



## 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

### [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.

### [Revised guidance issued under section 182 of Licensing Act 2003](#)

This revised guidance issued under s 182 comes into force from 26 March 2015.

### [The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 \(Risk of Being Drawn into Terrorism\) \(Amendment and Guidance\) Regulations 2015](#)

### [Circular 010/2015: changes to the management of limited duties: Police \(Amendment\) Regulations 2015 \(SI 2015/455\) and supporting determinations](#)

This circular draws attention to the contents of the Police (Amendment) Regulations 2015 (SI 2015/455) which will come into force on 1 April 2015.

### [Circular 008/2015: Serious Crime Act 2015](#)

The 2015 Act gives effect to a number of legislative proposals set out in the Serious and Organised Crime Strategy published in October 2013.

### **Updated:** [Serious Crime Bill: overarching documents](#)

These documents are part of the Serious Crime Bill.

### [Serious Crime Bill: Proceeds of crime](#)

These documents form the 'proceeds of crime' section of the Serious Crime Bill.

### [Serious Crime Bill: Computer misuse](#)

These documents form the computer misuse section of the Serious Crime Bill.

## **Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (Risk of Being Drawn into Terrorism) (Amendment and Guidance) Regulations 2015**

### **Anti-social behaviour civil injunction power comes into effect**

The new civil injunction power came into force on 23 March and replaces the anti-social behaviour order on application. It is available to the police, local authorities, social landlords and others to help tackle anti-social behaviour early on.

### **Home Office takes further action against new psychoactive substances**

As part of the Home Office's action to respond to the challenges caused by new psychoactive substances (NPS), [two groups of NPS were banned](#). The stimulant compound drug 4,4'-DMAR, and the synthetic opioid MT-45, have both been outlawed as Class A substances.

## **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 assaults on prison staff, the perpetrators will be prosecuted unless there is a good reason why not.

### **Bill on PCC recall**

### **Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014**

### **Upcoming secondary legislation published**

## **Civil news: new regulations for funding of judicial review cases**

The Civil Legal Aid (Remuneration) (Amendment) Regulations 2015 set out changes to payment for judicial review cases.

## **Eric Pickles welcomes council prayers law**

The Local Government Secretary has welcomed the passing of a new law to ensure all councils have the right to hold prayers at the start of their meetings. The [Local Government \(Religious Observances\) Act](#) received Royal Assent from the Queen on Thursday (27 March 2015) after clearing its final stages in Parliament this week.

## **2. Strategic policing and crime news**

### **Police and crime commissioners and civil society policy paper**

This report explores some of the ways that civil society organisations and police and crime commissioners (PCCs) work together. It provides examples to illustrate positive working relationships between PCCs and civil society. It has been compiled through a partnership of the Cabinet Office, Home Office and the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC).

### **Commission to support Police with new Stop and Search training**

The Equality and Human Rights Commission is working with the College of Policing (COP) to develop a new stop and search training programme for officers. The announcement comes as Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) publish their latest figures on stop and search, which show that police forces have made disappointingly slow progress in improving their use of stop and search powers since 2013.

### **HMIC inspection programme 2015/16**

This document sets out HMIC's inspection programme and resources for the year ahead.

### **CONTEST Annual Report Published**

A report setting out the progress made throughout 2014 to implement the Government's counter-terrorism strategy was published today by the Home Secretary.

### **The serious and organised crime strategy: annual report for 2014**

In October 2013 the government published the serious and organised crime strategy, to coincide with the launch of the National Crime Agency (NCA). The government committed to providing an annual update on the progress made in implementing the strategy. This report covers the period from October 2013 to December 2014.

### **Home Office rewards police innovation**

The Home Office has awarded millions of pounds to innovative, collaborative and cost-saving projects aimed at transforming policing. All 43 forces in England and Wales will benefit from a share of the £70 million Police Innovation Fund. This year the fund received 166 bids, of which 71 were successful. Several of the projects will be funded over two years, allowing forces to implement schemes which will deliver long-term benefits.

## **3. Developments and reports**

## **State Opening of Parliament to take place on 27 May 2015**

Parliament has been prorogued. The Prime Minister will ask Her Majesty to summon the new Parliament to meet on Monday 18 May. Parliament has been prorogued and will automatically dissolve on 30 March under the [Fixed-term Parliaments Act](#).

