



Commissioner's horizon scanning briefing

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1. Policy and Practice

New National Strategy for Police Custody – 13th January 2017

National Police Chiefs' Council publishes consistent principles to ensure forces are using custody in a legitimate, effective and efficient way. The strategy takes account of the increased focus on vulnerability, scrutiny and collaboration and aims to ensure that all detainees, particularly those that are vulnerable, are treated with respect and their rights protected. The strategy sets out a number of aspirations which include; eliminating the use of police custody for Mental Health Act detentions; ensuring children are only held in custody as a last resort; encouraging innovative but appropriate alternatives to custody; utilising opportunities to collaborate where it will save money or help us work better and; consistently identifying and managing risk

Disabled Police Association Vision for 2017 – 16th January 2017

The Disabled Police Association launches strategic vision for ensuring and promoting fair and equal treatment of disabled people in policing; increasing strategic engagement on behalf of disabled people with key stakeholders in policing; and improving the policing service delivered to disabled people within communities

Package of measures announced to transform Mental Health support – 9th January 2017

Prime Minister announces package of reforms which include a new green paper on children and young people's mental health to set out plans to transform services in schools, universities and for families, a new partnership with employers to improve mental health support in the workplace, further alternatives to hospital to support people in the community, investing in and expanding digital mental health services and new ways to right the injustices people with mental health problems face, including a formal review of the mental health debt form

Suicide Prevention: Progress Report 2015/16 – 9th January 2017

Third annual progress report on delivery against the cross-government suicide prevention strategy. The 2012 strategy has also been extended to include self-harm prevention in its own right; deliver improvements in suicide bereavement support; better target suicide prevention and support and improve data at both a national and local level. The strategy also supports the recommendations of the Mental Health Taskforce's [Five Year Forward View for Mental Health](#) in aiming to reduce the number of suicides by 10% by the year ending March 2021 and ensuring every local area has a multi-agency suicide prevention plan in place by the end of 2017

Plans to increase maximum sentence for stalking - 6th January 2017

Justice Minister announces plans via Policing and Crime Bill to double the maximum custodial sentence for stalking from 5 to 10 years and from 7 to 14 years if the offence was racially or religiously aggravated

Families of murder victims to receive enhanced support – 17th January 2017

Bereaved families will be offered a series of meetings with the CPS and the police which will include a joint meeting with both following completion of their full reviews into the case. This will provide an opportunity for families to learn as much possible about the case such as reasons for acquittal and steps that can be taken

Faulty by design: The state of public-service commissioning – 18th January 2017

Report from the Reform think tank evaluates the success of current approaches to public service commissioning and concludes that commissioning bodies are not delivering value for money in respect of:-

- Focusing on outcomes that matter to service users - success is being measured by outputs and inputs, with commissioners feeling they do not possess the skills to design outcomes-based contracts
- Integrating services to maximise effectiveness - commissioning bodies are fragmented and ambiguity of responsibility for service design is leading to duplication, gaps in delivery and failure to prevent demand
- Devolution – centralised approaches are undermining the transformation and integration of public services and creating a postcode lottery across in healthcare, welfare-to-work and probation services

Rebalancing Act – New resource for reducing health inequalities in the CJS – 11th January 2017

Revolving Doors Agency, Public Health England and Home Office advice for Directors of Public Health, Police and Crime Commissioners and other health and justice commissioners. The product explores ways in which partnerships can be strengthened to address health inequalities faced by those in contact with the criminal justice system. It provides an overview of key health inequalities experienced by the offending population, considers associations between health and social care needs with offending and reoffending behaviour; and identifies relevant stakeholders and how they can work together to address these needs

Learning the Lessons Bulletin: Transgender Prisoners – 10th January 2017

Prisons and Probation Ombudsman bulletin drawing on recommendations from investigations into deaths in custody and complaint investigations. The bulletin highlights six lessons to better protect transgender prisoners:

- Evaluating the location of a transgender prisoner based on an individual assessment of their needs
- All those involved in transgender prisoner's care attending ACCT case reviews (suicide / self-harm)
- Meaningfully investigating all allegations of transphobic bullying and harassment and taking action
- Officers having meaningful contact with transgender prisoners and being aware of their vulnerabilities
- Local policies that are in line with national guidance - not imposing unfair additional restrictions
- Reasonable adjustments to help transgender prisoners live in their gender role

