



Commissioner's horizon scanning briefing

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1. Policy and Practice

UK terror threat reduced to 'Severe' – 24th May 2017

Independent Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre reduces UK threat level from international terrorism from "critical" to "severe", meaning that an attack is highly likely. The change was made in light of investigative developments following the Manchester terrorist attack (22nd May), but preceded events in London (3rd June) which were deemed to not be connected in terms of planning or execution. The public are asked to [remain vigilant](#)

Prime Minister highlights need to review Britain's counter-terrorism strategy – 4th June 2017

Prime Minister's statement following the terrorist attack in London highlights the need to review Britain's counter-terrorism strategy to make sure the police and security services have all the powers they need to keep up with the changing threat as it 'becomes more complex, more fragmented [and] more hidden, especially online'. At a [campaign event in Stoke-on-Trent](#) on 6th June, the Prime Minister further considered the need to:-

- Increase the length of custodial sentences for terrorism-related offences, even apparently less serious ones
- Make it easier for the authorities to deport foreign terror suspects to their own countries
- Do more to restrict freedom and movement of terror suspects that present a threat, but there is insufficient evidence to prosecute – and change our human rights laws where they stop us from taking such action

Crowded Places Guidance issued – 8th June 2017

National Counter Terrorism Security Office issues new guidance to help those charged with security at crowded places, such as shopping centres, sports stadia, bars, pubs and clubs to mitigate the threat of terrorist attack

NSPCC Safeguarding standards and guidance 2017 (England) – 31st May 2017

Recommended standards and safeguarding accompanying guidance for non-statutory organisations that work with children and young people. Published alongside [guidance for group leaders in the voluntary and community sector](#) and an [online tool](#) providing checklists and resources to help groups safeguard children

Europol launch 'Stop Child Abuse - Trace and Object' webpage – 1st June 2017

The new webpage posts images of objects taken from the background of sexually explicit material involving minors, with a view to obtaining information from the public, anonymously or otherwise, about their origin

Home Office Circular 008/2017: Change to Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 – 1st June

Circular draws attention to Statutory Instrument rendering possession, supply, production and importation of U-47, 700, 12 new methylphenidate-related substances and 16 new 'designer' benzodiazepines illegal (31st May)

IPCC Monthly bulletin – May 2017 – Published 7th June 2017

General Election 2017: Policy implications for policing and criminal justice – 9th June 2017

Conservative Party forms minority government seeking support of the Democratic Unionists of Northern Ireland. Priorities for the new government will be set out in the Queen's Speech on 19th June 2017, however, based on the [Conservative manifesto](#), potential policy developments for policing and criminal justice include:-

- **Police and Crime Commissioners:** PCC representation on local health and wellbeing boards to enable better co-ordination of crime prevention with local drug and alcohol and mental health services. A wider role for PCCs in cutting crime. Greater devolution of criminal justice responsibility and budgets to PCCS
- **Police:** Mandated changes in police practices if 'stop and search' does not become more targeted and 'stop to arrest' ratios do not improve. Extension of direct entry into the police, including at chief officer level and more graduate entry schemes. Better co-ordination between mental health services and police
- **National / International Policing:** A national infrastructure police force, bringing together the Civil Nuclear Constabulary, the Ministry of Defence Police and the British Transport Police to improve the protection of critical infrastructure (nuclear sites, railways, strategic road network). Serious Fraud Office being incorporated into the National Crime Agency to strengthen Britain's response to white collar crime
- **Counter Terrorism:** Consideration of new criminal offences. A new Commission for Countering Extremism to identify examples of extremism and expose them, to support the public sector and civil society, and help the government to identify policies to defeat extremism and promote pluralistic values
- **Victims of Crime:** Victims' entitlements enshrined in law, making clear what level of service they should expect from the police, courts and criminal justice system. Ensuring child victims and victims of sexual violence are able to be cross-examined before their trial without the distress of having to appear in court. Publicly-funded advocates with specialist training for serious sexual offence cases
- **Violence against women and girls:** A Domestic Violence and Abuse Bill to consolidate all civil and criminal prevention and protection orders and provide for a new aggravated offence if behaviour is directed at a child. Creation of a domestic violence and abuse commissioner to stand up for victims and survivors and to hold the police and the criminal justice system to account. Review of funding for refuges and action to ensure that victims who have lifetime tenancies and flee violence are able to secure a new lifetime tenancy
- **Criminal Justice:** A national community sentencing framework that punishes offenders and focuses on the measures that have a better chance of turning people around. Action to make it harder for people to enter the country if they have a criminal conviction. Satellite tracking for all foreign national offenders subject to deportation proceedings. Review of the application of exploitation in the Modern Slavery Act to strengthen the ability to stop offenders. Unduly Lenient Sentence Scheme extended to a wider range of sentences
- **Prisons:** Investment in the prison estate creating 10,000 modern prison places. A new legal framework for prisons and stronger inspectorate and ombudsman. New dedicated provision for women offenders. Policy to reduce disproportionate use of force against BAME people in prison, YOIs & secure mental health units, with legislation possible. Reform of prison officer entry requirements, training, management and career paths
- **Community cohesion:** A new integration strategy to help people in more isolated communities to engage with the wider world, help women in particular into the workplace, and teach more people to speak English. Stronger enforcement of equalities law in relation to private landlords and businesses
- **Online safety and security:** A new responsibility on industry not to direct users – even unintentionally – to hate speech, pornography, or other sources of harm. Make clear the responsibility of platforms to enable the reporting of inappropriate, bullying, harmful or illegal content, with take-down on a comply-or-explain basis

