



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](#)

[New Enterprise Bill](#)

[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

[Queens Speech](#)

The Queen's Speech contains the following Bills identified below:

- Finance Bill

- Full Employment and Welfare Benefits Bill
- Enterprise Bill
- National Insurance Contributions Bill
- Childcare Bill
- Housing Bill
- Energy Bill
- Immigration Bill
- Trade Unions Bill
- Education and Adoption Bill
- [Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill](#)
- Scotland Bill
- Wales Bill
- High Speed Rail (London - West Midlands) Bill
- Northern Ireland Bill
- European Union Referendum Bill
- Extremism Bill
- Investigatory Powers Bill
- Policing and Criminal Justice Bill
- [Psychoactive Substances Bill](#)
- Armed Forces Bill
- Bank of England Bill
- Charities (Protection and Social Investment) Bill
- Votes for Life Bill
- European Union (Finance) Bill
- Buses Bill
- Public Service Ombudsman Bill (Draft)

[Yvette Cooper speech during Commons debate on the Loyal Address](#)

This second day of the Queens Speech was a debate on some of the gravest challenges our country faces

- Public safety, national security, citizenship, the wellbeing of our communities.
- How we counter the extremism that poisons minds and terrorises communities.
- How we ensure high standards of policing, and also make sure we still have police on our streets.
- How we control and manage migration, tackle exploitation and stay an outward looking country.
- And how we protect security, liberty and democracy.

[Association of Chief Police Officers](#)

Framework for Implementation - EHRC Out in the open: A manifesto for change.

[First police force achieves RSQM](#)

Greater Manchester Police (GMP) Tameside Division has become the first police force to achieve the Restorative Justice Quality Mark (RSQM).

[National Rural Crime Survey](#)

The National Rural Crime Network has launched a national survey to uncover the true impact of rural crime.

[Home Office](#)

Home Secretary's Police Federation 2015 Speech.

[Home secretary announces plans to keep the mentally ill out of police cells](#)

Theresa May is to announce £15m of funding to provide extra beds in hospitals and care homes to keep people detained under the Mental Health Act out of police cells.

She will also announce that a new policing and sentencing bill, to be included in the Queen's Speech, will ban the use of police cells to hold those under 18 with mental health problems.

[Blanket ban to clamp down on 'legal highs'](#)

Action to protect young people from the dangers of so-called 'legal highs' and target those who profit from their trade was announced by the UK government.

3. Developments and reports

[Queen's Speech 2015: Devolution, Right to Buy and welfare reform](#)

Proposals to ensure the devolution of cities and expand Right to Buy to social housing tenants were outlined in the first Conservative Queen's Speech in nearly two decades today. Marking the state opening of Parliament, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II confirmed a widely-trailed set of announcements for new legislation which are likely to have a significant impact on local authorities. Reading the speech, the Queen said the new Bills represented the Government's 'one nation approach' to 'supporting aspiration and bringing different parts of our country together.'

[Queen's speech 2015: Tougher laws on strike action](#)

Under reforms to strike laws, the Government will ban strike action in health, education, fire and transport unless the majority of eligible union members vote in favour of striking, with at least 40% needing to take part in strike ballots.

[Trade unions blast strike action reforms](#)

Unite said it was 'staggered' with the announcement and warned the priority should be on creating more jobs rather than focusing on 'insecure workers'.

[Queen's Speech 2015: Metro mayors crucial in government's devolution offer](#)

As widely expected, the Queen announced the Government's devolution plan as part of its northern powerhouse agenda amid opposition to chancellor George Osborne's controversial offer to restrict deals solely to areas that agree to directly-elected mayors.

[Queen's Speech 2015: Housing Bill outlined](#)

Council chiefs have demanded a lead role in housebuilding and greater powers to help deliver the Government's Housing Bill commitments.

[Government publishes EU Referendum Bill](#)

The Government has published legislation that will give British people a say on the UK's EU membership.

[Landmark ruling against Gypsy and Traveller discrimination](#)

A legal ruling this week has implications for crimes and discrimination against Gypsies, Roma and Travellers.

[Home Office minister visits Missing People charity ahead of International Missing Children's Day](#)

The minister toured the offices and learnt about the Child Rescue Alert System, a crucial tool in helping locate missing people.

