



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

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

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

[Remaining stages \(Commons\) of the International Development \(Official Development Assistance Target\) Bill \(Private Bill\)](#)

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

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

[New powers to tackle sham marriage announced](#)

[The Crime and Courts Act 2013 \(Commencement No. 11\) Order 2014](#)

[The Regulation of Investigatory Powers \(Covert Human Intelligence Sources: Code of Practice\) Order 2014](#)

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

[Dangerous dogs: tough new law to prevent attacks](#)

[Consumers given new weapon in fight against rogue traders](#)

[Fraud, bribery and money laundering offences guideline comes into effect](#)

[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

Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Bill - Committee stage report

SI 2014/3207 Proceeds of Crime (Disclosure Orders: Confiscation Investigations) (Specified Person) Order 2014

In force 1 January 2015, this Order specifies the Director of the Serious Fraud Office as a prosecutor for the purposes of section 357(8)(b) of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 ('the Act').

SI 2014/3192 Crime (International Co-operation) Act 2003 (Commencement No 6) Order 2014

This Order came into force on 3 December 2014 and is the sixth commencement order made under the Crime (International Co-operation) Act 2003. It brought into force section 90 of, and Schedule 4 to, that Act.

SI 2014/3191 Criminal Justice and Data Protection (Protocol No 36) (Amendment) Regulations 2014

These Regulations came into force on 3 December 2014 simultaneously with, and make minor amendments to, the Criminal Justice and Data Protection (Protocol No 36) Regulations 2014 (SI 2014/3141) in relation to the transposition of a number of provisions of Council Framework Decision 2003/577/JHA of 22 July 2003 on the execution in the European Union of orders freezing property or evidence (OJ L 196, 2.8.2003, p45), Council Framework Decision 2006/783/JHA of 6 October 2006 on the application of the principle of mutual recognition to confiscation orders (OJ L 328, 24.11.2006, p59), Council Framework Decision 2006/960/JHA of 18 December 2006 on simplifying the exchange of information and intelligence between law enforcement authorities of the Member States of the European Union (OJ L 386, 29.12.2006, p89), Council Framework Decision 2008/977/JHA of 27 November 2008 on the protection of personal data processed in the framework of police and judicial cooperation in criminal matters (OJ L 350, 30.12.2008, p60), Council Framework Decision 2009/315/JHA of 26 February 2009 on the organisation and content of the exchange of information extracted from the criminal record between Member States (OJ L 93, 7.4.2009, p23), and Council Framework Decision 2009/829/JHA of 23 October 2009 on the application, between Member States of the European Union, of the principle of mutual recognition to decisions on supervision measures as an alternative to provisional detention (OJ L 294, 11.11.2009, p20).

2. Strategic policing and crime news

Home Secretary statement following Paris attacks

Theresa May says murders are a reminder of the threat we face from terrorism.

Statement by Sir Thomas Winsor

Serious Crime Bill: overarching documents

These documents are part of the Serious Crime Bill.

[Police pension reform](#)

How and why police pensions are being reformed, and how the changes will affect officers' pensions.

[Actuarial valuation of the police pension schemes](#)

The Government Actuary's Department has completed a valuation of the police pension schemes as of 31 March 2012.

[Home Office](#)

Home Office mid-year report.

[Home Office](#)

Sections 135 and 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983: literature review.

[Ministry of Justice](#)

Mid Year Report to Parliament 2014.

3. Developments and reports

[‘Deport first, appeal later’ measures start to bite](#)

Nearly 800 foreign criminals are being kicked out of the country as tough new ‘deport first, appeal later’ measures start to have an impact.

[Background briefing on the Serious Crime Bill](#)

The House of Commons Library has prepared briefing material on the Serious Crime Bill. The stated principal objective of the Bill is to ensure that law enforcement agencies have effective legal powers to deal with serious and organised crime. The Bill would give effect to a number of proposals and commitments made in the Government's Serious and Organised Crime Strategy (published in October 2013).

