



Commissioner's horizon scanning briefing

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1. Policy and Practice

[Home Office funding to support further police and fire collaboration](#) – 12th April 2017

Minister for Policing and the Fire Service awards £1 million from the Police Transformation Fund to 9 PCC areas (Sussex, West Mercia, Essex, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire, Hertfordshire, Gloucestershire, Staffordshire and North Yorkshire) to develop proposals in taking on the governance of fire and rescue services. Proposals are expected to bring about a fundamental shift to the way police and fire services work together, including sharing estates or back office functions

[Home Secretary outlines plans to boost support for victims of slavery](#) – 12th April 2017

Home Secretary outlines [plans](#) to boost support for slavery victims in the UK ahead of the publication of findings from an 18 month pilot of the National Referral Mechanism which will be published later this year. The Home Secretary conceded that the system 'doesn't work perfectly' and identified room for 'radical change' by:-

- Ensuring frontline staff know how to spot the signs of slavery, and how to refer potential victims into support
- Streamlining the process potential victims of modern slavery have to go through as decisions are made – 'we must be better at getting immediate support to victims when they are at their most vulnerable'
- Making sure victims are able to rebuild their lives – 'our aspiration to help is in the right place, the provision of support may yet not be'

[Litter Strategy for England Published](#) – 10th April 2017

DCLG strategy outlines how the Government will work with stakeholders including local community groups, Local Authorities, Highways England and the private sector to 'sending a clear message' that littering is unacceptable, 'clean up the country' and 'improve enforcement' against those that litter. Plans include:-

- Changing public attitudes towards the social acceptability of littering, including use of 'nudge' techniques
- Creating a 'green generation' by educating children to lead the fight against litter
- Providing funding to support community-led projects to tackle littering
- Creating a new expert group to look at further ways of cutting the worst kinds of litter
- Stopping councils from charging householders for disposal of DIY household waste at civic amenity sites
- Issuing new guidance for councils to update the nation's 'binrastructure' in creative new ways
- Working with Highways England to target the 25 worst litter hotspots across our road network
- [Strengthening enforcement powers](#), including increasing fines for the most serious offenders to £150 and Fixed Penalty Notices for the owners of vehicles from which litter is thrown
- Recommending that offenders on community sentences help councils clear up litter and fly-tipped waste

HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) launched – 3rd April 2017

The new frontline service will have full responsibility for the operational management of offenders in custody and the community, including strengthening security in prisons, building intelligence about criminal gangs and supporting offenders when they are released. An element of the [Prison Safety and Reform White Paper](#) also came into force on this date, giving prison governors greater control over how they run their establishments

New Counter-Extremism Taskforce to help tackle extremism behind bars – 9th April 2017

Home Office, Ministry of Justice, Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service launch a new specialist taskforce to assess and combat the threat posed by extremist ideology and radicalisation in prisons. The unit will analyse intelligence compiled by around 100 counter-terrorism experts working across the country

The Policing and Crime Act 2017 Commencement Regulations - 3rd to 6th April 2017

Further provisions of the Policing and Crime Act come into force which include duties to keep opportunities for blue light collaboration under review (s1-5), enabling powers for PCCs to take on responsibility for the governance of fire and rescue services or be represented on the Fire and Rescue authority (s6-7), increase in safeguards in the use of pre-charge bail (s52-67), powers to require the removal of face coverings (s120), provisions to enable deputy PCCs appointed as Acting to stand for election as PCC (s122)

College of Policing Digest: March Edition – published 6th April 2017

IPCC Monthly bulletin: March – Published 11th April 2017

Updates about our investigations, performance and organisational changes

IPCC Learning the Lessons Bulletin – 30th March 2017

Features issues including custody detention, self-inflicted injury following police restraint and appropriate adults

Baroness Shields Speech on Countering Online Radicalism and Extremism – 28th March 2017

George Washington University Centre for Cyber and Homeland Security's extremism programme

Recent Commons briefing papers include: [Reviewing and reforming business rates](#) (12th Apr), [Brexit: implications for national security](#) (9th Apr), [Corporate Economic Crime](#) (7th Apr), [NEET: Young People Not in Education, Employment or Training](#) (6th Apr), [Troubled Families programme](#) (5th Apr)

2. Research, Development and Statistics

Systematic Review: The Police Service, Diversity and Organisational Outcomes – February 2017

Published as part of the Crime Reduction systematic review series, the review concludes 'that there is little 'good' evidence that increasing the share of minority officers in police organisations has an impact on organisational outputs and outcomes'. In finding no statistically significant effect of BME recruitment and deployment on crime rates, arrest rates or public satisfaction, the review asserts that the primary case for increasing BME representation is a moral one which remains important for a range of symbolic reasons

