



Commissioner's horizon scanning briefing

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1. Policy and Practice

Queen's speech opens extended two year parliamentary session – 21st June 2017

Government priorities and legislative proposals in relation to policing and criminal justice include:-

- **Draft Domestic Violence and Abuse Bill** to ensure victims have the confidence to come forward and report their experiences. The Bill will establish of a Domestic Violence Abuse Commissioner, provide a statutory definition of domestic abuse, create new domestic abuse civil prevention and protection orders and ensure that sentencing of abusive behaviour involving children reflects the devastating life-long impact it can have
- **Courts Bill** to modernise the courts system. The Bill will include provisions to end direct cross examination of domestic abuse victims by alleged perpetrators in the family courts, enable more victims to participate in trials through virtual hearings and free up court time for more serious cases by enabling those charged with some less serious offences to opt to plead guilty, accept a conviction and pay a statutory fixed penalty online
- **Counter Terrorism** measures include the introduction of a commission for countering extremism to help the Government develop new policies to tackle extremism and work with online companies to reduce the availability of extremist material online. The Government's counter-terrorism strategy will be reviewed to ensure police and security services have the powers needed to deal with terrorism and tougher prison sentences will be considered for those found guilty of terror offences
- **Tackling Discrimination** – the Government will publish findings of the Race Disparity Audit later this year which highlights differences in public services outcomes for people of different backgrounds. New guidance has also been issued to prisons on the treatment and management of transgender offenders
- **Mental Health** - the Government will work towards a new Mental Health Act by publishing recommendations on where new policy could provide greater rights for those experiencing mental health problems. The government will also explore increases and disproportionality in MH detention rates among people from certain ethnic backgrounds, and whether Community Treatment Orders remain fit for purpose
- **Data Protection Bill** will aim to modernise and update UK data protection and data processing regimes by law enforcement agencies. A new Digital Charter will also be developed working with technology companies, charities, communities and international partners to ensure that the UK is "the safest place to be online"
- **Ending Modern Slavery** will remain an key aspiration, working to ensure governments and international agencies prioritise activity and resources to tackle slavery, bring perpetrators to justice and support victims
- Government powers will be strengthened to protect the UKs **Critical national infrastructure**
- A new **Independent Public Advocate** will be introduced to act for bereaved families after a public disaster

Parliamentary debates on the speech are scheduled to conclude on 29th June 2017

General Election 2017: Ministerial Appointments – 11th June 2017

New ministerial appointments following the general election 2017 include David Lidington, [Secretary of State for Justice](#) and Nick Hurd, [Minister for Policing and the Fire Service](#)

Prison reform: open letter from the Justice Secretary – 21st June 2017

Justice Secretary David Lidington set out the work under way to make prisons 'places of safety and reform'. This includes increasing prison staff numbers to provide greater capacity to directly supervise and support offenders, improvements in prison security, work to tackle drugs, mobile phone access and use of drones in and around prisons, and continuing to transform our prison estate through a £1.3 billion investment programme

Minister encourages forces to support Operation Sceptre in July – 14th June 2017

Safeguarding Minister Sarah Newton has called upon forces to support co-ordinated police action to tackle knife crime from 14th July as part of Operation Sceptre. Intensified action will include targeted stop and searches, weapon sweeps, test purchases of knives from retailers, and the use of surrender bins. At the time of reporting, 29 police forces are expected to take part, the largest number since the Operation launched in 2015

French-British action plan: Internet Security – 13th June 2017

Prime Minister and President Macron agree a joint UK/France action plan to ensure the internet cannot be used as a safe space for terrorists and criminals. Priorities include improving methods to remove illegal content from the internet, supporting efforts to promote alternative and counter-narratives, working together to ensure our countries can access data for investigative purposes and improving access to digital evidence across borders

Revised Authorised Professional Practice for police on Media Relations – 13th June 2017

College of Policing updates Media Relations APP taking account of recommendations of the Leveson Inquiry into the Culture, Practices and Ethics of the Press (2012), and HMIC's Without fear or favour report (2011)