## **Serious and Organised Crime Local Profiles: Illustrative Profile**

Effective local partnerships is a key commitment of the Serious and Organised Crime Strategy. To support multi-agency working, police forces have been encouraged to develop their own Serious and Organised Crime Local Profiles.

## **Revised Strategic Policing Requirement designates child sexual abuse a national threat for police**

On 3 March, the Home Secretary issued a new [Strategic Policing Requirement](#) (SPR) which was revised following a consultation with policing and other partners last year. The SPR is a statutory document which sets out the national threats that forces must address and outlines the capabilities they need to build to counter those threats, particularly by working together across boundaries. The revised SPR designates child sexual abuse (CSA) as a national threat.

## **Updated “This is Abuse” campaign resources published**

The “This is Abuse” campaign aims to prevent teenagers from becoming victims and perpetrators of abusive relationships. To support professionals facilitate discussions with young people on relationship abuse and consent, a “This is Abuse” discussion guide was published in 2013. Following feedback from partners, the guide has been updated and now includes sections on ‘girls and gangs’ and ‘sexting’ (sending sexually explicit messages or images by mobile phone). The guide also provides further information for facilitators on pornography as well as information on the issue of abuse within LGBT relationships. The Personal, Social, Health and Economic education professionals association has disseminated the guide to teachers but it will also be useful for other professionals who work with young people.

## **Individuals at risk of being drawn into serious and organised crime – a Prevent guide**

This guidance supports local partners to understand pathways into serious and organised crime and put in place interventions for at-risk individuals.

## **Nottinghamshire PCCs ‘The Beat’ Newsletter**

## **Crime Statistics, Focus on Public Perceptions of Crime and the Police, and the Personal Well-being of Victims, 2013 to 2014**

- The proportion of adults who gave the local police a positive rating (said they did a good or excellent job) was 63% in 2013/14. This represents a small increase from 2012/13 (61%) and is similar to 2011/12 (62%). While not directly comparable, prior to this, the proportion of adults who gave the local police a positive rating increased from 47% in 2003/04 to 59% in 2010/11
- The proportion of adults who reported seeing police officers or police community support officers (PCSOs) on foot patrol, in their local area, about once a week or more (high police visibility) was 32% in 2013/14. This continues the downward trend seen since 2010/11 when the reported level of high police visibility was at its peak (39%). Prior to 2010/11, the proportion of adults reporting high visibility rose from 26% in 2006/07

- There were 19% of adults who thought it was either “very” or “fairly likely” that they would be a victim of crime within the next 12 months
- In line with previous surveys, those who had been a victim of crime in the last year were more likely to: consider both local and national crime rates to have risen over the last few years; have a high level of worry about crime; and to think it likely they would suffer victimisation in the year ahead, than non-victims
- Those who were victims of crime in the previous 12 months reported significantly lower personal well-being than non-victims for measures relating to “life satisfaction”, “life worthwhile”, and “happiness yesterday”. There was no significant difference for “anxious yesterday”

### **Chair of the Law Commission and re-appointment of Law Commissioner**

Appointment announced of a new Chairman of the Law Commission and the re-appointment of Professor David Omerod as a Law Commissioner.

### **Home Secretary announces time limits for police bail**

The Home Secretary today announced a package of reforms to the police use of pre-charge bail, including setting a limit that pre-charge bail will not last longer than 28 days, with extensions permissible only under specific circumstances, and court oversight for any extension beyond 3 months.

### **Unauthorised encampments**

A joint ministerial letter to council leaders, police and crime commissioners and police chief constables about unauthorised encampments.

### **Speech by Home Secretary Theresa May - A Stronger Britain, Built on our Values: A**

New Partnership to Defeat Extremism

### **Urgent action needed to stop international terrorists preying on young British citizens say MPs**

The Home Affairs Committee of the House of Commons has today published its final report, entitled Counter-terrorism: Foreign fighters, covering preventing radicalisation and Preventing individuals from travelling abroad.

### **Predators could be stopped from grooming with new banning order, councils say**

Predatory men suspected of grooming children for sex could be stopped immediately if a new type of banning order was introduced by the new government, local government leaders say. The Local Government Association (LGA) is calling for a new banning order to allow councils to intervene if there are suspicions about grooming.

