



Commissioner's horizon scanning briefing

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1. Policy and Practice

[Revised government action plan for dealing with hate crime](#) – 26th July 2016

Home Office issues new UK plan for tackling hate crime through to 2020. The revised plan aims to:-

- **Prevent hate crime** by challenging beliefs and attitudes that underlie these crimes – including a new programme to equip teachers to engage on 'difficult topics', a new assessment of hate crime in schools, and educational projects to help young people challenge prejudice
- **Respond to and reduce the prevalence of hate crime** – including a [£2.4m scheme to improve security measures at vulnerable faith institutions](#) (for which bids close 20/09/16) and improving training, awareness and reporting of hate crime on public transport and in the night-time economy
- **Increase the reporting of hate crime** – including measures to encourage the use of third party reporting, work with groups most likely to under-report, work with the CPS to ensure that perpetrators are punished, and to publicise successful prosecutions to improve confidence in the CJS
- **Improve support for the victims of hate crime** – including work to improve the use of Victim Personal Statements, production of new CPS guidance on community impact statements and undertake a joint review with the CPS and police of Witness Care Units
- **Build understanding of hate crime** through improved data - including the disaggregation of hate crimes records by religion, conduct a review into neo-Nazi networks, further collaborate with academics and improve police recording of hate crime which will be published as Official Statistics.

Delivery will be overseen by a multi-agency project board and progress will be formally reviewed in 2018.

[Government action to end slavery](#) – 1st August 2016

Home Secretary, Amber Rudd, and Safeguarding Minister, Sarah Newton, set out the new measures and support to; establish a new taskforce led by the [Prime Minister](#) to oversee government action to end slavery; commission HMIC to review the police response to slavery and; provide £33.5m funding from the aid budget to tackle modern slavery in countries most impacting upon victimisation in the UK.

[New grant funding awarded to charities for victims of sexual abuse](#) – 21st July 2016

Rape Crisis England and Wales, Galop, the Survivors Trust, LimeCulture and National Association of People Abused in Childhood have collectively been awarded over £550,000 of new government grant funding to train staff in assisting victims of sexual abuse, boost rape support centres, and establish a helpline for victims.

[UK Counter-terrorism Strategy Annual Report – 21st July 2016](#)

Annual report for the Government's counter-terrorism strategy (CONTEST) details developments in the terrorist threat, including the significant and changing threat from Daesh (IS/ISIL) and Al Qa'ida, and progress made in UK counter-terrorism work. The police and the security and intelligence agencies successfully disrupted six terrorist plots to attack Great Britain in 2015. Increased investigative and intelligence resources were announced in November 2015 as part of the Strategic Defence and Security Review and the government will publish a revised CONTEST strategy later this year in response to the changing threat.

[Serious and organised crime local partnerships July bulletin – published 1st August 2016](#)

Fourth edition of the quarterly bulletin includes introduction to West Midlands Police Prevent team, anti-slavery partnerships, troubled families programme and Devon and Cornwall's approach to local profiles

2. Research, Development and Statistics

[Drug misuse: Findings from Crime Survey for England and Wales 2015-16 – 28th July 2016](#)

Findings indicate that levels of illicit drug use have remained relatively stable over the last year with 8.4% of adults and 18% of young adults reporting use over the previous 12 months. This continues the trend seen over the last 7 years, despite a significant reduction on prevalence rates a decade ago. The proportion of adults having used class a drugs (3%), cannabis (6.5%), powder cocaine (2.2%), ecstasy (1.5%), have remained relatively stable over the last three years. Self-reported LSD and Mephedrone use among 16 to 24 year olds fell significantly in 2015/16 while NPS use saw no statistically significant change. 2.6% of young adults aged 16 to 24 report having taken NPS in the last year, rising to 3.6% among young males. Further [data tables](#) available.

[Abuse during childhood: Findings from Crime Survey for England and Wales – 4th August 2016](#)

The 2015/16 CSEW asked respondents (aged 16 to 59) for the first time whether they were abused as a child. Findings indicate that 9% had experienced psychological abuse, 7% physical abuse, 7% sexual assault and 8% witnessed domestic violence or abuse in the home. History of childhood abuse tended to be more prevalent among older respondents, and women. While psychological and physical abuse was more commonly committed by parents, Perpetrators of sexual assault by rape or penetration was more commonly committed by friends or acquaintances (30%) or other family members (26%). Male victims in these cases were more likely (15%) to report being abused by a person in a position of trust or authority (e.g. teacher, doctor, carer) than females (4%). Around 75% of sexual abuse victims did not report at the time, often as a result of feeling embarrassed, humiliated or that they would not be believed.