Assessing child sexual exploitation from police and partner agency records – 18th January 2017

Police Foundation blog considers the challenges of identifying risk of child sexual exploitation using multi-agency proxy indicators and highlights a 'confused and partial picture'

A councillor's workbook on neighbourhood and community engagement – 11th January 2017

LGA workbook on skills, approaches and tactics involved in neighbourhood and community engagement

Violence against women and girls: communications insight pack updated – 20th January 2017

Home Office information pack includes national statistics, policy background and campaign details

College of Policing Digest – 13th January 2017

Recent Commons briefing papers include: Counter-extremism policy in English schools (20th Jan), Suicide: summary of statistics (20th Jan), Mental health problems: statistics on prevalence and services (19th Jan), Exiting the EU and security, law enforcement and criminal justice (17th Jan), Syrian refugees and the UK response (10th Jan), Funding of the Crown Prosecution Service (9th Jan), Access to justice (9th Jan)

2. Research, Development and Statistics

Crime in England and Wales: year ending September 2016 – Published 19th January 2017

Latest figures from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) indicate that crime levels to September 2016 saw no significant change on the previous year (around 6.2 million). Headline estimates on prevalence of fraud and computer misuse offences were reported based on the first complete year of Crime Survey data. These offences are estimated to account for an additional 5.6 million crimes not previously captured via the survey. Police recorded crime increased by 8% - largely due to improvements in crime recording practices and processes. Fraud offences referred to the police increased by 3%, while industry data showed that frauds on UK-issued cards increased by 39%. CSEW estimates showed no significant change in levels of violence compared to a 22% increase in police recorded violent crime – affected in part by the inclusion of 2 additional harassment offences as notifiable offences. The report highlights smaller genuine increases in some lower volume but high harm categories of police recorded violent crime, including homicide (+5% excluding 96 historic cases resulting from Hillsborough 1989 verdict) and knife crime (+11%). Total police recorded theft offences have remained stable, however, there have been increases in vehicle offences (+6%), theft from person (+6%), shoplifting (+5%) and domestic burglary (+3%) over the last year. Data available at [police force level](#)

Crime Outcomes in England and Wales to September 2016 – Published 19th January 2017

Police recorded crime outcome data to September 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 (12%) and formal (3%) and informal (3.5%) out of court disposals. The proportion of cases that could not be progressed due to evidential difficulties (24%) increased marginally, while the proportion that are 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.

Victim Personal Statement: Victim Inequality 2015/16 – 18th January 2017

Victims' Commissioner publishes analysis of data on the offer of Victim Personal Statements (VPS) based on findings from the Crime Survey for England and Wales between 2013 and 2016. The report shows that only 15% of victims were offered the opportunity to make a VPS in 2015/16 – a level which has remained relatively stable over the last three years. The proportion of victims taking up the opportunity to make a VPS increased from 51% to 61% between 2015 and 2016. 31% wanted to read out their VPS in court in 2015/16, a figure which has fallen from 38% over the last year. The proportion of victims feeling that their VPS was taken into account saw a significant reduction between 2013/14 and 2015/16 from 69% to 57%. Victims less likely to be offered a VPS include older people (8%) those that are married (12%) and those that live in rural areas (12%)

UK's National Preventive Mechanism Annual Report – 13th January 2017

UK's National Preventive Mechanism comprises 21 bodies required to monitor different types of detention, such as prisons, police custody, court custody, customs custody facilities, secure accommodation for children, immigration facilities, mental health and military detention. The report is accompanied by [monitoring data](#) across every detention setting in the UK in 2015/16 as part of the Detention Population Data Mapping Project

Fire incident response times, England - 2015/16 – 19th January 2017

Home Office data highlights gradual increases in response times to fires over the past 20 years despite slight decreases in dwelling fire and rural attendance times over the last year. [Data available at FRA level](#)

Youth Custody data: November 2016 – published 13th January 2017

Highlights ongoing reductions in the number of custody of children and young people within the secure estate

