



Commissioner's horizon scanning briefing

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1. Policy and Practice

[£40m made available to tackle Child Sexual Abuse and trafficking](#) – 16th February 2017

Home Secretary announces £40m package of measures to protect children and young people from sexual abuse and trafficking alongside since March 2015. Funding includes:-

- An extra £20m to maintain NCA-CEOP Command's investigative capability over the CSR period
- £8m to develop more specialist police capability, pilot a 'licence to practice' approach for police CSEA investigations and provide dedicated police resources to enhance intelligence and prevention
- £7.5m to establish a Centre of Expertise - a consortium of health, law enforcement and social care professionals, charities and academics to develop evidence and data led approaches to tackling CSEA
- £7m extra MOJ funding for sexual abuse services - longer term security of funding will be explored
- £2.2m for charities working to protect children at risk of trafficking via the HO child trafficking protection fund
- £2.2m in the Disrespect NoBody campaign educating young people in safe/respectful behaviour

In publishing the [Tackling child sexual exploitation: progress report](#) the government also set out plans to:-

- Launch Independent Child Trafficking Advocates (ICTAs) in 3 early-adopter sites across the UK
- Launch the revised DoH 'You're Welcome' standards to support early identification of CSE
- Introduce sensitive routine enquiry of adverse childhood experiences to increase disclosure opportunities
- Develop a model for young people to build trusted relationships with a professional in their life
- Update the cross-government missing people strategy, establish a National Missing Persons Register
- Better connect commissioning and delivery of prevention and therapeutic support for victims of CSEA
- Publish a mental health Joint Strategic Needs Assessment toolkit to support commissioning
- Roll out video recording of all vulnerable and intimidated witness cross-examination nationally in 2017

Fire and Policing Minister's [statement](#), [speech](#) and [article](#) on Fire Reform – 7th February 2017

The Minister highlighted the new Policing and Crime Act 2017 duty for emergency services to collaborate and keep collaboration opportunities under review which will come into force in April 2017. The Home Office is:-

- supporting the fire service to develop a new commercial approach to standardise procurement
- creating a professional standards body affiliated to College of Policing to further professionalise the service
- considering options for an independent inspectorate similar to HMIC – first inspections anticipated in 2017
- planning to launch a new website, similar to Police.uk to publish key data on the fire service
- monitoring progress against recommendations of the Adrian Thomas review (firefighter terms & conditions)
- consulting on revised National Framework to deter re-employment practice among retired senior fire officers
- supporting a change in culture to improve diversity within the service

[New prison and probation service announced](#) - 8th February 2017

Justice Secretary [announces](#) the introduction of Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) the new frontline service to replace the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) from April 2017. HMPPS will be responsible for rolling out the government's reform programme to reduce reoffending and will have full responsibility for the operational management of offenders in custody and the community, including strengthening security in prisons, tackling extremism and building intelligence about criminal gangs. The new service will be backed by an additional £100m to boost the frontline by an extra 2,500 staff

[New Government Digital Transformation Strategy 2017 to 2020 launched](#) – 9th February 2017

Cabinet Office strategy setting out how the government will use digital to transform the relationship between the citizen and state and become an organisation that is digital by default. This will be achieved through business transformation, growing the right people, culture and skills, building better tools, processes and governance for civil servants, making better use of data (including the way it is managed and shared) and creating shared platforms, components and reusable business capabilities

[Preventing prison suicide: Staff perspectives](#) – 13th February 2017

Joint Howard League for Penal Reform and the Centre for Mental Health report discusses the perspectives of staff working in prison and reviewing clinical care post suicide and makes recommendations for a profound culture shift from a primarily punitive approach to one centred around recovery, wellbeing and rehabilitation

[Why focus on reducing women's imprisonment?](#) – 9th February 2017

Prison Reform Trust briefing highlights the risks of an increasing female prison population as recalls to custody and suspended sentence orders rise following changes introduced by the Offender Rehabilitation Act 2014. A government strategy for women in the criminal justice system is due to be published in the summer

[Extra-curricular cyber clubs to identify tomorrow's cyber security experts](#) – 11th February 2017

Department for Culture, Media and Sport has made up to £20m available for an extra-curricular Cyber Schools Programme to support and encourage 14 to 18 year olds to develop key skills needed to work in the cyber security sector. The programme will begin a pilot in September 2017 and aims to train 5,700 teenagers by 2021

[Justice Secretary speech to the Centre for Social Justice on criminal justice reform](#) – 13th Feb 2017

