



Commissioner's horizon scanning briefing

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1. Policy and Practice

[£375,000 Government funding awarded to improve hate crime reporting](#) – 26th January 2017

Communities Secretary announces new funding for Sophie Lancaster Foundation, True Vision, Traveller Movement and Show Racism the Red Card to further encourage the reporting and prevention of hate crime

[Additional Near Neighbours funding made available](#) – 24th January 2017

Minister for Faith and Integration announces a further £210,000 [Near Neighbours](#) funding - grants of between £250 and £5,000 for community projects that bring together diverse communities and different faiths

[Second phase of the local alcohol action areas \(LAAA\) programme launched](#) – 27th January 2017

Home Office launches second phase of the LAAA programme which brings together agencies including licensing authorities, health bodies, and police to tackle alcohol-related crime and health harms and create a more diverse night-time economy. Phase 2 covers a further 33 areas across England and Wales which will be supported by experts in crime prevention, licensing and public health to develop and implement local plans

[New Memorandum of Understanding on use of restraint in mental health settings](#) – 25th January 2017

MOU developed by police and healthcare professionals outlines police powers, the law, what healthcare professionals are committed to doing, how to manage uncertainties, restraint and restrictive practices and practical case studies showing good practice. It also encourages police and healthcare professionals to continue reviewing and learning from incidents.

[Independent Child Trafficking Advocates \(ICTAs\) Interim Guidance published](#) – 28th January 2017

Interim guidance on the roles and responsibilities of Independent Child Trafficking Advocates published under Section 49 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 for the 3 early adopter sites - Greater Manchester, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, and Wales

[Police grants in England and Wales: 2017 to 2018](#) – Final allocations announced 1st February 2017

As set out in the December Statement, direct funding, including precept, will be protected at flat cash levels compared to 2015/16, assuming that precept income is increased to the maximum amount available in both 2016/17 and 2017/18. £633m Resource funding and £42m Capital funding has been allocated to support counter-terrorism policing in 2017/18 in addition to a further £32m for armed policing from the Police Transformation Fund. Allocations per PCC will not be available in the public domain for security reasons

[UK's exit from and new partnership with the European Union White Paper](#) – 2nd February 2017

Government White Paper makes clear the Government's intentions to secure a strong and close future of cooperation with the EU in the fight against crime and terrorism (Chapter 11) as part of exit negotiations. This will focus on operational and practical cross-border cooperation which has public safety in the UK and rest of Europe at its heart. More specifically, our 'commitment to cooperation on cyber security with European and global allies will be undiminished' and we will 'continue to work together with our European partners to tackle serious and organised crime'. The paper also sets an ambition for closer working with partners, including the EU and its Member States, to share information and highlights mutual benefits from the UK's strong role in Europol systems, European Arrest Warrant, development of EU Passenger Name Record rules and use of the European Criminal Records Information System and the Schengen Information System II. [APCC briefing](#)

[Lord McNally speech on healthcare in the YJS - Westminster Legal Policy Forum](#) – 31st January 2017

[Roads Minister's speech to the National Roads Policing Conference](#) – 26th January 2017

Recent Commons briefing papers include: [Missing persons & presumption of death](#) (1st Feb), ["Helen's Law"](#) (1st Feb), [Private renting solutions for homeless and vulnerable](#) (1st Feb), [International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM](#) (31st Jan), [Implementation of the Prevent Strategy](#) (31st Jan), [Environmental Crime](#) (31st Jan), [Tackling alcohol harm](#) (1st Feb), [Statistics on Alcohol](#) (30th Jan), [Alcohol: minimum pricing](#) (30th Jan), [Migration Statistics](#) (27th Jan), [Rough sleeping](#) (27th Jan), [Local Authority Homelessness Statistics](#) (27th Jan), [Prisons](#) (24th Jan)

2. Research, Development and Statistics

[Police workforce statistics: 30 September 2016](#) – Published 26th January 2017

Home Office statistics show reductions in the England and Wales police workforce across all categories compared to the previous year, including police officers (-2.2%), police staff (-3.1%), PCSOs (-10.7%), designated officers (-5.9%) and special constables (-7.3%). For the first time, the data also shows proportion of officers in each age group, revealing that 48% of all officers are over 40, a proportion that has increased from 39% since 2007. 4% of police officers are under 26 years of age compared to 44% of special constables, 11% of PCSOs and 6% of civilian staff. [Data available at police force level](#) [Police Foundation blog](#)