3. Inspections

Ongoing and upcoming inspection activity

- PEEL: Effectiveness - prevention, investigation, vulnerability, SPR, ROCU Report pending
- [JTAI Partnership response to children affected by domestic abuse](#) Report pending
- [HMIC: Modern Slavery](#) TBC
- Joint Inspections of Stalking and Harassment (HMIC-led) TBC
- HMIC Force Management Statement template issued April 2017
- Force Management Statement completion deadline October 2017
- HMIC: Counter-terrorism Unannounced visits
- [HMIC: Crime data integrity \(unannounced visits\)](#) Rolling programme
- Joint targeted [Child Protection Inspection](#) (Ofsted-led) Rolling programme
- Joint inspection of Police Custody Arrangements (HMI Prisons-led) Rolling programme

4. Reviews and Inquiries

[Policing for the Future Inquiry launched](#) – 12th January 2017

The Home Affairs Committee inquiry launched to explore the challenges of modern policing and to examine whether police forces are sufficiently equipped and resourced to keep the public safe and to respond effectively to evolving demands. The inquiry will consider current and future crime trends and their implications for policing, gaps in capacity and capability, the relationship between public expectations of the police and operational realities, police funding levels, efficiency, cost effectiveness and the role of PCCs in driving innovation and reform and the role of digital technology in policing

[Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Programme report published](#) – 13th January 2017

Public Accounts Committee [inquiry](#) report commends central government, local agencies for their efforts to date, but highlights a lack of clarity around responsibilities and entitlements under the programme which could threaten its success in the long-term. The Committee expressed particular concerns that some councils are confused about what they are expected to provide to refugees and exactly how this should be funded. It also found uncertainty as to whether survivors of torture or violence are getting specialist help and that measurements of programme's success are too vague

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](#) (11th January 2017), [Implications of Brexit for the justice system inquiry](#) (10th January 2017), [Hate crime and its violent consequences inquiry](#) (10th January 2017), [Disclosure of youth criminal records](#) (10th January 2017), [Pitchford Undercover Policing inquiry](#) (9th January 2017), [Prison Reform inquiry](#) (14th December 2016), [EU policing and security issues](#) (6th December 2016), [Emergency Services Communications](#) (16th November 2016), [Apprenticeships inquiry](#) (2nd November 2016), [Sharia Law](#) (1st November 2016)

5. Legislation

Policing and Crime Bill – Ping Pong Stage – 18th January 2017

[Supporting documents](#)

- Places a statutory duty on police, fire and ambulance services to collaborate to improve efficiency and effectiveness. Enable PCCs to take on responsibility for fire and rescue services.
- Reforms the police complaints and disciplinary systems, including measures to extend disciplinary procedures to former officers (up to 12 months after leaving). Makes changes to governance of the IPCC.
- Enable chief officers to confer a wider range of policing powers on police civilian staff and volunteers.
- Introduces provisions in respect of breach of pre-charge bail conditions and makes changes to rules governing how police deal with people suffering mental crisis under s135 & s136 of Mental Health Act 1983
- Makes changes to terms of office for Deputy PCCs and would give the Home Secretary the power to change the name of a police area by order
- Provides statutory definition of the terms 'lethal', 'component part' and 'antique firearm' (Firearms Act 1968)
- Amends Licensing Act 2003 to make clear powdered and vaporised alcohol are both covered by the Act
- Makes provisions relating to the enforcement of EU, UN and other financial sanctions
- Mandates that offences relating to CSE (Sexual Offences Act 2003) cover streaming / transmission of indecent images of children. Enables Secretary of State to issue statutory guidance to local taxi and private hire licensing authorities with regard to the protection of children and vulnerable adults
- [Lords amendments to the Policing and Crime Bill](#) – Commons briefing paper - 9th January 2017

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;

- [Government votes against plans](#) to put compulsory teaching of sex education on a statutory footing

National Citizen Service Bill – Committee Stage in Commons – 24th January 2017

[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](#)

Digital Economy Bill – Committee Stage in Lords – 31st January 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](#)

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 – Report Stage – 27th January 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. The draft bill underwent scrutiny by the Communities and Local Government Select Committee and has received [government support Commons briefing](#) - 24th Oct 2016