The Minister sets the context for the Prison and Courts Bill which is due to be published later this month

[Chancellor's speech at opening of the National Cyber Security Centre](#) – 14th February 2017

[College of Policing Guidance for organisational leadership](#) – published 14th February 2017

[Easy read guidance on rights and entitlements while in police detention](#) – 7th February 2017

[Violence against women and girls: service transformation fund](#) – 10th February 2017

Formal application deadline for the £15m transformation fund has been extended to Wednesday 1st March 2017

Recent Commons briefing papers include: [Syrian refugees and the UK response](#) (15th Feb), [Youth unemployment statistics](#) (15th Feb), [Rough sleeping in England](#) (14th Feb), [Reviewing and reforming business rates](#) (13th Feb), [Funding of the Serious Fraud Office](#) (3rd Feb)

2. Research, Development and Statistics

[A natural experiment in neighbourhood policing](#) – 9th February 2017

Police Foundation paper drawing on the findings from the five-year [Police Effectiveness in a Changing World](#) project highlights the importance of a well-informed and locally engaged, proactive, neighbourhood-level capability by drawing comparisons between two different neighbourhood policing models. The report highlights key issues that need to be addressed in order to make the vision for neighbourhood policing a reality. These include clarity of purpose, understanding demand, the balance of pro-activity and re-activity, the drive for service integration, having appropriate support structures in place and overcoming issues of workforce churn. The Police Foundation is also undertaking a new research project to explore the changes in and opportunities for [the future of neighbourhood policing](#) to inform a set of evidence-based principles. [Police Foundation blog](#)

[Chief Police Officer appointments survey and next steps](#) – 7th February 2017

Findings from a College of Policing survey regarding chief officer appointments shows that the majority of PCCs and chief constables felt they had received 'too few' applicants for a chief officer vacancies, presenting issues in terms of diversity and 'cross-fertilisation' of ideas and experiences. Respondents reported concerns regarding the ability to attract candidates compounded by issues such as a 'competitive job market', pensions and relocation. Proposed ways forward included reinstating the requirement to have served within another force. Proposals are now being developed for a national hub which would offer an 'executive search' function for chief officers and introduce comprehensive careers guidance at an earlier stage in the development of police leaders.

[Female genital mutilation early intervention model: evaluation](#) – 24th January 2017

Department for Education evaluation of a London-based pilot which established FGM clinics within hospital midwifery services that were supported by specialist staff from a range of agencies. The model enabled professionals to develop strong working relationships and protocols and overcome issues of distrust between agencies to develop a more complementary and holistic service. A range of risks to success are also identified

[University of Cardiff hate crime research](#) – 9th February 2017

The University of Cardiff has been awarded £250,000 by the Economic and Social Research Council to develop research into how hate speech spreads on Twitter following "trigger" events, such as the decision to leave the European Union. The work is being taken forward in partnership with groups including the National Police Chiefs' Council, the Metropolitan Police Service and the London Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime

Upcoming [Crime Reduction Systematic Reviews](#):

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

[Focus on violent crime and sexual offences 2015/16](#) – published 9th February 2017

ONS report shows no statistically significant change in violent crime recorded via the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) over the last year but an estimated 66% reduction since levels peaked in 1995. Police recorded violent crimes have increased by 27% over the last year largely driven by improvements in police crime recording processes. Around half (52%) of all CSEW violent incidents were reported to the police, a proportion which has increased by 10% points since 2011/12. 18% of violent crime victims reported being 'very' emotionally affected by the experience which although lower than in incidents of burglary (24%), rises to 37% among victims of wounding. While the number of sexual offences recorded each year via the CSEW has remained relatively stable since 2008/09, police recorded offences reached their highest level on record in 2015/16. This has been impacted by improvements in recording practices and a greater willingness among victims of both recent and non-recent crimes to come forward and report. The compendium also shows:-

- A general downward trend in [homicides](#) over recent years
- Increases in offences involving [use of weapons](#) for both firearms (+7%) and knives or sharp instruments (+11%) increased after a long-term downward trend. While it is not clear to what extent improvements in recording processes and a more proactive police response have impacted upon these trends, it should be noted that increases in assault with sharp instruments have similarly been reflected in hospital admission statistics (+13%) over the last year. Among young people surveyed via the CSEW, 6.2% of 10 to 15 year olds and 4.2% of 16 to 29 year olds knew someone who carried a knife for their own protection
- Experience of [domestic abuse](#) captured by the CSEW saw a significant reduction between 2004/05 and 2008/09 which has slowed over recent years, although the underlying longer-term trend remains down.
- [Experimental victim profile data](#) have also been released as part of this compendium

