



Commissioner's horizon scanning briefing

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1. Policy and Practice

[£450,000 made available for community projects to tackle littering](#) – 26th August 2017

DCLG and Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs have made £450k available from the Litter Innovation Fund for creative community projects to tackle littering. 10% of the fund is entirely dedicated to preventing marine litter. The funding follows publication of the government's [litter strategy](#) in April 2017

[£80,000 invested in improvements to victim and witness waiting rooms in courts](#) – 22nd August 2017

HM Courts & Tribunals Service invest £80,000 in court victim and witness waiting rooms in Aldershot, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle and Nottingham, with a view to providing a template for improvements nationwide. The model is designed to create a more comfortable and welcoming environment victims and witnesses in court. Work is also underway to improve the information available to victims and witnesses before coming to court

[Estates Professional Services framework](#) – 22nd August 2017

The Crown Commercial Service sets out a new Estates Professional Services framework to help organisations manage their estates and assets, release unwanted property assets and identify savings. The new framework offers a more flexible pricing model than before, with options available to customers such as incentivised, gainshare and hourly/daily rates, enabling customers to tailor their contracts to their need. It is expected that £430m spent through the framework over the next 4 years could lead to public sector savings of £35m

[Nominations open for Lord Ferrers Awards 2017 celebrating police volunteers](#) – 18th August 2017

Nominations open for the 2017 police volunteer awards, which for the first time include a technical innovation category in recognition of the work of cyber specials. The public have until 17th September to make [nominations](#)

[Public statement and revised guidance on the prosecution of Hate Crime](#) – 21st August 2017

CPS issues new public statements and legal guidance for prosecutors on Hate Crime which for the first time include offences against bisexual people and aim to ensure online hate crime is treated as seriously as offline

[Keep yourself safe – how to spot the signs of common scams](#) – 22nd August 2017

The Insolvency Service provides fraud prevention advice and encourages victims to report these crimes

[Modern Slavery is closer than you think](#) and [Resources for industry](#) – 17th - 25th August 2017

Home Office publish updated modern slavery briefing materials, infographics, posters and other resources

Recent Commons briefing papers include: [Brexit: Defence & Security](#) (1st Sep), [Speed limits in England](#) (30th Aug), [NEET: Young People Not in Education, Employment](#) (24th Aug), [Mental health policy England](#) (23rd Aug)

2. Research, Development and Statistics

Police Federation Pay and Morale Survey 2017 – Published 30th August 2017

Police Federation [report](#) on findings from 30,557 police officers surveyed in April and June 2017 finds that:-

- 72% were dissatisfied with their overall remuneration – the largest proportion since the PFEW Pay and Morale survey began, and 86.5% did not feel fairly paid considering the stresses and strains of their job
- 41% said that their pension increased their intention to stay in the police, while 30% of respondents said their pension increased their intention to leave the police
- 60% said that their own personal morale was low, marking an increase on findings from 2016 (56%). The proportion feeling morale is low in their force more generally remains high, but similar to 2016 levels (90%)
- Factors impacting negatively on morale include how the police as a whole are treated (85%), how change is managed within the police service (80%), pay and benefits (73%) and work-life balance (65%)
- More than two thirds of respondents said that they did not feel valued in the police and would not recommend joining the police to others; however 65% felt proud to be in the police. 12.3% of respondents said that they planned to leave the police either as soon as possible or within the next two years
- 72% of respondents said that their workload had increased in the last year and 62% said that their workload had been too high. These proportions are similar to levels in 2016 (71% and 61% respectively)
- A high proportion would never want to do one of the roles classified by the NPCC as 'hard-to-fill', including custody (73%), public protection (70%), firearms (64%), and of those currently working in these roles 19% of custody officers and 10% of public protection officers would like to be redeployed as soon as possible

The results, which are also available via individual [police force level reports](#), will be used as evidence in the PFEW's submission to the Police Remuneration Review Body, as well as providing information to HMIC, the College of Policing, the Home Office and other stakeholders to inform discussion and debate

Bobbies on the net: a police workforce for the digital age – 23rd August 2017

Reform publish research based on interviews with police officers, staff, government officials and experts that highlights changes required to make forces fit to fight digital crime. The paper concludes that while different parts of the workforce will need to change in different ways, the whole workforce requires better equipment, working patterns and understanding of digital demand and crime-fighting techniques. Recommends include:-

- Home Office create a new police digital capital grant on £450m per year to invest in digital infrastructure and better target its £175 million Police Transformation Fund on genuinely transformational technology
- Government should set 'reducing crime' as one of the public-policy challenges in its Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund and invest in innovative new policing technology companies as part of the Strategy
- Forces should use competitive procurement channels to get value for money when purchasing technology
- Forces & NPCC should extend force-management statements to set out how to meet demand in 15 years+
- Forces should improve digital understanding through learning apps and training, create 'heatmaps' to understand the skills available and aim to increase secondment numbers (an extra 1,500 officers and staff)
- Home Office should organise an annual convention to enable police forces to join national bodies and other experts in developing approaches to meeting the new frontline of crime
- Law-enforcement agencies should also seek to increase the number of cyber volunteers from 40 to 12,000, in part by offering more dynamic volunteering opportunities and the Home Office should create a digital academy to train cyber specialists, graduating around 1,700 police officers and staff a year
- The report also recommends that forces have fewer than eight ranks, with five likely to be the optimum and argues that government should implement Sir Tom Winsor's 2012 recommendation to introduce compulsory severance for all police officers, and further allow force leaders to make underperforming officers redundant

