



## Police and Crime Commissioner's Horizon Scanning Briefing

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## 1. POLICY AND PRACTICE

### Apply for funding: £15m 'Beyond Places of Safety' grant – 18<sup>th</sup> October 2017

Department of Health launches £15m Beyond Places of Safety fund for new approaches to supporting people who experience a mental health crisis and to prevent people from reaching crisis point. The fund follows a £15m investment in the Improving Places of Safety scheme, which aims to reduce the number of people detained in police cells under the Mental Health Act. Local Crisis Care Concordat groups are invited to submit bids for £5,000 and above by 21<sup>st</sup> January 2018.

### Further £3m investment in prison security measures announced – 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2017

Prisons Minister announces £2m investment in 5,600 body-worn cameras for prison officers following successful trials in 22 establishments. The cameras will be used to deter violence and assist in prosecutions against those who commit crimes in jail. A further £1m has also been invested in new rigid bar handcuffs and restraints which reduce the need for staff to use physical hold. Four prisons will also trial the use of PAVA incapacitant spray to subdue dangerous offenders without putting prison officers at risk of serious injury.

### Reforms to the National Referral Mechanism for Modern Slavery announced – 17<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> October 2017

Home Office and [Modern Slavery Taskforce](#) announce reforms to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) for potential victims of modern slavery which will see:-

- Minimum period of 'move-on' support, for victims increased from 14 days to 45 days, which will be in addition to the 45 days of support victims already receive before a final decision is reached
- 'Places of safety' developed in partnership with The Salvation Army to provide immediate support to potential victims for up to 3 days and up to 6 months 'drop-in' services for those transitioning out of the NRM
- National roll out of specialist support to trafficked children via Independent Child Trafficking Advocates
- Work with local authorities to identify best practice for victims to transition into communities / access services
- Aligning subsistence rates provided to victims of modern slavery to those received by asylum seekers
- A new digital system for front line workers to refer cases for support
- Replacing the case management units currently based within the National Crime Agency and UK Visas and Immigration with a new expert unit within the Home Office to make decisions about whether someone is a victim of modern slavery or not, and an independent panel of experts to review all negative decisions.

## **New mental health standards and support for NHS and Civil Service employees – 26<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

Prime Minister confirms new measures for the NHS England and the Civil Service staff following publication of the independent review of mental health and employers report, [Thriving at Work](#). The departments will:

- Guarantee employees tailored in-house mental health support to help prevent mental illness being caused or worsened by work and equip those who have a mental illness to thrive
- Introduce a set of core and enhanced standards to ensure employees have the knowledge, tools and confidence to understand and look after the mental health of themselves and colleagues, and
- Be held to account for delivering these standards by their relevant regulators.

## **New regulations for using body-worn video in police interviews proposed – 25<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

Home Office consults on revisions to PACE regulations to allow police to use body-worn video to record interviews with suspects in a location other than a police station, such as the scene of a crime. The measures aim to save officer time maximise time officers spend on the frontline. The new regulations also aim to strengthen protections in place for interviewees by setting out suspects' rights and entitlements and make clear when an independent appropriate adult may be required where suspects fall within the definition of vulnerable.

## **Increase in penalty for those who cause death by dangerous driving – 16<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

Ministry of Justice confirm plans following government consultation to introduce life sentences for those who cause death by dangerous driving, and for careless drivers who kill while under the influence of drink or drugs. A new offence of causing serious injury through careless driving will also be introduced.

## **Environment Minister announces new steps to tackle littering – 24<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

Environment Minister announces plans to increase maximum on-the-spot fines for dropping litter from £80 to £150 and minimum fines from £50 to £65 from April 2018. Default fines will increase from £75 to £100. Councils will also be able to impose the fines on the owners of vehicles from which litter is thrown, even if discarded by someone else. Measures follow a public consultation and launch of England's first Litter Strategy in April 2017.

