



## Commissioner's horizon scanning briefing

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## 1. Policy and Practice

### [Apply for funding: Preventing Hate Crime Scheme \(Year 2\) – 31<sup>st</sup> July 2017](#)

Home Office invites applications for funding of up to £50,000 for community projects that tackle and respond to hate crime. Applications must be submitted by 15<sup>th</sup> September and projects should be completed by June 2018

### [Essex PCC to take on responsibility of local fire and rescue service – 25<sup>th</sup> July 2017](#)

Roger Hirst (Essex) will become the first PCC to take on responsibility for the Fire and Rescue service in October 2017 after the proposal under the Policing and Crime Act 2017 was approved by the Home Secretary. Essex received a share of £1m Home Office Police Transformation Funding to develop a business case for the governance of fire and rescue services in 2016/17, alongside PCCs in Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire, Northamptonshire, West Mercia, Gloucestershire, North Yorkshire, Staffordshire and Sussex

### [Stepping forward to 2020/21: Mental health workforce plan for England – 31<sup>st</sup> July 2017](#)

Health Secretary launches [plan](#) to expand the mental health workforce by 21,000 posts by 2021, including:-

- 2,000 additional nurses, consultants and therapist posts in child and adolescent mental health services
- 2,900 additional therapists and other allied health professionals supporting access to adult talking therapies
- 4,800 additional posts for nurses and therapists working in crisis care settings

All major specialisms will see an expansion in numbers, with the plan targeting areas where there are forecast to be particular shortfalls as demand on services increases. The government has pledged to treat an extra 1 million patients by 2021, provide key services on a 24/7 basis and integrate mental and physical health services

### [Guidance updated: Home Office counting rules for recorded crime – 28<sup>th</sup> July 2017](#)

[Updated Counting rules](#) for notifiable offences and [notifiable offences and reported incident list 2017 to 2018](#)

### [New guidance: Home Office Body Armour Standard – 31<sup>st</sup> July 2017](#)

Guidance on minimum performance requirements / test methods for law enforcement body armour

### [Learning the Lessons Bulletin 30 – 27<sup>th</sup> July 2017](#)

Latest IPCC bulletin includes learning in relation to missing persons, risk assessments, bail and control rooms

**Recent Commons briefing papers** include: [Knives and offensive weapons](#) (4<sup>th</sup> Aug), [Nuisance complaints](#) (1<sup>st</sup> Aug), [Deportation of foreign national offenders](#) (1<sup>st</sup> Aug), [Registration and management of sex offenders](#) (28<sup>th</sup> Jul), [Acid attacks](#) (27<sup>th</sup> Jul), [Counter-extremism policy in English schools](#) (27<sup>th</sup> Jul), [Prison overcrowding](#) (26<sup>th</sup> Jul), [City Deals](#) (24<sup>th</sup> Jul), [Public sector pay](#) (21<sup>st</sup> Jul), [Litter: key trends, policy and legislation](#) (21<sup>st</sup> Jul)

## 2. Research, Development and Statistics

### **Police use of firearms statistics: April 2016 to March 2017 – Published 27<sup>th</sup> July 2017**

Latest Home Office firearms statistics show that the total number of operationally deployable police officers who are authorised to use firearms (6,278) increased by 11% in 2016/17, marking the first annual increase since 2011/12. This has largely been driven by a national uplift in armed policing capability. Figures also show that:

- The number of police firearms operations increased by 7% on the previous year to 15,705
- The number of firearms operations involving Armed Response Vehicles remained relatively stable at 84%
- The number of incidents in which police firearms were discharged increased from 7 to 10

[Data available at police force level](#)

### **Deaths during or following police contact 2016/17 – Published 25<sup>th</sup> July 2017**

IPCC report shows that 231 deaths occurred during or following police contact were recorded in 2016/17. Deaths in police custody (14) reached the second lowest level since the IPCC began recording, however fatal police shootings (6) and deaths related to police pursuits of vehicles (28) reached the highest level since 2005/06. The figures also included 32 road traffic fatalities and 55 apparent suicides following police custody and 124 'other deaths' – 74 of which were reported to be intoxicated by drugs and / or alcohol, and 77 of which were reported to have mental health concerns