[Systematic Review: Mediation, mentoring and peer support to reduce youth violence – 25th July 2016](#)

Systematic review found that it was often not possible to assess the effect of mentoring, mediation and peer-support in isolation of other interventions. The methodological quality of future evaluations needs to be improved in order to gain better insight into what works. Overall, the evidence suggests mentoring reduced reoffending but there is also some evidence to the contrary. Evidence from two studies on mediation provided little evidence of effect on reducing youth violence. Evidence from five studies on peer-led interventions found weak evidence for effect on reducing aggressive behaviour and attitudes conducive to violent behaviour, and no evidence for effect on weapon-enabled violence, arrests and reconvictions.

[Upcoming Crime Reduction Systematic Reviews:](#)

- Criminal justice interventions in domestic violence
- Motivational approaches for domestic violence perpetrator programmes
- Domestic violence perpetrator programmes: A review of reviews
- Police responses to people with mental health problems
- The impact of police pre-arrest diversion
- Effectiveness of asset-focussed interventions against organised crime

[Police workforce statistics to 31st March 2016](#) – published 21st July 2016

Latest official national statistics show a 3.3% reduction in the police workforce of over the last year, with the number of new joiners falling to 3.8% of the workforce and proportion of officers leaving (5.5%) continuing the upward trend seen since 2009/10. Long term sickness rose by 11.5% to account for 2% of the police workforce. The proportion of officers in frontline roles (93%) has remained stable over the last year, although the total number has fallen by 4% while the number in local policing roles fell by 6%. The proportion of female officers (28.6%) and Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) officers (5.9%) both reached the highest level on record. 12.1% of joiners were BME, compared to 4.4% of leavers. [Data tables](#) available at Police Force level

[Deaths during or following police contact in England and Wales: 2015-16](#) – published 26th July 2016

[Report](#) highlights 130 incidents that were independently investigated by IPCC in 2015/16 due to death following police contact. This is higher than previous years due to an increase in IPCC's resources to investigate 'other deaths following police contact'. Cases by subcategory can be low in volume and subject to major year on year fluctuation, however, apparent suicides following police custody fell from 70 to 60 in 2015/16. The year also saw 20 road traffic incidents (which include pursuit-related fatalities), 14 deaths in or following custody and 3 fatal police shootings. Further [data tables](#) and [time series statistics](#) are available at police force level.

[Police use of firearms statistics: 2015-16](#) – published 28th July 2016

The number of police firearms operations in England and Wales saw a slight increase of 0.5% (+68) in 2015/16. Police discharged firearms in the case of 7 incidents – marking no significant change on the previous year (6). The number of authorised firearms officers (AFOs) has remained relatively static at 5,639.

[Reported road casualty statistics, including drinking and driving](#) – 4th August 2016

Dept. for Transport statistics on [reported road casualties in Great Britain](#), [casualties involving illegal alcohol levels](#). KSIs have increased at a rate comparable to the increase in motor traffic levels (+2%), however overall casualty rates per vehicle mile have reduced by 4%. KSIs involving illegal alcohol levels remained relatively static between 2013 and 2015 while serious casualties have fallen by 3%. [Additional statistics](#) available.

[Proven re-offending statistics: October 2013 to September 2014](#) – published 28th July 2016

Ministry of Justice statistics show that the proven rate of reoffending has remained fairly stable since 2003 at 25.7%. Proven juvenile reoffending rate has increased by around 3.5% points since 2003 to 37.8%, however the number of offenders in this cohort has fallen by 71% over the same period.

[Offender management statistics quarterly: January to March 2016](#) – published 28th July 2016

Total prison population decreased by 1% over the last year while the sentenced population increased by 2%. Prison population continues to shift towards a population serving longer determinate sentences, with those serving sentences of ten years or more accounting for 9% of the total prison population.

[National Probation Service and CRC performance 2015/16](#) – published 28th July 2016

NPS and CRCs are on a trajectory of expected performance which culminates in delivery against end-state targets by Feb 2017. No reoffending information is included as data for the first cohort under the new organisations is not yet available. Report includes geographic breakdown where appropriate.

[Safety in custody statistics to March 2016](#) – published 28th July 2016

Deaths in prison custody rose by 30% in 2015/16, with increases in self-inflicted deaths (+28%) and natural cause deaths (+26%). Incidents involving self-harm (+27%), hospital attendance, (+36%), assaults (+31%) and serious assaults on staff (+17%) also increased. [Prison performance annual digest 2015/16](#) published 28th July.

