



Commissioner's horizon scanning briefing

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For further information or to be included on our mailing list, please contact daniel.howitt13452@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk

1. Policy and Practice

[Increased mental health services for those arrested](#) – 13th July 2016

The Department of Health has confirmed plans to invest an extra £12m in mental health liaison and diversion services in police custody suites and criminal courts over the next two years, extending current NHS England provision from 50% population coverage to 75% by 2018. Subject to evaluation, the project is likely to be rolled out fully by 2020. 50,000 vulnerable adults, children and young people are currently assessed by liaison and diversion services each year, with almost 70% requiring mental health support.

[Victims' Commissioner Annual Report published](#) – 11th July 2016

Third Annual Report highlights silo working by criminal justice agencies and a need for greater sharing of knowledge and expertise across the sector. Priorities for 2016-17 include further reviews into Victims' Code compliance and making sure any proposed Victims' Law is effective and enforceable. The Commissioner also recommends a Community of Practice for organisations working with victims to share good practice.

[Resourcing and Staffing of the Courts](#) – 14th July 2016

Lords debate on staffing and resourcing of the courts. Briefing paper includes an overview of HM courts reform with a particular focus on court closures and the move towards a digitised and more flexible court system.

[Commons debate on a ban of the manufacture, sale, possession and use of snares](#) – 21st July 2016

Debate calling for a full ban on the manufacture, sale, possession and use of snares at the earliest opportunity

[Westminster Hall debate on the subject of prevention of online child abuse](#) – 20th July 2016

The Government has acknowledged the "clear call from the House for legislative clarity, both clarity in defining online abuse and clarity about the myriad different Acts and statutes that come to bear in this area"

[College of Policing Digest published](#) – July edition

July edition includes new case law and articles on the latest statistics on the operation of police powers under the Terrorism Act 2000, figures from the Disapproved Register and the 2016 pay award for police officers.

[Lord McNally speech on the Youth Justice System to Westminster Legal forum](#) – 13th July 2016

[Baroness Shields speech on keeping children safe on-line at UN launch event](#) – 12th July 2016

[Full list of new Ministerial appointments](#) – 13th - 15th July 2016

2. Research, Development and Statistics

[Crime in England and Wales to March 2016](#) – published 21st July 2016

Latest estimates from the Crime Survey for England and Wales show a 6% reduction in crimes against adults over the last year, with no significant change in levels of violent crime or sexual offences. Crime recorded by the Police, meanwhile, rose by 8% over the same period, with violence against the person offences and sexual offences increasing by 27% and 21% respectively. These rises are thought to reflect improvements in crime recording practices and processes; changes in crime recording categories (e.g. expansion of the “violence without injury” sub-category to include additional offences) and; an increased willingness among victims of domestic and sexual abuse come forward and report these crimes. Police recorded offences involving knives / sharp instruments and firearms have increased by 10% and 4% respectively over the last year, with some forces reporting that changes in recording practices may have had some impact. An estimated 3.8 million fraud and 2.0 million computer misuse offences were also experienced in the last year and will be included as part of figures reported by the office for National Statistics in January 2017, once 12 months-worth of data is available.

[Firearm Crime Statistics: England & Wales](#) – 13th July 2016

Commons briefing paper examines firearm offence statistics produced by the Home Office, which saw a marginal increase of around 2% between 2013/14 and 2014/15. The proportion involving handguns fell by 2% over this period while the number of non-air firearm offences resulting in injury fell by 6%.

[Sources of Statistics: Crime, Policing and Justice](#) – 13th July 2016

Commons introductory guide provides an overview of sources of statistics on crime, policing and justice

[Polish Population in the United Kingdom](#) – 15th July 2016

Commons Library briefing paper provides a short statistical portrait of the UK's Polish population, which has increased from around 69,000 in 2004 (when Poland joined the European Union) to around 984,000 in 2016.