### **College of Policing's 'Leadership Review: Interim Report'.**

This report contains the interim findings of the Leadership Review and over the next few months the College will work with stakeholders to gain feedback on the implementation of the recommendations, before a full report is published in June.

### **Cyber security insurance: new steps to make UK world centre**

A new report has been published on the joint initiatives between government and the insurance sector to tackle cyber risk.

### **Civil service 'Digital Friends' to help get the UK online**

Launching the Cabinet Office and Government Digital Service 'Digital Friends' initiative, the Minister for the Cabinet Office, Francis Maude encouraged civil servants to teach their digital skills to friends, family, neighbours or colleagues who are offline.

### **[Understanding local cyber resilience: a guide for local government on cyber threats](#)**

A short guide for local government on cyber threats and how to mitigate them.

### **[Britain still in the dark as charity renews call to make the most of daylight and make roads safer says BRAKE](#)**

As the clocks spring forward this Sunday, politicians are being reminded that the way Britain sets its clocks is wasting hours of potentially productive daylight and creating unnecessary risk on our roads. Brake, the road safety charity, is calling on all political parties to commit to putting the clocks forward an hour year round, a move which would make the most of available daylight, and bring about lighter afternoons and evenings, and therefore safer streets, in the winter months.

### **[Prisons seeking National Autistic Society help to improve support for prisoners](#)**

At the start of World Autism Week, which runs from 27 March 2015 to 2 April 2015, the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) has taken a significant step to improve the rehabilitation support for prisoners with autism.

### **[Poll indicates widespread concern among council leaders over future services](#)**

Only one in 10 council chiefs are confident their local authority can protect frontline services in the face of ongoing austerity, a poll reveals.

### **[Open policy making toolkit: working with experts](#)**

A selection of new tools and techniques to help policy makers find and work with experts.

### **[Shared Parental Leave](#)**

From April 2015, parents will have greater choice in how they share time off work and care in the first year of their child's life. The new rules also apply to adoption or surrogacy. [Check your eligibility and how much pay you can get](#). Find out more about Shared Parental Leave if [you're an employer](#).

### **[Local government update](#)**

Written ministerial statement by Kris Hopkins on actions by DCLG relating to local government

### **[LGA names winners of digital fund](#)**

Council leaders have named the 27 local authorities awarded with £390,000 to develop technology and put more services online.

### **[Local government: delivering for England](#)**

Written ministerial statement by Eric Pickles on actions put in place by DCLG since May 2010 on local government.

### **[Scottish force launches 'If in doubt, keep them out' campaign](#)**

Police Scotland has launched a new initiative to combat bogus callers and doorstep crime.

### **[Research shows councils providing poor telephone service](#)**



Councils are failing to provide a good customer service over the telephone, according to the results of a new survey.

### **National Trust to help councils fund parks**

The National Trust is investigating how it could help councils fund maintenance for local parkland, in a bid to protect this 'precious' asset. A new plan from the country's biggest landowner is understood to involve joint working with town halls to establish sustained financial support for public parks.

### **Politicians should jettison current proposals and devolve power to local authorities says IEA report**

Recent proposals to balance the share of power across the UK are flawed. 'English Votes for English Measures', the creation of an English Parliament and other suggested reforms would see power split unequally whilst failing to decentralise fiscal responsibility. As such they would undermine the potential economic benefits of greater devolution.

### **English devolution can help solve the NHS care and cash crisis**

Today *Reform* publishes [\*Letting Go: How English devolution can help solve the NHS care and cash crisis\*](#). Authored by former Labour Health Minister Lord Warner, the paper explores the benefits of health and social care devolution in the context of recent plans to devolve control of Greater Manchester's £6 billion health and social care budget.

### **HM Inspectorate of Prisons publishes review of Release on Temporary Licence (ROTL) from prison failures**

Nick Hardwick, Chief Inspector of Prisons, has published a redacted version of his review of the very serious failures of three prisoners released on temporary licence from prisons in 2013. The review was submitted to the Secretary of State in January 2014.