[Charity reports 50% rise in sexually exploited and at-risk children](#)

Barnardo's is calling on the new UK government to ensure all children in England receive age-appropriate sex and healthy relationship education.

[NICE guideline on Violence and aggression \(update\)](#)

This final guideline has now been published. You can also find the supporting evidence, as well as all the stakeholder comments that we received during consultation and the responses to these comments. There is also an [equality impact assessment](#) to support the guideline. The recommendations in the guideline have been included in a [NICE Pathway](#) which is an online tool that brings together all related NICE guidance and associated products in a set of interactive, topic-based diagrams. There is a version of the guideline for people using services, carers and the public called '[Information for the public](#)'.

[NICE guideline on Challenging behaviour and learning disabilities](#)

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[Alcohol Concern](#)

Alcohol and Hypertension - Fact Sheet.

[Cinnamon Network](#)

Cinnamon Faith Action Audit

[European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction](#)

New psychoactive substances in Europe.

[Joseph Rowntree Foundation](#)

Understanding everyday help and support.

[Local Government Association](#)

English Devolution: Local Solutions for a Successful Nation.

[Police Foundation](#)

Neighbourhood policing: Past, present and future.

[Guidance on licensed transactions for internet retailers of poisons and explosives precursors](#)

Suggests ways for internet retailers to comply with the licence verification requirements of the Control of Explosives Precursors Regulations 2014.

[Guidance for pharmacies selling non-medicinal poisons to the general public](#)

Non-statutory guidance provides advice on how registered pharmacies can comply with the law on poisons and explosives precursor chemicals.

[Hodge to stand down as PAC chair](#)

Margaret Hodge MP has announced that she has decided not to return as chair of the Public Accounts Committee.

[Council told to improve handling of misconduct complaints](#)

Durham County Council has been urged to review its staff misconduct procedure, after a man claimed he was 'gazumped' by a building control officer.

[Lewis abolishes 'outdated' short-term rental rules](#)

London homeowners will be allowed to rent out their homes on a short-term basis without applying for planning permissions, under reforms.

[Councils spent 42,000 days 'snooping' on public](#)

An investigation has revealed councils spent 42,000 days on covert and direct surveillance operations, 'snooping' on pigeon feeders and motorists.

[DCLG to hire director general for devolution](#)

The Department for Communities and Local Government is searching for a new director general to take charge of 'decentralisation and local growth'.

[LGA calls for devolution without mayors](#)

The Local Government Association has responded to the government's Cities Devolution Bill with its own white paper calling for councils to be given two years to form groups or combined authorities and the end to the imposition of elected mayors. The LGA is willing to work with the new government but said that continuing to make cuts without reform would stifle growth and make local services unsustainable. *English devolution: local solutions for a successful nation* builds upon the evidence of three independent commissions that all conclude devolution must reach non-metropolitan England, which is responsible for 56% of national output.

[Inspectors find council 'unlawfully' raised parking charges to fund services](#)

A Dorset council unlawfully hiked parking charges to raise 'significant' amounts of money for other services, inspectors have found.

[PM on plans for a seven-day NHS](#)

David Cameron gave a speech setting out his plans for "a 7-day NHS, safe in our hands - for every generation to come".

[Staff crisis looming in health and social care warns report](#)

New research is warning there will be a severe shortage of health and social care workers in the future, with two million more staff needing to be trained and recruited by 2022.

[City rejects allowance rise for mayor and councillors](#)

Councillors and the city mayor in Bristol have rejected recommendations to raise allowances, despite fears they were being 'undervalued'.

[Researchers rank UK's most innovative LEPs](#)

Oxfordshire, Cambridge and Peterborough have outperformed London, Manchester and Liverpool to be named the UK's most innovative Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs).

[Top bodies call for mental health action](#)

Six of England's leading health organisations have joined forces to call for mental care to become a national priority.

[Council helps tackle Russian counterfeit crime gang](#)

Officers from Oldham Council have helped tackle a Russian crime gang suspected of planning significant profits from counterfeit music and films.

[Council muzzles dog ban plan after howls of complaint](#)

A Northern Ireland council has withdrawn plans to ban dogs from a number of local sites from consultation following local concerns.

[Who does what at the DCLG?](#)

The new ministerial team at the Department for Communities and Local Government has been named, and responsibilities finalised.