## **Homelessness code of guidance for local authorities – 16<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

DCLG issues draft guidance for local authorities on implementing the Homelessness Reduction Act, which comes into effect in April 2018. The Act requires councils to provide services to all at risk of homelessness, on top of those with a priority need. Councils are also required to make free information and advice about homelessness available to all and ensure that it is tailored to meet the particular needs of vulnerable groups, including victims of domestic abuse and young adults leaving care. The Government is providing an additional £11.7m in new burdens funding to local authorities over 2 years, to help meet the requirements of the Act.

## **Proceeds of Crime Act and Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act – 25<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

Home Office publish draft codes of practice amended by the Criminal Finances Act 2017

## **Charity Commission issues Crime Prevention Alert to Charities: Phishing Scams – 16<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

## **Baroness Williams' speech to National Black Police Association – 18<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

## **First Secretary speech on anniversary of the National Cyber Security Strategy – 18<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

**Recent Commons briefing papers** include: [Modern Slavery Act 2015: Recent Developments](#) (25<sup>th</sup> Oct), [Sentences of Imprisonment for Public Protection](#) (25<sup>th</sup> Oct), [Implementation of the Modern Slavery Act 2015](#) (24<sup>th</sup> Oct), [Puppy smuggling](#) (24<sup>th</sup> Oct), [Adult Social Care Funding](#) (23<sup>rd</sup> Oct), [Global LGBT rights](#) (23<sup>rd</sup> Oct), [English language teaching for refugees](#) (23<sup>rd</sup> Oct), [Police service strength](#) (19<sup>th</sup> Oct), [Sexual harassment in education](#) (18<sup>th</sup> Oct), [Housing support for ex-offenders](#) (18<sup>th</sup> Oct), [Women released from prison](#) (16<sup>th</sup> Oct), [Supporting and safeguarding adults with learning disabilities](#) (16<sup>th</sup> Oct)

## 2. RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND STATISTICS

### [Evaluation of the National Referral Mechanism pilot](#) – 26<sup>th</sup> October 2017

Home Office publishes report on findings from the National Referral Mechanism pilot which aimed to streamline and improve the decision-making process for Modern Slavery referrals. The overall evaluation findings are mixed, with little change being seen in decision outcomes and timeliness of conclusive grounds decisions, but initial reasonable grounds decisions being made faster. Perceptions of the multi-disciplinary panel decision-making process were, however, positive.

### [Typology of modern slavery offences in the UK](#) – 17<sup>th</sup> October 2017

Home Office publishes research which classifies modern slavery offences in the UK into a typology of 17 distinct types. The report outlines the characteristics of the typical victims and offenders, and the nature of the offence, including the recruitment, transportation and exploitation involved and highlights how the typology can be used to inform the policy and operational response to modern slavery.

### [Trends in first time entrants to the youth justice system](#) – 19<sup>th</sup> October 2017

Ministry of Justice publishes findings from secondary analysis of administrative data held on the Police National Computer (PNC) relating to all FTEs between 2003/04 and 2012/13 and analysis of information on arrests and sentencing to investigate possible factors related to the rapid reduction in the number of first time entrants to the youth justice system over this period. The paper includes a review of published literature and policy documents used to identify possible influencing factors at the societal, policy and practice levels

### [Links between adverse family experiences and proven youth offending](#) – 19<sup>th</sup> October 2017

Ministry of Justice publishes analysis of proven youth offending rates of those in contact with the family justice system as a child. The report has a specific focus on children that have been named in a public law case, where the local authority has intervened to protect their welfare. It is intended to make a contribution to existing evidence about the extent to which adverse family experiences such as child abuse and neglect, and the experience of the family justice system are associated with the likelihood of offending.

