



Commissioner's horizon scanning brief

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1. Policy and Practice

[Modern Crime Prevention Strategy launched](#) – 23rd March 2016

The Modern Crime Prevention Strategy, launched via the Home Secretary's [speech](#) to the International Crime and Policing Conference on 23rd March 2016, updates Government thinking on crime prevention. It focuses on six '[drivers of crime](#)' - opportunity, character, effectiveness of the criminal justice system, profit, drugs and alcohol. The strategy recognises the role that Government departments, law enforcement agencies, local authorities, businesses and public have to play in preventing crime and highlights a range of new and previously announced government proposals aligned to the six drivers of crime. These include:-

- The [buyer's guide for mobile devices](#) to raise awareness of anti-theft security features on offer
- Establishing a Steering Group on Forecourt Crime
- Restricting access to knives through measures such as the [voluntary agreement](#) with major retailers to ensure knives are responsibly sold, displayed and packaged by regularly and sufficiently trained staff
- Making £140m fund available to transform / replace 100 inadequately designed housing estates
- Extending [National Citizen Service](#) funding to give 60% of all 16-17 year olds the chance to take part
- Encouraging more effective hotspot policing, particularly via greater multi-agency information sharing
- Support a joined up programme of digital transformation across policing via the Transformation Fund
- Implement a new Anti-Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing Action Plan
- Publish a new Drug Strategy in 2016 building upon the approach adopted in 2010
- Publish information about where alcohol-related crime is occurring on [Police.uk](#)
- Launch a second round of [Local Alcohol Action Areas](#) to support and enable partnership activity
- Ensure local authorities have the right analytical tools to make use of alcohol-related data available
- Improve the late night levy by making it more flexible, fairer and transparent – and give PCCs the right to request that local authorities consult on introducing a levy to contribute towards the cost of policing

[Police and Crime Commissioners Briefings and Resources](#) – Updated 31st March

Collection of PCC supporting documentation has been updated to include guidance on [PCC roles and responsibilities](#), [national policy and strategy](#), [working in partnership](#), and [working beyond your force area](#).

[PCC candidates asked to sign up to ethical standards checklist](#) – 21st March 2016

Committee on Standards in Public Life calls for all PCC candidates to declare their approach to conduct, appointments and hospitality in line with inquiry recommendations '[Tone from the Top](#)'

[May 5th election guidance for civil servants](#) – 24th March 2016

The guidance sets out the need to maintain the political impartiality of the Civil Service, and the need to ensure that public resources are not used for party political purposes during this period

[IPCC Learning the Lessons Bulletin 26](#) – March 2016

Covers issues and learning with regard to missing persons, identifying vulnerability, spotting the signs of grooming, call handling, custody, search warrants and the police role in unlawful evictions and tenant disputes

[Prevent: Training catalogue](#) – 23rd March 2016

Home Office catalogue highlighting publically accessible Prevent related training courses that can support frontline staff in increasing their understanding and awareness of radicalisation and how it can be prevented

[Serious and organised crime local partnerships bulletin](#) – 18th March 2016

Includes the work of the Gangmasters Licensing Authority, practical tools to reduce fuel fraud, case studies of successful approaches in Bedfordshire and Surrey and good practice from the UK's Intellectual Property Office

[College of Policing re-asserts standards regarding belief of victims](#) - 22nd March 2016

2. Inspections

[Missing children: who cares? - The police response to missing and absent children](#) – 23rd March 2016

HMIC report highlights inconsistencies in the way missing children are identified, recorded and responded to. Recommendations include:-

- Government departments to ensure local authorities are held to account for their statutory duties and review the placement of looked after children in other local authority areas
- Home Office, NPCC and NCA to consider limitations to police systems which work in isolation
- National policing lead should work with DfE to improve local safeguarding oversight and performance data and work with the Home Office to establish requirements for a national database of missing children
- Chief Constables should ensure effective analysis and information management processes are in place
- College of Policing should produce Authorised Professional Practice, review current approach to risk assessments and take all necessary steps to ensure officers and staff understand underlying causes

HMIC Inspection Programme published 22nd March 2016

- PEEL: Efficiency, Legitimacy and Leadership – Fieldwork Spring 2016
- [JTAI Missing and absent children & child sexual exploitation \(thematic\)](#) – Summer 2016
- PEEL: Effectiveness (prevention, investigations, vulnerability, SPR, ROCUs) – Fieldwork Autumn 2016
- HMIC Thematic Inspections: crime recording, counter-terrorism - unannounced visits
- Joint Inspections of Stalking and Harassment (HMIC-led)
- Joint targeted [Child Protection Inspection](#) (Ofsted-led) – Rolling programme
- Joint inspection of Police Custody Arrangements (HMI Prisons-led) – Rolling programme

