



Commissioner's horizon scanning briefing

1. Policy and Practice
2. Research, Development and Statistics
3. Inspections
4. Reviews and Inquiries
5. Legislation
6. Consultations

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1. Policy and Practice

[£6m awarded from the Modern Slavery Innovation Fund](#) – 15th March 2017

Home Secretary announces the first 10 organisations which will collectively receive £6m from the £11m Modern Slavery Innovation Fund. The funding will support projects that aim to stop child slavery in factories supplying products to the UK and work to identify and disrupt trafficking routes into the country. Announcements were made as part of the [Home Secretary's speech](#) on the role of financial institutions in disrupting human trafficking

[New funding awarded to expand drug and alcohol prevention resource in schools](#) – 13th March 2017

Home Office and Public Health England award Mentor UK £80,000 a year over the next three years to expand the Alcohol and Drug Education and Prevention Information Service (ADEPIS) programme for schools and community prevention services. The programme aims to equip young people with the life skills and resilience to deal with the challenges associated with alcohol and drugs

[Restorative Justice Action Plan Progress Report](#) – 3rd March 2017

Ministry of Justice publish action plan progress report against the November 2014 to March 2018 Restorative Justice Action Plan. Key achievements over the previous two years include:-

- Ensuring equal access to restorative justice: delivery of advice and guidance provided to PCCs, regional workshops, academic-led mapping exercise, online services directory, materials to help support prisons to deliver RJ conferences, guidance for police officers in forces participating in the out of court disposal pilot
- Increasing awareness and understanding: delivery of a national conference, a paper on RJ terminology, awareness raising in respect of new duties under the Victims' Code of Practice, a two-part review undertaken by the Victims' Commissioner
- Ensuring that good quality restorative justice: production of guidelines, additional funding to enable organisations to apply for the Restorative Service Quality Mark for free, establishing an Experts in RJ Group to provide advice and guidance to the Ministry of Justice and requirements set within PCC grant conditions

[Government unveils plans to tighten UK defences against money laundering](#) - 15th March 2017

Government publishes [updated Money Laundering Regulations](#) and announces new Office for Professional Body Anti-Money Laundering Supervision (OPBAS) which will help improve the standards of supervision and the way agencies work together tackle weaknesses in the supervisory system that criminals and terrorists can exploit. The government will also work with the professional body AML to approve one piece of guidance from for each sector to reduce and simplify the amount of guidance businesses need to follow

[National Surveillance Camera Strategy launched](#) – 14th March 2017

The 3 year strategy sets out the Surveillance Camera Commissioner's vision to ensure the public are assured that any use of surveillance camera systems in a public place helps to protect and keep them safe, while respecting the individual's right to privacy. It aims to provide direction and leadership in the surveillance camera community to enable system operators to understand good and best practice and their legal obligations

[Spring Budget 2017](#) – 8th March 2017

Chancellor confirms additional £2 billion for adult social care provision over the next three years, an additional £20 million to support organisations working to tackle domestic abuse or supporting victims between 2018 and 2020. Home Office resource budgets remain as set at Spending Review 2015, with departmental resource spending continuing to grow with inflation in 2020-21. [Summary of key points](#)

[Action Counters Terrorism \(ACT\) campaign launched](#) – 6th to 31st March 2017

Counter terrorism security office campaign urging the public to '[ACT](#) on their instincts' and report suspicious activity to help police bring dangerous offenders to justice and prevent terror attacks in the UK and overseas

[An inclusive service: the twenty-first century fire and rescue service](#) – 7th March 2017

LGA paper setting out the changes in the role of a firefighter, outlining activities underway in fire and rescue authorities and highlighting suggestions for further areas of work to develop a more diverse firefighter workforce

[Guidance for Professionals on Responding to Domestic Abuse](#) – 8th March 2017

Department of Health guidance for health sector practitioners on identify potential victims of domestic abuse, initiating sensitive routine lines of enquiry and responding effectively to disclosures

[General advice on attending a court or tribunal](#) – 13th March 2017

HM Courts & Tribunals Service publish advice for those attending court, including victims, witnesses and jurors

[Mayoral Election Toolkit](#) – 7th March 2017

DCLG toolkit and promotional campaign ahead of elections for new combined authority mayors on 4th May 2017

[Prison Minister's speech at the Independent Monitoring Board Conference](#) – 11th March 2017