[Data available at police force level](#)

### **Drug misuse: findings from the 2016 to 2017 CSEW – Published 27<sup>th</sup> July 2017**

Findings from the CSEW indicate that levels of illicit drug use have remained relatively stable over the last year with 8.5% of adults and 19% of young adults reporting use in the last 12 months. This continues the relatively stable trend seen since 2009, despite a significant reduction in prevalence rates a decade ago. The proportion of adults having used class a drugs (3%), cannabis (6.6%), powder cocaine (2.3%), ecstasy (1.3%), have remained relatively stable over the last four years. Use of non-prescribed prescription-only painkillers has also remained relatively stable at 7.6% - with these individuals being less likely to have taken other drug types. By contrast, the majority of NPS users (74%) reported having taken another drug in the last year. The following areas saw statistically significant changes in drug use over the last year:-

- Mephedrone use among 16 to 24 year olds fell from 0.9% to 0.3% - equating to around 38,000 fewer users
  - NPS use fell from 0.7% to 0.4%, with the reduction in use among males (0.6%) being statistically significant
  - Anabolic steroid use among 16 to 24 year olds increased from 0.1% to 0.4% - or around 19,000 more users
- It should be noted that prison populations and the homeless community are not captured as part of the CSEW and problematic drug users with chaotic lifestyles are unlikely to be interviewed. Further [data tables](#) available

### **Deaths related to drug poisoning: 2016 registrations – Published 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2017**

ONS statistics highlight that drug poisoning deaths involving both legal and illegal drugs in England and Wales rose by 2% in 2016 to 3,744 – the highest number since comparable records began in 1993. Around 69% (2,593) of deaths were related to drug misuse and 54% related to opiate use. While the number of deaths involving heroin and/or morphine remained stable (+1%), deaths involving the opiates Oxycodone or Fentanyl increased by 56% to 133. Similarly, deaths involving benzodiazepine (+11%), Paracetamol (+11%) and Pregabalin (+23%) also increased. The long term rise in deaths involving cocaine (371) also continued in 2016 with a further 16% increase. The 40 to 49 age group now have the highest rate of drug misuse deaths, overtaking the 30 to 39 years category for the first time. The highest mortality rate from drug misuse was in the North East (77 deaths per 1m pop), while the lowest rate was in the East Midlands (29 deaths per 1m pop)

### **Reported road casualties involving illegal alcohol levels to 2015 – Published 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2017**

Latest available Department for Transport [statistics](#) indicate a 3% rise in overall drink drive casualties between 2014 and 2015, with between 180 and 220 people killed in accidents in Great Britain where at least one driver was over the drink drive limit. The total number of drink drive accidents of all severities rose by 2% to 5,730

## **[Prison annual performance ratings 2016/17](#) - Published 27<sup>th</sup> July 2017**

National Offender Management Service report detailing performance ratings for each prison in England and Wales based on a [detailed dataset](#). NOMS was replaced by HM Prison and Probation Service in March 2017

## **[Safety in Custody Quarterly Bulletin](#) – Published 27<sup>th</sup> July 2017**

Latest quarterly statistics show the first annual decrease in deaths in prison custody since 2013, including reductions in homicides (down from 5 to 2) and self-inflicted deaths (down from 107 to 97). Recorded levels of self-harm (+17%), assaults (+20%) and assaults on staff (+32%) have, however, continued to increase.