[NOMS workforce and judicial diversity statistics 2016](#) – published 28th July 2016

3. Inspections

HMIC Inspection Programme

- 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

[Modern Slavery Act 2015 review: One Year On – 31st July 2016](#)

Independent review by barrister Caroline Haughey found that enforcement agencies are using the powers in the Modern Slavery Act to increase prosecutions and support more victims of modern slavery, however, there is still more to do to deliver greater consistency in how law enforcement and criminal justice agencies deal with the victims and perpetrators of modern slavery. The review recommends improvements in training and intelligence and a more structured approach to identifying, investigating, prosecuting and preventing slavery, including the introduction of modern slavery SPOCs at force level. HMIC will be commissioned to undertake an inspection. [Prime Minister Theresa May's article](#) setting out the government's ambitions in this area - 31st July 2016
[Modern Slavery Act 2015: Recent Developments](#) - Commons briefing – 22nd July 2016

[Government response to Home Affairs Committee report on Police Diversity – 26th July 2016](#)

Government response to the Home Affairs Inquiry [report](#) on police diversity re-affirms the Home Office's commitment to continuing to challenge the College of Policing, police forces and others on the pace and ambition of their recruitment, retention and progression plans. The Government also urges PCCs to consider the opportunities provided through the police transformation fund, which clearly sets out that it will support work to improve the diversity of policing and create a more professional and flexible workforce with the right skills.

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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), [Sexual Violence in Schools inquiry](#) (Women and Equalities)
 - **Evidence in progress:** [Female Genital Mutilation inquiry](#) (12th July 2016), [Forensic Science Strategy inquiry](#) (6th July 2016), [Transforming Rehabilitation inquiry](#) (4th July 2016), [Support for ex-offenders inquiry](#) (15th June 2016), [Child Sexual Abuse Inquiry](#) (new chair to be appointed), [Lammy Review of BAME representation in the CJS](#) (ongoing), [Apprenticeships inquiry](#) (29th June 2016), [Treatment of young adult offenders inquiry](#) (27th April 2016).
 - **Accepting written submissions:** [Hate crime and its violent consequences inquiry](#) (Announced 4th July 2016), [Prison Reform inquiry](#) (announced 27th July 2016), [Sharia Law](#) (Announced 26th May 2016)

5. Legislation

[Investigatory Powers Bill](#) - Lords Committee stage – 5th September 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

[Policing and Crime Bill](#) – Lords Committee stage – 14th September 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), [supporting documents](#) and [running list of amendments](#) (27th July 2016).

[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

[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

[HMIC Survey of Domestic Abuse Practitioners 2016](#)

HMIC / Home Office consultation on the police response to domestic abuse is seeking views from practitioners who work for organisations who support victims of domestic abuse on their experiences over the previous 12 months. The information will be used to inform HMIC follow up inspections of the police response to domestic abuse in the autumn of 2016. The survey should not be completed by police officers or staff.

Open date: 01/08/2016

Close date: 26/08/2016

[Hate crime and its violent consequences – Call for Evidence](#)

Home Affairs Committee inquiry call for evidence seeking views on the effectiveness of legislation and law enforcement policies, barriers that prevent individuals from reporting, the role of social media companies and other online platforms in helping to identify and prevent hate crime online, the role of the voluntary sector, community representatives, and other frontline organisations in challenging attitudes, how recording, measurement and analysis of hate crime can be improved and support available to victims and their families.

Open date: 04/07/2016

Close date: 01/09/2016

[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

[Fingerprint development and image capture: codes of practice](#)

Forensic Science Regulator's consultation on draft appendix to the codes of practice and conduct for fingerprint development/enhancement which were revised in February 2016.

Open date: 27/07/2016

Close date: 16/09/2016

[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

[Prison Reform – Call for Evidence](#)

Justice Committee inquiry seeking views on the purpose of prisons, modernisation, reform prisons, stakeholder roles and responsibilities, outsourced services, measures of performance, mechanisms for regulation and scrutiny and interdependent government agendas

Open date: 27/07/2016

Close date: 30/09/2016

[Reporting and acting on child abuse and neglect](#)

Home Office and Department for Education consultation on plans to improve outcomes for vulnerable children in line with the aims of the [Serious Crime Act 2015](#) and 2015 [tackling child sexual exploitation report](#). Seeks views on the introduction of either a mandatory reporting duty for organisations and practitioners to report suspected child abuse or a duty to take appropriate action in response to suspected child abuse or neglect.

Open date: 21/07/2016

Close date: 13/10/2016

[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