Recent Commons briefing papers include: [Youth unemployment statistics](#) (15th Mar), [Local government in England: structures](#) (15th Mar), [Detention of vulnerable persons](#) (13th Mar), [April's Law: sentencing for child abuse offences](#) (10th Mar), [Dog fouling](#) (10th Mar), [Adult Social Care Funding](#) (8th Mar), [Health and Social Care Budgets](#) (8th Mar), [Migration statistics](#) (7th Mar), [Prisons and Courts Statistics](#) (7th Mar)

2. Research, Development and Statistics

[Evaluation of the effectiveness of 20 mph speed limits](#) – 13th March 2017

Evaluation undertaken by Manchester City Council reports that the introduction of 20mph speed limits across central, south and east Manchester in 2013 resulted in only a 'marginal' (0.7mph) reduction in speeds, in line with findings from other towns and cities. While on a small number of roads, speeds fell by as much as 10mph, on other roads, average speeds rose by around 4mph. While accidents involving cyclists fell by 42% city-wide, the areas where 20mph zones had been introduced only saw reductions of between 12% and 16%. Proposals to roll the scheme out across the wider police force area have been halted with the report suggesting that the remaining £668,000 available may be better invested in alternative road safety measures

[Resource Allocation Processes in Policing in Great Britain](#) – 13th March 2017 [Police Foundation blog](#)

18-month CIPFA funded research project undertaken by the Gwilym Gibbon Centre for Public Policy at Nuffield College explores police resourcing in Great Britain. The report concludes that value for money in policing has been increasing since 2010 alongside a sharp reduction in public expenditure and stable levels of crime and public confidence in the police. The introduction of PCCs in 2012 may have contributed modestly to this result. The report stresses the need for equalisation of the police funding formula sighting good practice examples of good practice in Australia's Commonwealth Grants Commission. The report uses Crime Survey of England and Wales (CSEW) data as a basis for measuring police force effectiveness, recognising the limitations of police recorded crime statistics in determining trends. The final research report will be available from 20th March 2017

[Performance Tracker: Spring 2017](#) – Published 28th February 2017

Institute for Government Performance Tracker uses government data to examine five key public services: [hospitals](#), [adult social care](#), [police](#), [prisons](#) and [schools](#). The report concludes that the Government's Spending Review was largely successful between 2010 and 2014, but did not stimulate the transformation needed in the longer-term. The quality of key public services has been in decline since 2014, particularly in respect of prisons, adult social care and hospitals where emergency action has been necessary. The report argues that a 17% reduction in spending on police was managed without an apparent drop in service quality – indicating that substantial improvements in efficiency were achieved. Public satisfaction in the police remained strong, despite reductions in neighbourhood policing in a reduction in the proportion of residents feeling that police conducted high visibility foot patrols in their area (down from 39% in 2009/10 to 27% in 2015/16). The report also notes signs of stress among the police workforce with the number of officers on long-term sick leave rising by 35% between 2013 and 2016 from 1.5% of the workforce to 2.1%. The report makes recommendations longer-term public sector reforms which embed data-driven efficiency within decision-making. More specifically, that:-

- The Treasury should work with departmental finance and analytic professionals to develop its own Performance Tracker matching spending in public services to an assessment of demand, scope and quality
- The Treasury should publish this Tracker or, at a minimum, make the key assumptions underpinning spending decisions public and available for scrutiny by Parliament
- The Government should subject these assumptions to independent review to assess their viability, potentially through an 'OBR for public spending'

[The role of mothers in so called 'honour' based violence](#) – 13th March 2017

A study by Leeds Beckett University of 100 honour-based crimes found mothers to be the most prevalent female perpetrators of so called 'honour' based violence, and the "driving force" behind 64% of the 100 cases studied. The study also found that the involvement of mothers was rarely captured in police crime reports and even in cases where they were explicitly implicated in offences, officers did not identify mothers in crime reports in 12% of cases examined. Research conductor Rachael Aplin, from Leeds Beckett University suggested that this may in part be on account of difficulties officers face in distinguishing between mothers as primary offenders and secondary victims forced into complicity. The research is one of two studies commissioned by Hertfordshire PCC David Lloyd which aims to learn more about the experiences of victims of honour-based violence in order to inform the Constabulary's domestic abuse action plan

[Knife possession sentencing quarterly to December 2016](#) – published 9th March 2017