2. Research, Development and Statistics

[Fraudscape 2017: External and Internal Fraud Threats – 10th May 2017](#)

Cifas report on the fraud landscape which brings together frauds recorded by Cifas members to the National Fraud Database and the Internal Fraud Database into a single document. The report finds that in 2016:-

- Overall fraud recorded via these databases increased by 1.2% to 324,683
- Identity fraud reached the highest levels ever recorded with almost 173,000 cases, however identity frauds against bank accounts and telecoms products saw a reduction in 2016
- Fraudsters continued to focus on online applications, with 88% of identity frauds being internet-enabled
- Identity fraud involving victims aged under 21 increased by 34%
- Facility takeover fraud increased by 45%, largely driven by an increase in telephone facilitated takeovers – with more fraudsters targeting mobile phone accounts in order to obtain upgrades
- An increase in 'mule' activity was identified where genuine account holders are complicit in allowing criminals to transfer illegally obtained money between different bank accounts
- The most common internal fraud was simply staff stealing cash

[Young People who engage in technology-assisted harmful sexual behaviour – 16th May 2017](#)

NSPCC research into the behaviours, backgrounds and characteristics of children and young people who engage in technology-assisted harmful sexual behaviours (TA-HSB), such as the possession and distribution of indecent images. The research, based on 275 service users found that:-

- Almost half were watching pornography in a developmentally inappropriate way (e.g. when under age of 13)
- This was identified as a trigger for offline HSB in over half the cases, however, other forms of TA-HSB were more likely to follow on from offline HSB that had occurred, on average, three years earlier
- Males with dual HSB (online and offline) were more likely to have experienced difficulties in their upbringing
- It was rare for young people to engage in TA-HSB alone (7%) without also engaging in offline HSB (46%)
- A more punitive response (police / CJ involvement) was taken towards the young males with TA-HSB only
- There were differences in professional perceptions of, and the ability to recognise, TA-HSB

The report makes recommendations for:-

- A combined integrated assessment model for both offline HSB and TA-HSB
- thorough assessment of pornography use by children under the age of 13 as a key risk factor
- Practitioners to focus on exploring past offline HSB when TA-HSB is identified
- Interventions focusing specifically on the use of pornography and other forms of TA-HSB
- Training and professional development to help practitioners identify and respond to TA-HSB

[Assessing the Risk, Protecting the Child: Final Evaluation – 22nd May 2017](#)

NSPCC evaluation of the 'Assessing the Risk, Protecting the Child' (ARPC) service which worked with the families of men who pose a sexual risk to children in order to ensure adequate child protection arrangements are in place. The evaluation concluded that:-

- Children's protective parents and carers believed the ARPC process provided them with a better understanding of the potential risks faced by their child and increased the ability to take protective action
- Professionals who referred families to the service considered the assessment reports to be independent, high quality and provide a detailed understanding of the risks posed by individuals
- Although most agreed with the report recommendations, one third of them were still not implemented six months after the assessment took place, partly due to the lack of available local support
- Opportunities for improvement included basing reports on a lifelong safety plans which are more responsive to changes in risk, and exploring ways in which the child's voice/views of the child can be better captured