### **UK's commitment to children's rights doesn't go far enough, says Human Rights Committee**

In a report published by the Joint Committee on Human Rights welcomes the progress made by the Government in recognising children's rights in law and policy but says that more still needs to be done.

### **Law cannot keep up with legal highs, says Pol Fed**

The Police Federation has welcomed a [\*Welsh Assembly report\*](#) calling for action to curb the rise in legal highs.

### **UK leads global crackdown on illegal wildlife trade**

Britain will provide new funding to a global crackdown on the trade in rhino horn, elephant ivory and other illegal wildlife products.

### **Schools facing 'bleak' funding squeeze**

Schools could face a spending squeeze as high as 12% over the next parliament, research from the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) suggests.

### **HMRC Grant Funding Programme for 2015 to 2016**

HMRC agrees to fund 13 projects to provide support to customers who need extra help. We announced that we had £2 million funding to allocate in 2015 to 2016 for voluntary and

community sector (VCS) organisations to provide advice and support to customers who need extra help understanding and complying with their tax obligations.

### **Study shows low-income families struggling with welfare reforms**

The Government's welfare reforms have caused social housing tenants to run up debts or reduce spending on food, according to a new study.

### **Councils face 13-year backlog to repair potholes**

Councils are 'wasting' the money they spend on filling potholes, as there has been no reduction in the amount it would cost to clear the backlog, according to an annual survey.

### **Britain's 'unhealthiest' high streets revealed**

A league table of Britain's unhealthiest high streets has found towns in the North and Midlands are more likely to have businesses that harm public wellbeing.

### **Government announces new commissioners to the independent Low Pay Commission**

Two new commissioners have been appointed to the Low Pay Commission, Business Minister Jo Swinson announced.

### **Public sector workers feel undervalued and underpaid**

Public sector employees feel undervalued and think their pay does not match their performance, according to a new study. The poll of 1,200 public and private sector workers, commissioned by civil service and public sector membership group CSMA Club, found that 69% of those in the public sector feel less valued by society than 10 years ago – more than double the proportion of those in the private sector (34%).

### **Government Digital Service to start working with councils on local services**

The Government Digital Service (GDS) will expand its remit and start working with councils to develop local digital services. The plans, outlined in the chancellor's Budget documentation, mark a massive expansion of the GDS, which had previously focused only on central government departments.

### **600,000 fewer workless households since 2010: Workless households now lowest in a decade**

The number of households where no one works has fallen by more than 600,000 since 2010, bringing the level to the lowest in a decade, new independent figures released by the Office for National Statistics.

### **Supreme Court ruling could affect councils housing people far afield**

The Supreme Court has overturned a decision by Westminster City Council to house a resident out of the borough, in a ruling likely to have wide implications for local authorities. The court unanimously upheld an appeal from Titina Nzolameso, a single mother who had lived in the Westminster for four years in a four bedroom home, relying on housing benefit to pay her rent. Following the reduction of her housing benefit in 2012, she could no longer afford to live there and she and her five children became homeless.

### **Department for Education**

NEET data by local authority 2014.



## [Department for Education](#)

Future in mind: Promoting, protecting and improving our children and young people's mental health and wellbeing.

## [Joseph Rowntree Foundation](#)

Landscapes of Helping: Kindliness in neighbourhoods and communities.

## [Public Health England](#)

Promoting children and young people's emotional health and wellbeing: a whole school and college approach.

## [Justice Select Committee](#)

Prisons: planning and policies.

## [Justice Select Committee](#)

Work of the Justice Committee in the 2010-2015 Parliament.

## [Warning that social care will swallow council tax revenue by 2020](#)

Council chiefs are warning that more than half the revenue raised from council tax will soon be spent on social care services putting other services at risk. New analysis from the Local Government Association (LGA) shows that for every £1 of council tax collected by councils in 2019/20, 60p will be sent on care. By contrast, 1p for every £1 will be spent on street cleaning and flood defences, with less than 5p spent on funding libraries, parks and leisure centres.

## [Research and analysis update on THINK! drink driving](#)

The THINK! strategy for drink driving is to remind all drivers of the personal consequences of drink driving and that a drink driving conviction can ruin your life. This document provides details of THINK! drink driving campaign activity, messages and results.

