



## Commissioner's horizon scanning briefing

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## 1. Policy and Practice

### [New sentencing guidelines for drivers that speed excessively come into effect](#) – 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017

New guidelines for speeding come into force with maximum fines for the most serious cases in England and Wales rising from 100% of the driver's weekly wage (or up to £1,000 - or £2,500 on motorways) to up to 150% of the driver's weekly wage. [Police Federation](#) expressed concerns of extra burden on police and courts

### [Government plans for new fast-track immigration appeal rules](#) – 18<sup>th</sup> April 2017

Ministry of Justice [plans](#) to cap the time available to detained foreign criminals and failed asylum seekers to appeal a Home Office decision to remove from the country to between 25 and 28 working days. If accepted, new rules could speed up around 2,000 cases a year saving around £2.7m. Proposals include safeguards such as a case management review and giving judges stronger powers to decide whether cases can be expedited

### [Specialist separation centres for dangerous extremists in prison](#) – 21<sup>st</sup> April 2017

Three separation centres to be created to tackle extremism in prisons. The centres will hold up to 28 of the most subversive offenders found to be involved in planning terrorism, pose a risk to national security or be found to be spreading views that might encourage or influence others to commit terrorism crimes. Once in a centre, they will be reviewed by experts every 3 months and will only be returned to the mainstream prison population if it is considered that the risk they present has reduced to a level that can be effectively managed

### [Specialist prison / police intelligence team to tackle drone threat to prisons](#) – 17<sup>th</sup> April 2017

The new team of investigators has been formed to work closely with law enforcement agencies and HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) to inspect drones that have been recovered from prisons and identify and track down those involved in attempts to smuggle in contraband. The team will bring together intel from prisons and the police to identify lines of inquiry which will be passed to local forces and organised crime officers

### [Predictive policing research receives £3m grant](#) – 21<sup>st</sup> March 2017

The Inference, Computation and Numerics for Insights into Cities (ICONIC) consortium led by Imperial College London have been awarded a £3m EPSRC grant to explore and apply predictive analytic techniques following successful trials in California. The first two years of the grant will focus on predictive crime and policing

### [Placing social value at the heart of procurement](#) – 18<sup>th</sup> April 2017

Crown Commercial Service publishes statement outlining how it will do more to help public sector bodies to deliver additional social benefits in line with the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012

## [Home Office circular 004/2017: Amendments to the Police Regulations 2003](#) – 21<sup>st</sup> April 2017

Circular outlining amendments to regulations on police senior appointments, alcohol testing and allowances

## [Home Office Circular 005-2017: Drug testing advice / Drug testing kits](#) – 21<sup>st</sup> April 2017

Advice on the testing of Substances Suspected to be Drugs Controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971

## [Home Office circular 006/2017: New legal provisions on firearms controls](#) – 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017

Circular outlining new legal provisions on firearms in the Policing and Crime Act 2017

**Recent Commons briefing papers** include: [The late night levy](#) (26<sup>th</sup> Apr), [Alcohol: minimum pricing](#) (24<sup>th</sup> Apr), [Alcohol: mandatory licensing conditions](#) (21<sup>st</sup> Apr), [Alcohol: drinking in the street](#) (20<sup>th</sup> Apr), [Children in pubs](#) (19<sup>th</sup> Apr), [UK response to Syrian refugee crisis](#) (21<sup>st</sup> Apr), ['Purdah' before elections and referendums](#) (21<sup>st</sup> Apr), [UK Prison Population Statistics](#) (20<sup>th</sup> Apr), [European Arrest Warrant](#) (18<sup>th</sup> Apr), [Money laundering law](#) (18<sup>th</sup> Apr)