### [Crime in England and Wales to June 2017](#) – published 19<sup>th</sup> October 2017

Latest estimates from the Crime Survey for England and Wales show a 9% reduction in crimes against adults over the last year. This has been largely driven by reductions in theft offences (-11%), with violent crime having seen no significant change (-4%). Victim-based crime recorded by the police, meanwhile, rose by 13% over the same period, marking the largest annual rise in a decade. Improvements in crime recording practices since 2010 remain the most significant driver of increases in recorded crime, however, genuine increases in some crime types are also likely. This includes, for example, rises in burglary (6%), robbery (+25%) and vehicle crime (17%) and deaths or serious injuries caused by illegal driving (+6%). Police recorded knife crime and firearms offences have increased by 26% and 27% respectively, continuing the trend seen over the last 2 years. The crime survey also estimates that around 3.4 million fraud and 1.8 million computer misuse offences were experienced in the last year, marking a marginal reduction on the previous year's survey. Valid year on year comparisons will be published in January 2018. Crime data available at [police force](#) and [CSP level](#)

### [Crime Outcomes to June 2017](#) – published 19<sup>th</sup> October 2017

Police forces closed 47% of offences with no suspect being identified in the year to June 2017/2016/17, however this varies by crime type with 67% of criminal damage offences and 6% of rape offence being closed with no suspect identified. 10% of offences resulted in a charge or summons, marking a reduction from 12.5% compared to the previous year. In 13% of offences the victim did not support police action despite a suspect being identified, and around 25% of offences did not progress on account of evidential difficulties. Police forces took an average of 8 days to assign the outcomes they recorded – a decrease of 3 days compared to the previous year. Data available at [police force level](#).

## **[Hate crime, England and Wales, 2016/17](#) – published 17<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

Police recorded 80,393 hate crime offences in 2016/17, marking a 29% increase on the previous year and the largest annual increase since comparable records began in 2011/12. The increase is believed to reflect both a genuine rise in hate crime around the time of the EU referendum and ongoing improvements in police crime recording. Further increases in recorded hate crime were seen following the Westminster Bridge terrorist attack in March 2017. Race hate (78%) continues to account for the largest proportion of recorded hate crimes, followed by crimes motivated by sexual orientation (11%), religion (7%), disability (7%) and transgender (2%).

[Data available at police force level](#)

## **[Police powers and procedures to 31 March 2017](#) – published 26<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

Home Office statistics highlight a further 12% reduction in arrests in England and Wales in 2016/17, continuing the downward trend seen since 2007/08. Stop and searches fell by 21% to the lowest level since comparable records began (2001/02) and while arrests resulting from stops and searches fell by 14%, the proportion that led to an arrest increased to 17% - the highest level since comparable records began. Stops of White individuals fell by 28%, while BME stops fell by 11%. BME individuals remain just around 4 times as likely to be stopped and searched compared to White, while Black/Black British are over 8 times more likely to be stopped. Police issued around 2.4m Fixed Penalty Notices for motoring offences – marking a 1% reduction on 2015/16. 46% of those receiving FPNs for motoring offences attended a driver retraining course, 40% paid fines and 13% faced court action - similar proportions to the previous year. Police carried out 463,319 breath tests in 2016, representing a fall of 11%. Detentions under section 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983 fell by a further 2% to 26,328. A police station was used as a place of safety in 4% of cases following a section 136 detention. Of these, 62% were taken there because there was no capacity at the Health Based Place of Safety (HBPOS).

[Data available at police force level](#)

## **[Not Alone Anymore: Childline Annual review 2016/17](#) – Published 17<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

NSPCC's annual review of the Childline service reports a 17% increase in counselling sessions to children and young people in 2016/17. Around 33% (98,300) of counselling sessions related to mental and emotional health and wellbeing matters. The number of sessions concerning suicidal thoughts and feelings (22,400) increased by 15% to the highest level ever recorded. Sexting was the most commonly viewed information and advice topic on the website, having risen by 20% to 221,840 views.