[Households in temporary accommodation](#) – 13th July 2016

Commons Briefing paper examines the increase in homeless households placed in temporary accommodation by English local authorities, which has been rising steadily since December 2011.

Upcoming publications - [Crime Reduction Systematic Reviews](#):

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| • Mediation, mentoring and peer support to reduce youth violence | Pending |
| • Criminal justice interventions in domestic violence | Pending |
| • Motivational approaches for domestic violence perpetrator programmes | Pending |
| • Domestic violence perpetrator programmes: A review of reviews | Pending |
| • Police responses to people with mental health problems | July 2016 |
| • The impact of police pre-arrest diversion | July 2016 |
| • Effectiveness of asset-focussed interventions against organised crime | July 2016 |
| • Tagging as a method to reduce theft in retail environments | August 2016 |
| • Red light enforcement cameras to reduce traffic violations and injuries | August 2016 |
| • Diversity and organisational outcomes | August 2016 |
| • The effectiveness of electronic monitoring of offenders | September 2016 |
| • Personal security alarms for the prevention of assaults | November 2016 |

3. Inspections

[How well are further education and skills providers implementing the 'Prevent' duty?](#) – 12th July 2016

Ofsted commissioned survey finds that some further education colleges and skills providers, particularly independent learning providers, small providers and those working in isolation, are failing to fulfil their duties to [Prevent](#) extremism and support learners at risk of radicalisation. Further education visits and inspections indicate that many providers see the Prevent duty as 'tick-box exercise' and do not regard it as an important part of their responsibilities towards learners. Nearly half lacked sufficient safeguards to keep learners safe online, while some were failing to undertake adequate background checks on external speakers coming onto campuses to speak. Furthermore, too little effort was felt to be put into partnership working, with several local authorities failing to support providers using the advice and guidance available. Recommendations include:-

- Government should promote Prevent duty and ensure advice is offered consistently to providers
- Providers should make sure appropriate policies and procedures are in place, ensure staff receive appropriate training to identify concerns and develop partnerships to increase the sharing of intelligence
- Learners should have a good understanding of British values and the threats of radicalisation.

[HMCPSP Chief Inspector's Annual Report 2015/16](#) published 13th July 2016

Provides an overview of inspection work carried out in 2015/16. The next twelve months will include follow-up inspections of Transforming Summary Justice and continuing the Area Assurance Programme (AAP).

[HM Chief Inspector of Prison's Annual Report for 2015/16](#) published 19th July 2016

Provides an overview of inspection work carried out in 2015/16 and sets out the key challenges that remain with regard to men, women and children in custody, immigration detention, police custody, court custody and Border Force customs custody.

HMIC Inspection Programme

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| • PEEL: Efficiency, Legitimacy and Leadership | In progress |
| • JTAI Missing and absent children & child sexual exploitation (thematic) | Summer 2016 |
| • PEEL: Effectiveness - prevention, investigation, vulnerability, SPR, ROCU | Fieldwork Autumn 2016 |
| • HMIC Thematic Inspections: crime recording, counter-terrorism | Unannounced visits |
| • Joint Inspections of Stalking and Harassment (HMIC-led) | TBC |
| • Joint targeted Child Protection Inspection (Ofsted-led) | Rolling programme |
| • Joint inspection of Police Custody Arrangements (HMI Prisons-led) | Rolling programme |

4. Reviews and Inquiries

Home Affairs Committee report [College of Policing: Three Years On](#) published 9th July 2016

Report of the [Inquiry](#) has concluded that there had been limited progress in the extent to which the College of Policing is recognised and respected by the rank and file members of the police service and the extent to which forces are embedding the College's Code of Ethics. The Committee recommends that:-