[Drug Misuse Treatment in England: Evidence Review of Outcomes](#) – 26th January 2017

Public Health England review of the drug misuse treatment system shows some strong comparative performance with 60% of all opioid users in treatment, 97% of all users starting treatment within three weeks and low rates of HIV infection among injecting drug users (1%). The review highlights areas for improvement in reducing drug-related deaths and those continuing to use opiates/heroin after starting treatment. Although fewer people are using drugs than a decade ago, a rise in hospital admissions and drug-related deaths indicate that drug-related harms are increasing. Evidence suggests that this increase is largely among a small but growing number of vulnerable, older entrenched heroin users, with poor physical and mental health. The review was published alongside the first [annual report](#) on specialist treatment for drugs and alcohol misuse in prisons and other secure settings. A new government drugs strategic is due to be published later this year

[Anti-Semitic Incidents Report 2016](#) – Published 2nd February 2016

The Community Security Trust's (CST) report on Anti-Semitic hate crime in the UK highlights a 36% increase in incidents recorded by the charity in 2016 – reaching the highest level since records began (1984). The report notes consistently high month on month levels between May and December 2016 which, rather than being linked to a single 'trigger event' are likely to be the cumulative effect of a series of events, such as high profile allegations in the Labour Party, a perceived increase in xenophobia following the EU referendum, and regular, high-profile discussion of antisemitism in mainstream media, that together, have created an atmosphere in which more Anti-Semitic incidents are occurring and more are being reported to CST and Police

Safety in Custody Statistics to September 2016 – Published 26th January 2017

Ministry of Justice Statistics show increases in the last year in deaths (+38%) and self-inflicted deaths (+32%) in prison custody in addition to increases in self-harm incidents (+23%), assaults (+31%) and assaults on prison staff (+40%). Many indicators have reached record highs. [Justice Secretary](#) and [Howard League](#) responses

Offender Management Statistics to September / December 2016 – Published 26th January 2017

The prison population has been relatively stable for the past five years while the number of offenders on probation has increased by 12%. The number of offenders recalled to prison has fallen (-7%) for the first time since Offender Rehabilitation Act 2014 was introduced

NPS and CRC Performance to September 2016 – Published 26th January 2017

No reoffending data is available as insufficient time has passed for the first cohort under new arrangements. End-state targets take effect from February 2017. CRC measures of offender contact, plan completions, recording of sentence outcomes and recall referral quality have seen marginal reductions in quarter 2 and remain below target. NPS performance against February 2017 end-state targets remains relatively strong as do CRC indicators for arrangement and delivery of unpaid work and provision of resettlement plans

Youth Justice Statistics to March 2016 – Published 26th January 2017

The number of young people in the YJS continues to reduce as do the number of arrests (-7%) and number cautioned (-17%) or convicted for the first time (-12%) or receiving youth cautions or court convictions (-13%) or custodial sentence (10%). For young people in custody, the rate of assaults and self-harm incidents has increased in the past year, while the rate of use of physical restraint has fallen slightly. The total number of repeat offenders (-15%) and repeat offences (-10%) have also continued to fall. The 12 month reoffending rate for young people remains relatively stable at 37.9%. [Data available at individual YOT level](#)

Proven reoffending statistics to March 2015 – Published 26th January 2017

The overall proven reoffending rate (25.3%) has remained fairly flat since 2004 despite a 1.2% point reduction in adult reoffending (24.4%). While juvenile reoffending rates (37.9%) have increased by 4.3% points, the cohort of juvenile offenders has reduced substantially. The proven reoffending rate for adults released from custody (44.7%) has fallen by 3.9 percentage points since 2004

Reported road casualties data to September 2016 – Published 2nd February 2017

Road casualty [data](#) (provisional estimates) to September 2016 highlighting a 4% decrease in overall road casualties over the last year but a 6% increase in the number of killed or seriously injured casualties. Motor traffic levels rose by a further 1.4% over the same period. [Data available at police force level](#)

