



Commissioner's horizon scanning briefing

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1. Policy and Practice

Police and Crime Commissioners – Lessons For the Second Generation – 28th April 2016

Deloitte report explores lessons for the 2nd term of PCCs based on interviews 10 incumbent Commissioners. Report concludes that many PCCs have shown gravitas, tenacity and resilience to establish credibility and authority in the face of limited public interest and have brought local debates on policing to life. The report identifies 9 lessons for the next generation of PCCs;

- Get set for an engagement sprint to establish your presence quickly
- Recognise your mandate – the winning candidate has all the democratic authority they require
- Prepare for the evolution – be at the centre of local discussions on service integration and devolution
- Make the case for digital transformation – maximise opportunities to improve efficiency and interaction
- Think wider than policing – particularly in relation to mental health and youth services
- Become master of your data – exploit data to improve resource allocation and decision making
- Focus on implementation, especially with partners and be clear on expectations for delivery
- PCC offices and police force leadership teams need to plan and manage political transition
- National and local politicians need to support the next generation of PCCs and champion the role

New requirements for cold callers to display phone numbers – 25th April 2016

Minister for data protection announces new requirements for direct marketing companies registered in the UK will be required to display their phone numbers when making unsolicited phone calls from 16 May 2016..

Action Plan for anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist finance – 21st April 2016

The Government published an action plan setting out steps the UK will take to strengthen its response to money laundering and terrorist financing. This includes new tools, capabilities and powers such as unexplained wealth orders (UWO), new powers for the National Crime Agency, plans to reform the Suspicious Activity Reports (SARs) regime and work to embed the Joint Money Laundering Intelligence Taskforce (JMLIT).

English Devolution Deals – 20th April 2016

National Audit Office report on English Devolution deals identifies a need for greater clarity between central government and local areas to ensure accountability and risks around alignment with the administrative geographical areas in the wake of increasingly complex administrative and governance configurations. The report recognises the need for appropriate and proportionate measures to understand the impact of devolution deals and ensure good management and accountability.

'Purdah' before elections and referendums – 25th April 2016

Commons briefing note

2. Reviews and Inquiries

[Financial sustainability of fire and rescue services inquiry](#) [Report \(17 Feb 2016\)](#)

Government response to Public Accounts Committee recommendations published 28th April 2016.

[Reform of the Police Funding Formula inquiry](#) [Report \(11 Dec 2015\)](#)

Commons Home Affairs Committee recommendations awaiting government response

[Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill inquiry](#) [Report \(29 Jan 2016\)](#)

CLG Committee recommendations awaiting government response

- [Support for ex-offenders inquiry](#) Latest evidence 27th April 2016
Work and Pensions Committee Inquiry into benefits and support available to offenders leaving prison
- [Treatment of young adult offenders inquiry](#) [Final evidence session](#) – 26th April 2016
Justice Committee considering the Harris Review and evidence on treatment of young adults within CJS
- [Restorative justice inquiry](#) Latest evidence – 19th April 2016
Justice Committee Inquiry into use of restorative justice in criminal justice system
- [The College of Policing inquiry](#) Latest evidence – 19th April 2016
Home Affairs Committee follow up to 2015 [report](#) will consider policing education and qualifications
- [Forensic Science Strategy inquiry](#) Latest evidence – 12th April
Science and Technology Committee exploring extent to which previous concerns have been met
- [Police Diversity inquiry](#) – [Oral evidence](#) concluded – 12th April
One-off evidence session investigating diversity in the police
- [Role of the magistracy inquiry](#) Latest evidence – 22nd March 2016
Justice Committee Inquiry into the current and future role of the magistracy
- [Proceeds of crime inquiry](#) Oral evidence – 8th March 2016
Home Affairs Committee inquiry into the effectiveness of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002
- [Efficiency in the Criminal Justice System](#) – Oral evidence - 17th March 2016
Public Accounts Committee evidence session exploring CJ efficiencies and the programme of reform
- [Prostitution inquiry](#) Oral evidence in progress – 1st March 2016
Home Affairs Committee inquiry into the way prostitution is treated in legislation
- [Countering extremism inquiry](#) Oral evidence – 2nd February 2016
Home Affairs Committee inquiry into Government's new five year counter extremism strategy
- [Cyber security: Protection of personal data online inquiry](#) Oral evidence – 27th January 2016
Culture, Media and Sport Committee inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the TalkTalk data breach
- [The rise of anti-Semitism inquiry](#) Announced 12th April 2016
Home Affairs Committee to explore prejudice against the Jewish community dangers arising from terrorism
- [Lammy Review of BAME representation in the CJS](#) Accepting [evidence](#) until 30th June 2016
Review into the over-representation of BAME groups at most stages of the criminal justice system
- [Child Sexual Abuse Inquiry \(Goddard\)](#) Ongoing
Inquiry comprising 13 investigations into institutional failures in protecting children against sexual abuse
March: Preliminary hearings held for [Lord Janner](#), [Anglican Church, Rochdale](#) and [Lambeth Council](#)