Home Office Circular 007/2017: police pensions, lifetime and annual allowance – 1st June

Circular briefing forces and administrators on calculations, eligibility and protections in respect of police pensions, lifetime allowances and annual allowances

Recent Commons briefing papers include: [Domestic violence: a select bibliography](#) (23rd Jun), [Proscribed Terrorist Organisations](#) (22nd Jun), [Fly-tipping](#) (21st Jun), [Domestic violence in England and Wales](#) (21st Jun), [Police complaints systems in the UK](#) (15th Jun), [Freedom of information requests](#) (14th Jun), [Police service strength](#) (14th Jun), [Corporate Economic Crime](#) (13th Jun), [British Transport Police](#) (12th Jun), [Time limit for sexual abuse claims](#) (12th Jun)

2. Research, Development and Statistics

[The impact of organised crime in local communities](#) – 19th June 2017

[Police Foundation blog](#)

Police Foundation and Perpetuity Research findings from an extensive two-year study of three neighbourhoods in Wolverhampton, Coventry and Bristol indicate that:-

- At least 17% of police recorded crime is linked to organised crime, most commonly drug dealing, fraud and vehicle crime, with police intelligence focussing heavily on drug-related offending
- Foreign nationals, often Eastern European, appear to have major involvement in organised acquisitive crime and be at disproportionate risk of exploitation – knowledge which rarely reaches the police
- Police are often too focussed on offenders at the expense of victims and have minimal intelligence on off-street sex markets where OCGs can subject workers to considerable physical and psychological harm
- In one study area, Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) were linked to more than half of the alleged victims of Child Sexual Exploitation identified, however only around 1 in 5 such OCGs are mapped by police forces
- 31% to 45% of all fraud cases were found to be linked to organised crime at the local level, however these offences are generally seen by local police as 'beyond their remit', with assets rarely being recovered
- Too many potentially useful partners have little awareness or understanding of organised crime and what their role should be in tackling it, and improvements are required in information sharing arrangements

The report recommends a more proactive, multi-agency problem oriented approach to tackling OCGs with:-

- A greater emphasis on the under-utilised strands of 'Protect' and 'Prevent' within the government's Serious and Organised Crime Strategy in order to reduce the risk of harm to vulnerable groups. More could be done, for example, to explore websites advertising sexual services or investigate enablers such as hotels, taxis firms and private landlords – which is not currently seen by police forces as 'core business'. The report also suggests ring-fencing resources for specifically exploring hidden problems such as CSE in order to achieve a better balance between investigation and safeguarding
- Tackling organised crime becoming intrinsic to the work of local neighbourhood policing teams and other local agencies with local profiles completed at district and not force level, and improvements being driven in the collection, analysis and sharing of intelligence by all parties
- The Home Office and NCA issuing guidance on how partnerships should target pimps and traffickers and support sex workers. Specialist training is also required to help front line officers and those in roles such as youth work and social work to identify, record and act upon concerns of children sexual exploitation
- Home Office commissioning a full-scale review of how fraud is policed locally, what the roles and responsibilities of local agencies should be. PCCs and chief constables need to rethink the allocation of resources for tackling fraud and how existing resources should be better utilised. The police and other local agencies should jointly produce a local fraud strategy that clearly identifies a lead agency

[Older Prisoners – Learning from PPO investigations](#) – 20th June 2017

Prisons and Probation Ombudsman report based on 50 naturally caused deaths of prisoners over 50 and 314 investigations between 2013 and 2015, concludes that a national strategy is required to address the needs of the increasing numbers of elderly prisoners living and dying in jail. The report recommends that:-

- Prisons ensure newly arrived prisoners have an appropriate health screen that reviews their medical history and conditions and identifies any outstanding appointments and relevant conditions
- Use of restraints should be proportionate to actual risk posed by the prisoner given current health condition
- Prisons ensure terminally ill prisoners requiring intensive palliative care are treated in a suitable environment
- and trained family liaison officers involve families in end-of-life care and notify promptly when hospitalised
- Prisons should ensure that patients with complex health needs have personalised care plans in place

