



## 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

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

The Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC) has welcomed more public debate about creating a mechanism to "recall" an elected commissioner in the event that they are unable to carry out their duties, or where there is a significant breakdown in public trust.

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

Child rapists and terrorists will no longer be automatically released half-way through their sentence, as part of a range of tough new laws that have received Royal Assent.

### [Home Office](#)

*Serious Crime Bill: overarching documents*

**Commencement of Part 1 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 – the Civil Injunction commence on 23 March 2015.**

### [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](#)

## [Upcoming secondary legislation published](#)

## [Criminal Justice and Courts Bill](#)

### 2. Strategic policing and crime news

#### [Revolving Doors Agency](#)

PCC Spotlight: Young Adults (18-24) in contact with police and criminal justice services.

#### [Drug strategy annual review: 2014 to 2015](#)

The third annual review of the drug strategy, 'A Balanced Approach', updates progress on the 3 strands of the strategy since December 2013.

#### [Anti-money laundering taskforce unveiled](#)

High-ranking figures from the Government, banks and law enforcement agencies met today to discuss new ways to tackle financial crime.

#### [Cyber security 'myths' putting a third of SME revenue at risk](#)

Misunderstanding of the threat posed by cyber crime is leaving SMEs vulnerable to losing information, profit and customers.

#### [Home Secretary announces investigation into collapsed police trial](#)

A QC-led investigation into the collapse of a police trial following the wrongful conviction of three people for the murder of Lynette White.

#### [Home Affairs Select Committee](#)

Evaluating the new architecture of policing: the College of Policing and the National Crime Agency.

#### [Hundreds of mental health deaths in detention 'avoidable'](#)

Basic errors and a failure to learn have contributed to the deaths of hundreds of people suffering from mental health conditions detained in psychiatric hospitals, prisons and police cells in England and Wales, according to a new Inquiry.

### 3. Developments and reports

#### [Response to the Victims' Commissioner's Review of Complaints and Resolution for Victims of Crime](#)

This is the government's response to the Victims' Commissioner's Review of Complaints and Resolution for Victims of Crime.

## **Stoke Mandeville Jimmy Savile investigation.**

A report into sexual abuse by Jimmy Savile at Stoke Mandeville Hospital is to say staff were told of 10 complaints at the time. The independent investigation into Savile's behaviour at the hospital is due to be published at 09:30 GMT.

## **Rotherham commissioners confirmed**

The Local Government Secretary has confirmed that 5 commissioners will take over the running of Rotherham metropolitan borough council.

## **Home Affairs Select Committee - Serious and organised crime**

Committee hold an evidence session on serious and organised crime.

## **Home Affairs Select Committee - International Exchange of Criminal Records**

Committee hear oral evidence on the international exchange of criminal records.

## **Legal highs banned from city in UK first**

An East Midlands city has become the first in the UK to ban use of 'legal highs', under efforts to tackle anti-social behaviour. Residents in Lincoln will from April be forbidden from consuming intoxicating substances – such as alcohol and psychoactive material – in the city centre.

## **Children's Commissioner**

If it's not better, it's not the end - Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Gangs and Groups.

## **Childline Annual Review**

On launching the report, Dame Esther Rantzen, ChildLine founder commented: "It is clear that a cluster of problems, such as unhappiness in the family home, the increase in self-harm and eating disorders, the unrelenting intrusion of cyber bullying and the pressures at school are having a damaging effect on our children's mental wellbeing. We have seen a huge rise in the number of children suffering from mental health issues, leading to such serious problems as depression, self-harm and, most devastatingly, suicidal thoughts."

## **INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE AND ABUSE IN YOUNG PEOPLE'S RELATIONSHIPS**

Research has been published into young people's experiences of online and face-to-face forms of interpersonal violence and abuse in five European countries: Bulgaria; Cyprus; England; Italy; and Norway. The research, funded by the Daphne II European Commission, was carried out between 2013-2015 by a team of researchers from the Universities of Bristol and Central Lancashire led by NSPCC Senior Research Fellow, Dr Christine Barter.

## **Number of young people NEET falls across the board**

The number of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) in England is at its lowest level for more than eight years with figures for October to December showing falls across all age ranges, official figures reveal.

## **Joint Committee on Human Rights**

Violence against women and girls.

## **Groups launch LGBT hate crime partnership**

31 LGBT organisations from across England and Wales are coming together to tackle crime. The initiative is funded by the Equality and Human Rights Commission

## **[Chartered Institute of Housing](#)**

How to ..... tackle racially motivated hate incidents.

## **[Family Drug and Alcohol Court to extend nationwide](#)**

The Government is investing £2.5 million to extend the courts that help families affected by drug and alcohol misuse.

## **[Beyond Youth Custody](#)**

Custody to community: how young people cope with release: research report.

## **[Community Links](#)**

Payment by Results.

[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.

## **[Revolving Doors Agency](#)**

A Good Life: Exploring what matters to people facing multiple and complex needs.