3. Research, Development and Statistics

[Offender Management Statistics to December 2015](#) – Published 28th April 2016

While the total number of prisoners has remained relatively stable, the composition continues to change, with more serving longer determinate sentences and the number of new admissions and releases on temporary licence falling. Offender recalls continue to increase following the expansion of licence supervision to cover those receiving short term sentences. The total probation caseload increased by 11% in 2015.

[Safety in Custody statistics](#) – Published 28th April 2016

Latest official statistics report 290 deaths in prison custody in 2015/16, marking an 18% (+51) increase on 2014/15. The most notable increases were in the cases of self-inflicted deaths (+21) and deaths due to natural causes (+18). Reported incidents of self-harm in prison also increased by 25% in 2015, while assault incidents increased by 27% to 20,518 recorded incidents. Both serious assaults (2,813) and serious assaults on staff (625) increased by 31%.

[Proven Reoffending Statistics to June 2014](#) – Published 28th April 2016

Ministry of Justice data shows that the overall proven re-offending rate remained relatively stable between 2003 and 2014 at around 26%, with around 131,000 out of 504,000 adult and juvenile offenders going on to commit a proven offence within a year from July 2013 to June 2014. Reoffending rates remain highest amongst adults serving sentences of less than 12 months (60%), adult theft offenders (43%) and people aged 10 to 17 (38%). While proven juvenile re-offending rates saw a marginal increase, the cohort has fallen by 70% since 2003.

[Police Use of Taser statistics to December 2015](#) – Published 28th April 2016

Latest official statistics show 10,329 uses of Taser by police in 2015 marking a 2% increase on 2014 to a level similar to 2013. Uses which resulted in Taser being discharged (1,921) fell by 3%. Red-dot laser sight remains the most common form of Taser use accounting for 51% of all Taser uses. Data available at [police force level](#).

[Police Use of Firearms statistics to March 2015](#) – Published 28th April 2016

Latest official statistics report 14,666 police firearms operations in 2014/15, marking a 2% reduction on the previous year. The number of Authorised Firearms Officers in England and Wales (5,647) also fell by 4%. The number of incidents in which police firearms were discharged remains low (6). Data at [police force level](#).

[Domestic Violence in England and Wales](#) – 25th April 2016

Commons briefing paper examines definition and prevalence of domestic violence and civil and criminal remedies available for victims. The latest Crime Survey for England and Wales statistics indicate that 8.2% of women and 4% of men were estimated to have experienced domestic abuse in 2014/15, equivalent to an estimated 1.3 million female and 600,000 male victims nationally. A [select bibliography](#) was also published.

[National DNA Database statistics to March 2016](#) – Published 22nd April 2016

Latest official statistics show that details of 5,156,268 individuals are now retained on the National DNA Database, marking a 2.5% increase on March 2015, while the number of crime scene sample profiles retained has increased by 6.8% to 519,678.

