



Commissioner's horizon scanning briefing

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1. Policy and Practice

[£800,000 funding awarded for vulnerable women at risk of committing crime](#) – 28th March 2017

Ministry of Justice awards £800,000 across 6 regions (Lancashire, Shropshire, Norfolk, Sussex, Surrey, Devon) to develop joined-up tailored, targeted wrap-around support for vulnerable female offenders

[Protections for victims of sexual abuse and grooming accelerated](#) – 19th March 2017

The planned roll out of measures to enable victims of sexual assault to have their cross-examination pre-recorded before trial has been brought forward to September 2017. Work to roll out the approach for child victims of sexual offences is already leading to more early guilty pleas, fewer cracked trials and more positive experience of the court process. A new offence of sexual communication with a child also came into effect on 3rd April 2017, amending section 15A in the Sexual Offences Act 2003. Perpetrators found grooming a child under the age of 6 will face up to two years in prison and automatically placed on the sex offenders register

[Roll out of S28 of the Youth justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999](#) – 19th March 2017

Provisions to allow vulnerable and intimidated sexual offence witnesses to be cross-examined via a video recorded interview before a criminal trial will be rolled out nationally between September October and December 2017. Pilots in Leeds, Liverpool and Kingston-upon-Thames highlighted benefits including an increase in early guilty pleas, fewer cracked trials and a better cross-examination experience for witnesses. New Achieving Best Evidence (ABE) Guidance will be published shortly

[The Policing and Crime Act 2017 Commencement Regulations](#) - 3rd to 6th April 2017

Further provisions of the Policing and Crime Act come into force which include duties to keep opportunities for blue light collaboration under review (s1-5), enabling powers for PCCs to take on responsibility for the governance of fire and rescue services or be represented on the Fire and Rescue authority (s6-7), increase in safeguards in the use of pre-charge bail (s52-67), powers to require the removal of face coverings (s120), provisions to enable deputy PCCs appointed as Acting to stand for election as PCC (s122)

[Mental Capacity and Deprivation of Liberty](#) - 13th March 2017

Law Commission Review of Mental Capacity Act 2005 and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) recommends that the DoLS are urgently repealed and replaced with new Liberty Protection Safeguards. Published together with a draft Mental Capacity (Amendment) Bill which makes wider reforms to the Mental Capacity Act to ensure greater safeguards for those that lack mental capacity but need to be deprived of liberty so they can be given care and treatment in care homes, hospitals and supported living environments

[Cyber threat to UK business report 2016/17 – published 14th March 2017](#)

Annual National Crime Agency (NCA), National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) assessment highlights the significant and increasing cyber threats to UK businesses. The last year has seen cyber-attacks on a scale and boldness not seen before, including increases in more aggressive and confrontational crimes such as DDoS attacks, ransomware or data extortion. The rise of internet connected devices (botnets) is providing greater opportunity for offending while technical expertise is becoming less of a necessity for carrying out attacks. Perpetrators are increasingly learning from and using one another's skills and capabilities. The report predicts a continued increase in attacks on industrial connected devices with attribution becoming increasingly difficult

[On Tap Europe: Organised Crime and Illicit Trade – 23rd March 2017](#)

RUSI report on the role of organised crime groups in the illicit trade of tobacco, alcohol and pharmaceuticals across Europe highlights key enablers and recommendations for European and international institutions and EU member states. The report calls for law enforcement agencies to develop internal strategies and national task forces to combat illicit trade and OCGs, and for a new model of public-private partnerships to be developed across the EU to facilitate information sharing

[MOJ launch planning applications for four potential prison sites – 22nd March 2017](#)

Justice Minister Elizabeth Truss announces the launch of planning applications for new reform prisons in Yorkshire (adjacent to HMP Full Sutton), Port Talbot in South Wales, HMP & YOI Rochester (redevelopment) and HMP & YOI Hindley (redevelopment). Together, these sites will create 5,000 modern prison places as part of the government's commitment to create up to 10,000 places by 2020

[Private companies could pull out of probation contracts over costs – 21st March 2017](#)

Community Rehabilitation Companies Interserve Justice and MTCNovo inform Commons Justice Select Committee that they could be forced to pull out of their contracts as workloads increase, payment declines and finances become increasingly unsustainable. The companies have contracts worth more than £150m a year and together provide 50% of probation services in England and Wales. Chief inspector, Dame Glenys Stacey said "the financial model, the financial underpinnings for these organisations, is not sufficiently stable and it is substantially inhibiting these CRCs as they seek to develop and implement new operating models"

[Self-inflicted deaths among female prisoners – 28th March 2017](#)

Prisons and Probation Ombudsman Learning the Lessons bulletin drawing on a review of recent fatal incident investigations and prompted by the sudden increase in the number of deaths of female prisoners since 2015

[Indecent images of children: guidance for young people – 17th March 2017](#)

Home Office guidance to inform and empower young people in safely and confidently navigating the internet