Knife possession sentencing quarterly to March 2017 – published 8th June 2017

The number of knife possession offences dealt with by the CJS has risen by 11% compared to the same quarter in 2016, but remains 27% lower than the peak in the same quarter in 2008. 39% of adult offenders and 13% of juvenile offenders were given an immediate custodial sentence in the latest quarter and the proportion of adult offenders receiving a caution (7%) reached the lowest rate since the publication began in 2007. 28% of juvenile offenders received a caution. The average custodial sentence length for knife possession (7.8 months) has risen by 2.8 months (58%) since January to March 2008. Trend [data available at police force level](#)

Upcoming Crime Reduction Systematic Reviews:

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| • Speed cameras to reduce speeding traffic and road traffic injuries | TBC |
| • Tagging as a method to reduce theft in retail environments | TBC |
| • Red light enforcement cameras to reduce traffic violations and injuries | TBC |
| • The effectiveness of electronic monitoring of offenders | TBC |
| • Effectiveness of asset-focussed interventions against organised crime | TBC |
| • Personal security alarms for the prevention of assaults | TBC |
| • Police responses to people with mental health problems | June 2017 |
| • The impact of police pre-arrest diversion – systematic review | June 2017 |

3. Inspections

Upcoming reports and inspection activity

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| • HMIC Inspection Programme and framework 2017/18 | June 2017 |
| • JTAI Partnership response to children affected by domestic abuse | June 2017 |
| • HMIC: Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking - Phase 1 report | June 2017 |
| • HMIC: Crime data integrity (individual force reports) | June 2017 |
| • HMI Prisons: Joint inspection of Police Custody Arrangements | June 2017 |
| • PEEL Vulnerability Revisits | June / July 2017 |
| • HMIC: National Child Protection Inspection (HMIC-led) | June / July 2017 |
| • HMIC: Hate Crime scoping study | June / July 2017 |
| • HMIC: Domestic abuse update thematic report | June / July 2017 |
| • HMCPSI: Disclosure thematic | June / July 2017 |
| • Criminal Justice Joint Inspection programme 2017/18 | June / July 2017 |
| • Ofsted: Joint targeted Child Protection Inspection Overview report | June / July 2017 |
| • Ofsted: Joint Targeted Area Inspection thematic overview report | June / July 2017 |
| • HMIC: Joint Inspections of Stalking and Harassment - Report | July 2017 |
| • HMIC / Ipsos Mori General Population Survey - Report | July 2017 |
| • PEEL: Effectiveness fieldwork - incl. prevention, investing, offender mgmt. | Autumn 2017 |
| • Force Management Statement completion deadline | October 2017 |
| • HMIC: Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Phase 2 fieldwork | Jun 2017 - Mar 2018 |
| • PEEL 2017/18: Overall findings report published | March 2018 |

4. Reviews and Inquiries

Victims of modern slavery – 27th April 2017

Work and Pensions Committee report as part of a cross party parliamentary inquiry reported that:-

- A lack of awareness, training, understanding and proper support for victims of modern slavery is having a negative impact on number of victims identified and successful prosecutions
- Thousands of victims do not come forward, while others who choose to give evidence end up destitute as a result of insufficient support, and unable to testify against their abusers
- Collection and recording of data is generally substandard, particularly regarding those having left the NRM
- The Government does not monitor the re-trafficking of victims – this is considered 'unacceptable'
- While those recognised as refugees are granted an initial period of five years' leave to remain in the UK, recognition as a victim of slavery through the NRM confers no equivalent right to remain, for any period
- Training on how to spot signs of slavery and deal sensitively with victims needs to be greatly improved
- Treating confirmed victims of modern slavery of different nationalities differently has created a confusing landscape that is poorly understood by victims and professionals alike

The report recommendations that:-

- NRM is reformed to include recording of instances where victims have been processed more than once
- Local police forces should be required to pass information on potential re-trafficking to the Home Office
- All confirmed victims of modern slavery should be given at least one year's leave to remain
- DWP to undertake an urgent review of the benefit support available to victims supporting the police
- DWP should exempt confirmed victims of modern slavery from benefit sanctions
- All frontline DWP staff should be trained in supporting victims of modern slavery
- Ensuring all confirmed victims have a personal recovery plan which acts as a social passport to support

- **Evidence in progress:**

- [Child Sexual Abuse Independent Inquiry](#) – preliminary hearings held for [protection of children outside the UK](#) (9th May), [Cambridge House, Knol View and Rochdale](#) (10th May) and [Children in the Care of Nottinghamshire Councils](#) (11th May)
- [Independent Review into child abuse allegations in football](#) (ongoing),
- [Pitchford Undercover Policing inquiry](#) – [New panel member appointed](#) – 31st May 2017