[Commercial Victimisation Survey 2015](#) – Published 28th April 2016

Survey indicated further reductions in crime against the wholesale, retail and agricultural sectors in 2015. Despite reductions in overall thefts, the levels and cost of shoplifting has seen no significant change on 2012. The majority of premises across all sectors surveyed are satisfied with the way police handle crime in their area. 40% of premises in the wholesale and retail sector experienced a crime in the last 12 months, compared to 24% of agricultural premises and 21% of premises in the construction sector.

Crime Survey for England and Wales data to December 2015 – Published 21st April 2016

CSEW indicates that crimes against households and adults saw a 7% decrease in 2015 on the previous year and by around 66% since its peak in 1995. Reductions in the last year have largely been driven by falls in theft offences (-7%) and criminal damage (-14%). Violent crime levels showed no statistically significant change. The proportion of respondents having experienced or witnessed ASB over the last 12 months has remained relatively stable since 2012 at around 28%. Results from a separate survey of crime against children aged 10 to 15 indicate that experience of violence and robbery amongst this group may have increased by 12% and 17% respectively over the last year.

Police Recorded Crime to December 2015 published – 21st April 2016

Total police recorded crime increased by 7% in 2015 compared to 2014. Increases have largely been impacted by improvements in crime recording practices, particularly in relation to "violence against the person" offences, which rose by 27%. Homicides increased by 11% from 517 to 573 in 2015, however this was skewed by increases in particular months spread across different police force areas. Offences involving knives or sharp instruments rose by 9%, partly reflecting improvements in recording procedures in some forces. Police recorded sexual offences also increased by 29% to the highest level on record (103,614), in part affected by improvements in recording and a greater willingness of victims to report. Fraud offences referred to the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) saw a further 4% increase but remain substantially under-reported. Police recorded ASB saw a further decrease of 8% in 2015, however it is recognised that the quality of recording and decision making can vary significantly between police forces. Further data available at both [police force](#) and [Community Safety Partnership](#) level alongside data for '[no crimes](#)' (transferred or cancelled records), offences involving [knives or sharp instruments](#) and [hate crimes](#).

Crime Outcomes to December 2015 published – 21st April 2016

Available data indicates that in 2015, 14.8% of recorded crimes resulted in charge/summons or being taken into consideration, 8.3% resulted in a formal or informal out of court disposal and in 2.4% of cases the prosecution could not progress or it was not in the public interest. Conversely, suspects were not identified in the case of 52% of crimes and evidential difficulties on account of either the victim (13.2%) or suspect (9.1%) prevented a case progressing in the case of 22.3% of crimes. Note: Figures exclude crimes yet to be assigned an outcome.

A&E department data indicates violent crime reductions are 'levelling off' – 20th April 2016

Data collected by Cardiff University from 91 A&E departments and walk-in centres suggests that the decline in violence in England and Wales since 2008 may now have levelled off. Findings are consistent with the latest CSEW report. While the study did not look at specific reasons, researchers suggested that local authorities and police spending less money on monitoring real time footage from CCTV cameras in order to prevent incidents from escalating could be a potential factor. Professor Jonathan Shepherd, director of the University's Violence Research group, commented "Public health practitioners and policy makers responsible for tackling community violence in need to take note and consider refreshing current violence prevention initiatives".

Insight Report: An Easy Target? – 19th April 2016

CSEW analysis undertaken by Victim Support identifies disability or limiting long term illness as the single risk factor common across theft and violent crime victimisation. People with limiting disabilities are almost three and half times more likely to suffer serious violence and 1.6 times more likely to be a victim of personal theft than adults without a limiting disability. Risk amongst this group has also increased by 3.7% over the past decade in contrast to trends involving the non-disabled population.

