



## 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

### [The Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Act is here](#)

The Act contains a number of measures which together represent significant change for companies and Companies House customers.

### [Parliament has now dissolved in preparation for the General election](#)

Manifesto watch: where parties stand on key issues

[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.

### [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

### [Protecting the UK from cyber-attack](#)

The Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl) is playing a key role in mitigating the risk of cyber-attacks against the UK.

### [Business begins at the National Police Chiefs' Council](#)

The new body to coordinate operational policing and collaboration amongst forces at the national level has been established.

### [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.

### [Police agree data sharing protocols to tackle hate crime](#)

In response to the increased community tension threat levels experienced by Jewish and Muslim communities in the UK, police have reached an agreement to share hate crime data with the Community Security Trust (CST) and TELL MAMA.

### [Public Transformation Network](#)

Research into Emergency Services Collaboration.

## 3. Developments and reports

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

The counting rules apply across the categories of recorded crime.

## **Marriage and civil partnership referral and investigation scheme**

Guidance for Home Office staff investigating sham marriages.

## **National strategy for mental health**

The NHS has announced, in its Five Year Forward View, that a new Taskforce is being established to develop a new five year national strategy for mental health for people of all ages across England.

## **Policy Exchange: Two in three young criminals return to crime within a year of release**

"Glyn Gaskarth, of Policy Exchange said: 'Tougher sentencing would give youth offending teams longer to work with offenders to help turn their lives around.'"

## **Property crime is becoming decriminalised, says think tank**

"The epidemic of burglary and shoplifting sweeping Britain is being largely ignored by the criminal justice system, a think tank says. Three quarters of all crime in the UK is now property crime but it has effectively been decriminalised as police and courts turn a blind eye, the report says".

## **Centre for Crime and Justice Studies**

The coalition years: Criminal Justice in the United Kingdom.

## **Restorative Justice Council**

Restorative justice in community rehabilitation companies and the National Probation Service.

## **Department for Communities and Local Government**

Addressing complex needs: improving services for vulnerable homeless people.

## **Department for Communities and Local Government**

Revised best value statutory guidance.

## **Department for Communities and Local Government**

Selective licensing in the private rented sector: a guide for local authorities.

## **Department for Health**

Reference Guide to the Mental Health Act 1983.

## **Equality and Human Rights Commission**

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Data Protection.

## **Drugscope**

Building Assets for Recovery.

## **Institute of Race Relations**

Dying for Justice.

## **Further progress made on open standards**

A number of departments are now starting to publish in open formats and major software providers are improving their support.

## [The Commissioning Academy](#)

How public sector senior commissioners can apply for professional development opportunities through the academy.

## [Government Major Projects Portfolio: Senior Responsible Owners](#)

Information on Senior Responsible Owners (SROs) for the Government Major Projects Portfolio (GMPP).

## [Local Government Association/adass](#)

Mental Health Crisis Concordat - Local authority provision and practice.

## [Ministry of Justice](#)

Referral Order Guidance.

## [ICO plan sets out priorities for 2015-18](#)

The ICO has published its corporate plan setting out the office's priorities for the next three years.

## [ICO calls for greater transparency around outsourcing](#)

We have published a [transparency road map report](#) that sets out our ideas on improving transparency, including extending FOIA to cover some contractors and defining what information is in scope of a FOIA request. We also call on public authorities to work with contractors to adopt a 'transparency by design' approach. Together with the road map, we have published [outsourcing and FOI guidance](#) that will help public authorities identify what information is held by a contractor on behalf of a public authority.

## [Town halls cutting council tax support for the third year running](#)

A study by the New Policy Institute (NPI) suggests the number of councils requiring all working age residents to pay some council tax this year regardless of their wealth will rise to 250 from 229 in 2013/14.

## [Devolution revealed as key vote winner for young people](#)

Young people would be more likely to vote in the General Election if Westminster promised to devolve power and funding to local areas, a new poll has revealed.

## [Productivity will top the next government's To-Do list, says think tank](#)

In reaction to statistics released today by the ONS, Jim Hillage, Director of Research at the Institute for Employment Studies, has published his thoughts on why productivity will be a priority for the next government.

## [The importance of a digital economy for Europe](#)

Günther H. Oettinger, European Commissioner for Digital Economy & Society details the importance of a digital economy and sustainable online services.

## [New Local Government Network](#)

A Design for Life: How councils and housing associations can collaborate for impact.

## [Collaborative approach to waste would save £70m](#)

The [report](#) found that £70m could be saved through more efficient procurement and a standardised approach to waste. Ministers said councils needed to work together to deliver a better deal for local taxpayers.

## **[Bedroom tax policy ruled 'unlawful' in landmark case](#)**

A disabled couple have successfully challenged a council's bedroom tax policy, in a legal case that could have 'significant consequences' for the rest of the county.

## **[Pub-goers value local inns like community centres, poll suggests](#)**

Pubs are just as important to local life as community centres or post offices, a poll suggests.

## **[Councils hit back after new public space laws branded 'bizarre'](#)**

Council leaders have refuted claims that public spaces are being hit by a 'patchwork' of 'bizarre' new criminal offences introduced by town halls.

## **[Care Act promises 'built on sand' without extra funding](#)**

The Care Act – which comes into force from today – is destined for failure unless the Government commits more funding to the care system, charities are warning.

## **[Winners revealed for £7.6m total transport fund](#)**

The Government has announced the 37 councils to be awarded £7.6m of funding to deliver integrated transport in rural and isolated areas. Our region saw: Northamptonshire CC, which was awarded the largest sum of £750,000, Lincolnshire £400,000, Nottinghamshire £300,000.

## **[Pickles attacks councils over £30bn cash reserves and uncollected revenues](#)**

Councils have been urged to use the £30bn available in cash reserves and uncollected debts to protect frontline services, by local government secretary Eric Pickles.

## **[Make local government the 'vehicle' for English devolution, say MPs](#)**

Members of the Commons Political and Constitutional Reform Committee highlighted that power sharing plans across the UK had been drawn together at 'dizzying speed' but were at risk of stalling without clear guidance.

## **[Nottinghamshire landfill site shut down after enforcement action](#)**

The Environment Agency has announced that enforcement action led to the November 2014 closure of Dorket Head landfill site.

## **4. Consultations**

### **[Legal advice service](#)**

Release are looking for drug workers to complete an anonymous survey on legal advice experiences and technology in delivery.

### **[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

### [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.

### [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.

### [College of Policing published the Leadership Review interim report](#)

The College is seeking feedback on the 10 recommendations from the report and the APCC is planning to compile a co-ordinated response on behalf of Police and Crime Commissioners, under the auspices of the Workforce and EDHR Standing Group.

## 5. Reviews and Inspections

### [Annual Police Complaints Statistics](#)

Statistics for England and Wales 2013/14 and 2012/13.

### [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 recommendations.

### **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.