



Commissioner's horizon scanning briefing

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1. Policy and Practice

[Commencement of Purdah following dissolution of Parliament](#) – 3rd May 2017

All government policy announcements subject to Purdah restrictions until the final election result is announced following general election on 8th June 2017

[Statutory guidance on Slavery and Trafficking Prevention and Risk Orders updated](#) – 30th April 2017

[IPCC Monthly bulletin – April 2017](#) – Published 9th May 2017

Recent Commons briefing papers include: [Alcohol: cumulative impact assessments](#) (2nd May), [Carry-over of public bills](#) (2nd May), [Cyber Security of UK Infrastructure](#) (2nd May)

2. Research, Development and Statistics

[Crime against businesses: Findings from the 2016 Commercial Victimization Survey](#) – 4th May 2017

Findings from the Commercial Victimization Survey (CVS) indicate that levels of crime experienced by wholesale and retail premises in England and Wales in 2016 (5.2 million) have seen a significant reduction since 2012 (7.7 million), although a non-significant increase has been seen since 2014 (4.1 million). Prevalence of crime has reduced over this period, with 37% of wholesale and retail premises experiencing crime in 2016 compared to 53% in 2012. Shoplifting accounts for the largest proportion (67%) of all crime against premises in this sector, and while the prevalence of shoplifting per 1,000 premises (9,029) remains lower than in 2012 (10,445), the average cost of incidents increased from £35 per year to £54. The majority of premises across all sectors surveyed in 2012 to 2016 were satisfied with the way local police handled crime

[Local Alcohol Profiles for England updated](#)– Published 3rd May 2017

Public Health England (PHE) publishes updated to Local Alcohol Profiles for England (LAPE) – the [interactive tool](#) which presents a range of alcohol-related indicators for analysis. The rate of hospital admissions for alcohol-related conditions rose by between 1.9% (narrow measure) and 2.5% (broad measure) in 2015/16. Alcohol-specific admissions among under 18s fell by a further 4.3% while the rate of alcohol-related admissions among the over 65s continued to increase

[The Value of CCTV Surveillance Cameras as an Investigative Tool](#) – 28th April 2017

A [study](#) by Nottingham Trent University (NTU) based on the analysis of over 250,000 crimes recorded along the rail network by the British Transport Police over five years indicates that CCTV cameras provide “useful” evidence to solve two-thirds of police investigations in which they are available. The study found that cameras benefitted 62% of robbery investigations, 61% of serious assault cases and 53% of shop thefts. The research also found, however, that CCTV was useful in only 24% of theft of a motor vehicle offences and 16% of theft from a motor vehicle. The study also linked useful CCTV with increased detection rates for all types of crimes except drugs, fraud and public order offences. Robbery saw the largest difference, where the probability of detecting an offence rose from 8.9% without CCTV to 56% with CCTV. The detection rate for criminal damage also rose from 10% to 40% with the help of useful CCTV

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 | May 2017 |
| • Police responses to people with mental health problems | June 2017 |
| • The impact of police pre-arrest diversion – systematic review | June 2017 |

3. Inspections

Ongoing and upcoming inspection activity

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| • JTAI Partnership response to children affected by domestic abuse | Publication pending |
| • HMIC: Counter-terrorism thematic report from unannounced visits | April 2017 |
| • HMIC: Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Phase 1 fieldwork | April 2017 |
| • HMIC: Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Phase 2 fieldwork | May 2017 - Mar 2018 |
| • PEEL: Efficiency fieldwork - VfM and matching resources to demand | Spring 2017 |
| • PEEL: Legitimacy fieldwork - fairness, legality and ethics | Spring 2017 |
| • HMIC: Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking - Phase 1 report | June 2017 |
| • Joint Inspections of Stalking and Harassment (HMIC-led) - Report | July 2017 |
| • PEEL: Effectiveness fieldwork - incl. prevention, investing, offender mgmt. | Autumn 2017 |
| • Force Management Statement completion deadline | October 2017 |
| • PEEL 2017/18: Overall findings report published | March 2018 |
| • HMIC: Crime data integrity (unannounced visits) | Rolling programme |
| • HMIC: National Child Protection Inspection (HMIC-led) | Rolling programme |
| • Joint targeted Child Protection Inspection (Ofsted-led) | Rolling programme |
| • Joint inspection of Youth Offending Teams | Rolling programme |
| • Joint inspection of Police Custody Arrangements (HMI Prisons-led) | Rolling programme |

4. Reviews and Inquiries

Report published: Cycling and the Justice System – 2nd May 2017

The [All-party parliamentary cycling group](#) inquiry concludes that the justice system is failing to protect cyclists, both by failing to record, tackle and hold to account dangerous and inconsiderate drivers. It also highlights a 37% reduction in specialist roads policing officer numbers over 10 years alongside a 62% fall in driver disqualifications. The report makes recommendations that the **police** adopt the close passing enforcement practice initiated in West Midlands Police, maintain a higher standard of investigation in all serious cases and ensure that evidence submitted of common offences is put to use and that victims and bereaved families are always kept adequately informed. The report also recommends that roads policing is given a higher priority by police forces, PCCs and HMIC and that the length of time required by Police to serve a Notice of Intended Prosecution (14 days) is extended. Other recommendations include revising the Highway Code to give clearer priority to cyclists and other vulnerable road users, changing the driving test to help improve driver behaviour and undertaking research into the growing discrepancies between road casualty figures