[Criminal Justice Statistics quarterly to September 2016](#) – Published 16th February 2017

MOJ statistics showing the number of people formally dealt with by the CJ system falling to the lowest level on record while the conviction ratio (84%) has remained relatively stable. The custody rate for indictable offences has been increasing since September 2010, from 22% to 29%. Offenders with no previous convictions and cautions are now more likely to go to court and be convicted (52%) than to receive a caution. Only 22% of these offenders were convicted 10 years ago.

[National Offender Management Service Workforce Statistics Dec 2016](#) –published 16th Feb 2016

NOMS Data shows a 0.8% reduction in NOMS FTE staff over the last year, a 1% point increase in the shortfall in prison officer staff to 5.3%, a 1.5% point increase in the prison officer leaving rate to 9% and an increase in average working days lost to sickness from 10.6 to 12.0.

[Youth custody data December 2016](#) – published 10th February 2017

Monthly statistics on the declining population in custody of children and young people within secure children's homes (SCHs), secure training centres (STCs) and young offender institutions (YOIs)

3. Inspections

Ongoing and upcoming inspection activity

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|--|---------------------|
| • PEEL: Effectiveness - prevention, investigation, vulnerability, SPR, ROCU | Publication pending |
| • JTAI Partnership response to children affected by domestic abuse | Publication pending |
| • Joint Inspections of Stalking and Harassment (HMIC-led) - Fieldwork | Ongoing |
| • PEEL 2016/17: Overall findings and 'State of Policing' published | March 2017 |
| • HMIC Force Management Statement template issued | April 2017 |
| • 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 |

4. Reviews and Inquiries

[Briefing on Government's response to Charlie Taylor Review of Youth Justice](#) – 6th February 2017

Prison Reform Trust briefing highlights recommendations of the review which have been abandoned, including devolution of youth custody budgets, the national roll out of schemes to divert children away from the criminal justice system, reducing the disproportionate numbers of children in care in trouble with the law, and the introduction of Children's Panels which, the paper argues, all require reconsideration by the government

- **Report in preparation:** [Lammy Review of BAME representation in the CJS](#) (Spring 2017)
- **Evidence in progress:** [Child Sexual Abuse Independent Inquiry](#) (ongoing), [Independent Review into child abuse allegations in football](#) (ongoing), [Disclosure of youth criminal records](#) (7th February 2017), [Immigration inquiry](#) (2nd February 2017), [Implications of Brexit for the justice system inquiry](#) (1st February 2017), [Prison Reform inquiry](#) (31st January 2017), [Hate crime and its violent consequences inquiry](#) (10th January 2017), [Pitchford Undercover Policing inquiry](#) (ongoing), [EU policing and security issues](#) (6th December 2016), [Apprenticeships inquiry](#) (2nd November 2016), [Sharia Law](#) (1st November 2016), [Policing for the Future inquiry](#) (TBC)
- **Reports awaiting government response:** [Reform of the Police Funding Formula](#) (Report published 11th December 2015), [Countering extremism inquiry](#) (Report published 25th August 2016), [Inquiry into the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse](#) (Report published 24th Nov), [Child Protection inquiry](#) (Report published 16th Dec), [Troubled Families Inquiry](#) (Report published 20th December 2016) [Support for ex-offenders inquiry](#) (Report published 16th December 2016), [Emergency Services Communications inquiry](#) (Report published 25th Jan 2017)

5. Legislation

[Digital Economy Bill](#) – Report Stage in Lords – 22nd February 2017

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. [Commons analysis paper](#)

[Children and Social Work Bill](#) – Report Stage in Commons – 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. [Commons analysis](#) - 7th Feb 2017

[National Citizen Service Bill](#) – Report Stage in Commons – TBC

[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. [Lords briefing](#)

[Asset Freezing \(Compensation\) Bill](#) – 2nd reading in Commons – 24th February 2017

A Bill to make provision for the imposing of restrictions on assets owned by persons involved in supplying terrorist organisations in the United Kingdom with arms, for the purpose of securing compensation for citizens of the United Kingdom affected by the supply of such arms.