Road accidents involving illegal alcohol levels: 2015 – Published 2nd February 2017

The Department for Transport [data](#) (provisional estimates) highlighting a 3% rise in overall drink drive casualties of all severities in 2015 and a 2% rise in the total number of drink drive accidents. The number of fatal drink drive accidents is estimated to have remained relatively unchanged since 2010

Upcoming Crime Reduction Systematic Reviews:

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| • Police responses to people with mental health problems | Pending |
| • Speed cameras to reduce speeding traffic and road traffic injuries | Pending |
| • The impact of police pre-arrest diversion – systematic review | February 2017 |
| • Effectiveness of asset-focussed interventions against organised crime | February 2017 |
| • Tagging as a method to reduce theft in retail environments | February 2017 |
| • Red light enforcement cameras to reduce traffic violations and injuries | February 2017 |
| • Diversity and organisational outcomes | February 2017 |
| • The effectiveness of electronic monitoring of offenders | February 2017 |
| • Personal security alarms for the prevention of assaults | February 2017 |

3. Inspections

HMIC Proposed Inspection Programme and Framework 2017 to 2018 – Issued 20th January 2017

Proposed HMIC inspection arrangements for 2017/18 include plans to integrate 'leadership' into all strands of the PEEL inspection as opposed to it remaining a strand in its own right, and to explore responses to findings regarding 'abuse of police authority for sexual gain' as part of the Legitimacy fieldwork. Thematic inspections will include hate crime, counter-terrorism, child protection and crime data integrity. HMIC expect to be informed in early 2017 as to whether they will assume responsibility for inspecting fire and rescue services, having submitted a detailed proposal to the Home Office based on the effectiveness, efficiency and leadership model.

HMIC: Best Use of Stop and Search - second revisits – 2nd February 2017

HMIC inspection findings from revisits of the 19 forces that not to be compliant with one or two features of the Best Use of Stop and Search scheme in 2015. The scheme sets out guidance on data recording and publishing, lay observation policies, community complaints trigger and complaint policy, monitoring the impact of stop and search on different groups and reducing the use of stop and search under s60 Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994. 15 of the forces were fully compliant at the time of the revisit with a further two forces having been subsequently deemed compliant since the revisits. [College of Policing response](#)

Ongoing and upcoming inspection activity

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| • PEEL: Effectiveness - prevention, investigation, vulnerability, SPR, ROCU | Publication pending |
| • JTAI Partnership response to children affected by domestic abuse | Publication pending |
| • Joint Inspections of Stalking and Harassment (HMIC-led) - Fieldwork | Ongoing |
| • PEEL 2016/17: Overall findings and 'State of Policing' published | March 2017 |
| • 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 |
| • HMIC: National Child Protection Inspection (HMIC-led) | Ongoing |
| • Joint targeted Child Protection Inspection (Ofsted-led) | Rolling programme |
| • HMIC: Crime data integrity (unannounced visits) | 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

Upgrading Emergency Service Communications report published – 25th January 2017

Public Accounts Committee [inquiry](#) report concludes that the Emergency Services Network (ESN) "may require more testing and assurance work than the current December 2019 delivery date seems to allow for", while the Home Office has not budgeted for an extended transition period or put in place detailed contingency arrangements to manage this risk. The Committee urges the Home Office to put in place adequate independent testing of the ESN technology "to make sure it works under pressure in a live environment", reassess its timescales and costs for the transition and be clear as to what point the switchover will be mandated. The Committee also raises further concerns about the letting of the two main ESN contracts, finding the Home Office "did not manage to maintain competitive pressure" in the process

NHS Ambulance Services – 26th January 2017

National Audit Office report concludes that demand for ambulance services continues to grow rapidly, with increasing numbers of elderly patients, an increasing number of alcohol and mental health-driven issues and the availability of primary care services in the community being contributory factors. The report notes that increased funding for these services has not matched rising demand. While performance against response time targets has declined, the report notes that commissioners, regulators and providers place too much focus on these as measures of success. The report also notes that differences in workforce mix, fleet mix and estate across the 10 ambulance trusts in England have contributed to variations and inefficiencies in performance