Internet Watch Foundation Annual Report – 21st April 2016

The Internet Watch Foundation's (IWF) Annual Report highlights an 118% increase in the number of illegal child sexual abuse images and videos being identified and removed from the internet over the last year and a 417% increase since the IWF were given approval to start proactively searching for online child sexual abuse imagery in April 2014. 68,092 reports were confirmed as illegal images or video in 2015.

4. Legislation

Enterprise Bill – Date for Royal Assent TBC

Make provision regarding promotion of enterprise and economic growth; restricting exit payments in relation to public sector employment; introduces apprenticeship commencement targets for public sector bodies with more than 250 employees and the establishment of an Institute to regulate quality.

Immigration Bill - Ping Pong stage – TBC

Make provision about the law on immigration and asylum; access to services, facilities, licences and work by reference to immigration status; language requirements for public sector workers; fees for passports and civil registration; provision about the Director of Labour Market Enforcement. [Final amendments](#) made 12th April.

Online Safety Bill - Lords Report stage - TBC

Private Members' Bill to make provision about the promotion and provision of online safety including parent education; requiring ISPs and mobile phone operators to provide a service that excludes adult content; require manufacturers to provide a means of filtering internet content; and regulate harmful on-demand material

Road Traffic Act 1988 (Alcohol Limits) (Amendment) Bill 2015-16 - Lords Report stage – 3rd reading TBC

Private Members' Bill to lower prescribed limit of alcohol in breath, blood and urine by 37%

Policing and Crime Bill - Commons Report stage – 3rd reading TBC

Make provision for Emergency Services Collaboration; Police complaints, discipline and inspection reform; changes affecting the police workforce and representative institutions; Police powers and PCCs; Firearms and alcohol licensing; and Miscellaneous provisions. [Supporting documents](#) [Commons analysis paper](#)
[Overview of debate so far](#) – Committee Stage Report briefing published 22nd April

Investigatory Powers Bill - Commons Committee stage – 3rd May 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 in 2016
See [Commons Briefing Paper](#) and [Joint Select Committee recommendations](#) for further information
Public Bill Committee accepting [written evidence submissions](#) until 5th May

Advertising of Prostitution (Prohibition) Bill - Lords Committee stage - TBC

Private Members' Bill to prohibit the advertising of prostitution

Age of Criminal Responsibility Bill - Lords Committee stage - TBC

Private Members' Bill to raise the age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12

Victims of Crime Etc (Rights, Entitlements) Bill 2015-16 - Second reading in Commons – 13th May 2016

Private Members Bill to make further provision regarding duties and responsibilities of Victims' Commissioner; and the Victims' Code; require PCCs to assess the needs of victims and effectiveness of services and publish annual victims' plans; establish duty to report suspected child abuse by those working in regulated activities, code of practice on the recording of allegations, right of appeal by victims against a decision to cease a criminal investigation; standards for the review of open or reopened homicide cases; provision about court procedures relating to vulnerable victims and witnesses. [Commons Briefing paper](#)

[Child Victims of Human Trafficking Bill 2015-16](#) - Second reading in Commons – 13th May 2016

Introduce new safeguarding and protection duties for child (under 18) victims of human trafficking

[Criminal Driving \(Justice for Victims\) Bill](#) - Second reading in Commons – 13th May 2016

Private Members' Bill to change the law to improve justice for the victims and families of road crime

[Cannabis \(Legalisation and Regulation\) Bill 2015-16](#) - Second reading in Commons – 13th May 2016

Private Members' Bill to amend Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 to provide for lawful production, sale, packaging, marketing, purchase, possession and consumption of herbal cannabis in specific circumstances

[Convicted Prisoners Voting Bill 2015-16](#) - Second reading in Commons – 6th May 2016

Make provision for rules relating to the exclusion of convicted prisoners from participation in elections

[Foreign National Offenders \(Exclusion from UK\) Bill 2015-16](#) - Second reading in Commons - TBC

Make provision for the removal and exclusion of any foreign national convicted in a UK imprisonable offence
Division called at [second reading](#) on 11th March: rescheduled for debate

[Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment \(Amendment\) Bill](#) - 2015-16 Second reading in Lords - TBC

Private Members' Bill (17th March) to raise penalty for littering offences; provide for an offence that relates to allowing a dog to foul the land; and require local authorities to provide appropriate and convenient litter disposal

[Rehabilitation of Offenders Bill](#) - Second reading in Lords - TBC

Amendments to the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 introducing revised rehabilitation requirements

[Prisons Bill](#) - Announced as part of the [Prime Ministers Prison Reform Speech](#) – 8th Feb 2016

Draft Bill will 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](#)

5. Consultations

[Reduction in sentence for a guilty plea guideline](#)

The Sentencing Council is consulting on a revised guideline for guilty plea sentence reductions to clarify the levels of reduction appropriate for the different stages at which the plea is entered. This follows data suggesting that levels of reductions in some cases appear to be higher than those recommended by the guideline.

Open date: 11/02/2016

Close date: 05/05/2016

[Independent review of deaths and serious incidents in police custody](#)

Home Office consultation seeking views from stakeholders and members of the public on deaths and serious incidents in police custody, including the lead up to incidents, the immediate aftermath and the conclusion of official investigations. Findings will be used to inform an independent review of the procedures and processes surrounding deaths and serious incidents in police custody which is scheduled to be published summer 2016.

Open date: 26/02/2016

Close date: 06/05/2016

[Investigatory Powers Bill](#)

Public Bill Committee call for written evidence from those with a special interest or expertise or with factual information of which the Committee should be aware.

Open date: 16/03/2016

Close date: 05/05/2016

[Revised CPS Guidelines on Prosecuting Social Media Cases](#)

CPS consultation on revised guidelines for the prosecution of cases covering a range of current, new and emerging social media related offences committed online, including setting up fake online profiles and websites in order to abuse others, offences involving revenge pornography and controlling or coercive behaviour. The new guidelines aim to provide clear advice to help prosecutors deal with cyber-enabled crime.

Open date: 03/03/2016

Close date: 12/05/2016

[Firefighter's pension scheme regulations](#)

Seeking views from fire and rescue authorities, members of firefighters' pension schemes and employee representative bodies on ensuring survivors of firefighters who die in the line of duty do not lose their benefits on re-marriage and other minor technical amendments associated with the career average 2015 scheme.

Open date: 18/03/2016

Close date: 13/05/2016

[Stop and Search Guidance](#)

College of Policing consultation on proposed content of authorised professional practice (APP) guidance for Stop and Search aimed primarily at frontline officers and those with other relevant knowledge, skills and experience. Invites responses to specific questions and comments on any individual section of the APP.

Open date: 31/03/2016

Close date: 15/05/2016

Revising PACE codes C, D and H

Home Office consultation on draft codes of practice C, D and H under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE). Changes to codes C and H predominantly concern use of interpretation services via live-link where the interpreter's physical presence is not necessary, consistency between Codes C and H regarding electronic reporting, appropriate adult roles and the detention of children and adults and female detainees. Changes to code D bring it up to date with other subsequent guidance and provisions and guidance, including the EU Directive on translation and interpretation, the Equality Act 2010, the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 (retention of fingerprints and DNA) and Border Force operational guidance.

Open date: 23/03/2016

Close date: 17/05/2016

BAME representation in the Criminal Justice System

Call for evidence from victims, witnesses, offenders, Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities, staff and other stakeholders on their views, experience and insights into BAME representation in the CJS. Evidence will be used to inform the Lammy Review into the over-representation of BAME groups at most stages of the criminal justice system, considering issues arising from the CPS involvement onwards - including the court system, in prisons and rehabilitation in the wider community. Consultation is also inviting more informal contributions via the Twitter hashtag #lammyreview

Open date: 21/03/2016

Close date: 30/06/2016

Police use of force

IPCC consultation seeking feedback on the research study 'Police use of force' aims to help the organisation understand how people are using the research.

Open date: 08/03/2016

Close date: TBC