[Input and impact indicators: 2014 to 2015](#)

Department of Health business plan input and impact indicator data for 2014 to 2015.

[Heatwave Plan for England](#)

The Heatwave Plan for England is intended to protect the population from heat-related harm to health.

[Pickles to be given knighthood](#)

The communities secretary for the duration of the last parliament, Eric Pickles, is to be given a knighthood, Downing Street has announced.

[Large pay-offs for town hall chiefs to be scrapped](#)

Six-figure 'golden parachutes' for town hall bosses will be axed under plans unveiled by the Government. Redundancy payments for the best-paid public sector workers will be capped below six figures as part of the Enterprise Bill in the Queen's Speech, the government has announced. This will ensure fairness and value for money for the taxpayer, and could save millions of pounds – in 2013, nearly 2,000 (1,838) public sector employees received payouts over £100,000.

[New measures will force councils to merge adoption functions](#)

Councils could be forced to merge their adoption services if they fail to work together of their own accord.

[Clark vows Right to Buy expansion will 'add to housing stock'](#)

Communities secretary Greg Clark has vowed extensions to the Government's Right to Buy scheme will not lower numbers of affordable housing.

[Hit fly-tippers with £1,000 on the spot fines, say campaigners](#)

Pressure is mounting on ministers to hike penalties for England's litter louts and launch a £1,000 on the spot fine for fly tipping.

[Councils call for more power to hold schools accountable](#)

Council leaders are calling for more power to intervene in failing schools to help hold academies and free schools to account.

[Councils need 'tranquillity map' to protect peaceful areas, say campaigners](#)

Campaigners have said a national 'tranquillity map' should be established to help councils protect England's most peaceful areas from development.

[UKIP, Lib Dems, Greens, SNP and Plaid Cymru join forces on electoral reform](#)

Five party leaders and more than 477,000 people have signed a petition calling for voting reform after the general election resulted in huge disparities between votes cast and MPs elected.

[Dealing with councils' £47bn pension deficit a 'defining issue' – NAPF](#)

Dealing with the £47bn deficit will be the 'defining issue' of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) over the next couple of years, Joanne Segars, chief executive of the National Association of Pension Funds (NAPF) has said at the NAPF Local Authority Conference.

[Coventry poised to join other West Midlands councils in combined authority](#)

Coventry has moved a step closer to joining Birmingham and local authorities in the Black Country in forming a new West Midlands combined authority.

4. Consultations

[Consultation is now open on the draft challenging behaviour and learning disabilities quality standard](#)

The draft challenging behaviour and learning disabilities quality standard is now available on the NICE website for consultation. The consultation period starts today, **Friday 29th May**, and finishes at **5pm on Friday 26th June 2015**.

[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.

[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.

[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.

5. Reviews and Inspections

[Responding to austerity progress report: Nottinghamshire Police](#)

This report sets out the progress made by Nottinghamshire Police since the publication of the [Policing in Austerity: Meeting the Challenge](#) report was published in 2014.

[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.

Queen's Speech 2015 –

Quick summary for Police and Crime Commissioners

Introduction

1. The Queen's Speech presented on May 27, a number of proposals including some bills, which relate to the remit and activities of Police and Crime Commissioners.
2. This note seeks to provide a coherent summary and analysis of these bills and other proposals which might impact on **Police and Crime Commissioners**.

Policing and Criminal Justice Bill

3. The Queen's Speech sets out a new Policing and Criminal Justice Bill to "*improve the law on policing and criminal justice*". The purpose of the Bill is to:

- Continue making every community safer.
- Continue to reform policing, and enhance protections for vulnerable people.
- Continue reforming the criminal justice system to better protect the public, build confidence and improve efficiency.

4. Key elements the Bill include:

Pre Charge Bail – Ending the practice of people remaining on bail for months or years without independent oversight of the police's investigation, by;

- Initially limiting pre-charge bail to 28 days, with an extension of up to three months if authorised by a senior police officer.
- In exceptional circumstances police can apply to the courts for an extension beyond three months, to be approved by a magistrate – introducing judicial oversight of the pre-charge bail process to increase accountability and scrutiny.

