



## 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

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

That the draft Terrorism Act 2000 (Proscribed Organisations) (Amendment) Order 2015, which was laid before this House on 19 January, be approved.

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

Home Secretary Theresa May has announced a new domestic abuse offence of coercive and controlling behaviour.

### [Counter-Terrorism and Security Bill: Amendments to be moved in Committee](#)

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

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

### [Serious Crime Bill](#)

### [The Modern Slavery Bill](#)

### [Social Action, Responsibility and Heroism Bill](#)

The Public Bill Committee is expected to report to the House by **14 October 2014**.

### [Upcoming secondary legislation published](#)

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

### [SI 2015 No. 9 The Criminal Justice \(Specified Class B Drugs\) Order 2015](#)

### [SI 2015 No. 13 The Criminal Procedure \(Amendment\) Rules 2015](#)

## 2. Strategic policing and crime news

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

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

### [International Crime and Policing Conference 2015](#)

The first Home Office crime and policing conference, 'Cutting crime in a changing world', takes place on 28 and 29 January 2015.

### [Home Secretary announces £10m Police Knowledge Fund](#)

The Home Secretary announced a new £10 million Police Knowledge Fund to support closer working between police and academia in order to promote evidence-based policing and more effective responses to crime. The Home Secretary made the announcement during a keynote address to the inaugural International Crime and Policing Conference being hosted by the Home Office in London today and tomorrow.

### [College of Policing](#)

Estimating the demand on police service

### [College: falling crime rate doesn't tell whole story](#)

The first ever analysis of the 'breadth and complexity' of the work of UK policing has revealed a drastic shortfall in the number of officers available following [ongoing cuts](#). The document, which was published last week, shows that in the past five years the number of police officers in England and Wales has fallen by 11 per cent.

### [Crime statistics drop 'masks increased threat to public'](#)

Cuts to police budgets are threatening officers' ability to keep the public safe, the Police Federation has warned.

### [Counting rules for recorded crime](#)

Counting rules across the categories of recorded crime.

### [CPS outlines rape consent guidance](#)

The Crown Prosecution Service has issued police and prosecutors with 'the clearest instructions yet' on assessing consent in sexual assault cases.

### [Chiefs pledge more support for crime victims](#)

The Association of Chief Police Officers has backed Victims Commissioner Baroness Newlove's call for a drastically improved complaints system for [victims of crime](#).

## 3. Developments and reports

### [Funding boost for councils putting communities back in control](#)

Projects which help councils deliver more for less by working with local communities and neighbourhood groups awarded share of £2 million.

## [Police workforce, England and Wales, 30 September 2014](#)

### [Department of Health](#)

No Secrets: guidance on developing and implementing multi-agency policies and procedures to protect vulnerable adults from abuse.

### [Force will use “every resource” to combat car crime](#)

Police Scotland has launched its new car crime and vehicle theft campaign, Operation Quarterlight. The aim of the initiative is to ‘identify and target’ those that break into cars – an area of criminal activity that, according to the service, results in the theft of around 70 vehicles a week.

### [Falling Crime](#)

The Crime Survey for England and Wales this week showed that crime is down by 11 per cent year-on-year, and has dropped by as much as 63 per cent since 1995. The survey reveals striking falls in violent crime (-66 per cent), burglary (-67 per cent) and vehicle-related theft (-79 per cent) since 1995.

### [Drugscoope](#)

Down a stony road: The 2014 Drugscoope Street Drug Survey.

### [Joseph Rowntree Foundation](#)

Households below a minimum income standard: 2008/09 to 2012/13.

### [Lankelly Chase Foundation](#)

Hard Edges: Mapping severe and multiple disadvantage.

### [Reforming Defence - keeping fighting fit](#)

Speech by Michael Fallon, Secretary of State for Defence.

### [Ending gang violence: £400k to tackle sexual exploitation](#)

Young people's advocates tackling gang-related sexual exploitation have received Home Office funding to continue for an extra 12 months. The advocates will be able to continue their ground-breaking work following a £400,000 investment. The money secures 13 young people's advocates, working in priority areas across the country as part of the government's Ending Gang and Youth Violence programme, for 2015/16.

