy'](#)

The police and crime commissioner behind the UK's first council tax referendum has hit out at the 'unfair' wording of the ballot, saying the rules were an 'affront to democracy'.

[ENGAGING WITH PCCS: 5 TOP TIPS](#)

Clinks: Voluntary sector organisations work closely with local communities and have an excellent understanding of their community safety needs and priorities. They also know what works to address these needs, through their many years' experience doing just that. So, over the coming months, and in the run up to the next PCC elections, voluntary sector engagement with PCCs to ensure that this knowledge and expertise is properly utilised is all the more important.

[What Works Crime Reduction Toolkit.](#)

New interventions are:

- [Alcohol Tax & Price Policies](#)
The focus of this intervention is on the effect of alcohol taxes and prices on drink driving and violence.
- [Minimum Legal Drinking Age Laws](#)
This intervention focuses on the effects on drink-driving and other crime (including vandalism, disorderly conduct and homicide).

[GPS dementia watch pilot launched by town hall and police](#)

A 'groundbreaking' GPS watch pilot has been launched to support dementia sufferers in Kent, helping residents stay safe and retain their independence.

[Launch of the National Rural Crime Survey](#)

As a member of the National Rural Crime Network (NRCN), the Commissioner and Chief Constable would like to promote the NRCN Rural Crime survey.

Police investigate 1,400 suspects and 666 institutions over child sexual abuse

Police have investigated over 1,400 suspects over allegations of child sexual abuse including hundreds linked to schools, children's homes and community centres.

Brake backs Police Federation plea for lower drink drive limit

Brake, the road safety charity, has given its strong backing to calls made today (19 May 2015) by the [Police Federation](#) – the staff association for all police constables, sergeants and inspectors in England and Wales – for a lower drink drive limit, following evidence from Scotland that the lower limit introduced there last year has led to a marked reduction in drink driving rates.

Risky overtaking forces one in seven drivers to take evasive action, says Brake

Brake, the road safety charity, and Direct Line insurance are urging drivers to hang back, slow down and chill out on country roads to avoid tragedies, as a [survey](#) reveals the extent of risky, aggressive overtaking. An alarming one in seven drivers (14%) report that in the past year they have been forced by another driver's overtaking to swerve, pull over or brake to avoid a collision.

Beat Bobbies are dying out, warn police: Leaders say officers are 'endangered species'

The Police Federation says three-quarters of forces have axed or merged neighbourhood teams in the wake of budget cuts.

Hundreds of burglaries are not being investigated by police because it is 'not a good use of time', warns chief constable

Sir Stephen House, chief constable of Police Scotland, sparked a row after suggesting that it would not be 'ethical' to focus on less serious cases of theft, essentially writing off certain crimes.

Controlled drugs: licences, fees and returns

How to apply for licences to handle controlled drugs as a company or individual traveller, including import and export procedures and fees.

Treatment programmes effective in cutting reoffending

A study from Plymouth University shows those treated after alcohol-related crimes are less likely to be charged or reconvicted in 12 months following conviction.

Home Office

Crime against businesses: Findings from the 2014 Commercial Victimization Survey.

Ministry of Justice

Proven re-offending statistics July 2012 to July 2013.

Thousands of disabled adults sexually abused in last two years

Thousands of disabled adults across England have been the victim of sexual abuse in the past two years, figures have shown. Information from 106 councils shows that there were 4,748 reports of sexual abuse against adults with disabilities since 2013.

Alcohol Concern

Drink responsibly (but please keep drinking).

Clinks

Tackling inequality in the Criminal Justice System.

Department for Health

2010 to 2015 government policy: harmful drinking.

Drugscope

Mental health and substance misuse.

New Local Government Network

Demystifying data - The data revolution and what it means for local government.

OECD

Tackling Harmful Alcohol Use.