[Tagging as a method to reduce theft in retail environments](#) – 22nd June 2017

Published as part of the College of Policing's 'What Works' series of systematic reviews, this review conducted by UCL Department of Security and Crime Science of eight evaluation studies found that five showed decreases in theft or shrinkage (a reduction in retail losses) where retail items were tagged. Highly visible, conspicuous tags tended to perform better than less-visible, inconspicuous tags, however these were thought to be less effective for seasoned, professional shoplifters who are more likely to know methods to counteract them. Failure by store staff to respond to sounding alarms was found to negate the 'increase-risk mechanism' which EAS tags are designed to elicit. Sufficiently swift action by police and criminal justice system was also found to be important as shoplifters detained by store staff for longer periods of time both remove staff from the shop floor and are more likely to result in offenders simply being ejected from the store

[Ranking EU Progress on Road Safety – 11th Annual Performance Index Report](#) – 20th June 2017

European Transport Safety Council report highlights stagnation in progress against the 2010 EU target of reducing road deaths by 50% by 2020 since 2014. 15 countries, including the UK (+4.1%) saw an increase in road deaths between 2015 and 2016, thought in part to have been affected by a lack of political will at EU member state level, a decline in levels of police enforcement, a failure to invest in safer infrastructure and limited action on tackling speed and drink driving in some countries. Despite this increase, the UK, alongside Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and Denmark maintains one of the lowest rates of road deaths per vehicle-distance travelled among the countries collecting up-to-date data

[EU Terrorism Situation and Trend Report 2017](#) – 15th June 2017

Europol publishes annual EU Terrorism Situation and Trend Report which provides an overview of the nature of terrorism faced by the EU in 2016. 1,002 individuals were arrested for terrorist offences during the year, with arrests of Islamist terrorist suspects across the EU increasing from 395 in 2014 to 687 in 2015 and 718 in 2016. 26% of arrestees were female, marking a significant increase on 2015 (18%). 13 attacks took place, compared to 17 in 2015, resulting in 142 deaths and 379 injuries. A total of 142 failed, failed and completed attacks were reported across eight EU Member States, more than half of which (76) were in the UK. The report notes that the potential use of alternative and more sophisticated improvised explosive devices (IEDs), such as the use of weaponised drones seen in Syria and Iraq could inspire other jihadists to adopt similar methods. 40% of terrorist plots in Europe are thought to be at least partly financed through crime, particularly, drugs, theft, robbery, sale of counterfeit goods, loan fraud and burglary

[Operation of police powers under the Terrorism Act 2000 to March 2017](#) – published 15th June 2017

The 12 months to March 2017 saw the highest number of terrorism-related arrests (304) in any financial year since data collection began in September 2001. Arrests have increased by 18% on the previous year with 108 (36%) resulting in a charge, 100 (33%) resulting in release without charge and 88 (29%) resulting in release on bail. Out of 79 trials completed by the Crown Prosecution Service during the year, 68 (86%) led to a conviction. As at 31 March 2017 there were 186 people in custody for terrorism-related offences domestic extremism / separatism, which marks a 15% increase on the previous year. [Details](#) of outcomes and demographic profile of those arrested charged and convicted are also included

[The Economic Cost of child maltreatment](#) – 16th June 2017

NSPCC publishes University College London (UCL) analysis of financial costs of child maltreatment in terms of health care, social care, education, the criminal justice system, and impact of lost productivity on the economy. The average lifetime cost of non-fatal child maltreatment per victim was calculated to be £89,390, with the lifetime cost per death from child maltreatment, comprising health care and lost productivity costs was £940,758

[Knife Crime Statistics](#) – 21st June 2017

Commons briefing paper summarising available statistics relating to knife crime

[Local Authority Homelessness Statistics Tool \(England\)](#) – 22nd June 2017

This tool enabling access to details on homelessness statistics collected at local authority level