Report Published: Hate crime: abuse, hate and extremism online – 1st May 2017

Home Affairs Committee inquiry into [hate crime and its violent consequences](#) has published its report on online hate as the announcement of the General Election has curtailed its consideration of the full range of issues in the inquiry. The report concludes that **social media companies** have done nowhere near enough to take down and tackle illegal content on their sites and recommends that they:-

- Introduce clear and well-funded arrangements for proactively identifying and removing illegal content
- Review the interpretation and implementation of community standards and use their existing technology to help them meet those standards and abide by the law
- Publish quarterly reports on their safeguarding efforts – and be required to do so should they refuse

The report also makes recommendations for **Government** to:-

- Assess whether inaction by social media companies amounts to a breach of the law
- Review and update the entire legislative framework governing online hate, harassment and extremism
- Consult on requiring social media companies to contribute to costs of enforcement and on a system of escalating sanctions for companies which fail to remove illegal content within a strict timeframe

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- **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](#) (ongoing)
 - **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. New Committees in the next 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

Royal Assent is given to a number of Bills on the final sitting day of Parliament – 27th April 2017

[Children and Social Work Act 2017](#) – Royal Assent on 27th April 2017

[Commons analysis](#)

Act makes provision about looked after children, particularly in ensuring lessons are learned from serious child safeguarding cases. Alongside a new 'power to innovate', which gives local authorities the freedom to test out innovative new ways of working, and new measures to improve information sharing across agencies, Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) will be replaced with new local arrangements for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, involving three statutory safeguarding partners – local authority, NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and police, who can choose to invite other agencies. These partners will be responsible for undertaking local child safeguarding practice reviews in respect of serious and important cases

[Digital Economy Act 2017](#) – Royal Assent on 27th April 2017

[Commons analysis](#)

Act making provision about; restricting access to online pornography; protecting intellectual property related to electronic communications; [improving government data to transform public services](#), allowing public authorities to share personal data with other public authorities to improve the welfare of individuals and measures to help detect and prevent government losses due to fraudulent activity, The Act also introduces tougher penalties for nuisance callers and increases the sentencing options for people who infringe copyright laws online

[Criminal Finances Act 2017](#) – Royal Assent on 27th April 2017

[Explanatory documents](#)

Act amending the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 and allowing the Government to recoup more criminal assets while improving the ability of law enforcement agencies and courts to recover criminal assets more effectively. The Act introduces a criminal offence for corporations who fail to stop their staff facilitating tax evasion and improves the operation of the Suspicious Activity Reports (SARs) regime to encourage better use of public and private sector resources against the highest threats, including tackling assets in connection with terrorism

[Homelessness Reduction Act 2017](#) – Royal Assent on 27th April 2017

[Commons briefing](#)

Act places a duty on local authorities to help eligible people at risk of homelessness to secure accommodation and to provide those who find themselves homeless with support for a further period of 56 days to help to secure accommodation. The Act will also ensure that other local services refer those that are homeless or at risk of being homeless to local authority housing teams. The Act builds upon the government's commitment in December 2015 to consider all options, including legislation, to prevent homelessness

[National Citizen Service Act 2017](#) – Royal Assent on 27th April 2017

[Commons analysis](#)

Act makes provision for the national citizen service ([NCS](#)) which gives 15 to 17-year-olds the opportunity to take part in new experiences, develop skills and give back to communities across England. The Government has committed to offer an NCS place to everyone that wants one

[Preventing & Combating Violence Against Women Act 2017](#) – Royal Assent on 27th April 2017

[Briefing](#)

Act requiring UK to ratify the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (the Istanbul Convention)

[Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017](#) - Royal Assent on 27th April 2017

[Explanatory documents](#)

Makes provision about planning and compulsory purchase

[Finance Act 2017](#) - Royal Assent on 27th April 2017

[Explanatory documents](#)

Act to grant and alter certain duties and amend law relating to the national debt and the public revenue

[Guardianship \(Missing Persons\) Act 2017](#) - Royal Assent on 27th April 2017

[Explanatory documents](#)

Act making provision for the protection of the property and affairs of missing persons

[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 to be taken 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

[Changes to Alcohol Duty Structures](#)

HM Treasury consultation on introduction of a new duty band to target cheap, high strength 'white' ciders below 7.5% abv and the impacts of a new lower strength still wine band between 5.5% and 8.5% abv

Open date: 20/03/2017

Close date: 12/06/2017

[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

[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

[What's been happening to neighbourhood policing?](#)

Police Foundation is seeking views from the police service, and those in strategic roles in local policing in particular, on how the neighbourhood policing workforce [has changed](#) in different forces since 2008

Open date: 20/04/2017

Close date: TBC