- **Report in preparation:** [Lammy Review of BAME representation in the CJS](#) (Spring 2017)

- **Reports awaiting government response:** [Countering extremism inquiry](#) (Report published 25th August 2016), [Implications of Brexit for the justice system inquiry](#) (Report published 17th Mar 2017), [Apprenticeships inquiry](#) (Report published 30th March 2017), [Hate crime and its violent consequences inquiry](#) (Report published 1st May 2017)

- **Concluded:** All select committees ceased to exist on the dissolution of Parliament on 3 May 2017. Committees in the new parliament will decide whether to continue work on the following: [Disclosure of youth criminal records](#), [Prison Reform](#), [Civilian Drone Use](#), [Policing for the Future inquiry](#), [Immigration inquiry](#), [Sharia Law](#)

5. Legislation

[Prison and Courts Reform Bill](#) – Special Report in lieu of election - 19th April 2017 [Commons analysis](#)

Bill to set the framework to make prisons places of safety and reform, devolve operational policies to prison governors, modernise courts to improve speed and [access to justice](#), improve protections for victims and vulnerable people and make provision about whiplash claims.

- Power to stop domestic violence victims being cross examined by their attackers in [family court](#)
- Extending use of [virtual hearings](#) and resolution via video or telephone conferencing in some cases
- Offenders charged with some less serious offences to plead guilty / accept conviction / pay instantly [online](#)
- Stronger powers to HMI [Prisons](#) e.g. triggering urgent govt. response where there are significant concerns
- New agency - HMI Prison and Probation Service will be responsible for all prison and probation operations
- 3 year performance agreements with prison governors to be measured and reported on from October 2017
- Make it easier for the judiciary to deploy judges and handle case backlogs more [flexibly](#)
- Introducing new fixed tariffs capping [whiplash](#) compensation and banning claims without medical evidence

A Public Bill Committee is now receiving written evidence on the Bill

[Supporting documents](#)

No further action following dissolution of parliament from 3rd May 2017:

[Asset Freezing \(Compensation\) Bill](#) , [Road Traffic Offenders \(Surrender of Driving Licences\) Bill](#) , [Rehabilitation of Offenders \(Amendment\) Bill](#) , [Crime \(Assaults on Emergency Services Staff\) Bill](#) introduced , [Sexual Offences \(Amendment\) Bill](#) introduced , [Unlawful Killing \(Recovery of Remains\) Bill](#) , [Animal Cruelty](#) and [Animal Fighting](#) Sentencing Bills , [British Victims of Terrorism \(Asset-Freezing & Comp\) Bill](#) , [Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 \(Amendment\) Bill](#) , [Malicious Communications \(Social Media\) Bill](#) , [On-line Safety Bill](#) , [Age of Criminal Responsibility Bill](#) , [Support to Exit Prostitution Bill](#) , Vehicle Technology and Aviation Bill

6. Consultations

[National Business Crime Centre](#)

The newly formed police-led National Business Crime Centre is consulting on priorities in tackling business crime. The Centre aims to support both policing colleagues and the business community

Open date: 18/05/2017

Close date: 16/06/2017

[Reducing litter: penalties for environmental offences](#)

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs consultation on increasing on-the-spot fines for littering, graffiti, fly-posting and introducing new fines for the owners of vehicles from which litter has been thrown

Open date: 10/04/2017

Close date: 18/06/2017

[United Kingdom's future legal framework for imposing and implementing sanctions](#)

Government consultation seeking views on the legal powers needed to continue to be able to impose and implement sanctions following the UK's withdrawal from the European Union

Open date: 21/04/2017

Close date: 23/06/2017

[Police Resourcing – Evidence Request](#)

APCC strategic leads for funding and finance request information and case studies from PCCs on current demand pressures, measurement of police productivity and public / partner perceptions of local policing

Open date: 31/05/2017

Close date: 23/06/2017

[Local Alcohol and Substance Misuse Policy](#)

APCC strategic lead for alcohol and substance misuse is seeking the views of PCCs in relation to the alcohol and substance misuse agenda and local activity underway to address these issues

Open date: 25/05/2017

Close date: 23/06/2017

[Intimidatory Offences and Domestic abuse guidelines](#)

Ministry of Justice consultation on revised sentencing guidance for domestic abuse, including harassment stalking, controlling or coercive behaviour in an intimate or family relationship, disclosing private sexual images and threats to kill

Open date: 30/03/2017

Close date: 30/06/2017