

Police and Crime Commissioner's Horizon Scanning Briefing

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1. POLICY AND PRACTICE

[Government announces £50m to bolster cyber capabilities within law enforcement](#) - 11th April 2018

Home Secretary's [speech](#) at the CYBER UK Conference confirms £50m new funding in 2018/19 to ensure police and prosecutors have the capabilities needed to tackle cyber-crime. The funding will support:-

- A new national training programme for police and the wider criminal justice system, sponsored by NPCC
- £5m to support the police to establish dedicated cyber-crime units at a regional and local level
- £3m for a cross-Government Cyber Aware campaign on how public and businesses can protect themselves

[Measures to tackle rogue landlords come into force](#) – 6th April 2018

New banning orders introduced under the Housing and Planning Act 2016 come into force, preventing landlords convicted of criminal offences from leasing accommodation. Councils are required to record details of landlords that are subject to the orders on a new database launched today, which will enable information to be shared and compliance monitored. Landlords that ignore a banning order will face criminal sanctions.

[Northamptonshire PCC to take on responsibility of fire and rescue service](#) – 11th April 2018

Home Secretary approves proposal on the basis of it being in the interests of local economy, efficiency and effectiveness, without having an adverse effect upon public safety.

[Second government separation centre opens at HMP Full Sutton](#) – 11th April 2018

Government opens second high security separation centre to house the most subversive prisoners and target those who present the greatest extremist threat. A third facility is set to be in operation by the end of 2018.

[Home Office Circular 014/2018: Limited extension of validity of firearm certificates](#) – 10th April 2018

[Home Office Circular 015/2018: Criminal Finances Act 2017 - forfeiture of property](#) – 5th April 2018

Recent Parliamentary briefings: [Anti-Semitism](#) (12th Apr), [Counter-extremism policy in schools](#) (11th Apr), [Police numbers](#) (10th Apr), [The gender pay gap](#) (6th Apr), [Parliament's engagement with the public](#) (6th Apr), [Fly-tipping](#) (5th Apr), [Comparison of homelessness duties in the UK](#) (5th Apr)

Recent Parliamentary debates: [Upskirting](#) (29th Mar), [Police Funding](#) (28th Mar),

Statutory Instruments come into force - 16th April 2018

- [Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 \(Recovery of Listed Assets: Code of Practice\)](#)
- [The Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 \(Cash Searches: Code of Practice\) Order 2018](#)
- [The Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 \(References to Financial Investigators\) \(Amendment\) Order 2018](#)
- [The Police Super-complaints \(Criteria for the Making and Revocation of Designations\) Regulations 2018](#)

[Serious Violence Strategy Launched](#) – 9th April 2018

Home Secretary [launches](#) government's first Serious Violence Strategy which, backed by £40m funding, will bring together partner agencies together to tackle crimes such as homicide, firearms and knife offences by:-