British Social Attitudes Survey: 2016 (Transport) – Published 29th August 2017

Department for Transport publishes findings from the 2016 British social attitudes survey which highlight that:-

- 50% agree that use of mobile phones while driving, including hands-free phones, is dangerous, however,
- Only 40% agree all use of mobile phones while driving should be banned and 71% agree that the law on using mobile phones whilst driving is not properly enforced – a figure which has remains relatively stable
- Agreement that “speed cameras save lives” has risen from a low of 42% in 2005 to 56% in 2016
- Respondents agreeing that there are too many speed cameras (32%) fell to the lowest level in a decade
- Still, nearly half (48%) of all respondents think that speed cameras are mostly there to make money
- The proportion of respondents supporting 20mph speed limits in residential areas (69%) remains stable
- Opposition to speed bumps has declined from 41% in 2009 to 29% in 2016
- Perception that the roads are too dangerous for cyclists fell from 64% in 2015 to 59% in 2016, reaching the lowest level since question was first asked in 2011
- Agreement that if someone has drunk any alcohol they should not drive (82%) remains stable and 72% agree that most people do not know how much alcohol they can drink before being over the legal limit

Online Hate Crime Report 2017: Challenging homophobia, biphobia and transphobia – 21st August 2017

Gallop.org.uk analysis of qualitative interview and survey data on the nature and impact of online anti-lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender hate crime in the UK> The research highlights verbal abuse, insults, threats, intimidation, harassment, 'outing' and 'doxing' (publishing private information without consent) as common forms of online hate crime. 72% of survey respondents had not reported their most recent experience and 34% would not consider doing so in the future. Experiences of reporting to online platforms were generally poor. The research finds evidence of the impact of these crimes which can include deterioration in mental and physical wellbeing, relationship breakdown and changed patterns of behaviour. The report makes recommendations for

- Coordinated efforts by statutory agencies, NGOs and social media platforms to enable stronger, quicker investigation and prosecution of online hate crime – supported by a joined up international approach
- Improved regulation of social media platforms and improved visibility of reporting and support services
- Increased specialist advocacy and support for LGBT+ people experiencing hate crime online and
- Improvements in public awareness about what is legal / illegal in terms of expressing views

Immigration statistics, April to June 2017 – Published 25 August 2017

Latest Home Office statistics on those subject to immigration control highlight that:-

- The number of people [granted asylum, resettlement or an alternative form of protection](#) in the UK (16,211) increased by 7% in the year to June 2017. The proportion of asylum applications that were granted fell from 38% to 34% over the year. Around 1,100 Syrian nationals were granted asylum or alternative protection, with a further 5,637 being granted humanitarian protection under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme. A total of 8,535 people have been resettled under the scheme since it began in 2014
- 2,994 people were being [detained in immigration removal centres and short-term holding facilities](#) as at June 2017, in addition to 360 held in prison establishments solely under immigration powers. Around 48% are returned or voluntarily depart the UK on leaving detention, marking an increase on 2016 (44%). Total enforced returns, including those not from detention, fell by 3% to 12,542. 6,071 [Foreign National Offenders](#) were returned during the year reaching one of the highest levels since comparable records began in 2009

Prison population projections – Published 24th August 2017

Ministry of Justice publish revised prison population statistics which forecast a 1,600 placement rise in the prison population by 2022, following a period of stability between 2017 and 2019. The determinate sentenced population is expected to rise as a result of more serious cases coming before the courts and the 50 year old+ population is also expected to rise, due in part to a rise in the level of sexual offending cases reaching court

3. Audits and Inspections

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
- HMIC: National Child Protection Inspection (HMIC-led)
- HMIC: Domestic abuse update thematic report
- Ofsted: Joint targeted [Child Protection Inspection](#) Overview report
- PEEL: Effectiveness fieldwork - incl. prevention, investing, offender mgmt. Autumn 2017
- Force Management Statement completion deadline October 2017
- HMIC: Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Phase 2 fieldwork Jun 2017 - Mar 2018
- PEEL 2017/18: Overall findings report published March 2018
- Joint inspection of Youth Offending Teams Rolling programme

4. Reviews and Inquiries

[Social Integration: Integration Not Demonisation](#) – 25th August 2017

Final report of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Social Integration's inquiry into the integration of immigrants makes four core recommendations:-