## **[Prison performance statistics 2016 to 2017](#) - published 26<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

## **[Community Performance Quarterly update to June 2017](#) - published 26<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

## **[Safety in custody quarterly: update to June 2017](#) – published 26<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

## **[Deaths of Offenders in the Community - 2016/17](#) – published 26<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

## **[Offender management quarterly: update to June 2017](#) – published 26<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

## **[Proven reoffending quarterly: update to December 2015](#) – published 26<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

## **[MAPPA annual report 2016/17](#) – Published 26<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

## **[Independent anti-slavery commissioner's annual report 2016/17](#) – published 16<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

## **[2017 UK annual report on modern slavery](#) – published 16<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

## 3. AUDITS AND INSPECTIONS

### Stolen Freedom: Police response to modern slavery and human trafficking – 24<sup>th</sup> October 2017

HMIC inspection informed by fieldwork undertaken between November 2016 and March 2017. HMIC found signs of progress and pockets of good practice, most notably in Greater Manchester Police, West Yorkshire and Cumbria, but concluded that the overall policing response to modern slavery remains largely reactive and shows little understanding of the nature and scale of slavery. Concerns highlighted by the report include:-

- The quality of investigations which on occasion faced delays in commencement of 7 to 8 months;
- A lack of effective supervision, a focus on safeguarding victims and coordination across police forces;
- Variable commitment amongst police leaders to tackling modern slavery;
- Attitudes that modern slavery and human trafficking offences were rare and not an issue in their areas;
- Victims not always being recognised as such and on occasion arrested as offenders or illegal immigrants;
- Poor and inconsistent co-ordination and sharing of information and intelligence between the NCA and police;
- Information and intelligence flows between national, regional and local levels sometimes being poor; and
- Low awareness and use of provisions and powers set out in the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

### Work of Youth Offending Teams to Protect the Public – 26<sup>th</sup> October 2017

HMI Probation thematic inspection concludes that the public would be better protected from dangerous and violent young offenders if adults working with them are trained to understand the impact of extreme trauma in childhood. The report provides evidence of the impact of issues including separation and estrangement from parents; the death of a parent or main carer; sexual abuse; severe physical chastisement; and serial domestic abuse and parental substance misuse. Social media was also found to be the catalyst for some of the most serious and violent offences and was leading young people to commit types of crime in ways that were “inconceivable just a few years ago.” The report recommends that professionals across the country should ‘catch up’ with fast-changing social media communications and develop a clear understanding of their powers to monitor social media use to prevent crimes. Specific recommendations include:-

- The Youth Justice Board provides practice guidance to YOTs that enables them to take proper account of the impact of trauma in young people's lives and update AssetPlus training material
- Youth Offending Team Management Boards make sure that practice takes account of trauma experienced by young people, review their understanding of social media and young people and make sure that they have an understanding of the work being undertaken with young people who pose the greatest risks
- Youth Offending Teams make sure that the design and delivery of services takes account of the impact of trauma on young people, make sure local practice guidance and resources reflect current behaviour of young people in respect of social media, review the implementation of AssetPlus to make sure it is used effectively to reflect the young person's views and create effective intervention plans that change behaviour and ensure the public are protected

### **Upcoming reports and inspection activity**

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|--|---------|
| • Ofsted: Joint targeted <a href="#">Child Protection Inspection</a> Overview report   | Pending |
| • Ofsted: Joint Targeted Area Inspection thematic overview report  | Pending |
| • <a href="#">HMIC: Crime data integrity (individual force reports)</a>  | Ongoing |
| • HMI Prisons: Joint inspection of Police Custody Arrangements   | Ongoing |
| • HMIC: National Child Protection Inspection (HMIC-led) examining police effectiveness in their interactions with or for children, from initial contact and early identification of children who are at risk, through to investigation | Ongoing |
| • HMIC: Hate Crime thematic inspection   | 2017/18 |
| • HMIC: Counter Terrorism thematic inspection  | 2017/18 |



## 4. REVIEWS AND INQUIRIES

### **[The State of the State 2017-18](#) – Published 24<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

Annual Deloitte / Reform joint research report finds that while issues relating to the UK's exit from the EU dominate headlines, public services face more local and immediate challenges as they address rising demand, ongoing budget pressures and heightened concerns over social inequality. The citizen survey found that support for spending cuts to restore the public finances (22%) has halved since austerity began (54%) in 2010. The proportion of the public who believe the government should extend its services has grown for the second year running - even if that means tax rises. Interviews with public sector leaders found that demand is as much of an issue as austerity, and the public sector wants sustainable solutions.