3. Inspections

CJ Joint Inspection of Through the Gate Resettlement Services – 21st June 2017

HMI Prisons and HMI Probation inspection of resettlement services for prisoners serving 12 months or more found significant failures within the criminal justice system in identifying, recording and addressing common needs of prisoners, both on presentation and release. The needs of many prisoners were not recognised when they first went into custody and problems that should have been obvious to prison staff were often not identified or adequately recorded – resulting in failure to develop adequate Through the Gate resettlement plans. The inspectorates also identified a need to improve the consistency of timeliness, quality and follow up of plans – noting that many actions consist of ‘no more than referring prisoners to other services’. The inspection found:-

- Too many prisoners are released not knowing where they would sleep that night, with work that could and should have been done by Through the Gate services in prison being left for officers to pick up after release
- The impact of Through the Gate services on education, training and employment was minimal, with no prisoners being helped by Through the Gate services to enter ETE after release.
- The use of mentors to provide intensive support had not been developed as anticipated, with only one prisoner in 98 cases receiving support through a mentor scheme introduced under Through the Gate
- Poor communication and not enough evidence of a ‘whole system’ approach to managing risk of harm, with most Through the Gate staff being ill-informed about public protection issues / risk mitigation in their cases
- Obstacles posed by pressures on and wide catchment areas of resettlement prisons, and the complexity and incompatibility of the IT systems used by staff in preparing prisoners for release
- CRCs that are struggling financially, showing few examples of innovation working to contracts that incentivise the completion of resettlement plans as opposed to improvements in prisoners’ situations

The Inspectorates re-assert recommendations made in their [2016 report](#), while also recommending that:-

- MoJ and DCLG work together to recognise homeless released prisoners as a priority need for housing and make sure that supported accommodation is not impacted by the proposed Local Housing Allowance cap
- MoJ and DWP work together to allow prisoners to submit their claim for benefit prior to release
- MoJ and Prison and Probation Service should review CRC contracts and consider making local NPS and CRC responsible for securing accommodation for prisoners being released under their supervision
- Also make sure every prison provides services to meet educational, training, employment, finance, benefit and debt needs of their prisoners and provides support for victims of domestic abuse and sex workers
- Prison and Probation Service should ensure guidance is in place for prisons, CRCs and the NPS about how sentence planning and release preparation processes should integrate with Through the Gate arrangements
- HM Prison Service should make sure that arrangements for substance misuse and mental health treatment enable a smooth transition to community services at the point of release.

HMI Probation: The work of probation services in courts – 23rd June 2017

HMI Probation inspection of the National Probation Service role in providing advice and information to courts found strong arrangements between the NPS and the courts, though working arrangements with CRCs were less well developed. Pre-sentence oral reports delivered on the day were well regarded by sentencers. Inspectors found satisfactory arrangements to obtain information regarding child protection and domestic abuse. Worryingly, accredited programmes to prevent reoffending were recommended by the NPS relatively infrequently, despite clear evidence to support their use. Short written reports were not always sufficiently thorough in their assessments of the risks an individual could pose. NPS enforcement work was found to be of a high quality, but many sentencers expressed concern about cases where CRCs allowed an individual too many absences before breaching them and taking them back before the court. NPS hardware and software were dated, making staff less efficient, but inspectors did see the effective use of video link in some courts. Key recommendations made by inspectors include the NPS providing sentencers with a sufficient assessment of the Risk of Serious Harm in all cases, training court staff to consider accredited programmes appropriately and establishing strategies with CRCs to improve confidence in the delivery of community sentences.