- **Tackling county lines and misuse of drugs** – Provide £3.6m for a National County Lines Co-ordination Centre (NCLCC); £500,000 over two years to support a new round of Heroin and Crack Action Areas; £175,000 to build upon Mentor UK's 'Unplugged' feasibility study; Continue to raise awareness of county lines related exploitation among agencies, vulnerable people and via Crimestoppers; Encourage use of Modern Slavery Act offences where appropriate; Work with NPCC to encourage the use of drug testing on arrest; Support the role of the Recovery Champion in providing leadership on standards for drug treatment.
- **Adopting early intervention and prevention approaches** - £11m Early Intervention Youth Funding over two years for PCCs and CSPs to develop joined-up youth group and community support; £13m Trusted Relationships Funding over 4 years; £7m to develop trauma led policing model across Welsh police forces; Support DWP Work and Health Programme Provide to provide intensive support to young people at risk of being involved in gangs and serious violence; Build on work to build positive relationships between schools and police; Roll out Liaison and Diversion services in police stations and courts; Support Redthread to expand and pilot its Youth Violence Intervention Programme outside London, starting with Nottingham and Birmingham; Explore expanding model of Young People's Advocates working with gang-affected young women and girls; Support expansion of the DIVERT model based on intervention with young adults in police custody; Support rollout of Custody Support Plans as part of youth custody reforms; Refresh the Missing Strategy and plan in the context of county lines; Provide whole family support to those with complex needs.
- **Supporting communities and local partnerships** – Provide up to £1m over 2 years via the anti-knife crime [Community Fund](#); Promote the [#knifefree campaign](#); Support CSPs in developing local plans to respond to serious violence; Work with PCCs to prioritise and take action on serious violence in their Police and Crime Plans; focus on serious violence as part of a pilot programme to empower local people to hold PCCs to account for tackling issues in their communities; strengthen the links between PCCs and Public Health and explore opportunities to expand the PCC role in this area; Provide match-funding support for reviews to respond to county lines and gang activity – providing training and follow-up advice; Support frontline practitioner via EGVE Forum and local voluntary sector and community schemes via further rounds of the EGVE Fund; Encourage PCCs with CSPs to take a leading role in enabling the Information Sharing to Tackle Violence Initiative; Work with Encourage smaller retailers to join voluntary agreement on the responsible sales of corrosive substances, strengthen sales regulations on harmful substances; Commissioning research from the University of Leicester on motivations of those who carry and use acid.
- **Enabling effective law enforcement and the criminal justice responses** - £3m for police to develop an up-to-date [evidence base](#) on what works to reduce serious violence; Work with NPCC to tackle online video platforms that encourage gang violence and illegal material posted online; Co-ordinated weeks of police action on knife crime (Operation Sceptre); Prosecution fund to support Trading Standards tackle the sale of knives to under-18s; Ensure police and prosecutors consider special measures and use of VPS / community impact statements following corrosive attacks; Ensure support is available to victims of acid attacks from initial medical response; Consider tightening [legislation](#) on knives, corrosive substances and firearms; Commission Centre for Applied Science and Technology to ensure police have capability to undertake corrosive substances street testing and publicly consult on extending stop and search powers in this area; Strengthen controls on firearms; Fund Avon and Somerset Police to create a Multi-Agency Integrated Services Analytics Hub for collating data and applying predictive analytics; Work with HMICFRS to ensure PEEL inspections focus on serious violence and support a thematic inspection of county lines in 2018-19.

The government will convene and lead a new, cross-party Serious Violence Task Force involving PCCs, VCS representatives, local government, the police and MPs from different parties to oversee delivery of the strategy. The Government will also host an International Violent Crime Symposium which will bring leading experts and academics together to explore what interventions are working around the world.

2. RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND STATISTICS

[Serious Violent Crime: Risk and Protective Factors and Interventions](#) – 9th April 2018

Chapter 2 of the government's Serious Violence Strategy includes an overview of the current evidence base / what works in tackling serious violence. The strategy highlights:-

- Systematic review findings and cost benefit analyses demonstrating the impact of preventative measures
- Risk factors for future violence and how these may combine to provide a good indicator of risk
- Targeted approaches, whether selective or primary/secondary/tertiary, are more effective than universal
- Interventions need to be tailored to an individual's needs and the intensity should match the level of risk
- Interventions focused on cognitive or character-based skills appear more effective than punitive responses
- Still little is known about the most important causal drivers of serious violence at the individual level
- There are substantial opportunities to refine existing preventative measures through use of 'big data'

[United Kingdom drug situation: Focal Point annual report](#) – 9th April 2018

Government's annual report on the national prevalence, impact, prevention and treatment of drug use shows:

- Reduction in overall drug prevalence over the last 10 years, but little change over recent years
- Cannabis (6.6%), powder cocaine (2.3%) and ecstasy/MDMA (1.3%) remain most commonly consumed
- Indications of a 10% increase in crack cocaine use between 2011/12 and 2014/15
- Long-term reduction in lifetime drug prevalence among schoolchildren, despite an increase in the last year
- 42% of UK treatment presentations were for primary heroin use, with 25% presenting for cannabis treatment
- 29,886 of the clients presenting to treatment in the UK in 2016 did so within a prison setting
- SCRA use remains a problem in prison with 16% testing positive on release compared to 9% on arrival
- UK drug-related deaths increased by 13% between 2014 and 2015 to 3,070 – the highest number reported
- UK drug-related death figures for 2016 are not yet available, however Scotland showed a 23% increase
- Overall drug seizures have been declining over recent years, mainly due to a decrease in cannabis seizures
- Powder cocaine, ecstasy and heroin seizures remained stable, while crack seizures increased in 2015/16
- Heroin (43%), powder cocaine (54%) and crack (71%) purity at user-level has been rise since early 2010s
- Street-level drug prices have remained stable in recent years

[Youth custody data – Monthly statistics: February 2018](#) – Published 13th April 2018

[Legal aid statistics: October to December 2017](#) – Published 29th March 2018

[User guide](#)

3. AUDITS AND INSPECTIONS

[2017 PEEL assessments published](#) – 11th April 2018

HMICFRS publishes overall annual PEEL assessments which bring together all inspection findings, graded judgments and analysis for each police force area into a single rounded assessment of force performance.