Eric Pickles launches new scheme to champion innovation

Secretary of State for Local Government, [Eric Pickles](#), today invited councils, local newspapers and others to take part in piloting ways of improving the provision of essential information to the public. He called for new technology and innovation to bring municipal statutory notices into the 21st century.

[Judge: Striking lack of non-police accommodation for children](#)

Comments made during legal challenge by teenager over time he spent in police custody.

[Football car park plan could net force thousands](#)

Greater Manchester Police could generate tens of thousands annually by letting Manchester United fans park on its land.

[Police pension contributions lower than expected this year](#)

Home Office update clarifies exactly how much of their salary officers on new career average scheme are set to pay.

[Cuts will 'disproportionately affect frontline policing'](#)

Dr Tim Brain analyses the real cash cuts policing has suffered over the past four years, and predicts that more than 5,000 personnel will be lost in order for forces to cope.

Frontline officers to fall in '£3 billion cut'

Settlement funding for HMIC and IPCC roundly criticised as policing world reacts to next year's budget.

Hundreds helped to leave gangs by charity project which earns praise of minister

Around 200 of London's most prolific young offenders have left their violent past behind in the last year.

More councils switching off street lights to save money

Three-quarters of councils are dimming their street lights or switching them off completely to save money, according to Labour party research. FOI requests were submitted to 150 English councils and 50 out of the 141 that responded said they were switching off some streetlights, while 56 were dimming some, 42 councils were taking both measures and 35 councils were doing neither.

Government targets billions of pounds of uncollected debt

Government will target billions of pounds of unrecovered debt through a new joint venture launched today with the private sector.

Immigration Rules appendix G: Youth Mobility Scheme

Countries and territories taking part in the Tier 5 Youth Mobility Scheme and annual allocations of places.

Council spending power to be cut by 1.8% as government grant drops 8.8%

Councils in England will face an overall cut of 1.8% in their spending power next year, local government minister Kris Hopkins has stated. Speaking in Parliament, he said "as planned, we have kept the overall reduction to 1.8% – lower than last year and one of the lowest levels of reduction under this government". He added that if local transformation funding was included in this the overall reduction in spending power would be 1.6%.

Celebrating ten years of FOI

New Year's Day marked the tenth anniversary of the coming into effect of the FOI Act.

Data Protection Act (DPA)

The ICO – and our colleagues in the other European Data Protection Authorities – have been busy developing common criteria for dealing with complaints about the delisting of internet search results by search engines. Although the numbers of complaints to us are relatively low at this stage, dealing with them calls for careful judgement.

Department for Communities and Local Government

A guide to local government finance settlement for 2015 to 2016.

Department of Health

Units of alcohol sold.

Department of Health

Public health grants to local authorities from 2013 to 2016.

Prison Reform Trust

Transforming Lives: Reducing women's imprisonment.

Conservatives pledge to cap public sector redundancy payments

In a new manifesto pledge, the Tories will commit to capping pay-outs at £95,000 for workers in the public sector. Only those earning less than £27,000 will be exempt from the cap.

Northern councils have highest proportion of children in care

In a top 10 list of councils with the highest proportion of children in care, Blackpool topped the list with 152 children in care per 10,000, followed by Wolverhampton with 136.

Neighbourhood planning process to speed up

Local authorities will have 13 weeks to make a decision on applications to create a 'neighbourhood area', with this reduced to eight weeks where applications follow a parish boundary.

Poor communication and staffing issues led to Powys home care problems

The reorganisation of home care services in Powys ran into difficulty because of problems including poor communication and staffing issues, according to an independent review.

Poor households face council tax increases warn council leaders

English councils have been put in an 'impossible position' by being forced to either hike council tax bills for low-income working age residents or reduce services still further, council chiefs have stormed.

Councils face up to £100m in road repairs backlog

Councils are facing a huge backlog of road repairs, with some authorities needing up to £100m to complete work, according to new figures.

Shrinking council budgets force projects to be axed

Nearly three in four councils have had to cancel or postpone a planned building project in the last two years, research has found.

Taxpayers waiting twice as long on phone to contact HMRC

Official figures published by HM Revenue and Customs show that average waiting times for its contact centre telephone queues reached 10 minutes and 53 seconds in September - more than double the five minutes and 21 seconds recorded at the same point in 2013.