### [Youngest children and poor worst hit by cuts, finds report](#)

Poorer groups have been worst affected by changes to direct taxes, benefits and tax credits despite the government's promise that the rich would carry the burden of austerity, according to a new report.

### [100,000 young people off councils' radars, MPs warn](#)

More than 100,000 young people have fallen off the radar, with councils unsure if they are in education, employment or training (NEETs), MPs are warning. A new report from the Public Accounts Committee reveals that the UK is lagging behind other developed countries when it comes to reducing NEETs, with too many young people unknown to their local authority.

### [Tackling tobacco smuggling: 2013 to 2014 outputs](#)

Information on the outputs of the tobacco strategy: case studies, criminal investigations, civil penalties and high profile multi-agency events.

### **Safety for women on transport**

Speaking at the Women's Safety on Transport seminar Transport Minister Claire Perry pledged her support to increasing safety for women on public transport.

### **UK leads the way to eradicating female genital mutilation**

The Serious Crime Bill passed the House of Commons Committee stage with a number of new measures which will do more to protect victims, and ensure those who carry out FGM or fail to protect children from the risk of harm will face time in prison.

### **Home Office**

Police recorded crime open data tables

### **Office for National Statistics**

Crime in England and Wales, Year ending September 2014

### **Family mediation tender 2015**

Information for legal aid providers interested in applying to deliver family mediation from February 2015.

### **Ofsted has a 'blinker' approach to inspecting children's services – LGA**

Ofsted has a "blinker" approach to inspecting children's services, which fails to assess the work of "crucial agencies", the Local Government Association has warned.

### **Hundreds of school staff suspended as a result of DfE safeguarding guidance**

Hundreds of school staff, including teachers, are being suspended because of government child protection guidance.

### **Charities warn care pledges from councils and NHS will 'disappoint thousands'**

Charities have warned commitments by councils and the NHS to get people with learning disabilities out of institutional care will not go far enough.

### **New report reviews 'what works' for people facing multiple needs in contact with the criminal justice system**

A report published by Revolving Doors Agency and Centre for Mental Health shows that providing effective, targeted support to some of the most excluded and disadvantaged people in society can result in reduced reoffending and potentially fewer people going to prison.

### **Council issue warning over empty homes**

Home owners who leave properties empty and neglected will be served with a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO), under plans announced by Haringey Council.

### **More low-income households to benefit for energy rebate scheme**

Two million low-income households are to get £140 off their energy bills next winter, following the extension of the government's Warm House Discount scheme.

### **Macro-based malware is making a comeback**

For the past several months, different groups of attackers have distributed malware through Microsoft Office documents that contain malicious macros, reviving a technique that has been out of style for more than a decade.

### **China: New Institute to train cyber security talent**

An institute for training network and information-security talent has been established at Xidian University in Xi'an, Shaanxi province, to bolster national security. Chen Zhiya, Party secretary of Xidian University, said the institute, established on Dec 31, would focus on network and information security, which are key components of national security.

### **Cyber-criminals get smart as cybercrime is expected to evolve in 2015**

A new stage in the evolution of cybercrime is expected, with the adoption of Advanced Threat Protection (APT) techniques in financial online fraud, a recent report reveals.

### **Banking: How Fraud & Cybercrime Will Evolve in 2015**

Banks need to implement new security measures and tactics, and fraudsters are sure to respond by changing their operations.

### **Councils 'failing' to provide information to help blind and partially sighted children**

Almost half of English local authorities are failing to provide adequate information about services for blind and partially sighted children and young people, according to the charity Blind Children UK.

### **Growth deals gain momentum: Firing up local economies**

As part of its long-term plan to build a stronger economy and a fairer society, the Government is investing a further £1 billion in local economies across England by expanding the successful Growth Deals

### **Voter time bomb warning**

The leader of the Local Government Association's (LGA) Labour Group has urged Parliament to intervene to prevent up to 3,000,000 people becoming politically disenfranchised after May's General Election.

### **Plans to raise maximum fine for benefit fraud to £5,000**

Maximum penalties for benefit fraud could be more than doubled under government proposal to be debated by MPs.

### **Councils can 'shake up' housing delivery if given greater role**

Local authorities can foster a 'homebuilding revolution' if they are put at the heart of regional developments, a report claims.