[Counter-terrorism policing commanders](#) – 11th April 2018

HMICFRS inspection of police counter-terrorism commanders found all current CT commanders to meet sensible and pragmatic role requirements, with enough commanders to meet the requirements of simultaneous terrorist attacks. CT police operations rooms offer appropriate support to commanders. Some opportunities were identified to improve CT commander selection processes and development through the CPD programme.

[Partnership working between the Home Office and other departments](#) – 10th April 2018

Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration launches inspection of Home Office's partnership working with other departments in support of asylum, immigration, nationality and customs. A call for evidence from those with first-hand experience of these areas has been launched, seeking evidence by 24 April 2018.

4. REVIEWS AND INQUIRIES

[One Year Review of Enforcement Agent reforms](#) – 2nd April 2018

Ministry of Justice review of reforms introduced by the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007 to improve standards, transparency and consistency in the enforcement process and among enforcement agents - formerly known as bailiffs. Evidence suggests that the reforms have been largely successful, although some debtors and debt advisors perceive that some aggressive behaviour is still happening in practice. The Ministry of Justice will pay close attention to the level and nature of complaints as the reforms bed in further.

[Independent review of local government finance governance & processes announced](#) – 11th April 2018

Review of processes and procedures that underpin the Ministry's governance of the business rates system

[Government review of powers to deal with unauthorised caravan sites announced](#) – 5th April 2018

Housing Minister announces review of the law and powers available to local authorities, the police and landowners to deal with unauthorised caravan sites and developments. Includes government [consultation](#)

Inquiries

[Economic crime inquiry](#) – Treasury Committee - Launched 29th March 2018

Accepting written submissions until 8th May 2018

[Digital currencies inquiry](#) - Treasury Committee - Launched 22nd February 2018

Accepting written submissions until 30th April 2018

[Business rates retention](#) - CLG Committee – Report in preparation

[Policing for the future](#) – Home Affairs Committee – latest evidence 28th March 2018

[Disclosure of evidence in criminal cases inquiry](#) – Latest evidence 27th March 2018

[Transforming Rehabilitation](#) – Justice Committee – [evidence session](#) held 20th March 2018

[Modernising the Disclosure and Barring Service](#) – [evidence session](#) held 19th March 2018

[Hate crime and its violent consequences](#) – HA Committee – latest evidence 13th March 2018

[Reducing Modern Slavery](#) – Public Accounts Committee – latest evidence 12th March 2018

[Prison Population 2022: Planning for the Future](#) – Justice Committee – latest evidence 7th March 2018

[Emergency Services Network](#) – Public Accounts Committee – [Evidence session](#) held 21st February 2018

Committee examines the Emergency Services Network: progress review inquiry

[Counter-terrorism](#) - Home Affairs Committee - one-off [evidence session](#) held on 30th January 2018

[Young victims of financial crime inquiry](#) – APPG on financial crime - Open

[Spread of so-called 'pop-up' brothels](#) – APPG on prostitution – Open

[Pitchford Undercover Policing inquiry](#) - Open

[Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse \(IICSA\)](#)

5. LEGISLATION

[European Union \(Withdrawal\) Bill](#) – Lords Report stage – 18th April 2018 [Reading list](#) [Lords briefing](#)
Bill to repeal the European Communities Act 1972 and other provisions relating to UK withdrawal from the EU

[Sanctions and Anti-Money Laundering Bill](#) – Commons Report stage – TBA [Commons briefing](#)
Government Bill to give the UK the necessary legal powers to maintain existing sanctions regimes currently imposed through EU law and introduce new measures against countries, organisations and individuals who threaten our security or undermine international law following Brexit. [Further information](#)

[Data Protection Bill](#) – Commons Report stage – TBA [Commons Library Analysis](#)
The Bill to modernise and make data protection laws fit for the digital age by empowering people to take control of their data; supporting UK businesses and organisations through change and ensuring that the UK is prepared for the future after leaving the EU. [Government fact sheets](#)

[Secure Tenancies \(Victims of Domestic Abuse\) Bill](#) Commons Report stage – TBA [Briefing](#)
Government bill to make provision about granting of old-style secure tenancies in cases of domestic abuse.