Police and Firefighters' Pension Scheme Commutation factors – 1st February 2017

National Audit Office report on compensation paid to Police and Firefighters' that retired from Pension Schemes between 2001 and 2006 without receiving their full entitlement notes that GAD has reviewed its funding mechanisms and internal controls to ensure its statutory duties are clearly understood and discharged. This, together with the updated approach to governance of government pension schemes, should provide a more rigorous approach to ensuring scheme regulations are considered sufficiently in the future

National Audit Office Departmental Overview of the Home Office 2015-16 – 2nd January 2017

Overview of the Home Office, collating a range of NAO reports issued over the last year and summarising areas where the NAO believes performance could be improved

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- **Report in preparation:** [Lammy Review of BAME representation in the CJS](#) (Spring 2017)
 - **Evidence in progress:** [Child Sexual Abuse Independent Inquiry](#) (ongoing), [Independent Review into child abuse allegations in football](#) (11th January 2017), [Implications of Brexit for the justice system inquiry](#) (10th January 2017), [Hate crime and its violent consequences inquiry](#) (10th January 2017), [Disclosure of youth criminal records](#) (10th January 2017), [Pitchford Undercover Policing inquiry](#) (9th January 2017), [Prison Reform inquiry](#) (14th December 2016), [EU policing and security issues](#) (6th December 2016), [Apprenticeships inquiry](#) (2nd November 2016), [Sharia Law](#) (1st November 2016), Immigration inquiry (2nd February 2017)

5. Legislation

Policing and Crime Act 2017 Receives Royal Assent – 31st January 2017 The Act includes provisions to:-

- Place a [statutory duty on police, fire and rescue and emergency ambulance services to collaborate](#)
- Enable PCCs to take on responsibility for fire & rescue service governance where local case is made
- *Schedule A1 to the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 came into force 31st January 2017 enabling governance business cases to be developed with immediate effect (APACE guidance pending). Provisions in relation to Collaboration Agreements, PCCs taking on role of FRA, fire and rescue service inspection and Fire Safety inspections come into force 3rd April 2017*
- Reform [police disciplinary & complaints systems](#) to strengthen public confidence & police integrity –
- *Provisions for guidance come into force 3rd April while provisions to strengthen PCC role will come into force by summer 2018 as part of wider police integrity reforms*
- [Reform pre-charge](#) bail to prevent people remaining on bail for lengthy periods without scrutiny
- Give chief officers flexibility to confer a [wider range of powers on police staff and volunteers](#)
- Conferring Home Sec powers to specify [police ranks in regulations](#) & enable a flatter rank structure
- Extend the Police Federation's core purpose to cover the public interest and making it subject to FOI
- Enable HM Inspectorate of Constabulary to undertake end-to-end inspections of the police
- Improve response to those in mental health crisis by [reforming police powers under s135 and s136 MH Act](#)
- This includes stopping police detention among those under 18 and restricting adult detention
- Amend PACE Act 1984 to ensure that 17 year olds detained in police custody are treated as children
- *New section 47ZK (rules) of PACE (Part 4) came into force on 31st January 2017. Other provisions come into force 3rd April 2017. [College of Policing briefing materials on changes to pre-charge bail laws](#)*
- Increase in the maximum sentence for stalking involving fear of violence from 5 to 10 years' imprisonment
- Improve protection for victims of [forced marriage](#) and providing them with lifelong anonymity when reporting
- Mandate that offences relating to CSE cover streaming / transmission of indecent images of children
- Enable statutory guidance to local taxi / private hire licensing authorities re. protection of vulnerable people
- Confer [pardons](#) for individuals living or deceased who were convicted of now abolished gay sex offences
- Close loopholes in [firearms](#) acts and issue statutory guidance in assessing suitability for firearms certificates
- Make it an offence to possess pyrotechnic articles at qualifying musical events
- *Provisions for come into force 3rd April*
- Reform the late night levy to make it easier for licensing authorities to implement
- *Provisions for come into force 6th April*

Children and Social Work Bill – Report Stage in Commons – TBC

Bill to make provision about looked after children; ensure lessons are learned from serious child safeguarding cases; create a new 'power to innovate' giving local authorities the freedom to test out innovative new ways of working and introduce measures to improve how agencies share information