- Ministers should devolve substantive immigration policy powers to the constituent nations and regions of the UK to create a regionally-led immigration system. The government should also consider a 'Devo-Max' option wherein regional immigration authorities would be empowered to develop quotas for the number of newcomers who would be able to immigrate to their area to work within specific economic sectors
- Government should develop a comprehensive and proactive strategy for the integration of immigrants which is overseen by an Integration Policy Unit within the Cabinet Office. A statutory duty on all local authorities to promote the integration of immigrants should be introduced and government should bring forward plans for the introduction of an Integration Impact Fund to finance integration policy actions in key areas
- Rather than being seen as security risks or 'the other', immigrants should be viewed as Britons-in-waiting. Policymakers should seek to create a climate where it is not only possible but expected that the majority of immigrants who arrive in the UK will become citizens. Government should reform the process of becoming a British citizen to reflect a richer understanding of the concept of citizenship
- Ministers should develop a new strategy for the promotion of English language learning reflecting the guiding principle that no one should be able to live in our country for a considerable length of time without speaking English. Policymakers should introduce an income-contingent advanced learning loan system for English language programmes and offer employers financial incentives for providing ESOL programmes

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](#)

5. Legislation

[European Union \(Withdrawal\) Bill](#) – Commons 2nd reading – 7th September 2017

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

[Age of Criminal Responsibility Bill](#) – Lords 2nd reading – 8th September 2017 [Lords briefing](#) 18th Aug 2017

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

[Modern Slavery \(Victim Support\) Bill](#) - Lords 2nd reading – 8th Sept 2017 [Lords briefing](#) 17th Aug 2017

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

[Assaults on Emergency Workers \(Offences\) Bill](#) - Commons 2nd reading – 20th October 2017

Private Members' Bill to make certain offences aggravated when perpetrated against emergency workers and connected purposes

[Mental Health Units \(Use of Force\) Bill](#) - Commons 2nd reading – 3rd 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 2nd reading – 1st December 2017

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

[Stalking Protection Bill](#) - Commons 2nd reading – 19th January 2018

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

[Freedom of Information \(Extension\) Bill](#) – Commons 2nd reading – 15th June 2018

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

[Asset Freezing \(Compensation\) Bill](#) – Lords 2nd reading – TBC

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

[Criminal Records Bill](#) - Lords 2nd 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

[Policing Resources Bill](#) - Lords 2nd 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 2nd 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

[Children Act 1989 \(Amendment\) \(FGM\) Bill](#) – Lords 2nd 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 2nd 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 2nd 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 2nd reading – TBC

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

[Bills announced in the Queen's Speech](#) – 21st July 2017

- **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. The Bill will 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; enable parents and guardians to give consent for their child's data to be used; 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; update and strengthen data protection law to reflect the changing nature and scope of the digital economy; make it easier and free for individuals to require an organisation to disclose the personal data it holds on them; make it easier for customers to move data between service providers. New criminal offences will be created to deter organisations from either intentionally or recklessly creating situations where someone could be identified from anonymised data
- **Sanctions Bill** will make provisions to update, amend or lift key sanctions following the UK's exit from the European Union. [Government plans](#), which include measures to enable Britain to play a central role in global sanctions to combat the threat of terrorism, were published 2nd August 2017
- **Draft 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 and [measures to ratify the Istanbul Convention](#) to allow certain offences committed by British citizens anywhere in the world to be prosecuted in UK courts
- **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

[Draft Sentencing Guidelines for Child Cruelty](#)

Sentencing Council consultation on 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

[Security of Network and Information Systems Directive](#)

Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport consultation seeking views from industry, regulators and other interested parties on Government plans to implement the Security of Network and Information Systems Directive which would require essential service operators to develop a strategy and policies to understand and manage cyber security risks and implement measures to prevent attacks or system failures. Organisations failing to implement effective cyber security measures could be fined as much as £17m or 4% of global turnover

Open date: 08/08/2017

Close date: 30/09/2017

[Use of Overt Surveillance Camera Systems in public places](#)

Surveillance Camera Commissioner is seeking details on Police use of surveillance camera systems and compliance with responsibilities under the Surveillance Camera Code. PCCs are also invited to provide details of any surveillance camera systems which falls within the scope of the Code which they separately operate and any resources or financial assistance they make available to Local Authorities to help with their CCTV systems

Open date: 08/08/2017

Close date: 30/09/2017

[Laser pointers: call for evidence](#)

Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy consultation seeking responses from stakeholders and the public on the market for laser pointers and how they are used. This is part of a call for evidence which will consider updating regulations governing the import and trade of laser pointers, as well as potential solutions to the misuse of lasers, such as licensing arrangements, restrictions on supply, and the introduction of a specific criminal offence for 'laser attacks' on planes or vehicles

Open date: 12/08/2017

Close date: 06/10/2017

[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: 10/10/2017

[Draft Sentencing Guidelines for Manslaughter](#)

Sentencing Council consultation on new sentencing guidelines for four types of manslaughter which comprise unlawful manslaughter, gross negligence, manslaughter by reason of loss of control and manslaughter by reason of diminished responsibility

Open date: 04/07/2017

Close date: 10/10/2017