3. Reviews and Inquiries

Police and Crime Commissioners – Report published 25th March 2016

Home Affairs Committee report concluded 'PCCs are here to stay', but highlighted key areas for attention:

- Police Funding Formula - damaging delays are making it impossible for PCCs to effectively set budgets
- Collaboration between PCCs to adopt consistent standards and share best practice
- Using PEEL assessments in a more direct way to inform Police and Crime Plans and hold CCs to account
- Introducing a first-past-the-post system in time for 2020 elections to improve voter engagement
- Transparency and accountability of PCCs - a central register of PCCs interests and office costs is required
- Lack of applicants for Chief Constable vacancies, many being awarded to incumbent Deputy CCs
- Recruitment transparency and a need for discretion to offer higher pay for Chief Constable posts
- Ability of Police & Crime Panels to hold PCCs to account - Panels should meet at least every 2 months
- Expansion of PCC role – PCCs should concentrate first on fulfilling current role – including engagement

Prison Reform – One-off evidence session 16th March 2016

Justice Select Committee hears from Justice Minister on government plans for prison reform including proposed independent reform prisons and prison league tables. Government White Paper expected Spring 2016.

Inquiry reports awaiting government response: [Reform of the Police Funding Formula](#), [Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill](#), [Financial sustainability of fire and rescue services](#)

- **Efficiency in the Criminal Justice System** – Oral evidence - 24th March 2016
Public Accounts Committee evidence session exploring CJ efficiencies and the programme of reform
- **Role of the magistracy inquiry** Latest evidence – 24th March 2016
Justice Committee Inquiry into the current and future role of the magistracy
- **Proceeds of crime inquiry** Oral evidence in progress – 22nd March 2016
Home Affairs Committee inquiry into the effectiveness of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002
- **Prostitution inquiry** Oral evidence in progress – 22nd March 2016
Home Affairs Committee inquiry into the way prostitution is treated in legislation
- **Countering extremism inquiry** Oral evidence in progress – 22nd March 2016
Home Affairs Committee inquiry into Government's new five year counter extremism strategy
- **Cyber security: Protection of personal data online inquiry** Oral evidence – 15th February 2016
Culture, Media and Sport Committee inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the TalkTalk data breach
- **Young adult offenders inquiry** Oral evidence in progress – 1st March 2016
Justice Committee considering the Harris Review and evidence on treatment of young adults within CJS
- **Restorative justice inquiry** Latest evidence – 23rd February 2016
Justice Committee Inquiry into use of restorative justice in criminal justice system
- **Forensic Science Strategy inquiry** Deadline closed for written submissions
Science and Technology Committee exploring extent to which previous concerns have been met
- **Support for ex-offenders inquiry** Accepting written submissions until 22nd April 2016
Work and Pensions Committee Inquiry into benefits and support available to offenders leaving prison
- **Independent 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](#)

4. Research, Development and Statistics

[What works in supporting victims of crime](#) – 30th March 2016

Rapid evidence assessment issued by the Victims' Commissioner in partnership with the University of Portsmouth collates international evidence on what works in supporting victims through the criminal justice system. Factors evidenced to improve victim outcomes include SPoCs, providing timely and accurate information and developing a multi-agency approach to reduce duplication.

[Criminal Care: Children's homes are criminalising children](#) – 30th March 2016

Howard League for Penal Reform research highlights that children living in children's homes are criminalised at excessively higher rates than other children, including those in other types of care. The report suggests that 'there is a systemic problem across England and Wales that leads staff to resort to the police, often over minor incidents'. Police feedback indicates that the service is picking up the pieces of a "social care deficit" which can push children into the CJS rather than receiving support needed from local authorities and children's homes. The report also warns of a lack of transparency, particularly in relation to private providers.

[Reducing mobile phone theft and improving security: paper 2](#) – 23rd March 2016

Home Office's Behavioural Insights Team update of insight into mobile phone theft using information gathered from the 2014 to 2015 Crime Survey for England and Wales. Report concludes that improvements in inbuilt security are likely to have played a significant part in reducing mobile phone theft between 2013 and 2015.