## **[Crime outcomes in England and Wales 2013 to 2014](#)**

Police recorded crime statistics on crime outcomes assigned by the police for the financial year ending 2014.

## **[Children entering detention under Immigration Act powers](#)**

These figures are based on management information and are not subject to the detailed checks that apply to National Statistics.

## **[Characteristics of children in need: 2013 to 2014](#)**

Information on children referred to and assessed by children's social services between 1 April 2013 and 31 March 2014.

## **[Immigration statistics, October to December 2014: data tables](#)**

Listing of the data tables included in 'Immigration statistics, October to December 2014'. Latest figures show that in year to September net migration hit 298,000, with 624,000 people arriving in the UK and 327,000 leaving.

## **[Migrant workers bring improvements to British business performance and productivity says new study](#)**

An in-depth, qualitative study of the contribution and impact of migrant workers on 80 UK companies carried out by the Department for Business has been published.

## **[Measures help cut metal theft by a third](#)**

Metal theft has fallen by a third in the past year, after new measures were introduced to [help councils tackle the crime](#).

## **[Communities and Local Government Select Committee - Performance of the Department for Communities and Local Government 2013-14](#)**

## **[New prison to be run by Her Majesty's Prison Service \(HMPS\)](#)**

The prison in North Wales, which is due to open in 2017, will be run by an innovative new approach that will see the best of the public, voluntary and private sectors working together.

### **County 'leading the way' with technology programme**

Over £8m is expected to be saved at Nottinghamshire County Council after town hall bosses approved a package of technology improvements. Coming as part of local efforts to save £77m over the next three years, a new modernisation programme at Nottinghamshire will equip social care staff with tablet computers and improve care monitoring.

### **Local government in England: structures**

Note containing basic details of the structure of local government (counties, districts and unitary authorities); the electoral system, ward structures, and the franchise; the divisions of functions between local authorities; and the process for changing local government boundaries and structures.

### **Greater Manchester to take control over £6bn health budget**

Control over a £6bn health and social care budget will be handed to local leaders in Greater Manchester from 2016, it is understood. In what would be a national first, chancellor George Osborne is on Friday expected to announce a landmark devolution deal that would see NHS England handing significant powers over primary and secondary care to town hall bosses and health leaders. Reports suggest the package will include control over total public health spending, social care, GP services, mental health and acute and community care.

### **Empowered councils key to health and social care integration, says report**

Empowerment of councils is key to improving the 'entrenched' problems in health and social care integration, a think tank has claimed.

### **Squeeze councils for more cash, says Pickles**

Giving evidence to the communities and local government committee, Mr Pickles said there was still 'money that we can get out of the system'.

### **Local government on a 'cliff-edge' warns Commission**

The [Independent Commission on Local Government Finance](#) has published its 10-year reform plan for local government, setting out a two-speed approach to devolution

### **Councils do not have the funds to meet duties**

A survey has revealed that more than half of councils across England do not have enough money to provide essential services in the next financial year.

### **Two councils consider a combined authority**

Discussions between [Cambridgeshire County Council](#) and [Peterborough City Council](#) have taken place as the two authorities look into the possibility of combining services.

### **Local Authorities to receive an additional £20m to ensure continued success of IER**

Local Authorities in England and Wales are set to receive an additional £20 million from the Government as part of the multi-year plan to ensure the continued success of the move to Individual Electoral Registration (IER).

### **Child poverty to rise by 1.2m by 2030, report warns**

Over one million more children could be in poverty in Britain by 2030 without sweeping changes to government policy, research suggests.

### [Street furniture and lighting costs councils £1bn a year](#)

Local authorities spend almost £1bn a year on street furniture and lighting, according to new research.

### [Public sector failing to protect lone workers, claims study](#)

A third of public sector businesses are failing to properly protect staff who work alone, according to new research.

### [Universal Credit raises domestic abuse fears](#)

Universal Credit could leave women vulnerable to domestic abuse, a cross-party group of MPs and peers has warned. The Joint Committee on Human Rights has released a report that says the much troubled welfare reform, which was rolled out nationwide this week, could expose women to financial control – a coercive form of domestic abuse that sees men limit their partners' access to money.

### [Community Rehabilitation Companies workforce information report: quarter 3, 2014 to 2015](#)

Information on staffing numbers at national and local Community Rehabilitation Company levels.

### [National Offender Management Service workforce statistics: December 2014](#)

Information on staffing numbers of directly employed staff of the National Offender Management Service.

### [Commission proposes increase to minimum wage](#)

The Low Pay Commission has recommended that the adult rate of the National Minimum Wage - which applies to workers aged 21 and over - should rise by 3% to £6.70.

### [Sex-and-relationships education should be mandatory in state schools](#)

Sex-and-relationships education (SRE) should be given statutory status so that all state schools in England have to teach it, MPs have said in a report.

### [Getting localism right – Councils need ‘reinventing’ for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century warns think tank](#)

Paul Connolly, director of the Management Consultancies Association Think Tank, discusses its new report, 'Local Government – Time for Reinvention', based on the views of the UK's leading consultants – experts in local government – working with councils the length and breadth of the country.