### **[Thriving at Work: Independent review of mental health and employers](#) – 26<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

Report following an independent review of mental health in the workplace conducted by Lord Dennis Stevenson and Paul Farmer estimates the costs of mental health issues to employers at between £33bn and £42bn per year. The report notes that the stigma surrounding mental health often prevents the issue being discussed in workplaces and recommends that all employers adopt the following six core standards:-

- Produce, implement and communicate a mental health at work plan
- Raise awareness around mental health among employees
- Encourage open conversations about the support available when employees are struggling
- Provide good working conditions and ensure healthy work-life balance and development opportunities
- Promote effective people management through line managers and supervisors
- Routinely monitor employee mental health and wellbeing.

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### **[Policing for the future inquiry](#) – Announced 19<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

Home Affairs Committee resumes inquiry into policing for the future, taking evidence from Chief Constables from a diverse set of forces to explore the current and future challenges of modern policing. The first of a series of oral evidence sessions was held on [24<sup>th</sup> October 2017](#), which included evidence from Chief Constables NPCC and National Lead for Counter-Terrorism Policing. [Video stream available](#)

### **[Prison Population 2022: Planning for the Future inquiry](#) – Announced 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2017**

Justice Committee inquiry into the population of Prisons, with a focus on who is in prison and who is expected to be imprisoned over the next 5 years, the reasons prisoners are there, why they stay there and why they return and whether the Ministry of Justice and prison services currently have a credible approach to accommodating the changes anticipated. Accepting written submissions until 4<sup>th</sup> December 2017.

### **[Transforming Rehabilitation inquiry](#) – Announced 12<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

The Justice Committee launches an inquiry into the Government's Transforming Rehabilitation Programme, focussing on how current Government measures are effectively addressing the challenges facing the probation services and what more needs to be done in the short-term to improve the probation system. Accepting written submissions until 17<sup>th</sup> November 2017.

### **[Mental Health in Prisons](#) – Announced 12<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

Public Accounts Committee inquiry asking NHS England, HM Prisons and Probation Service and Ministry of Justice about how they are working together to secure reliable data on incidences of mental illness among prisoners, why reliable data does not exist, and how they will ensure healthcare provision to those in need.

### **[Growing Threat of Online Fraud](#) – Announced 5<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

The Public Accounts Committee inquiry asking Home Office, City of London Police and other forces about how they are working with partners to tackle the issue and educate the public about protecting themselves and whether enough resources are being focussed on tackling this threat.

## 5. LEGISLATION

### **Data Protection Bill - Lords Committee Stage – 30<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

[Lords briefing](#)

The Bill to modernise and make data protection laws fit for the digital age by empowering people to take control of their data; supporting UK businesses and organisations through change and ensuring that the UK is prepared for the future after leaving the EU. The Bill will: update regimes for data processing by law enforcement agencies; introduce a new Digital Charter to ensure that the UK is “the safest place to be online”; make it simpler to withdraw consent for the use of personal data; allow people to ask for their personal data held by companies to be erased; require ‘explicit’ consent to be necessary for processing sensitive personal data; expand the definition of ‘personal data’ to include IP addresses, internet cookies and DNA and ensure an effective regulatory framework is in place. New criminal offences will be created to deter organisations from intentionally or recklessly enabling someone to be identified from anonymised data [Government fact sheets](#)

### **European Union (Withdrawal) Bill – Commons Committee Stage – 14<sup>th</sup> Nov 2017**

[Commons briefing](#)

Bill to repeal the European Communities Act 1972 and other provisions relating to UK withdrawal from the EU

### **Age of Criminal Responsibility Bill – Lords Committee Stage – TBC**

[Lords briefing](#)

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

### **Modern Slavery (Victim Support) Bill - Lords Committee Stage – TBC**

[Lords briefing](#)

Private Members’ Bill to make provision about identifying and supporting victims of modern slavery

### **Assaults on Emergency Workers (Offences) Bill - Commons Committee Stage – TBC** [Commons briefing](#)

Private Members’ Bill to make certain offences aggravated when perpetrated against emergency workers