- the College takes additional steps to ensure that the Code of Ethics - which should be viewed by serving officers as having the equivalent status of the Hippocratic Oath - is embedded in police culture
- Officers formally acknowledge the Code by signing a copy at the end of their training and the Code is consolidated with Police (Conduct) Regulations and made enforceable
- Police entry requirements are standardised and recruitment centralised - overseen by an expanded College of Policing (similar to arrangements in Scotland and the UCAS for Higher Education)
- College expertise should be used to advise forces in the procurement of specialist equipment.
- College of Policing takes on a more central role in police procurement. If insufficient progress is made across forces to collaborate on procurement by 2017
- College is given the legal power to hold a register of people who work in policing and responsibility for admitting and striking people off that register
- The relationship between police training and development and academia should be managed centrally by the College of Policing rather than by 43 forces and 43 sets of staff.
- The Government should remove constraints on the College of Policing charging for the training it delivers in order to help relieve the budgetary pressures it faces
- The College must be open about the nature of its international work to ensure that there is proper transparency and accountability

Home Affairs Select Committee report on [Proceeds of Crime](#) published 15th July 2016

Report of the [Inquiry](#) has highlighted that poor supervision and enforcement in the London property investment market are making a safe haven for laundering the proceeds of crime, while the key tool for detecting suspicious financial activity across the financial sector is overloaded to the point of being 'completely ineffective'. The Committee makes recommendations for:-

- Police officers receiving at least one full day of NCA accredited financial investigative training
- All detective officers receiving advanced financial investigation training on an annual basis
- A clear timetable for action in relation to the recruitment and retention of specialist investigators
- The ELMER system for Suspicious Activity Reports is replaced by 31 December 2016
- Specialist confiscation courts should be established for serious and complex confiscation hearings
- A new formula is applied which donates at least 10% of recovered assets to the communities affected
- Government creates a market for the private enforcement and collection of unpaid confiscation orders

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- **Reports in preparation:** [Countering extremism inquiry](#) (Home Affairs Committee), [Restorative justice inquiry](#) (Justice Committee), [Future role of the magistracy inquiry](#) (Justice Committee), [The rise of anti-Semitism inquiry](#) (Home Affairs Committee)
 - **Evidence in progress:** [Female Genital Mutilation inquiry](#) (12th July 2016), [Sexual Violence in Schools inquiry](#) (12th July 2016), [Apprenticeships inquiry](#) (29th June 2016), [Support for ex-offenders inquiry](#) (15th June 2016), [Child Sexual Abuse Inquiry \(Goddard\)](#) (investigations Ongoing), [Lammy Review of BAME representation in the CJS](#) (Ongoing), [Treatment of young adult offenders inquiry](#) (27th April 2016).
 - **Accepting written submissions:** [Hate crime and its violent consequences inquiry](#) (Announced 4th July 2016, expected to report in spring 2017), [Sharia Law](#) (Announced 26th May 2016)

5. Legislation

[Policing and Crime Bill](#) – Lords Committee stage – 20th July 2016 [\[2nd reading – 18th June 2016\]](#)

- Places a statutory duty on police, fire and ambulance services to collaborate to improve efficiency and effectiveness. Enable PCCs to take on responsibility for fire and rescue services.
- Reforms the police complaints and disciplinary systems, including measures to extend disciplinary procedures to former officers (up to 12 months after leaving). Makes changes to governance of the IPCC.
- Enable chief officers to confer a wider range of policing powers on police civilian staff and volunteers.
- Introduces provisions in respect of breach of pre-charge bail conditions and makes changes to rules governing how police deal with people suffering mental crisis under s135 & s136 of Mental Health Act 1983
- Makes changes to terms of office for Deputy PCCs and would give the Home Secretary the power to change the name of a police area by order
- Provides statutory definition of the terms 'lethal', 'component part' and 'antique firearm' (Firearms Act 1968)
- Amends Licensing Act 2003 to make clear powdered and vaporised alcohol are both covered by the Act
- Makes provisions relating to the enforcement of EU, UN and other financial sanctions
- Mandates that offences relating to CSE (Sexual Offences Act 2003) cover streaming / transmission of indecent images of children. Enables Secretary of State to issue statutory guidance to local taxi and private hire licensing authorities with regard to the protection of children and vulnerable adults
- [Lords briefing](#) (5th July 2016) and [supporting documents](#) available.