### **Councils slam £37m for social care as 'drop in the ocean'**

A £37m allocation of government cash to join up health and social care services has been branded a 'drop in the ocean' by council leaders.

### **Drive to boost employment for women: Midlands roadshow**

Women should take advantage of the 12 million future vacancies traditionally considered male jobs, like construction and engineering.

### **Self-service a key priority for councils, research reveals**

The push towards greater self-service, flexible working and multi-agency teams will be key priorities for local government over the next ten years, according to new research.

### **Funding boost for councils putting communities back in control**

Projects which help councils deliver more for less by working with local communities and neighbourhood groups to redesign services to address their needs have today been awarded a share of £2 million to develop them further.

### **Most deprived councils hit with largest cuts, find MPs**

Britain's most deprived councils have been hit with the largest budget cuts and could struggle to deliver statutory services under further reductions, MPs have warned.

### **Elderly care costs require councils to divert £1.1bn in April**

Councils will be forced to divert £1.1bn from local services in April due to the escalating cost of caring for the elderly, new analysis reveals

### **Ombudsman issues warning over mental capacity assessments**

Social workers are being warned of the importance of carrying out proper assessments when determining capacity, following an investigation by the Local Government Ombudsman (LGO).

### **Charity calls for research on cost of siblings separated in care**

Local authorities have been urged to provide data on the number of siblings separated in care by a charity, after figures show it costs the UK economy £800m a year.

### **Inefficient court system should be streamlined, Leveson says**

A senior judge has set out plans to "streamline" the "inefficient, time consuming and... very expensive" justice system in England and Wales.

### **Cities enter investment 'beauty parade' at Downing Street**

Three city region leaders were invited to Downing Street yesterday for a 'beauty parade' to present their regeneration projects to 50 UK and international investors. The invited city regions were Bristol, Leeds and Birmingham.

### **One leader blocks combined authority budget**

The North East Combined Authority has failed to set its first budget after one council leader raised objections.

### **Council to cut business rates for businesses that pay living wage**

A Labour council in London is set to become the first in the country to offer business rates discounts to companies who agree to pay workers the living wage.

### **Digital Democracy Commission calls for online voting in 2020 election**

People should be able to vote online by the 2020 general election, John Bercow has suggested. The Speaker's Commission on Digital Democracy, set up to explore how Parliament could better use digital technology, has concluded that there is a "growing appetite" for internet voting among the public.

### **Councils refuse most pothole damage compensation claims**



Drivers have successfully claimed more than £3m in compensation for pothole damage across the UK in the last year, with the number of applications to highways authorities up 5%.

### **LGPS funds form £500m joint infrastructure partnership**

The Greater Manchester Pension Fund (GMPF) and the London Pensions Fund Authority (LPFA) have formed a new partnership that will allocate up to £500m to invest in infrastructure opportunities.

### **London boroughs to merge staff**

Two London boroughs plan to share a single staffing structure by 2017, the first such move in the capital.

### **Plans for new Scottish powers met with English devolution demands**

Plans to hand the Scottish Parliament 'unprecedented' powers have been matched with a series of devolution demands from England's local authorities.

### **New council tax bands could generate £4.75bn a year, says report**

Council tax reform could raise £25.6bn of income by 2019-20 for local authorities and the Treasury, a new report has claimed.

### **Smarter use of technology could save councils £10bn, says think-tank**

Local authorities could save £10bn by 2020 through smarter use of technology to share information and tackle fraud, a think tank claims.

### **MPs call for halt on UK fracking**

An influential committee of MPs has called for a moratorium on fracking because it could hamper climate change efforts and pose significant health risks.

### **MPs call for council taskforce to lead food waste handouts**

Ministers have called for a national taskforce to co-ordinate the work of councils, charities and retailers in redistributing waste food. With the UK facing a wellbeing 'crisis' linked to poor nutrition, MPs on the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee today called on local and central government to do more to promote healthy choices and distribute food to those who are going hungry.

### **Seaside towns secure record £36m investment**

Seaside towns are to benefit from £36m investment in the biggest round of cash awarded from the government's Coastal Communities Fund so far.