The number of knife possession offences dealt with by the CJS has risen by 3% since 2015, largely driven increases amongst juvenile offenders. 41% of adult offenders and 11% of juvenile offenders were given an immediate custodial sentence and 9% of adult offenders and 31% of juvenile offenders received a caution. The proportion of offences resulting in a caution has fallen by 13% pts and 3% pts respectively among adult and young offenders since 2008. The average custodial sentence length for knife possession has risen by 1.9 months (33%) since 2008 to 7.7 months. Trend [data available at police force level](#)

[Operation of police powers under the Terrorism Act 2000 to December 2016](#) – published 9th March 2017

Arrests for terrorism-related offences fell by 8% in 2016 compared with the previous year from 282 to 260. Of 62 trials completed by the Crown Prosecution Service in 2016, 54 (87%) led to a conviction. As of 31 December 2016 there were no people in custody for domestic extremism/separatism and 183 people in custody for terrorism-related offences. This compares to 25 and 143 individuals respectively as at 31st December 2015. Release includes [details](#) of outcomes and demographic profile of those arrested charged and convicted

[Drink-drive rehabilitation scheme course statistics to December 2016](#) – published 9th March 2017

Provider and locality-based quarterly statistics detailing number of referrals received by approved course providers, courses delivered and completion rates

Upcoming [Crime Reduction Systematic Reviews](#):

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

3. Inspections

Ongoing and upcoming inspection activity

- [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
- PEEL: Efficiency fieldwork - VfM and matching resources to demand Spring 2017
- PEEL: Legitimacy fieldwork - fairness, legality and ethics Spring 2017
- HMIC: Crime data integrity (unannounced visits) Rolling programme

4. Reviews and Inquiries

Government Response to Reform of the Police Funding Formula inquiry report – 16th March 2017

Government response to the Home Affairs Committee report 'Reform of the Police Funding Formula' accepts that the dissemination of inaccurate funding formula information was 'serious and regrettable'. There are no plans to compensate PCCs for costs they incurred in accessing the commercial data required, however the Home Office will seek to utilise publicly available data as part of any future formula. The Home Office will engage extensively with the policing sector and relevant experts as part of the review of the Police Core Grant Distribution Formula and, as recommended, this will involve police representatives, academics and members from organisations such as CIPFA, the Institute for Fiscal Studies and the College of Policing. The Minister for Policing and Fire is operating an open door policy with all PCCs and forces wishing to discuss the formula and no new arrangements will be implemented without public consultation. Engagement will consider the relative financial position of forces and whether precept should be taken into account. Appropriate transitional arrangements will be put in place to manage the impact of changes in funding among 'winners' and 'losers'. The Counter Terrorism Policing Grant will remain ring-fenced and classified for security reasons. The government makes clear that any future funding arrangements should not create barriers or disincentives to collaboration and should form part of a broad and coherent package of police-led transformation

Government Response to Child Protection inquiry report – published 9th March 2017

Government response to the Public Accounts Committee report 'Child Protection' agrees with seven of the nine recommendations proposed and has already implemented actions in response to three, which include the setting of minimum standards for local authorities, setting out [proposals](#) to improve the recruitment, retention and development of child and family social workers and setting out measures to address the risk of conflicts of interest around funding decisions. The government is working with Ofsted to develop a revised inspection framework for local authorities which will be published in autumn 2017 and be introduced in January 2018. The department is also examining how qualitative and quantitative data can be used more effectively to provide assurance in between inspection cycles. A national 'what works' learning system will be in place by 2020

Government Response to Troubled Families inquiry report – published 9th March 2017

Government response to the Public Accounts Committee report on the Troubled Families programme agrees with all six core recommendations, with action having been taken in the case of 5 and 1 scheduled to be completed by the end of 2017. DCLG will report to parliament on an annual basis from March 2017 against baseline data from the 2015-20 programme. This will also include reporting throughout the lifetime of the programme to 2022 using over 60 outcome indicators, rich qualitative information and before and after surveys of over 1,000 families. Spot checks will be undertaken to improve oversight of the payment by results process.