[Investigatory Powers Bill](#) - Lords 2nd reading – 27th June 2016

Make provision about the interception, acquisition and retention of communications data and other bulk data for analysis and the use of equipment interference. Establish the Investigatory Powers Commissioner and other Commissioners and make provision about oversight arrangements; make further provision about investigatory powers and national security; amend s3 and s5 of Intelligence Services Act 1994. Due to be enacted 2016. See [Lords briefing paper](#) (21st June 2016) and [Joint Select Committee recommendations](#) for further information

[Children and Social Work Bill](#) – Lords Report stage – TBC

Bill to make provision about looked after children; ensure lessons are learned from serious child safeguarding cases; create a new 'power to innovate' giving local authorities the freedom to test out innovative new ways of working and introduce measures to improve how agencies share information.

[Modern Slavery \(Transparency in Supply Chains\) Bill](#) – Lords Committee stage – TBC

Private Members' Bill to require commercial organisations and public bodies to include a statement on slavery and human trafficking in their annual report and accounts; and to require contracting authorities to exclude from procurement procedures economic operators who have not provided such a statement. [Briefing available](#)

[Digital Economy Bill](#) – Commons 2nd reading - TBC

Bill to make provision about; restricting access to online pornography; protecting intellectual property related to electronic communications; [improving government data to transform public services](#) - allow public authorities to share personal data with other public authorities to improve the welfare of individuals (e.g. Troubled Families programme), measures to help detect and prevent government losses due to fraudulent activity, The Bill also proposes tougher penalties for nuisance callers and increasing the sentencing options for people who infringe copyright laws online. Royal Assent is expected spring 2017.

[Rehabilitation of Offenders \(Amendment\) Bill](#) - Lords 2nd reading - TBC

Private Members' Bill to make provision about rehabilitation periods for particular sentences - amending Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974

On-line Safety Bill – Lords 2nd reading - TBC

Private Members' Bill to require internet service providers (ISPs) to provide an internet service that excludes adult-only content; require information to be provided about online safety; make provision for parents to be educated about online safety; make provision for the regulation of harmful material through on-demand programme services; to introduce licensing of pornographic services

Sexual Offences (Pardons Etc.) Bill – Introduced 29th June 2016. Commons 2nd reading – 21st Oct 2016

Private Members' Bill to make provision for the pardoning, or otherwise setting aside, cautions and convictions for specified sexual offences that have now been abolished

Preventing & Combating Violence Against Women & DV Bill - Commons 2nd reading – 16th Dec 2016

Private Members' Bill to require UK to ratify the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (the Istanbul Convention)

Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (Amendment) Bill - Commons 2nd reading – 27th January 2017

Private Members' Bill to repeal CT and Security Act 2015 provisions requiring teachers, carers and responsible adults to report signs of extremism or radicalisation amongst children in pre-school educational settings

New legislation announced as part of the Queens Speech – 18th May 2016:

Prison and Courts Reform Bill

Make provision for new 'reform prisons'; transformation of the prison education system; new performance metrics / League Tables; new prison-based counter extremism programme; 'secure alternative academies' for young offenders; [problem-solving courts](#); expanded use of tags / satellite tracking and new arrangements for [women offenders with children](#). Reform Courts and Tribunals to ensure delivery of faster and fairer justice for users by making better use of technology and modernising working practices.