## 2. Research, Development and Statistics

### [Crime in England and Wales: year ending December 2016](#) – Published 27<sup>th</sup> April 2017

Latest figures from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) indicate that crime levels to December 2016 saw no significant change on the previous year (around 6.1 million). Fraud and computer misuse offences were estimated to account for an additional 5.4 million incidents of crime, with indications from police referrals (+4%) and industry data (+22%) that these offences have risen over the last year. Police recorded crime increased by 9% - largely due to the administrative impact of changes in crime recording practices on recorded violent crime (+19%) and public order (+35%). There are early indications, however, that vehicle offences (+8%), domestic burglary (+4%), shoplifting (+8%), bicycle theft (+4%), robbery (+10%) and theft from the person (6%) offences may now be increasing. This is coupled with increases in some low volume but high harm categories such as homicide (+4% excluding 96 historic cases resulting from Hillsborough 1989 verdict) and knife crime (+14%). CSEW estimates showed no significant change in levels of violence (+4%) or intimate violence over the last year, but a 10% reduction in overall theft offences. Police recorded sexual offences increased by 12%, largely reflecting improvements in crime recording and an increased willingness of victims to come forward and report these crimes. Data available at [police force level](#)

### [Crime Outcomes in England and Wales to December 2016](#) – Published 27<sup>th</sup> April 2017

Police recorded crime outcome data to December 2016 highlights reductions in the proportion of crimes resulting in a positive outcomes over the previous year, including the proportion resulting in charge or summons (11%) and formal (3%) and informal (3%) out of court disposals. The proportion of cases that could not be progressed due to evidential difficulties (25%) increased marginally, while the proportion yet to be assigned an outcome has increased from 4% to 8%. Figures should be considered in the context of increased crime recording compliance over the last year, including a higher number of low level offences being recorded

### [Safety in Custody Statistics to December 2016](#) – Published 27<sup>th</sup> April 2017

Ministry of Justice Statistics show increases in the last year in deaths (+19%) and self-inflicted deaths (+11%) in prison custody in addition to increases in self-harm incidents (+24%), assaults (+27%) and assaults on prison staff (+38%). Having reached record highs in September 2016, a number of these indicators have seen a decrease over the last quarter

### [Offender Management Statistics to December 2016 / March 2017](#) – Published 27<sup>th</sup> April 2017

The prison population has been relatively stable for the past five years while the number of offenders on probation has increased by 11%. The number of offenders recalled to prison has continued to fall (-5%) for the second quarter since Offender Rehabilitation Act 2014 was introduced

## [Cyber Security Breaches Survey 2017 – 19<sup>th</sup> April 2017](#)

Government-led survey of 1,523 UK businesses between October 2016 and January 2017 finds that nearly 7 in 10 large companies identified a cyber breach or attack over the last 12 months, with firms holding electronic personal data being more likely to be attacked (51%) than those that do not (37%). The most common methods were fraudulent emails, followed by viruses and malware. 9 in 10 businesses regularly update their software and malware protection and 2/3 invest money in cyber security measures. The vast majority of the common breaches, however, could have been prevented using [recommended cyber-protection techniques](#). The survey also found that only 7 in 10 firms currently set strong passwords, 1/3 had formal policies on managing cyber security risk, 1 in 5 had invested in cyber security training and 1 in 10 plan for an attack with a cyber security incident management plan

## [Neighbourhood policing: a police force typology – 20<sup>th</sup> April 2017](#)

[Police Foundation Blog](#)

Police Foundation research paper which uses secondary data to chart the diversifying approaches to neighbourhood policing since 2008 and presents a 'typology' for understanding the range of strategies adopted by forces across in England and Wales in response to changing resources and demand. These are defined as:-

- *consistent traditional*s which have a broadly similar neighbourhood model to the one they had in 2008
- *integrated hybrids* characterised by growth in broad neighbourhood policing functions and smaller response
- *civilianised rurals* which have an increased proportion of PCSOs and staff in neighbourhood teams
- *officer preservers* where de-civilianisation indicates a commitment to maintaining police officer numbers
- *robust purists* with relatively large neighbourhood functions (officers & PCSOs) and response functions
- *outright outliers* which display small neighbourhood functions in 2016 [Profiles available at police force level](#)