### [Cooperative councils call for devolution of back-to-work programme](#)

Devolving the Government's back-to-work programme to a local level would help save £500m and create 90,000 extra jobs, a group of 22 'co-operative' councils are claiming.

### [Small and medium employers setting the standard for maximising skills, new research shows](#)

A new report from the UK Commission for Employment and Skills (UKCES) shows many small and medium sized businesses are forging a path when it comes to maximising the talents of their employees, but a gulf exists between the best and those found lagging behind. Pockets of small to medium sized businesses are leading the way when it comes to maximising the talents of staff to boost productivity, new research shows.

### **Urban councils 'hit hardest' by funding cuts**

Urban councils have been hardest hit by cuts and a new funding formula is needed to protect vital services, according to a new report.

### **LGA calls for social care funding to be protected in next Budget**

Council leaders say that if the government does not safeguard social care funding in next month's Budget, as it has been doing for the NHS, another crisis in A&E departments will be "unavoidable".

### **Councils driving innovations in waste management**

Councils are finding innovative ways to deal with waste collection and cleansing services to deliver efficiencies in the face of austerity, according to new research.

### **Scottish councils threaten government with legal action over education funding**

Council leaders in Scotland have threatened legal action against the government over the "imposition" of a budget deal by Holyrood forcing them to maintain current teacher staffing levels.

### **Pickles attacks 'corrosive' lobbying by local enterprise partnerships**

Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) will soon be banned from hiring lobbyists to win government grants, after communities secretary Eric Pickles claimed the practice 'undermines transparency'.

### **Business chiefs call for business rate review**

Business leaders have called on chancellor George Osborne to restate his commitment to reviewing business rates, amid fears an overhaul of commercial property charges could be kicked into the long grass.

### **Lewis pledges to speed up Section 106 agreements**

Changes to Section 106 agreements have been proposed by housing minister, Brandon Lewis, following concerns late negotiations are delaying the planning process.

### **Power over skills, planning and commuter trains promised for London mayor**

The mayor of London is in line for more powers as George Osborne announced plans devolve control over skills, planning and commuter train franchises.

### **Public sector employment at record low**

Public sector employment has fallen to its lowest figure since comparable records began, according to the latest labour market statistics.

### **DCLG awards new contracts to support Community Rights programme**

The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) has provided a £6m funding boost to the Community Rights programme, and awarded six new contracts.



## **Digital road map of England and Wales awarded £3m**

A digital road map of England and Wales that could 'transform' maintenance has been awarded £3m of government funds. Ordnance Survey (OS) and the Department for Transport (DfT) are now liaising with councils, street data company GeoPlace and local highways authorities to compile the most detailed dataset of national highways ever produced.

## **Homeownership hits 29-year low**

Homeownership in England has crashed to its lowest level in almost three decades, figures from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) have revealed.

## **Action plan launched to promote inclusive design**

Ministers have pledged to work with the construction industry to make public spaces and buildings more inclusive.

## **Fees under the Licensing Act 2003**

The Government's response to the consultation on locally-set fees under the Licensing Act 2003.

## **Community Life Survey: future approach**

Consultation response, development of context and methodology for future survey years.

## **4. Consultations**

### **Improving the Display Energy Certificates regime for public buildings**

Open date: 11/02/2015

Close date: 11/03/2015

### **Updating the NHS Constitution**

Open date: 11/02/2015

Close date: 11/03/2015

### **Speaking to witnesses at court: consultation**

The aim of this consultation is to ask for responses to the draft guidance which sets out the role played by prosecutors at or before court in ensuring that witnesses give their best evidence. This is a core part of the prosecutor's job and will, if done properly, impact positively on both the quality of the witness's evidence in court and the perception of the service they receive from us. Closes 16/03/15.

### **Pre-charge bail: consultation on statutory time limits and related changes**

The government has launched an open consultation on pre-charge bail. The consultation is focused on a series of measures whose overall impact should reduce both the number of individuals subject to, and the average duration of, pre-charge bail.

**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

## 5. Reviews and Inspections

### [Integrated inspections of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after & care leavers & joint inspection of the Local Safeguarding Children Board](#)

Integrated inspections: Consultation outcomes, learning from pilot inspections and next steps

### [HMIC: Dyfed-Powys Police National Child Protection Report – 17 February](#)

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) is inspecting the child protection work of every police force in England and Wales. Previous reports from this programme of work can be found on our website.

### [HMIC publish report on girls in the criminal justice system](#)

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) have published their report on girls in the criminal justice system.

### [Police forces making progress on tackling corruption](#)

Police forces have made significant progress in putting in place the processes to prevent and tackle corruption, according to a report launched today by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC), and this is in part due to strong leadership being demonstrated by senior police officers.

[The National Audit Office \(NAO\)](#) issued an "adverse opinion" on the Department for Education's financial statement; the first time since 2005 the NAO has issued such criticism. The NAO identified errors and uncertainties stemming from inadequacies in combining accounts of more than 2,500 bodies, including academies, which operate on different reporting periods.