Data available at individual prison level for [deaths in custody](#), [self-harm](#) and [assaults](#)

## **[National Offender Management Service digest: 2016/17](#) – Published 27<sup>th</sup> July 2017**

Annual digest report shows increases in the number of prison escapes (up from 2 to 15), temporary release failures (up from 7 to 71) and the proportion of random mandatory drug tests testing positive (up from 7.6% to 9.3%) in 2016/17. Positive drug test rates, in particular, reached the highest level since 2005/06, largely driven by an increased prevalence of cannabis use. By contrast, the number of absconds (86) fell to the lowest number on record and the average number of prisoners working in custody has seen a small increase.

[Data available at individual prison level](#)

## **[Interim Proven Reoffending Statistics to September 2016](#) – Published 27<sup>th</sup> July 2017**

Interim estimates indicate that each CRC is managing offenders that are less likely to reoffend compared to the baseline year of 2011, however in terms of payment by results, a small number of CRCs have approached the threshold for triggering deductions in payment having failed to achieve sufficiently lower reoffending rates than the 2011 baseline year. The provisional data is yet to be adjusted and validated, with final statistics due to be published in October 2017. Annual data also published at CRC level for [proven reoffending](#) and [community performance](#) statistics for [CRCs](#), the [National Probation Service](#) and the [Electronic Monitoring Service](#)

## **[The effectiveness of electronic monitoring of offenders](#) – published 25<sup>th</sup> July 2017**

Systematic review as part of the College of Policing's 'What Works' series considers evidence from 17 studies to conclude that overall (re)offending by those on Electronic Monitoring (EM) was lower when compared to those who were not – however, with the exception of sex offenders and those that are placed on EM instead of being sent to prison, this reduction was not statistically significant. The review found that EM programmes require good communication and co-ordination between agencies and swift responses to any breach in order to ensure that participants are incentivised to respect their conditions. The studies showed variances in cost with radio frequency technology being less expensive than GPS technology and passive monitoring, where data is uploaded once a day, being less expensive than active 24 hour real time monitoring. While there was insufficient information to conduct a cost-benefit analysis, there is clear evidence that EM is less expensive than prison but more expensive than traditional supervision or probation

## **[Unduly Lenient Sentence Scheme: 2016 annual statistics](#) – Published 31<sup>st</sup> July 2017**

Attorney General publishes case level data at Crown Court level on the sentences examined as unduly lenient in 2016, including details of the outcome in each case. 74% (141) resulted in the sentence being increased

## **[Anti-Semitic Incidents Report January to June 2017](#) – Published 27<sup>th</sup> July 2017**

CST's bi-annual report shows sustained year on year increases in recorded anti-semitic incidents since 2013, with levels during the first six months of 2017 being 30% higher than the same period in 2016. Increases are believed to have been partly driven by greater levels of Jewish communal concern and better reporting

## **Upcoming [Crime Reduction Systematic Reviews](#):**

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|---|-----|
| • <a href="#">Red light enforcement cameras to reduce traffic violations and injuries</a> | TBC |
| • <a href="#">Effectiveness of asset-focussed interventions against organised crime</a>   | TBC |
| • <a href="#">Personal security alarms for the prevention of assaults</a>                 | TBC |

## 3. Audits and Inspections

### [HMIC extend inspection remit to fire and rescue services](#) – 19<sup>th</sup> July 2017

Minister for Policing and the Fire Service [announces](#) extension of HMIC responsibility to the inspection of fire and rescue services in England. HMIC will change its name to HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) and have a new logo to reflect its new identity

### Upcoming reports and inspection activity

- HMIC Inspection Programme and framework 2017/18
- [JTAI Partnership response to children affected by domestic abuse](#)
- [HMIC: Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking - Phase 1 report](#)
- HMI Prisons: Joint inspection of Police Custody Arrangements
- PEEL Vulnerability Revisits
- HMIC: National Child Protection Inspection (HMIC-led)

## 4. Reviews and Inquiries

### [Provision of registered intermediaries for children and vulnerable victims](#) – announced 28<sup>th</sup> July 2017