Cost Benefit Analysis Tool for Crime Reduction Interventions – 7th April 2017

The What Works Centre for Crime Reduction WWCCR launches a new cost benefit tool developed by academics from University College London (UCL) and the Australian National University to help practitioners make more accurate assessments of crime reduction interventions. The tool enables total expenditure on one or more interventions/programmes to be calculated from costs associated with factors such as personnel time, equipment, materials and additional expenses; and/or comparison of annual expenditure before and after introduction of an intervention. The academic team have also produced [Economic Analysis: A Brief Guide for Crime Prevention Practitioners](#) which summarises some of the issues faced by practitioners when conducting economic analysis and outlines the major forms of economic analysis that can be used

Cyber Crime: Understanding the Online Business Model – 10th April 2017

National Cyber Security Centre report outlines how cyber criminals are organised, how they get access to your machine or network to steal data and how they turn data into cash. The report shows how Organised Criminal Groups share similar techniques and services, and communicate with each other over the 'dark web' where they can collaborate and advertise new services, tools and techniques

Police use of TASER ® X26 conducted energy devices 2016 – published 13th April 2017

Home Office statistics showing a 9% increase in police use of TASER ® X26 in 2016 to 11,294, primarily driven by an 11% increase in incidents where the TASER was not discharged (+912). Discharges only account for 17% (1,910) of incidents and have seen no significant change on 2015. 'Red-dot' use accounted for 51% (5,744) of the total incidents – representing the same proportion as in 2015. [Data available at police force level](#)

Youth Custody Data: February 2017 – published 14th April 2017

Ministry of Justice monthly statistics showing a levelling off of the number of children and young people in the secure estate (863 or 957 including 18 year olds), following a long-term period of decline since 2009/10

Upcoming Crime Reduction Systematic Reviews:

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| • Speed cameras to reduce speeding traffic and road traffic injuries | April 2017 |
| • Tagging as a method to reduce theft in retail environments | April 2017 |
| • Red light enforcement cameras to reduce traffic violations and injuries | April 2017 |
| • The effectiveness of electronic monitoring of offenders | April 2017 |
| • Effectiveness of asset-focussed interventions against organised crime | April 2017 |
| • 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

National Evaluation of the Troubled Families Programme 2015 to 2020 – 4th April 2017

DCLG compilation of early findings from the current round of the Troubled Families Programme, comprising:-

- Family Outcome Datasets: Profile of the Troubled Families cohort based on findings from 61,664 families. Adults in 'troubled families' are shown to be nearly five times, and children six times, more likely to have a caution or conviction than adults and children nationally. More than two in five troubled families had a police call out to their home and a quarter had at least one family member with a history of domestic abuse
- Case study research: Qualitative study involving 79 staff and 48 families receiving services demonstrates the immediate positive impact that practical and financial support has had for some families, but highlights the impact of cuts on partner services which has created a lack of available services to refer families to, most notably in adult and children's mental health services. While payment by results had initially been viewed with scepticism, there are indication that many now feel it important in providing a focus on outcomes
- Staff survey: Findings from a survey of over 1,600 staff delivering the Troubled Families programme indicate that multi-agency working is valued but genuine buy-in needs promoting, while further integration of the tools and systems underpinning the approach is required. There is also felt to be a need to improve relationships with and input from health services, and to increase the priority given to employment outcomes

Consolidated HMIC PEEL Inspection reports published – 12th April 2017

HMIC publish overall reports from the third round of Police Efficiency, Effectiveness and Legitimacy (PEEL) inspections which were conducted during 2016, bring together all the judgments made throughout the year together with other findings and information to produce a rounded annual assessment of each force

4. Reviews and Inquiries

Prison Reform: Governor Empowerment and Prison Performance – 7th April 2017

Justice Committee's Prison Reform sub-inquiry [report](#) concludes that plans to give prison governors greater autonomy and flexibility to shape the services provided are generally supported, however more clarity is needed regarding the practical implications of the reforms, particularly with regard to:

- Mitigating the potential risk of increases in prisoner complaints
- Ensuring support and development opportunities are available for governors
- The need to apportion accountability for post-release outcomes between prison governors and probation
- The extent to which the new common performance framework for prisons has been tested

The report also draws attention to uncertainty around how the plans will apply to the privately managed prison estate, and how the new offender management model will work in practice

Licensing Act 2003: Post legislative Scrutiny – 4th April 2017

Lords Select Committee publishes report on its scrutiny of the Licensing Act 2003 concluding that the Government made a substantial error in placing responsibility for licensing with local authority licensing committees. The report makes recommendations for:-

- A one-off radical overhaul which abolishes local authority licensing committees, with planning committees, which are much more reliable and well-equipped to make licensing decisions, taking over their function
- Coordination between licensing and planning systems should begin immediately in all local authorities
- Licensing appeals should no longer go to magistrates' courts but instead go to the planning inspectorate
- The Late Night Levy, which does not pay for the cost of policing as intended, and is fundamentally wrong in principle and in practice in its current form, should be repealed unless amendments prove effective
- Early Morning Restriction Orders, which no local authority has yet introduced, should also be repealed
- Fees for licensing should be set locally, not nationally
- England and Wales should follow Scotland's lead on Minimum Unit Pricing if found to be effective (and lawful), and follow Scotland's example in helping disabled people to access licensed premises