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- **Report in preparation:** [Lammy Review of BAME representation in the CJS](#) (Spring 2017)
 - **Evidence in progress:** [Policing for the Future inquiry](#) (14th March 2017), [Hate crime and its violent consequences inquiry](#) (14th March 2017), [Child Sexual Abuse Independent Inquiry \(update report and revised terms of reference\)](#) published 10th March 2017), [EU policing and security issues](#) (7th March 2017), [Immigration inquiry](#) (2nd March 2017), [Prison Reform inquiry](#) (28th February 2017), [Disclosure of youth criminal records](#) (21st February 2017), [Implications of Brexit for the justice system inquiry](#) (1st February 2017), [Independent Review into child abuse allegations in football](#) (ongoing), [Pitchford Undercover Policing inquiry](#) (ongoing), [Apprenticeships inquiry](#) (2nd November 2016), [Sharia Law](#) (1st November 2016),
 - **Reports awaiting government response:** [Countering extremism inquiry](#) ([Report published](#) 25th August 2016), [Emergency Services Communications inquiry](#) ([Report published](#) 25th Jan 2017)

5. Legislation

National Citizen Service Bill – Ping Pong – 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. [Commons Library Analysis](#) published 10th March 2017

Children and Social Work Bill – Ping Pong – 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](#)

Homelessness Reduction Bill – Third Reading in Lords – TBC

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

Digital Economy Bill – Report Stage in Lords – 20th March 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](#)

Criminal Finances Bill – Committee Stage in Lords – 28th March 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](#) , [Lords briefing](#) published 3rd March 2017

Preventing & Combating Violence Against Women & DV Bill – Committee Stage in Lords – TBC

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) [Lords briefing](#) – 7th March 2017

Asset Freezing (Compensation) Bill – 2nd reading in Commons – 24th March 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](#)

Road Traffic Offenders (Surrender of Driving Licences) Bill - Commons Report Stage – 24th Mar 2017

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

Prison and Courts Reform Bill – Commons 2nd reading – 20th March 2017 [Commons analysis](#) - 16th March

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 more flexibly and handle case backlogs more flexibly
- Introducing new fixed tariffs capping whiplash compensation and banning claims without medical evidence

[Supporting documents](#)

Crime (Assaults on Emergency Services Staff) Bill introduced – Commons 2nd reading – 24th Mar 2017

Private Members' Bill to make certain offences including malicious wounding, grievous or actual bodily harm and common assault aggravated when perpetrated against a constable, firefighter, doctor, paramedic or nurse in the execution of his or her duty or against a person assisting these persons in the execution of their duty

Sexual Offences (Amendment) Bill introduced – Commons 2nd reading – 24th Mar 2017

Private Members' Bill to make provision for the circumstances in which the sexual history of a victim of rape or attempted rape may be introduced at a trial; to prohibit in certain circumstances the disclosure by the police of a victim's identity to an alleged perpetrator of a serious sexual crime; to extend the range of serious offences which may be referred to the Court of Appeal on the grounds of undue leniency of the sentence

Unlawful Killing (Recovery of Remains) Bill - Commons 2nd reading – 24th March 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 March 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 March 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

6. Consultations

[Corporate liability for economic crime](#)

Open date: 13/01/2017

Close date: 24/03/2017

[Re-employing senior fire officers after their retirement](#)

Home Office consultation on proposed changes to the Fire and Rescue National Framework to restrict senior fire officers retiring from post and subsequently being re-employed in the same or very similar roles

Open date: 21/02/2017

Close date: 04/04/2017

[Draft Codes of Practice for Investigatory Powers Act 2016](#)

Home Office consultation on draft Codes of Practice in relation to interception of communications, national security notices, bulk acquisition of communications data, equipment interference and use of bulk personal datasets under provisions of the Investigatory Powers Act (IPA) 2016

Open date: 23/02/2017

Close date: 06/04/2017

[Money Laundering Regulations 2017](#)

Government consultation on draft Money Laundering Regulations 2017 and policy decisions to transpose the Fourth Money Laundering Directive (4MLD) and those aspects of the Fund Transfer Regulation (FTR) which need to be transposed into national law, following the 8 week consultation in 2016

Open date: 15/03/2017

Close date: 12/04/2017

[Anti-money laundering supervisory regime](#)

HM Treasury seeks further views on the mandate and powers for the new Office for Professional Body Anti-Money Laundering Supervision – the body which will help, and ensure, professional body Anti-Money Laundering (AML) supervisors fulfil their obligations under the Money Laundering Regulations

Open date: 16/03/2017

Close date: 26/04/2017

[Draft guidance on Child abuse and neglect](#)

NICE consultation on draft guideline for professionals on recognising, assessing and responding to abuse and neglect of children and young people

Open date: 21/02/2017

Close date: 19/04/2017

[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

[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