[Modern Slavery \(Transparency in Supply Chains\) Bill](#) – 2nd reading in Commons – 24th March 2017

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](#)

[Homelessness Reduction Bill](#) – 2nd reading in Commons – 24th February 2017

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. [Lords briefing](#) – 13th Feb 2017

[Criminal Finances Bill](#) – Commons Report Stage – 21st February 2017

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. [Explanatory documents](#) , [Commons briefing](#) published 16th February 2017

[Preventing & Combating Violence Against Women & DV Bill](#) - Commons Report Stage – 24th Feb 2017

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)

[Road Traffic Offenders \(Surrender of Driving Licences\) Bill](#) - Commons Committee Stage – TBC

Private Members' Bill to make provision about the surrender / production of driving licences or test certificates in relation to certain offences; and identifying persons / securing payment in connection with fixed penalty notices
[Commons briefing](#) – 25th January 2017

[Rehabilitation of Offenders \(Amendment\) Bill](#) - Lords Committee Stage – TBC

Private Members' Bill to make provision about rehabilitation periods for particular sentences - amending Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974. [Commons briefing](#) – 24th January 2017

[Unlawful Killing \(Recovery of Remains\) Bill](#) - Commons 2nd reading – 24th February 2017

Private Members' Bill to remove eligibility for parole, create a separate offence and make provision about available sentences in cases where a person, convicted of unlawfully killing another person, has not provided relevant knowledge in their possession for the purposes locating and recovering the remains

[Animal Cruelty and Animal Fighting Sentencing Bills](#) - Commons 2nd reading – 24th Feb 2017

Private Members' Bills to increase the maximum sentences available for specified animal cruelty related offences including animal fighting and amend the Animal Welfare Act 2006

[British Victims of Terrorism \(Asset-Freezing & Comp.\) Bill](#) – Commons 2nd reading – 24th Feb 2017

Private Members' Bill to make provision about the freezing and seizing of assets belonging to states or organisations who sponsor or perpetrate acts of terrorism for the purposes of enabling compensation to be paid

[Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 \(Amendment\) Bill](#) - Commons 2nd reading – 24th March 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.
[Commons briefing](#) - 24th January 2017

[Malicious Communications \(Social Media\) Bill](#) - Commons 2nd reading – 24th March 2017

Private Members' Bill to make provision about offences, penalties and sentences in relation to communications containing threats transmitted or broadcast using online social media

[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

[Missing Persons Guardianship Bill](#) – Lords 2nd reading – TBC

Private Members' Bill to make provision for the administration of the affairs of missing persons

[Age of Criminal Responsibility Bill](#) – Lords 2nd reading - TBC

Private Members' Bill to raise the age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12

[Support to Exit Prostitution Bill](#) – Lords 2nd reading - TBC

Private Members' Bill to improve support for people exiting prostitution

6. Consultations

[Police inspection: HMIC proposed programme and framework 2017 to 2018](#)

HMIC consultation on proposed inspection framework for 2018, in particular; proposals to assess police leadership as part of all three elements of the PEEL programme as opposed to separately and proposed thematic inspections of hate crime, counter-terrorism, child protection and crime data integrity

Open date: 20/01/2017

Close date: 24/02/2017

[Reforming the Advocates' Graduated Fee Scheme](#)

Ministry of Justice consultation on proposals to reform the funding scheme for advocates defending clients in the Crown Court. The government is seeking views on the graduated fee bundle, categorisation of offences and standard cases, early guilty pleas and cracked trials, special preparation and equalities matters

Open date: 05/01/2017

Close date: 02/03/2017

Home Office Circular 43/2001

Home Office consultation on updated Home Office circular guidance (43/2001) for PCCs receiving a request for financial assistance from officers (or former officers) facing legal proceedings. Changes have been made to take account of the Police Act 1996 and the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011. Feedback can be submitted to policersourcespolicy@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Open date: 09/12/2016

Close date: 03/03/2017

[Firearms licensing fees](#)

Home Office consultation on proposed fee levels for prohibited weapons, museums and approved shooting clubs. New fees are expected to come into force in 2017, subject to enabling powers in Policing and Crime Bill

Open date: 12/01/2017

Close date: 09/03/2017

[Corporate liability for economic crime](#)

Ministry of Justice call for evidence seeking views on reforming the law on corporate liability for economic crime and, in particular, whether the 'identification doctrine' (requirement to prove a "directing mind" and will in terms of corporate offending) is deficient as a tool for effective law enforcement against large modern companies

Open date: 13/01/2017

Close date: 24/03/2017

[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