- Government [confirms](#) further £48m funding for Councils for new and expanded services – 17th Jan 17

Criminal Finances Bill – Commons Report Stage – TBC

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 Library Analysis](#) , [Consultation responses](#) Impact assessments and RPC ratings published 13th January 2017

Preventing & Combating Violence Against Women & DV Bill - Commons Committee Stage – 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)

Sexual Offences (Pardons Etc.) Bill – Commons 2nd reading – 20th January 2016

Private Members' Bill to formally pardon gay and bisexual men convicted for now abolished sexual offences and enable any mention of these offences to be removed from criminal record checks.

Road Traffic Offenders (Surrender of Driving Licences) Bill - Commons 2nd reading – 27th January 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

Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (Amendment) Bill - Commons 2nd reading – 27th January 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

Rehabilitation of Offenders (Amendment) Bill - Lords 2nd reading – 27th January 2017

Unlawful Killing (Recovery of Remains) Bill - Commons 2nd reading – 3rd February 2017

British Victims of Terrorism (Asset-Freezing & Compensation) Bill - 2nd reading – 24th February 2017

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

On-line Safety Bill – Lords 2nd reading - TBC

Missing Persons Guardianship Bill – Lords 2nd reading – TBC

Age of Criminal Responsibility Bill – Introduced 9th September 2016 - Lords 2nd reading - TBC

Support to Exit Prostitution Bill – Introduced 14th June 2016 - Lords 2nd reading - TBC

6. Consultations

[Provisional Police Grant Report 2017 to 2018](#)

Home Office consultation on the provisional police grant report which sets out the aggregate amount of grants proposed for the police in England and Wales for 2017 to 2018 and the proposed amount of grant for each local policing body

Open date: 15/12/2016

Close date: 26/01/2017

[Crime Severity Score for England and Wales](#)

ONS consultation on proposed methodology and use. Feedback can be sent to crimestatistics@ons.gsi.gov.uk or submitted via the [template](#) provided the end of January

Open date: 30/11/2016

Close date: 31/01/2017

[Institute for Apprenticeships: draft strategic guidance](#)

Department for Education consultation on draft strategic guidance for the Institute for Apprenticeships, setting out the government's views on how the institute should carry out its functions

Open date: 04/01/2017

Close date: 31/01/2017

[Driving offences and penalties relating to causing death or serious injury](#)

Ministry of Justice consultation for those with an interest in road traffic legislation on the distinction between 'careless' and 'dangerous' driving, a perceived 'gap in the law' for causing serious injury by careless driving, maximum penalties for causing death and driving disqualifications

Open date: 05/12/2016

Close date: 01/02/2017

[Draft regulations for the Apprenticeship Levy](#)

HM Revenue and Customs technical consultation for large employers, employer advisers, and payroll agencies on draft regulations covering calculation, reporting, payment and recovery of the Apprenticeship Levy

Open date: 14/12/2016

Close date: 03/02/2017

[Witness Service – PCC Relationships](#)

Citizens Advice Witness Service consultation to consider how relationship with PCCs might be further developed to achieving better outcomes for victims and witnesses. Results will be used to inform the focus and priorities of future engagement with PCCs from April 2017

Open date: 13/01/2017

Close date: 03/02/2017

['Banning order offences' under the Housing and Planning Act 2016](#)

DCLG consultation seeking views and comments on which offences should constitute 'banning order offences' as defined by section 14 of the Housing and Planning Act 2016

Open date: 13/12/2016

Close date: 10/02/2017

[Policing Future: changing demands and new challenges inquiry](#)

Call for written evidence as part of the Home Affairs Committee inquiry to establish whether police forces are sufficiently equipped and resourced to keep the public safe and to respond effectively to evolving demands

Open date: 09/01/2017

Close date: 16/02/2017

New expectations for adult male prisons

HMI Prisons consultation on proposed updates to the 'Expectations for adult male prisons' inspection criteria to ensure that expectations reflect the new prison reform agenda and evolving human rights standards

Open date: 03/01/2017

Close date: 17/02/2017

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 policeresourcespolicy@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