PACE Treatment of 17 Year Olds – Create legislative consistency within the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) to ensure 17 year olds are treated as children under all its provisions, by:

- Ensuring an appropriate adult is present for drug sample taking.
- Ensuring appropriate consent is granted by both 17 year old and parent/legal guardian for a range of interventions, including intimate searchers.
- Including the ability to impose conditional bail to protect the welfare and interests of 17 year olds.

Mental Health and Policing – Reform legislation relating to the detention of people under sections 135 and 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983 to ensure better outcomes for those experiencing a mental health crisis, by:

- Prohibiting the use of police cells as places of safety for those under 18 years of age and further reducing their use in the case of adults.
- Reducing the current 72 hour maximum period of detention, and extending the power to detain under section 136 to any place other than a private residence.

APCC briefing

HMIC Powers – Changing HMIC’s statutory remit and functions to strengthen its independence, extend its remit and allow it to comment on the efficiency and effectiveness of policing as a whole, by:

- Extending HMIC’s remit to contractors and to **Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) staff** who are supporting the police and delivering policing functions.
- Giving HMIC powers to acquire information from third parties.
- Requiring **PCCs** to copy to HMIC their responses to HMIC inspection reports, which are currently sent to the Home Office.
- Give powers to the Chief Inspector to commission inspections that have not been included in HMIC’s published programme.
- Enable the Chief Inspector to appoint Assistant Inspectors of Constabulary.

Police Integrity – Ensure police corruption and misconduct is brought to light and officers are held to account for their behaviour in a manner that is fair and transparent for the public, with changes to the Police disciplinary system which will:

- Enable appeal hearings to be held nationally with a lay member introduced in place of the current retired police officer.
- Ensure that the IPCC investigate all cases involving chief officers.
- Allow the IPCC to present its own cases to disciplinary hearing panels.
- Extend the power to make conduct and disciplinary regulations to include former police officers.
- Change the police complaints system to include:
 - A stronger role for **Police and Crime Commissioners**.
 - Measures to strengthen protections for police whistleblowers.
 - Changes to the powers of the IPCC.

Police Federation Reform – includes:

- Amending primary legislation to apply the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act to the Police Federation.
- Enshrining the Police Federation’s Core Purpose (which reflects the need for it to act in the public interest) in legislation.

Child Protection

- Subject to the outcome of a public consultation, introduce improved protection for children, either through amending current duties, introducing a criminal offence of ‘wilful neglect’ or introducing a mandatory reporting scheme.
- Close a legal loophole so that live-streaming of child sexual abuse online can be punished in the same way as recorded images - meaning offenders will face up to 14 years in prison.

Criminal Justice Reform – deliver a range of criminal justice reforms that will aim to better protect the public build confidence and improve efficiency.

- Consider what changes might be needed over the coming weeks and will bring forward more detailed proposals in due course.

Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill

5. The Queen's Speech also sets out proposals to *"provide for the devolution of powers to cities with elected metro mayors, helping to build a Northern Powerhouse"*.
6. As part of this devolution, the Bill would enable:
 - An elected mayor for the combined authority's area who would exercise specified functions and chair the authority- see comment below.
 - The mayor to undertake the functions of **Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)** for the area.
 - Where a mayor is to have **PCC** functions, allow the current **PCC** term of office to be extended until the mayor is in place.
 - Remove the current statutory limitation on its functions (currently these are limited to those on economic development, regeneration, and transport).

Comment / Analysis

7. Much of the Queen's Speech had been anticipated by discussion under the last Government or in the Government Manifesto. There are some measures which could affect Police and Crime Commissioners which will need further clarification, including:
 - 7.1. Commissioners may note the wording around the extension of HMIC's powers to include the remit of *contractors and to Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) staff who are supporting the police and delivering policing functions*. Although our understanding from previous discussions with the last Government is that this is primarily about OPCC staff that carry out functions under the new complaints proposals, Commissioners will be mindful that the term 'Policing Functions' is possibly vague and they may wish to ensure that this cannot be misinterpreted to include other functions that could be carried out by the Police and Crime Commissioner or their offices.
 - 7.2. Whether mayors for combined authorities which are not co-terminous with police areas will be able to take on the role of Police and Crime Commissioner. A question on this was put to the Home Secretary at the recent PCC General Meeting on 19th May, who indicated this would need to be looked at on a case by case basis.
 - 7.3. What the criminal justice reforms aimed at better protecting the public, building confidence and improving efficiency will involve in practice.

APCC Secretariat