## [Workforce management information, 2015](#)

Data showing the number of staff employed at different grades in the Home Office, our agencies and executive non-departmental public bodies.

## [Business Improvement Districts: technical guide for local authorities](#)

The Department for Communities and Local Government has published a guide on the core roles and responsibilities a local authority is required to undertake in relation to Business Improvement Districts.

## [Apprenticeships and traineeships move from strength to strength](#)

New figures show that the number of people taking part in apprenticeships and traineeships is on the increase.

## [Launch of the Humanitarian Leadership Academy](#)

Department For International Development, Save the Children and KPMG are launching the Humanitarian Leadership Academy.

## [Public would support council tax increase to protect services, poll reveals](#)

The majority of people believe local authorities or voluntary groups are best placed to deliver public services rather than profit making companies, according to a new poll. The survey,

conducted by Locality, revealed that 78% of people do not want private companies to run public services. Instead, 71% said they would support councils and communities playing a key role in commissioning and delivering local services.

### **MPs call for review into use of benefit sanctions**

An independent review into the use of benefit sanctions is required, particularly to establish if targets for sanctions exist, according to a committee of MPs. The Work and Pensions Committee is calling for the review to ensure sanctions are being applied 'appropriately, fairly and proportionately'. The report comes in the wake of new evidence which raises concerns about how sanctions are being applied by Jobcentres.

### **Councils predict 2015 will be a year of transformation**

Council bosses believe that while 2015 will be a year of deeper cuts, it will also mark the start of a step-change in the way they deliver services, according to new research.

### **Operational guidance to local authorities: parking policy and enforcement**

Parking control operational guidance for local councils which:

- sets out the government policy framework by which we believe local councils should be setting their parking policies
- tells local councils of changes resulting from the introduction of the [Traffic Management Act 2004](#)
- advises enforcement authorities of the procedures to follow with regard to enforcing parking restrictions

### **North 'dominates' list of most desirable places to live**

Northern England locations have 'dominated' a list of the nation's most desirable places to live thanks to their balance of work-life benefits.

### **UK's first hedgehog conservation zone set for Midlands**

A location has been revealed for Britain's first dedicated hedgehog conservation site as part of efforts to boost the creature's dwindling population. Residents and businesses in Solihull will be called on to create a network of hedgehog friendly gardens extending out from a 90-hectare reserve.

### **Government to increase pay transparency**

Business Secretary [Vince Cable](#) today announced plans to launch an online tool that will make it easier to find out how much people are paid in different occupations, sectors and regions across the UK. The aim is that the increased transparency will see the wages of people on low pay increase.

## 4. Consultations

### **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.

## **New: Consultation on proposed changes to PACE Code E which concerns the audio recording of interviews with suspects**

Opened on the 24 March, closes on the 5 May.

## **Nice Domestic Violence Quality Standard Upcoming Consultation**

Nice are seeking views and comments on the draft guidance and guidelines for Domestic Violent 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 Review is out for consultation over the period 16th March to 30th April 2015.

## **5. Reviews and Inspections**

## **IPCC: Met CSE evidence-suppression investigation will be robust**

The Independent Police Complaints Commission has announced an investigation into possible corruption at the Met, following allegations of the suppression of evidence relating to alleged historic child sex offences.

## **Stop and Search inspection report: "Police Stops and Public Encounters"**

In the 2013 report [Stop and Search Powers: Are the police using them effectively and fairly](#), HMIC made ten recommendations and made a commitment to revisit the subject in 18 months to assess progress against those recommendation.

## **CJJI Criminal Justice Joint Inspection**

The plan (attached) sets out the proposed joint inspection programme for the coming year with details of the lead inspectorate for each proposed work stream and which other inspectorates will be involved.

## **Honour based violence**

During 2015, HMIC will carry out an inspection of the police response to so-called honour-based violence. This will be the first independent scrutiny by inspectorates.

## **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.

### **HM Inspectorate of Probation & HM Inspectorate of Prisons report - offenders with learning disabilities not getting the help they need in prison**

Prison and probation staff were failing to identify people with learning disabilities, meaning opportunities to help those offenders were missed, according to independent inspectors. Today they published the second report of a joint inspection into people with learning disabilities within the criminal justice system.