## [Fairness in the criminal justice system: What's race got to do with it? – 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017](#)

Catch22 reports findings from focus groups which explored the experience of racial bias in prison. The report highlights that both black and white prisoners, as a whole, consider the criminal justice system to show widespread racial bias, with concerns about a perceived lack of diversity on juries and among members of the judiciary. Participants were frustrated with opaque decision-making across the criminal justice system, from being stopped for a crime through to sentencing and how they were treated in prison. This led them to a belief that there were racial implications to decisions. There was a marked lack of trust and confidence in legal aid lawyers from both white and BAME prisoners with participants believing the primary motivation of legal aid lawyers to be profit rather than prioritising the interests of their clients

## [Victim of the system: Experiences, interests and rights of victims in the CJS – 20<sup>th</sup> April 2017](#)

Victim Support consultation with over 300 victims of crime highlights a lack of compliance with the Victims' Code at every step of the process. At the point of reporting, less than half of all victims surveyed were offered the chance to make a Victim Personal Statement (48%), had the consequences of making a VPS explained (39%) or asked questions to identify their needs (38%). Similarly, at pre-trial and court stages, just over half were given information about what to expect in court (57%), informed of any bail hearings (53%) or given a contact point at court for further information on the day (54%). Only around two thirds (67%) were notified about the final sentence and received an explanation about the meaning. The research also found that satisfaction with the CJS is polarised, but a clear positive correlation between victims receiving their entitlements from the police under the Victims' Code and the likelihood of them being satisfied with their experience with the police. Victims who received all of the Code's entitlements from the police reported almost three times the level of satisfaction of those who received none. Receipt of entitlements from the police under the Code explains 33% of variation in victim satisfaction with the police. This suggests that adherence to the Victims' Code is vital if the CJS is to drive up satisfaction rates among victims

## Understanding victims of crime – 20<sup>th</sup> April 2017

Victim Support report reviews existing research and new findings from quantitative and qualitative research with over 400 Victim Support service users on the impact of crime and needs of victims across different crime types. Across all crime types, the majority of victims were found to experience negative effects to their emotional or psychological wellbeing and their sense of safety and security. Victims of violent crimes were significantly more likely to be affected by the incident in many areas of their life, while victims of criminal damage reported an extensive effect on their life compared with other victims, strengthening the claim that even incidents considered as less serious by the CJS can have a significant effect on victims. The following factors were identified as key to improving support to those coping and recovering from crime: a strong, trusting relationship with a caseworker; support and assistance during legal proceedings; sharing with people who had gone through similar experiences; support during weekends and evenings; long-term support; support for other members of the family and being informed about the CJS and kept updated on the progress of the case

## Children's Commissioner publication of analytical reports on Child Sexual Abuse – 19<sup>th</sup> April 2017

- **Investigating CSA**: Analysis of Home Office and CPS data shows a significant disparity between the average investigative process for CSA cases (248 days) and adult sexual offences (147 days). The report recommends that the police and CPS explore ways of working more effectively to minimise delays and increase the speed of decision-making. This could include: a licence to practice for professionals working on CSA cases; embedding CPS Rape and Serious Sexual Offence (RASSO) specialists in police child abuse investigation teams and the establishment and roll-out of 'children's houses', child-friendly facilities where victims of CSA participate in police interviews and receive therapeutic support
- **Preventing CSA**: Assessment of the current provision of Relationships and Sex Education in schools in the wake of new requirements on primary and secondary schools from September 2019. Findings suggest that only around half of primary schools teach subjects related to sexual abuse compared to almost 90% of secondary schools. Schools are confident in identifying child sexual abuse, but substantiating concerns with the evidence necessary to meet child protection thresholds is largely dependent upon children disclosing
- **Making Noise Project**: Study exploring children's experiences of help-seeking and support after sexual abuse in the family environment highlights a clear need for improvements in service responses including further research to inform our response to 'silencing mechanisms' among different groups of children, greater support for non-abusing family members and older children (16/17 year olds) who are removed from the family home, work to ensure therapeutic support is provided at the point of need, improvements in the practical and welfare elements of the 'Achieving Best Evidence' interview process and better use of the full range of special measures available in CSA CJ cases and greater judicial management of court processes