### **Asset Freezing (Compensation) Bill – Lords 2<sup>nd</sup> reading – 27<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

Private Members’ 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

### **Sanctions and Anti-Money Laundering Bill – Lords 2<sup>nd</sup> reading – 1<sup>st</sup> Nov 2017** *Introduced 18<sup>th</sup> Oct 2017*

Government Bill to give the UK the necessary legal powers to maintain existing sanctions regimes currently imposed through EU law and introduce new measures against countries, organisations and individuals who threaten our security or undermine international law following Brexit. The bill will make amendments to a range of acts including: Immigration Act 1971; Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000; Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005; Serious Crime Act 2007; Crime and Courts Act 2013; Investigatory Powers Act 2016; and Policing and Crime Act 2017. [Further information](#)

### **Mental Health Units (Use of Force) Bill - Commons 2<sup>nd</sup> reading – 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2017**

Private Members’ Bill to make provision about the oversight and management of use of force in mental health units and the use of body cameras by police in the course of duties in relation to people in mental health units

### **Prisons (Interf. with Wireless Telegraphy) Bill - Commons 2<sup>nd</sup> reading – 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017**

Private Members’ Bill to make provision about interference with wireless telegraphy in prisons

### **Stalking Protection Bill - Commons 2<sup>nd</sup> reading – 19<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

Private Members’ Bill to make provision for protecting persons from risks associated with stalking

### **Freedom of Information (Extension) Bill – Commons 2<sup>nd</sup> reading – 15<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

Private Members’ Bill to extend Freedom of Information Act 2000 in respect of public authorities and extend powers of the Information Commissioner

## **Policing Resources Bill - Lords 2<sup>nd</sup> reading - TBC**

Private Members' Bill to make provision for ensuring that police forces in England and Wales have sufficient resources to deliver police services. Proposes the appointment of an independent body to report annually on adequacy of police grant funding. Places duty on Secretary of State to ensure grant recipients have sufficient resources to prevent crime, bring offenders to justice, keep the Queen's Peace and protect, help and reassure the community. Also places duty on Secretary of State to consider PCC police and crime plans, latest adequacy of funding report and the need for contingency funding for police forces to deal with exceptional major incidents

## **Victims of Crime (Rights, Entitlements, Notification of CSA) Bill – Lords 2<sup>nd</sup> reading – TBC**

Private Members' Bill to make provision for specifying new statutory rights and entitlements for victims of crime under the Victims Code of Practice; require PCCs to assess victims services; increase duties of the Victims and Witnesses Commissioner; grant victims the right to request a review of a decision not to prosecute; establish reviews in homicides where no criminal charge has been made; create an obligation on professions to notify cases of possible victims of child sexual abuse.

## **Criminal Records Bill - Lords 2<sup>nd</sup> reading - TBC**

Private Members' Bill to amend the length of time for which an individual may have a criminal record under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974

## **Children Act 1989 (Amendment) (FGM) Bill – Lords 2<sup>nd</sup> reading - TBC**

Private Members' Bill to state that proceedings under Section 5A of, and Schedule 2 to, the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 are family proceedings

## **Anonymity (Arrested Persons) Bill - Lords 2<sup>nd</sup> reading – TBC**

Private Members' Bill to prohibit the publication of certain personal information until an arrested person has been charged with an offence / set out circumstances where such information can be published

## **Road Traffic Offenders (Surrender Driving Licences) Bill - Lords 2<sup>nd</sup> reading - TBC**

Private Members' Bill to make provision about the provision and surrender of driving licences or certificates in relation to certain offences; make provision in relation to identifying persons in connection with FPNs etc.