Counter-Extremism and Safeguarding Bill

Prevent radicalisation, tackle extremism in all its forms, and promote community integration. Provide stronger powers to disrupt extremists and protect the public, ensure better mental health provision for individuals in the criminal justice system. Introduce a new civil order regime to restrict extremist activity, safeguard children from extremist adults through powers to intervene in intensive unregulated education settings which teach hate and drive communities apart, stronger powers for the Disclosure and Barring Service; close loopholes so that Ofcom can continue to protect consumers who watch internet-streamed television content from outside the EU on Freeview; consultation on powers to enable government to intervene where councils fail to tackle extremism. The Government will consider the need for further legislative measures following Louise Casey's review

Criminal Finances Bill

Tackle corruption, money laundering and tax evasion. Allow the Government to recoup more criminal assets by reforming the law on proceeds of crime, including provisions to strengthen our enforcement powers and protect the public. Introduction of a criminal offence for corporations who fail to stop their staff facilitating tax evasion; Improve the operation of the Suspicious Activity Reports (SARs) regime to encourage better use of public and private sector resources against the highest threats; to target entities that carry out money laundering instead of individual transactions; and to provide the National Crime Agency (NCA) with new powers; Improve the ability of law enforcement agencies and courts to recover criminal assets more effectively, particularly in cases such as those linked to grand corruption.

6. Consultations

[Sentencing youths: principles and guidelines on sexual offences and robbery](#)

Sentencing Council consultation on the production of up to date consolidated youth sentencing guidelines in respect of sexual offences and robbery

Open date: 12/05/2016

Close date: 03/08/2016

[Legal services: removing barriers to competition](#)

Ministry of Justice consultation on proposals to reduce barriers to the licensing of, and regulatory burdens on, legal services businesses that are licensed as Alternative Business Structures (ABS) – legal services partly or wholly owned or controlled by non-lawyers. The proposals would bring the legislative framework for these businesses more in line with that for other legal services businesses.

Open date: 07/07/2016

Close date: 03/08/2016

[Ethical dimensions of next generation sequencing](#)

National DNA Database Ethics Group consultation seeks views from stakeholders on next generation sequencing technologies that may become available in the next 10 years and the potential ethical issues which might arise if these are used to help with criminal investigations.

Open date: 12/07/2016

Close date: 05/08/2016

[Magistrates' Court Sentencing Guidelines](#)

Sentencing Council consultation on draft revised guidelines for 27 summary offences in the Magistrates' Court which include motoring offences, drug and alcohol related offences, football-related offences, animal cruelty, school non-attendance and licencing-related offences. The draft guidelines use the Sentencing Council methodology of determining the seriousness of an offence which assesses both the culpability of the offender and the impact of the harm caused by their offending.

Open date: 19/05/2016

Close date: 11/08/2016

[Independent review into sharia law: call for evidence](#)

Independent review examining whether the religious code is being misused or exploited in Britain to discriminate against certain groups, undermine shared values or cause social harms, is seeking views from individuals with experience of sharia law. The review is particularly keen to speak to those who have worked as part of a sharia council or have used a sharia council in any capacity in the last 5 years.

Open date: 04/07/2016

Close date: 18/08/2016

[Review of methodology for addressing high frequency repeat victimisation in CSEW estimates](#)

Office for National Statistics is seeking feedback on alternative methods for handling high frequency repeat victimisation in Crime Survey for England and Wales estimates following agreement by the Government Statistical Service Methodology Advisory Committee that the current methodology should be reviewed. Feedback obtained through this consultation will be used to inform final recommendations which will be made to the National Statistician's Crime Statistics Advisory Committee in late September 2016.

Open date: 06/07/2016

Close date: 13/09/2016

[Self-sufficient local government: 100% business rates retention](#)

DCLG consultation seeking to identify issues that should be kept in mind when designing reforms that will allow local government to retain 100% of the business rates they raise locally. The government has also issued a [call for evidence](#) on needs and distribution to inform a fair funding review of what the needs assessment formula should be following the implementation of 100% business rates retention.

Open date: 05/07/2016

Close date: 26/09/2016

[What next for devolution? A discussion paper](#)

LGA are inviting responses to a [green paper](#) which aims to encourage local debate and generate wider scrutiny of the devolution process. It sets out some ideas and a series of big questions which will help to structure the conversations that are already happening in local areas.

Open date: 05/07/2016

Close date: TBC