£6bn funding for potholes not enough says LGA

The £6bn of funding for councils to fix potholes announced by the Department for Transport is not enough to "bridge the overall funding gap" according to the Local Government Association, which says "there is still a very long way to go to bring the nation's roads up to scratch".

4. Consultations

Government launches consultation into mandatory reporting of FGM

The Government has launched a consultation seeking views on how best to introduce

mandatory reporting of female genital mutilation (FGM). The consultation runs to 12th January 2015.

Local government finance settlement 2015 to 2016

Closes 15th January 2015.

Triennial Review of Information Commissioner's Office

This review is now open for comment and runs until 16th January 2015.

Robbery guideline consultation

The Sentencing Council has launched a consultation on the draft guideline on robbery. The consultation closes 23rd January 2015.

Changing existing regulations for an emergency alert system

In the [Strategic Defence and Security Review](#), we committed to evaluate options for rapidly notifying people affected by an emergency. This would help them protect themselves. In autumn 2013 the government, working with local emergency response agencies and the mobile phone networks, completed the [mobile alerting trials for public emergencies](#). The trials found that a 'location-based SMS' service would be the most effective way to alert people in affected areas. However existing Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations 2003 may restrict the operation of such a system. Closing date, 26th January 2015.

Proposal to use a Legislative Reform Order in forming a combined authority or economic prosperity board

The government is proposing to seek Parliament's approval to make amendments to [Part 6 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009](#), relating to combined authorities and economic prosperity boards, through a Legislative Reform Order. Closes on the 26th January 2015.

Prevent duty

The Counter-Terrorism and Security Bill, which is currently before Parliament, seeks to place a duty on specified authorities (identified in full in Schedule 3 to the bill, and set out in this draft guidance) to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. Closes 30th January 2015.

31st January 2015 - Guidance for healthcare professionals on information sharing

Schedule 7 to the Terrorism Act 2000: draft code of practice

Schedule 7 to the Terrorism Act 2000 ('Schedule 7') allows an examining officer to stop and question individuals travelling through ports, airports, international rail stations or the border area. When necessary they may also detain and search individuals. The aim is to determine whether that person appears to be someone who is or has been concerned in the commission, preparation or instigation of acts of terrorism. Closes on 30th January 2015.

Privacy and Civil Liberties Board

Open date: 17/12/2014

Close date: 30/01/2015

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 3rd 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 8th 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

5. Reviews and Inspections

[Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation](#)

Girls in the Criminal Justice System.

[Full Joint Inspection of Youth Offending Work in Lambeth](#)

[Achieving best evidence in child abuse cases – joint inspection published](#)

This joint inspection was published today by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) and Her Majesty's Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate (HMCPSI). It sets out 11 recommendations for improvement, including better training and additional guidance for staging the sensitive interviews.

[Use of Intercept as evidence](#)

The Government published its review of whether Intercept could be introduced as evidence. The review concluded that the introduction of intercept as evidence could only be achieved at significant cost and that the benefits of introducing intercept as evidence would be uncertain. Indeed, on some assumptions, the review concluded that the introduction of intercept as evidence may lead to a decrease in successful prosecution. The review therefore concluded that intercept as evidence should not be introduced at this time, but that the Government would keep it under review.

[Greater Manchester Police inspected on child protection](#)

HM Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) has published an inspection report into the child protection work carried out by Greater Manchester Police, following an inspection in July 2014. This is part of a rolling programme of child protection inspections of all police forces in England and Wales.

[IPCC to investigate ten officers following Rotherham scandal](#)

The Independent Police Complaints Commission is launching an investigation into the conduct of ten South Yorkshire officers in relation to their handling of reported child sexual exploitation.

[IPPC: monthly update about the investigations into the Hillsborough disaster](#)

[HMIC: Crime recording thematic to be published](#)

[IPCC investigates force that gave killer back his guns](#)

The Independent Police Complaints Commission is investigating Surrey Police's decision to return confiscated licensed guns to a man who went on to kill two women.