## **Modern Slavery (Transparency in Supply Chains) Bill – Lords 2<sup>nd</sup> reading – TBC**

Private Members' Bill to make further provision for transparency in supply chains in respect of slavery and human trafficking

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## **Bills announced in the Queen's Speech – 21<sup>st</sup> July 2017**

- **Domestic Violence and Abuse Bill** to ensure victims have the confidence to come forward and report their experiences. The Bill includes proposals to establish a Domestic Violence Abuse Commissioner to hold the justice system to account in tackling domestic abuse, define domestic abuse in law, create new domestic abuse civil prevention and protection order regime, ensure that sentencing of abusive behaviour involving children reflects the life-long impact that this abuse can have, [ratify the Istanbul Convention](#) to allow certain offences committed by British citizens anywhere in the world to be prosecuted in UK courts and to make it easier for domestic abuse survivors to [register to vote anonymously](#)
- **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



## 6. CONSULTATIONS

### [Internet Safety Strategy green paper](#)

Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport consultation on proposals set out in the Internet Safety Strategy green paper, which include the introduction of a social media code of practice, transparency reporting and a social media levy, technological solutions to online harms, developing children's digital literacy, support for parents and carers, adults' experience of online abuse, and young people's use of online dating websites.

**Open date: 11/10/2017**

**Close date: 07/12/2017**

### [The impact of Social Media on the Administration of Justice](#)

Attorney General's Office Call for Evidence which aims to establish whether the risks to justice posed by social media are increasing, and whether any further action needs to be taken. Evidence is sought from judges, solicitors and victims' groups with experience of trials being affected by social media commentary or orders and reporting restrictions being breached on social media.

**Open date: 15/09/2017**

**Close date: 08/12/2017**

### [Homelessness code of guidance for local authorities](#) – 16<sup>th</sup> October 2017

DCLG seek views on draft guidance for how local councils should implement the Homelessness Reduction Act which is due to come into effect in April 2018. The Act requires councils to provide services to all at risk of homelessness, on top of those with a priority need, make information and advice about homelessness available to all residents free of charge and tailoring advice to meet the particular needs of vulnerable groups, including victims of domestic abuse and young adults leaving care

**Open date: 16/10/2017**

**Close date: 11/12/2017**

### [Terrorism Guideline](#)

Sentencing Council consultation seeks views on proposals to revise terrorism-related sentencing guidelines in relation to Preparation of Terrorist Acts, Explosive Substances, Encouragement of Terrorism, Membership of a Proscribed Organisation, Support of a Proscribed Organisation, Funding Terrorism, Failure to Provide Information about Acts of Terrorism, Possession for Terrorist Purposes and Collection of Terrorist Information.

**Open date: 12/10/2017**

**Close date: 22/11/2017**

### [Revisions to PACE Codes C, H, E and F](#)

Home Office consultation on the following revised draft versions of PACE Codes: C - detention, treatment and questioning of persons detained under PACE; H - persons detained under terrorism provisions; E - audio recording of suspect interviews; and F - visual recording with sound of suspect interviews. Amendments will enable officers to use their body worn video to record interviews with suspects away from a police station

**Open date: 25/10/2017**

**Close date: 06/12/2017**

### [Offensive and dangerous weapons](#)

Home Office consultation on primary legislation to create offences to: prevent knives sold online being delivered to a private residential address, and ensuring the age and identity of the purchaser are checked; make it an offence to possess certain weapons in private; introducing an offence of having an offensive weapon on education institutions other than schools; amending the existing offences of threatening with an article with blade or point or offensive weapon and updating the definition of a flick knife.

**Open date: 14/10/2017**

**Close date: 09/12/2017**

### [Legislation to define antique firearms](#)

Home Office consultation on regulations under the Policing and Crime Act to establish a new statutory definition for antique firearms and introduce a process to continually review the regulations. The proposals follow recommendations from the Law Commission's independent review in 2015 and aim to close loopholes currently being abused by criminals and posing a risk to public safety

**Open date: 19/10/2017**

**Close date: 14/12/2017**

### [The Sentencing Code](#)

Law Commission consultation seeking scrutiny of and feedback on the draft Sentencing Code which aims to provide a single reference point for sentencing, simplify many complex provisions and remove the need to refer to historic legislation. Consultees are invited to feedback on any aspect of the Code, including its structure and wording, but reminded that substantive policy changes to the law on sentencing are outside the project's remit.

**Open date: 27/07/2017**

**Close date: 26/01/2018**