National Citizen Service Bill – Report Stage in Commons – 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. [Lords briefing](#)

Digital Economy Bill – Committee Stage in Lords – 6th February 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](#)

- 23rd January: [Bill Amendment tabled](#) to compel communications providers to disconnect mobile, SIM cards or phone numbers being used in so-called 'county lines' operations (drug dealers in urban areas using mobile phone numbers on anonymously acquired devices to sell drugs in rural areas and smaller towns)

Asset Freezing (Compensation) Bill – 2nd reading in Commons – 24th February 2017

A Bill to make provision for the imposing of restrictions on assets owned by persons involved in supplying terrorist organisations in the United Kingdom with arms, for the purpose of securing compensation for citizens of the United Kingdom affected by the supply of such arms.

Modern Slavery (Transparency in Supply Chains) Bill – 2nd reading in Commons – 24th March 2017

Private Members' Bill to require commercial organisations and public bodies to include a statement on slavery and human trafficking in their annual report and accounts; and to require contracting authorities to exclude from procurement procedures economic operators who have not provided such a statement. [Briefing](#)

Homelessness Reduction Bill – 2nd reading in Commons – 24th February 2017

Private Members Bill to place a duty on local authorities to help eligible people at risk of homelessness to secure accommodation 56 days before they are threatened with homelessness and to provide those who find themselves homeless with support for a further period of 56 days. [Commons briefing](#) – 23rd Jan 2017

Preventing & Combating Violence Against Women & DV Bill - Commons Report Stage – 24th Feb 2017

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)

Criminal Finances Bill – Commons Report Stage – TBC

Tackle corruption, money laundering and tax evasion. Allow the Government to recoup more criminal assets by reforming the law on proceeds of crime, including provisions to strengthen our enforcement powers and protect the public. Introduction of a criminal offence for corporations who fail to stop their staff facilitating tax evasion; Improve the operation of the Suspicious Activity Reports (SARs) regime to encourage better use of public and private sector resources. [Explanatory documents](#) , [Commons Library Analysis](#) , [Consultation responses](#)

Road Traffic Offenders (Surrender of Driving Licences) Bill - Commons Committee Stage – TBC

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

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

6. Consultations

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

Open date: 13/12/2016

Close date: 10/02/2017

[Policing for the future: changing demands and new challenges inquiry](#)

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

Open date: 09/01/2017

Close date: 16/02/2017

[New expectations for adult male prisons](#)

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

Open date: 03/01/2017

Close date: 17/02/2017

[College of Policing Call for Practice](#)

College of Policing is gathering practice examples from the police service together with the systematic review evidence on [investigative interviewing](#) and [officer safety](#) as part of a new approach to developing national guidance based on principles used by the [National Institute for Health and Care Excellence](#)

Open date: 03/02/2017

Close date: 17/02/2017

[Police inspection: HMIC proposed programme and framework 2017 to 2018](#)

HMIC consultation on proposed inspection framework for 2018, in particular; proposals to assess police leadership as part of all three elements of the PEEL programme as opposed to separately and proposed thematic inspections of hate crime, counter-terrorism, child protection and crime data integrity

Open date: 20/01/2017

Close date: 24/02/2017

[Reforming the Advocates' Graduated Fee Scheme](#)

Ministry of Justice consultation on proposals to reform the funding scheme for advocates defending clients in the Crown Court. The government is seeking views on the graduated fee bundle, categorisation of offences and standard cases, early guilty pleas and cracked trials, special preparation and equalities matters

Open date: 05/01/2017

Close date: 02/03/2017

[Firearms licensing fees](#)

Home Office consultation on proposed fee levels for prohibited weapons, museums and approved shooting clubs. New fees are expected to come into force in 2017, subject to enabling powers in Policing and Crime Bill

Open date: 12/01/2017

Close date: 09/03/2017

[Corporate liability for economic crime](#)

Ministry of Justice call for evidence seeking views on reforming the law on corporate liability for economic crime and, in particular, whether the 'identification doctrine' (requirement to prove a "directing mind" and will in terms of corporate offending) is deficient as a tool for effective law enforcement against large modern companies

Open date: 13/01/2017

Close date: 24/03/2017