[Laser Misuse \(Vehicles\) Bill](#) - Commons 2nd reading – 16th April 2018 [Commons briefing](#)
Government bill to make provision creating new offence of shining or directing a laser beam towards a vehicle

[Asset Freezing \(Compensation\) Bill](#) – Commons 2nd reading – 15th June 2018
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

[Assaults on Emergency Workers \(Offences\) Bill](#) - Commons Report Stage – 27th April 2018 [Briefing](#)
Private Members' Bill to make certain offences aggravated when perpetrated against emergency workers

[Mental Health Units \(Use of Force\) Bill](#) – Commons Committee Stage – 18th April 2018 [Briefing](#)
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 Committee Stage – TBA
Private Members' Bill includes provisions to create a new power for the Secretary of State to authorise public communications providers, such as mobile network operators, to interfere with systems in order to disrupt the unlawful use of mobile phones in prisons. Amend existing Prisons (Interf. with Wireless Telegraphy) Act 2012.

[Age of Criminal Responsibility Bill](#) – Lords Committee Stage – TBA [Lords briefing](#)
Private Members' Bill to raise the age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12

[Modern Slavery \(Victim Support\) Bill](#) - Lords third reading – TBA [Lords briefing](#)
Private Members' Bill to make provision about identifying and supporting victims of modern slavery

[Stalking Protection Bill](#) - Commons Committee Stage – TBA [APCC response](#)
Private Members' Bill to make provision for protecting persons from risks associated with stalking

[Criminal Records Bill](#) - Lords Committee Stage – TBA [Lords Briefing](#)
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

[Emergency Response Drivers \(Protections\) Bill](#) - Commons 2nd reading – 6th July 2018

[Service Animals \(Offences\) Bill](#) - Commons 2nd reading – 27th April 2018

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

[Licensing of Taxis and Private Hire Vehicles Bill](#) – Lords 2nd reading – 26th October 2018

[Human Trafficking \(Child Protection\) Bill](#) - Commons 2nd reading – 18th January 2019

[Foreign Nationals \(Criminal Offender & Prisoner Removal\) Bill](#) - Commons 2nd reading – 22nd Feb 2019

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

[Victims of Crime \(Rights, Entitlements, Notification of CSA\) Bill](#) – Lords 2nd reading – TBA

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

[Anonymity \(Arrested Persons\) Bill](#) - Lords 2nd reading – TBA

[Road Traffic Offenders \(Surrender Driving Licences\) Bill](#) - Lords 2nd reading - TBA

[Modern Slavery \(Transparency in Supply Chains\) Bill](#) – Lords 2nd reading – TBC

Bills pending

[Offensive Weapons Bill](#) to ban the sale of the most dangerous corrosive products to under-18s, make it a criminal offence to possess corrosive substances in a public place without good reason, introduce restrictions on online sales of knives and make it illegal to possess certain offensive weapons like zombie knives and knuckle-dusters in private. The legislation will include a minimum custodial sentence for those convicted of a second or subsequent offence of possession of a corrosive substance in a public place. Announced on 8th April as part of the government's Serious Violence Strategy

[Draft Domestic Abuse Bill](#) to better prevent domestic abuse by promoting awareness, protecting and supporting victims, pursuing and deterring and rehabilitating perpetrators and improving performance across all local areas, agencies and sectors. The Bill aims to ensure victims have the confidence to come forward and report their experiences and includes proposals to establish a Domestic Violence Abuse Commissioner to hold the justice system to account in tackling domestic abuse, 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 [ratify the Istanbul Convention](#)

[Draft 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.

[Draft Drone Bill](#) to require drone users to sit safety awareness tests and users of drones weighing 250 grams and over to have to register their drone. New powers for the police to require users to produce registration documents on request, ground a drone safely in certain circumstances and enable police to seize and retain a drone's components if there is reasonable suspicion of it having been involved in an offence.