## Upcoming Crime Reduction Systematic Reviews:

- |   |            |
|---|------------|
| • <a href="#">Speed cameras to reduce speeding traffic and road traffic injuries</a>      | April 2017 |
| • <a href="#">Tagging as a method to reduce theft in retail environments</a>              | April 2017 |
| • <a href="#">Red light enforcement cameras to reduce traffic violations and injuries</a> | April 2017 |
| • <a href="#">The effectiveness of electronic monitoring of offenders</a>                 | April 2017 |
| • <a href="#">Effectiveness of asset-focussed interventions against organised crime</a>   | April 2017 |
| • <a href="#">Personal security alarms for the prevention of assaults</a>                 | 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

### [HMIC State of Policing Report 2016 – Published 20<sup>th</sup> April 2017](#)

Sir Thomas Winsor's (HMIC) annual State of Policing report draws attention to material pressures on police forces in England and Wales, noting in particular:-

- [Failures of other public services](#), especially in respect of children's and adolescent mental health – the police are 'too often the service of first resort, long after the chances of effective prevention have been lost';
- The 'modern tsunami' of online fraud;
- Increased police awareness of crimes against vulnerable people, including the elderly and the sexual exploitation and abuse of children, requiring the devotion of higher specialist police resources; and
- The fragmented state of police information and communications technology

The report also highlights areas for improvement identified via inspection activity during 2016, namely:-

- Levels and quality of support, supervision and management of officers and staff
- Understanding and managing demand – both present and future and reported and unreported
- Making the best use of technology both locally and nationally – if used well, modern technology should provide an unprecedented ability to exchange, retrieve and analyse intelligence
- Identifying and responding to vulnerability and Child Protection issues including CSE
- Ensuring sufficient neighbourhood policing and preventative policing capacity

The report reiterates the value of force's publishing force management statements and argues that police leaders should focus more on what matters most by:

- Planning properly for the future;
- Ensuring officers and staff are properly trained, supported and equipped; and
- Significantly improving the pace of improvement - some forces are no longer pursuing reform with the levels of determination that once they were

### [Guidance: Joint targeted area inspections to focus on children living with neglect – 18<sup>th</sup> April 2017](#)

Ofsted, Care Quality Commission, HMIC, and HMI Probation will begin a series of 6 joint targeted area inspections between May and December 2017 to examine how local agencies are working together to protect children living with, or at risk of, neglect. The inspections will focus in particular on the experiences of children aged between 7 and 15 years old who may be at higher risk of going missing or being exploited. The inspections will inform an overview report to highlight learning and good practice in this area

### Ongoing and upcoming inspection activity

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|--|---------------------|
| • <a href="#">JTAI Partnership response to children affected by domestic abuse</a> | 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         |
| • <a href="#">HMIC: Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking - Phase 1 report</a>      | June 2017           |
| • Joint Inspections of Stalking and Harassment (HMIC-led) - Report                 | July 2017           |



## 4. Reviews and Inquiries

**All select committees will cease to exist on the dissolution of Parliament on 3 May 2017. New Committees in the next parliament will decide whether to continue work in these areas**

### [Upgrading Emergency Services Communications](#) – 21<sup>st</sup> April 2017

Public Accounts Committee follow up report on the Emergency Services Network (ESN) scheduled to replacement of the current communication system used by emergency services (Airwave), following the decision to recall the Home Office to give further evidence. The Committee warns that a nine month delay to completing the transition to delays to ESN (September 2020), and a decision by Motorola to cease providing certain Airwave dependent infrastructure in March 2020 would be a potentially catastrophic blow to the ability of the emergency services to keep the public safe. The report recommends that the Home Office:

- Ensure it is in a position to know which regions require an extension of Airwave by the end of 2018
- Urgently engage with Motorola and Vodafone on options to resolve the lack of Airwave availability
- Review all current risks to ESN and be realistic and open about them
- Urgently work with Transport for London to ensure coverage will enable emergency services to contact each other underground and there are no delays in reaching agreement with suppliers

### [Justice Committee report on Draft Sentencing Guideline for Breach Offences](#) – 20<sup>th</sup> April 2017

Justice committee report on Sentencing Council's [draft guideline](#) expresses concerns that guidance regarding breach of Community Orders and Suspended Sentence Orders will generate an increase in custodial sentences without there being a commitment by the Ministry of Justice to meet the additional demand. The report also advises that the guideline is amended to include aggravating and mitigating factors for sentencers to consider

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- **Reports in preparation:** [Hate crime and its violent consequences inquiry](#) (TBC), [Lammy Review of BAME representation in the CJS](#) (Spring 2017)
  - **Evidence in progress:** [Child Sexual Abuse Independent Inquiry](#) (11<sup>th</sup> April 2017), [Independent Review into child abuse allegations in football](#) (ongoing), [Pitchford Undercover Policing inquiry](#) (ongoing)
  - **Reports awaiting government response:** [Countering extremism inquiry](#) ([Report published](#) 25<sup>th</sup> August 2016), [Emergency Services Communications inquiry](#) ([Report published](#) 25<sup>th</sup> Jan 2017), [Implications of Brexit for the justice system inquiry](#) ([Report published](#) 17<sup>th</sup> Mar 2017), [Implications of Brexit for the justice system inquiry](#) ([Report published](#) 17<sup>th</sup> March 2017), [Apprenticeships inquiry](#) ([Report published](#) 30<sup>th</sup> March 2017), [Implications of Brexit for the justice system inquiry](#) ([Report published](#) 17<sup>th</sup> March 2017)

## 5. Legislation

### [National Citizen Service Bill](#) – Royal Assent – TBC

[Commons analysis](#)

[NCS](#) brings different communities together and 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. published 10<sup>th</sup> March 2017

### [Children and Social Work Bill](#) – Royal Assent – TBC

[Commons analysis](#)

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.

### [Homelessness Reduction Bill](#) – Royal Assent – TBC

[Commons briefing](#)

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

### [Preventing & Combating Violence Against Women & DV Bill](#) – Royal Assent – TBC

[Lords briefing](#)

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) – 7<sup>th</sup> March 2017

### [Digital Economy Bill](#) – Ping Pong – 26<sup>th</sup> April 2017

[Commons analysis](#)

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. [Briefing on amendments](#) published 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017

### [Criminal Finances Bill](#) – Ping Pong – 26<sup>th</sup> April 2017

[Explanatory documents](#)

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. [Briefing on amendments](#) published 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017

### [Prison and Courts Reform Bill](#) – Special Report in lieu of election - 19<sup>th</sup> 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.

### [Modern Slavery \(Transparency in Supply Chains\) Bill](#) – Withdrawn

### [Missing Persons Guardianship Bill](#) – Withdrawn

## 6. Consultations

### [Sanctions to tackle tobacco duty evasion](#)

HM Revenue and Customs consultation seeking views on additional sanctions to increase financial penalties for repeat offenders, introduce a new civil penalty for dealing in illicit tobacco, reducing the threshold for publishing details of those evading duties and introducing a statutory Duty of Care on landlords and landowners

**Open date: 17/02/2017**

**Close date: 10/05/2017**

### [Legal aid financial eligibility and Universal Credit](#)

Ministry of Justice consultation on government proposals for amending the legal aid financial eligibility system in England and Wales during the roll out of Universal Credit

**Open date: 16/03/2017**

**Close date: 11/05/2017**

### [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**