[Ofsted announces plans to inspect levy-funded apprenticeships from May 2017 – 23rd March 2017](#)

[Fire and Policing Minister speech on the professionalisation of policing – 29th March 2017](#)

[Security Minister speech to Home Office Serious and Organised Crime Conference – 16th March 2017](#)

[Digital and Culture Minister speech on Cyber Security – 27th Mar 2017](#)

Recent Commons briefing papers include: [Statistics on Migrants and Benefits](#) (28th Mar), [Homelessness in England](#) (24th Mar),

2. Research, Development and Statistics

[Predictive policing research receives £3m grant](#) – 21st March 2017

The Inference, Computation and Numerics for Insights into Cities (ICONIC) consortium led by Imperial College London have been awarded a £3m EPSRC grant to explore and apply predictive analytic techniques following successful trials in California. The first two years of the grant will focus on predictive crime and policing

[New online system 'Report Illicit Drug Reaction' \(RIDR\) launched](#) – 22nd March 2017

Public Health England (PHE) is piloting a national system to help monitor NPS use and effects via settings such as A&E, sexual health clinics, mental health services, prison health services, drug treatment services and GP surgeries. The system will collect anonymous information using an on-line portal, and data will be analysed by experts to identify patterns of symptoms and harms

[Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statistics 2016](#) – Published 29th March 2017

National Crime Agency publishes [October to December 2016](#) and end of year summary statistics for referrals made into the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) as potential victims of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking. NRM referrals increased by 17% in 2016 to 3,805, while referrals relating to exploitation involving minors increased by 30% to 1,278. Labour exploitation remains the most common exploitation type, while Albanian, UK and Vietnamese nationals were the most commonly reported potential victims

Upcoming [Crime Reduction Systematic Reviews](#):

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| • 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
- PEEL 2016/17: Overall findings and 'State of Policing' published Pending
- 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: Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking - Phase 1 report](#) June 2017
- Joint Inspections of Stalking and Harassment (HMIC-led) - Report July 2017
- PEEL: Effectiveness fieldwork - incl. prevention, investing, offender mgmt. Autumn 2017
- Force Management Statement completion deadline October 2017
- PEEL 2017/18: Overall findings report published March 2018
- [HMIC: Crime data integrity \(unannounced visits\)](#) Rolling programme
- HMIC: National Child Protection Inspection (HMIC-led) Rolling programme
- Joint targeted [Child Protection Inspection](#) (Ofsted-led) Rolling programme
- Joint inspection of Youth Offending Teams Rolling programme
- Joint inspection of Police Custody Arrangements (HMI Prisons-led) Rolling programme

4. Reviews and Inquiries

[Inquiry launched – Prison Reform: Estate Modernisation](#) – 30th March 2017

Justice Committee launches a new inquiry into government plans to invest £1.3 billion in the prison estate and will how they will help to fulfil the statutory purposes proposed for them in the Prisons and Courts Bill - reduce crowding, result in efficiency savings, support rehabilitative prison cultures, and increase safety

[Inquiry launched - Cooperation with the EU after Brexit: European Arrest Warrant](#) – 22nd March 2017

EU Home Affairs Sub-Committee launches a new inquiry into Criminal Justice Cooperation with the EU after Brexit: The European Arrest Warrant. The inquiry will follow up on the Sub-Committee's previous report on [Brexit: UK-EU security and police cooperation](#) by examining more closely how the Government's intention to "bring an end to the jurisdiction of the Court of Justice of the European Union in the UK" will affect the UK's ability to sustain "deep cooperation" with the EU and its Member States in the fight against crime and terrorism

[Report Published - Implications of Brexit for the justice system inquiry](#) – 17th March 2017

Justice Committee Inquiry report urges the Government to; continue co-operating on criminal justice as closely as possible; maintain access to the EU's valuable regulations in inter-state commercial law; enable cross-border legal practice rights and opportunities and retain efficient mechanisms to resolve family law cases involving EU Member States and the UK

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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](#) (28th March 2017), [Child Sexual Abuse Independent Inquiry](#) (27th March 2017), [Hate crime and its violent consequences inquiry](#) (21st March 2017), [Disclosure of youth criminal records](#) (15th March 2017), [Immigration inquiry](#) (2nd March 2017), [Prison Reform inquiry](#) (28th 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), [Implications of Brexit for the justice system inquiry](#) ([Report published](#) 17th Mar 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. [Commons Library briefing](#) – 27th March 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 and handle case backlogs more [flexibly](#)
- Introducing new fixed tariffs capping [whiplash](#) compensation and banning claims without medical evidence

A Public Bill Committee is now receiving written evidence on the Bill

[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

6. Consultations

[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

[Changes to Alcohol Duty Structures](#)

HM Treasury consultation on introduction of a new duty band to target cheap, high strength 'white' ciders below 7.5% abv and the impacts of a new lower strength still wine band between 5.5% and 8.5% abv

Open date: 20/03/2017

Close date: 12/06/2017