6. CONSULTATIONS

[New ways to report road accidents to the police](#)

Department for Transport consultation on proposals to allow police forces to offer drivers the option of submitting accident reports by other methods, including online. Currently, under Section 170 of the Road Traffic Act 1988, road traffic accidents should be reported in person at a police station or to a police constable.

Open date: 30/01/2018

Close date: 24/04/2018

[School exclusions review: Call for evidence](#)

Call for evidence seeking views and evidence on school exclusion practice in England as part of a [review of school exclusions](#). Review includes behaviour policies and checklists, advice on managing drugs, exclusions statistics, searching and screening guidance and use of reasonable force.

Open date: 16/03/2018

Close date: 06/05/2018

[Home Office partnership working with other government department: Call for evidence](#)

Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration launches call for evidence in preparation for an inspection of Home Office's partnership working with other departments in support of asylum, immigration, nationality and customs functions. Evidence is sought from those with first-hand experience of these areas.

Open date: 10/04/2018

Close date: 24/04/2018

[The Sentencing Code: Youth Sentencing](#)

Law Commission consultation as part of the wider Sentencing Code project, focusing on a small number of youth sentencing laws that had previously been omitted from public consultation exercises while the Ministry of Justice Review undertook its review of the Youth Justice System.

Open date: 23/03/2018

Close date: 27/04/2018

[Local government ethical standards](#)

Committee on Standards in Public Life call for evidence as part of its review to examine the structures, processes and practices in local government, maintaining codes of conduct for local councillors, investigating alleged breaches fairly and with due process, enforcing codes and imposing sanctions for misconduct, managing conflicts of interest and whistleblowing.

Open date: 29/01/2018

Close date: 18/05/2018

[Transforming the response to domestic abuse](#)

Government consultation seeking feedback from victims and survivors, support organisations, research experts and professionals across policing, criminal justice, health, education and local authorities on how best to tackle domestic abuse at every stage - from prevention through to rehabilitation. Consultation will be used to inform development of the Domestic Abuse Bill and will include a series of consultation events across the country.

Open date: 08/03/2018

Close date: 31/05/2018

[Children in need of help and protection: Call for evidence](#)

Call for evidence seeking views from professionals across education, children's social care, health and other specialist services on what is being done to improve the educational outcomes of children in need.

Open date: 16/03/2018

Close date: 01/06/2018

[Integrated Communities Strategy green paper](#)

Government green paper seeking views on the vision for stronger and more integrated communities and proposed actions to tackle the root causes of poor integration by boosting English language skills, increasing economic opportunity among people from different backgrounds, building stronger leadership, supporting the integration of recent migrants, respecting and promoting equal rights and building vibrant communities.

Open date: 14/03/2018

Close date: 05/06/2018

[Litter and refuse: updating enforcement guidance](#)

Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs consultation seeking views on guidance on proportionate and effective use of fixed penalties for littering, abandoned vehicles, fly-tipping, parking, and offences related to domestic waste bins. Guidance will be put into the Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse

Open date: 10/04/2018

Close date: 08/06/2018

[Powers for dealing with unauthorised development and encampments](#)

Cross-departmental government consultation seeking views on the law and powers available to deal with unauthorised development and encampments, including local authority and police powers, court processes, trespass, planning enforcement, the provision of authorised sites and the impacts on the travelling community

Open date: 05/04/2018

Close date: 15/06/2018

[Guideline on sentencing arson and criminal damage](#)

Sentencing Council publishes proposed new guidelines covering arson and criminal damage offences to help ensure consistent and proportionate sentencing for these offences which can vary greatly in severity. The guidelines include arson, damage / arson with intent to endanger life, damage to the value of above and below £5000, threats to damage property and racially or religiously aggravated criminal damage offences.

Open date: 27/03/2018

Close date: 26/06/2018

[Parole process review](#)

Victims' Commissioner is seeking views from victims, and those who have been invited to join the Victim Contact Scheme in particular, as part of the Government's review of the parole process. The consultation seeks feedback on how victims are engaged and involved in the process and whether arrangements for keeping victims informed at all key stages of the parole process are working

Open date: 14/02/2018

Close date: N/A