Sixteen new 'Liaison and Diversion' teams launched

NHS England has launched 16 new 'Liaison and Diversion' (L&D) teams, ensuring that half the country is now covered by the service for vulnerable people in police custody and the courts. The L&D teams are a new service to make sure people with mental health conditions, learning disabilities or other vulnerabilities such as debt or homelessness can access specialist support when in contact with the criminal justice system.

Surveillance Camera Commissioner writes to local authorities chief executives

Tony Porter, the Surveillance Camera Commissioner, has written a letter to all chief executives of local authorities to remind them of their duty under the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 to pay due regard to the surveillance camera code of practice.

Research shows data breaches 'commonplace' in local government

More than half of all local authorities (55%) have suffered from a data breach in the past two years, with just one council reporting 213 breaches, new figures have revealed.

Charity Commission issues warning about scams

Regulator issues alert about a scam that uses a fake charity name to obtain bank information.

E-bulk: submitting multiple applications for DBS checking

Using the e-bulk system for making multiple applications to the Disclosure and Barring Service, including how to register.

Devolution Declaration – A Modern State for a Stronger Britain

Core Cities UK have launched a 'Devolution Declaration' that sets out how Core Cities UK could rebalance, reform, and renew the UK. The document launched by leaders and mayors of the ten largest city economies outside London in England, Scotland and Wales (Birmingham, Bristol, Cardiff, Glasgow, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, Nottingham and Sheffield) calls for a 'radical modernisation' of the UK's over-centralised state, allowing Britain to succeed at every level from the global to the neighbourhood.

Town hall chiefs offer up 'bold' alternative to devolution plans

Council leaders have published a fully-costed alternative to the government's Cities Devolution Bill, saying 'radical' reforms could boost the economy by £80bn.

West Midlands combined authority moves closer

Coventry City Council and Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council have pushed plans to form a combined authority in the West Midlands a step closer. The two councils would not commit to the scheme before knowing the outcome of the general and local elections, but have now indicated they would be prepared to discuss the issue.

Action needed to reduce disability employment gap, says TUC

A new TUC report *Disability and employment*, published today looks at the experiences of disabled people in the labour market and finds that they are still at a significant disadvantage compared to other workers.

SFA publishes guidance to employers considering offering traineeships

The Skills Funding Agency has published information for employers considering offering traineeships to young people, including the benefits of traineeships for your business.

Councils spent £750,000 hiring celebrities investigation reveals

Councils spent more than £750,000 last year on booking celebrities to appear at events, according to new figures.

Borough extends outsourcing contract with £8.3m deal

Brent Council has extended its Capita contract with an £8.3m deal for supply of council tax and business rates administration.

Worcestershire councils agree shared service contract

Worcestershire County Council, Worcester City Council, and Malvern Hills District Council have reached an agreement regarding their shared services. In a deal worth £13m, the three local authorities will hand over their shared service centre and customer services to Civica.

Council approves "devastating" bus cuts

Local transport routes in Hertfordshire have become the latest victim of austerity. Councillors at Hertfordshire County Council approved the decision to cut the amount of paid bus companies each year by £662,000. The vote to decide the fate of these transport links was passed 42 to 30 during a cabinet meeting earlier this week.

Welfare reform could lead to homelessness

Cuts to discretionary housing payments (DHP) need to be thought through carefully to avoid pushing people out of their homes and on to the streets, according to new research.

Clark urged to tackle £47bn local government pension deficit

The £47bn deficit in the local government pension scheme (LGPS) should be a top priority for new communities minister, Greg Clark, experts are advising.

Quarter of disabled people 'struggled' to vote

A quarter of disabled people said they found it difficult to vote earlier this month, reporting problems with inaccessible voting booths and a lack of disabled parking.

'Pink zones' could tackle housing crisis says report

The Government has been urged to cut the red tape surrounding new developments in a bid to boost housing supply.

County 'too slow' to improve schools, says Ofsted

Inspectors have blasted a county for its 'slow' action in improving schools, with thousands of local children being educated at low ranking sites. Ofsted today warned Suffolk CC had 'not acted quickly or decisively enough' to make suitable improvements following inspections last year.