### **Birmingham improvement panel announced**

The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) has confirmed the panel will be headed up by local businessman and former senior partner at lawyers Wragge and Co, John Crabtree.

### **Councils 'failing' to provide information to help blind and partially sighted children**

Almost half of English local authorities are failing to provide adequate information about services for blind and partially sighted children and young people, according to the charity Blind Children UK.

## **Council merger plans rejected by minister**

Plans for six councils in Wales to merge have been rejected by minister for public services, Leighton Andrews.

## **Older voters 'disenchanted with party politics'**

The older people's charity Anchor has warned politicians not to take the 'grey vote' for granted.

## **Government announces more protection for English pubs**

The government has announced it will take action to stop pubs in England being demolished or converted into different uses against the will of local people.

## **No evidence of academies improving standards, say MPs**

There is no evidence so far that academies are driving improvement in English schools, according to the cross-party parliamentary education select committee.

## **Broxbourne to seek Royal Borough status**

Broxbourne Council is to petition for 'Royal Borough' status, in a bid to become the fifth borough to be awarded the title.

## **2013 badger cull costs**

Costs of the 2013 badger cull with regard to bovine TB.

## **PHE issues cold weather alert**

Snow and cold winds have arrived in northern England, prompting Public Health England to urge people to take extra care.

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## **Flood risk and winter weather**

Councils work around-the-clock with emergency services, government agencies and the voluntary and community sector to cope with extreme weather.

## **Help to Buy helps 77,000 people onto the property ladder**

New figures show more than 77,000 homes have been bought under Help to Buy schemes.

## **4. Consultations**

### **HMIC Consultation on Inspection Programme for 2015/16**

The HMIC are currently consulting on the proposed inspection programme for 2015/16.

### **Working together to safeguard children: revisions**

Open date: 06/01/2015

Close date: 03/02/2015



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

Open date: 17/12/2014

Close date: 08/02/2015

## **Consultation on 2015-16 Draft Budget Proposals**

Open date: 03/12/2014

Close date: 03/02/2015

## **Waste crime: new regulations for dealing with seized property in suspected waste offences**

Consultation on proposals for new laws to allow the seizure of vehicles for suspected waste crime offences. The draft regulations will help us reduce illegal waste activity, giving enforcement authorities better tools to use in the investigation and prosecution of suspected offences. Close date 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2015.

## **Improving police integrity: reforming the police complaints and disciplinary systems**

Consultation seeks views on proposals to reform the police complaints and disciplinary system.

## **Improving police integrity: reforming the police complaints and disciplinary systems**

The Government is consulting on proposals for changes to the way in which complaints against the police are dealt with including transferring responsibility to Police and Crime Commissioners. The consultation is open until 5th February.

## **Consultation on revisions to PACE Codes**

Open date: 14/11/2014

Close date: 06/02/2015

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

The government is consulting on a series of measures whose overall impact should be to reduce both the number of individuals subject to, and the average duration of, pre-charge bail. Closes on the 8<sup>th</sup> February 2015.

## **Offences against the person**

The Law Commission is consulting on 'Offences against the person'. The consultation runs until 11th February 2015.

## **Domestic abuse consultation**

The College of Policing is currently developing guidance on the subject of domestic abuse and is looking for feedback on the content of the guidance. The consultation is open until 18th February 2015.

## **Use of Expert Witnesses in Courts in NI**

Open date: 13/11/2014

Close date: 20/02/2015

## **Proposal to extend the power of the Criminal Cases Review Commission**

Open date: 01/12/2014

Close date: 27/02/2015

### **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.

## **5. Reviews and Inspections**

### **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.

### **Joint Inspectorates' report on YOTs and troubled families published**

Joint report by HMIC, HM Inspectorate of Probation, the Care Quality Commission and Ofsted was published on the role of Youth Offending Teams (YOTs) in the Troubled Families Programme by helping to reduce reoffending and tackling anti-social behaviour by children and young people.

### **IPCC investigates Northumbria collision death**

The Independent Police Complaints Commission is investigating contact had by Northumbria Police with a man prior to his being knocked down by a bus. Matthew Drummond, 38, was involved in the collision while walking on the northbound section of the A1068 near Hadston at around 6am in November of last year. He subsequently died in the Royal Victoria Infirmary as a result of his injuries.