[Children's voices research project](#) – 23rd March 2016

University of Bedfordshire research commissioned by HMIC into children's view the police role in safeguarding found wide variations in experience. Young people who go missing, are known to police for offending, older children, BME children and those with uncooperative/incompliant behaviour which may be associated with their additional vulnerability were more likely to have negative experiences with the police. The report supports HMIC findings of 'an enduring gap remains between policy and young victims' and witnesses' experiences'

[Review of Restorative Justice Part 1 – Service Providers](#) – 22nd March 2016

Victims' Commissioner's report highlighting that despite low take up, many high quality tailored RJ services are in place. Victims of certain crime types, however, are often excluded from participating in RJ (e.g. domestic abuse, hate crime and sexual abuse) and most area only provide RJ services once an offender had been convicted. The second part of this RJ review expected in 2016 will consider victims' experiences of RJ services

[Concerted Indiscipline in Prisons](#) – 18th March 2016

Figures released by the Prisons and Probation Minister highlight marked increase in violence in prisons since 2012. The Minister commented that 'The nature of offenders currently in custody and the widespread availability of new psychoactive substances have both contributed to making prisons less safe'. Government response has included a two year Violence Reduction project to gain a better understanding of the causes and characteristics and of violence, trial use of body worn cameras and stronger punitive responses and interventions to NPS.

[Assessing the Impact of substantial increases in stop and search](#) – 17th March 2016

Home Office study of the mass use of stop and search by London's Metropolitan police to tackle knife crime ('Operation BLUNT 2' - 2008-11) found that the tactic had no statistically significant crime-reducing effect at the borough level based on comparisons with other boroughs. Data from the London Ambulance Service supported these findings as callouts for weapons injuries did not drop more in the boroughs targeted.

[Operation of police powers under the Terrorism Act 2000, quarterly update](#) – 17th March 2016

Data to December 2015 includes arrests and outcomes, and stops and searches. [Data tables](#) also available

[Court and tribunal closures](#) – Commons briefing paper analysis - 21st March 2016

5. Legislation

[Riot Compensation Act 2016](#) - Enacted 30th March 2016

Act repealing the Riot (Damages) Act 1886 creates an entitlement to make a claim for compensation from the appropriate PCC / local policing body in respect of property that is damaged, destroyed or stolen in the course of a riot, and inadequately insured or not insured. The PCC is responsible for making a decision on any claim, though they may delegate their claims handling and decision-making functions to another body (to be specified in forthcoming regulations). Future regulations will also set out the procedural and evidential requirements, the minimum time limits for notification, and procedures as to the right of appeal.

[Immigration Bill](#) - Third Reading in Lords – 12th April 2016

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

[Enterprise Bill](#) - Ping Pong stage – 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.

[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 - TBC

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

[Policing and Crime Bill](#) - Commons Committee stage – 12th April 2016

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 and briefings](#) [Commons analysis paper](#) [Public Bill Committee](#) accepting [written evidence submissions](#) until 14th April.

[Investigatory Powers Bill](#) - Commons Committee stage – 12th April 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 – 22nd April 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 – 22nd April 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 – 22nd April 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 – 22nd April 2016

Private Members' Bill (24th March) 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](#)

6. Consultations

[Law Commission Sentencing Law in England and Wales consultative document](#)

Second consultative document on legislation currently in force in relation to sentencing. A further consultation on policy issues will follow in spring 2016. Commission plans to publish a consultation report and draft of the New Sentencing Code in the summer of 2017. The final report and draft Bill for this project is due by early 2018.

Open date: 09/10/2015

Close date: 09/04/2016

[Child Safety Online: Age Verification for Pornography](#)

Seeking views on protecting children from seeing pornographic material online, including proposals to require age verification for pornographic content online and placing legal responsibilities on companies that profit from online pornography.

Open date: 16/02/2016

Close date: 12/04/2016

[Policing and Crime Bill 2015-16](#)

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: 08/03/2016

Close date: 14/04/2016

[Better use of data in government](#)

Cabinet Office consultation seeking views on proposals to enable greater information sharing between public authorities in order to improve public services, address fraud and debt and inform research and official statistics. This includes proposals to share personal data in specific contexts and give the Office for National Statistics access to detailed administrative government data.

Open date: 29/02/2016

Close date: 22/04/2016

[Foreign Travel Advice service](#)

Foreign and Commonwealth Office consultation on the UK's Foreign Travel Advice service seeking the views of British nationals to inform a review of the way the service presents travel information, including security and safety advice, in a way that is easily accessible and readily understood.

Open date: 21/03/2016

Close date: 22/04/2016

[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

[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