Report reveals health concerns for unpaid carers

New research has revealed the health of many unpaid carers is deteriorating year-on-year, leading to calls for the Government to increase the level of practical support available.

Council buys former nightclub as 'statement of intent' on local vision

A former nightclub has been bought by a Welsh town hall as part of efforts to rejuvenate the local area.

Unblocking: Securing a health and social care system that protects older people

Localis's new report 'Unblocking: Securing a health and social care system that protects older people', published today, explores the failures of the health and social care system, which is resulting in sub-standard care for the older population. The study involved extensive interviews with local health experts, a survey of more than 100 senior local government figures and a number of case studies.

No mayor, no devolution, says Osborne

George Osborne has invited more cities to bid for devolved powers but has insisted they must come with a directly elected mayor. The powers on offer to combined authorities with an elected mayor will cover transport, housing, planning, policing and public health.

Midlands council considers co-locating libraries and GP services

A council in the midlands is considering running libraries and GP services out of the same premises to protect services amid 30% spending cuts. The proposal was put forward at a recent meeting of Shropshire Council's Health and Wellbeing Board, and would see new "health hubs" that would offer general library services and internet access while also being the base for an NHS community care co-ordinator.

Three counties join forces for growth deal

Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Northamptonshire county councils are to join forces to seek devolved powers to boost economic growth. A report to be heard before Oxfordshire County Council's cabinet this week will press government to "break down barriers" to bring increased prosperity to the region.

Cumbria children's services rated 'inadequate' for third time in four years

Cumbria County Council's children's services department has been rated inadequate by Ofsted inspectors for the third time in four years.

Landmark ruling to change how councils assess vulnerability of homeless

Councils will be obliged to house more single homeless people following a landmark judgement regarding how they assess someone's vulnerability.

New government warned against ‘two-speed’ devolution by England’s heartlands

The County Councils Network (CCN) and District Councils Network (DCN) have issued their first joint statement highlighting concerns that a narrow focus on empowering city areas would threaten to create a two-speed approach to local government and public sector reform.

London council creates ‘tree office’

A London borough has found an unusual way to tackle London’s work space shortage by starting work on a ‘Tree Office’. Built around a tree trunk in Hackney’s Tech City, the new Tree Office will provide co-working space for businesses and community groups, generated money to improve the borough’s parks and green spaces.

House of Commons Library

Comparison of Right to Buy policies in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

‘Bold’ action demanded after councils build just 1,200 homes in 12 months

Just 125,000 new homes were built in England last year, falling almost a quarter of a million properties short of targets –figures have revealed.

Councils triple number of special guardianship orders

An investigation has revealed that the number of councils placing babies under a special guardianship order has tripled in the past two years.

Charity calls for more funding to protect children’s centres

Children’s Centres have faced a 35% funding reduction since 2010 leading to the closure or merging of hundreds of services across England, new research has found.

4. Consultations

Bolsover District Council is currently preparing a new Local Plan for Bolsover District.

The Local Plan will set out the vision and objectives for the District out to 2033 as well as the spatial strategy in terms of how much new development will be accommodated in the District over the plan period and where in the District this growth will be located (including site allocations). The Council must have received your comments by 5pm (17:00) on Friday 3rd July 2015 to ensure they are considered.

9th June 2015

Sentencing Council - Dangerous dog offences

NICE: Domestic violence and abuse quality standard – change to consultation dates

This consultation will now run from Friday 29 May until Tuesday 16 June 2015.

Local Government Association

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

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.

Airports Commission: air quality assessment

Open date: 08/05/2015

Close date: 29/05/2015

5. Reviews and Inspections

Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland

The effectiveness of youth conferencing.

Joint Review of Disability Hate Crime: Follow-up report

This joint follow-up review considered how the police, Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and probation service providers (National Probation Service (NPS)/Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRCs)) have responded to the seven recommendations contained in the Criminal Justice Joint Inspection (CJJI) March 2013 review of disability hate crime.