Upcoming reports and inspection activity

- [JTAI Partnership response to children affected by domestic abuse](#)
- [HMIC: Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking - Phase 1 report](#)
- [HMIC: Crime data integrity \(individual force reports\)](#)
- HMI Prisons: Joint inspection of Police Custody Arrangements
- PEEL Vulnerability Revisits
- HMIC: National Child Protection Inspection (HMIC-led)
- HMIC: Hate Crime scoping study
- HMIC: Domestic abuse update thematic report
- HMCPSI: Disclosure thematic
- HMIC Inspection Programme and framework 2017/18
- Criminal Justice Joint Inspection programme 2017/18
- Ofsted: Joint targeted [Child Protection Inspection](#) Overview report
- Ofsted: Joint Targeted Area Inspection thematic overview report
- HMIC: Joint Inspections of Stalking and Harassment - Report

4. Reviews and Inquiries

- **Evidence in progress:**
 - [Child Sexual Abuse Independent Inquiry](#) – preliminary hearings held for [protection of children outside the UK](#) (9th May), [Cambridge House, Knol View and Rochdale](#) (10th May) and [Children in the Care of Nottinghamshire Councils](#) (11th May)
 - [Independent Review into child abuse allegations in football](#) (ongoing),
 - [Pitchford Undercover Policing inquiry](#) – [New panel member appointed](#) – 31st May 2017
- **Report in preparation:** [Lammy Review of BAME representation in the CJS](#) (Spring 2017)
- **Reports awaiting government response:** [Countering extremism inquiry](#) ([Report published](#) 25th August 2016), [Implications of Brexit for the justice system inquiry](#) ([Report published](#) 17th Mar 2017), [Apprenticeships inquiry](#) ([Report published](#) 30th March 2017), [Hate crime and its violent consequences inquiry](#) ([Report published](#) 1st May 2017)
- **Concluded:** All select committees ceased to exist on the dissolution of Parliament on 3 May 2017. New Committees in the next parliament will decide whether to continue work on the following: [Disclosure of youth criminal records](#), [Prison Reform](#), [Civilian Drone Use](#), [Policing for the Future inquiry](#), [Immigration inquiry](#), [Sharia Law](#)

5. Legislation

Bills announced in the Queen's Speech – 21st July 2017

- **Draft Domestic Violence and Abuse Bill** to ensure victims have the confidence to come forward and report their experiences. The Bill will include the establishment of a Domestic Violence Abuse Commissioner to hold the justice system to account in tackling domestic abuse, provide a statutory definition of domestic abuse, create new domestic abuse civil prevention and protection orders and ensure that sentencing of abusive behaviour involving children reflects the devastating life-long impacts that abuse can have
- **Courts Bill** to modernise and improve the efficiency and accessibility of the courts system. The Bill will include provisions to end the direct cross examination of domestic abuse victims by alleged perpetrators in the family courts, enable more victims to participate in trials through virtual hearings and enable those charged with some less serious criminal offences to opt to plead guilty, accept a conviction and pay a statutory fixed penalty online in order to free up court time for more serious cases
- **Data Protection Bill** will aim to ensure that UK data protection is suitable for the “new digital age”, whilst also modernising and updating regimes for data processing by law enforcement agencies. Furthermore, proposals for a new Digital Charter will be developed alongside technology companies, charities, communities and international partners to ensure that the UK is “the safest place to be online”. This will be underpinned by an effective regulatory framework

6. Consultations

[Practice Guidelines: Effective Elements of Neighbourhood Policing](#)

College of Policing are seeking the views of PCCs on the scope for new practice guidelines for neighbourhood policing which will be developed and agreed by an independently-chaired committee made up of academics, subject experts and frontline practitioners

Open date: 20/06/2017

Close date: 28/06/2017

[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

[Draft Sentencing Guidelines for Child Cruelty](#)

Sentencing Council consultation on new sentencing guidelines for the offences including cruelty to child (Children and Young Persons Act 1933), causing or allowing a child to die or suffer serious physical harm (Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004) and failing to protect a girl from the risk of female genital mutilation (Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003)

Open date: 13/06/2017

Close date: 13/09/2017

[Draft guidance for the appointment of chief officers](#)

College of Policing are seeking views of PCCs on the clarity, content and usefulness of their draft guidance on chief officer appointments. Commissioners are invited to provide feedback via the APCC

Open date: 16/06/2017

Close date: 12/07/2017