Victims' Commissioner will examine the Registered Intermediary Scheme which aims to assist vulnerable victims and witnesses in giving evidence from the initial Achieving Best Evidence (ABE) interview with the police, through to giving evidence at court. Findings and recommendations will be published later in 2017

### [Brexit: judicial oversight of the European Arrest Warrant](#) – 27<sup>th</sup> July 2017

European Union Home Affairs Sub-Committee [inquiry](#) into criminal justice cooperation with the EU after Brexit concludes that it remains unclear how the UK will remain part of the European Arrest Warrant (EAW) if the Government fulfils its intention to remove the UK entirely from the jurisdiction of the Court of Justice, which oversees the EAW. The report suggests that the Government should follow the precedent set by Norway and Iceland and seek a bilateral extradition agreement with the EU that mirrors the EAW's provisions. If the UK fails to secure new extradition arrangements, the 'default' outcome would be to revert to the 1957 Council of Europe Convention on Extradition, which would be counterproductive and inefficient, and not an adequate substitute

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- **Evidence in progress:**
    - [Child Sexual Abuse Independent Inquiry](#) – preliminary hearings held for [protection of children outside the UK](#) (9<sup>th</sup> May), [Cambridge House, Knol View and Rochdale](#) (10<sup>th</sup> May) and [Children in the Care of Nottinghamshire Councils](#) (11<sup>th</sup> May)
    - [Independent Review into child abuse allegations in football](#) (ongoing),
    - [Pitchford Undercover Policing inquiry](#) – [New panel member appointed](#) – 25<sup>th</sup> July 2017
  - **Report in preparation:** [Lammy Review of BAME representation in the CJS](#) (Spring 2017)

## 5. Legislation

### [European Union \(Withdrawal\) Bill](#) – Commons 2<sup>nd</sup> reading – 7<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> reading – 8<sup>th</sup> September 2017

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

### [Modern Slavery \(Victim Support\) Bill](#) - Lords 2<sup>nd</sup> reading – 8<sup>th</sup> September 2017

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

### [Assaults on Emergency Workers \(Offences\) Bill](#) - Commons 2<sup>nd</sup> reading – 20<sup>th</sup> 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 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

### [Asset Freezing \(Compensation\) Bill](#) – Lords 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 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

### [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

## **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** Introduced 11<sup>th</sup> July

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** Introduced 12<sup>th</sup> July

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**

- **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
- **Data Protection Bill** will aim to ensure that UK data protection is suitable for the “new digital age”, whilst also modernising and updating regimes for data processing by law enforcement agencies. Furthermore, proposals for a new Digital Charter will be developed alongside technology companies, charities, communities and international partners to ensure that the UK is “the safest place to be online”. This will be underpinned by an effective regulatory framework



## 6. Consultations

### [National Fire Chiefs Council Strategy](#)

NFCC are seeking views of PCCs and other stakeholders on its draft three-year [NFCC Strategy](#) which will be officially launched in September

**Open date: 03/08/2017**

**Close date: 11/08/2017**

### [Anti-money laundering supervisory review](#)

HM Treasury consultation on the impact and drafting of regulations intended to improve oversight of the anti-money laundering supervisory regime. The government welcomes views on the costs and benefits of the Office for Professional Body AML Supervision and whether the draft regulations deliver on the government's aims

**Open date: 20/07/2017**

**Close date: 16/08/2017**

### [Criminal Finances Act 2017: Codes of practice](#)

Attorney General and Home Office consultation on codes of practice governing new seizure, detention and forfeiture powers created by the Criminal Finances Act 2017 and consequential amendments to codes of practice for the **Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 and Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001**

**Open date: 31/07/2017**

**Close date: 25/08/2017**

### [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**

### [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**

### [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**

### [Victims' Commissioner web-site](#)

The Ministry of Justice Digital and Technology Team are seeking the views of victims of crime, practitioners, PCCs and other stakeholders to help inform the re-development of the [Victims' Commissioner website](#)

**Open date: 04/08/2017**

**Close date: TBC**