

Police and Crime Commissioner's Horizon Scanning Briefing

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- 3. Audits and Inspections** *Criminal justice inspectorate reports and government audits*
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- 6. Live Consultations** *Current police and criminal justice-related consultation activity*

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1. POLICY AND PRACTICE

[Apply for funding: Support to victims of domestic abuse in safe-accommodation](#) – 1 November 2019

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government launches a challenge fund prospectus with plans to spend up to £15m in 2020/21 on support in domestic abuse safe accommodation. The fund is open to all local authorities in England and will not be ringfenced. The closing date for applications is 17 January 2020.

[UK threat level from terrorism reduced to “Substantial”](#) - 4 November 2019

Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre (JTAC) lowers the assessment from “severe” (meaning an attack is highly likely) to “substantial” (meaning an attack is likely). While a positive development, the Head of Counter Terrorism Policing, Assistant Commissioner Neil Basu noted that with around 800 live CT investigations nationally “it is vital that we all maintain a high level of vigilance”.

[Police Barred list 2018/19](#) - 7 November 2019

College of Policing publishes the latest Police Barred List figures as part of requirements under the Policing and Crime Act 2017 to report on dismissals for conduct or performance matters. The list includes dismissals of officers who resigned or retired prior to a misconduct hearing being held. 144 police officers were dismissed while serving, 94 were dismissed post-resignation and 15 were dismissed post-retirement. Additionally, there were a total of 26 officers dismissed from the special constabulary, and 110 members of police staff were dismissed and are now prevented from re-entering the police service or joining other policing bodies.

[Taking a Public Health Approach to Tackling Serious Violent Crime](#) - 13 November 2019

Presentations from the LGA event published

[A short guide to publicity during the pre-election period](#) – 6 November 2019

LGA guidance on publicity restrictions that should be observed by local authorities during pre-election period

[College of Policing Brief October / November](#) – Published 11 November 2019

Recent Parliamentary briefings: [Regulation of fireworks](#) (5 Nov), [Pre-election period of sensitivity](#) (5 Nov), [Prevention of retail crime](#) (1 Nov)

Recent Parliamentary debates: [Retail Crime Prevention](#) (5 Nov), [Pre-charge Bail](#) (5 Nov), [Unauthorised Encampments: Police Powers](#) (4 Nov)

2. RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND STATISTICS

[Public Services Performance Tracker published](#) – 11 November 2019

Institute for Government publishes latest Performance Tracker which projects demand and spending across 9 public services over the next five years, including police, prisons, courts, adult social care and children's social care. The report concludes that the government may have pledged enough money to *maintain* standards across most public services but more money will be needed to raise them. Adult social care is a notable exception where the government would need to spend almost £1bn more in 2023/24 to keep pace with demand. The report finds that all public services analysed have seen some decline in performance – either in their quality scope, and efficiencies made over the past nine years will be difficult to sustain now that the public sector pay cap has been lifted. In terms of policing and criminal justice:-

- **[Police Service](#)**: The Tracker highlights warning signs for service which include victims becoming less satisfied, fewer offences resulting in charges and reductions in police morale over recent years. It also notes the growing complexity of some crimes, such as CSE, and the growth in use of digital evidence which have led to investigations taking longer to complete. The assessment also highlights the trade-offs that the service has made in order to prioritise the most serious or easier- to-solve crimes – which has led to some crimes being unallocated and some risk assessments downgraded and a reduction in proactive and preventative work. The assessment concludes that demand on the police is likely to increase over the next five years, although it is difficult to predict with certainty. If government spending continues on its current trajectory, it should be enough to meet demand, however if crime rates continue to rise, the government may need to spend an extra £3.5bn.
- **[Criminal Courts](#)**: The Tracker concludes that criminal courts in the UK are under pressure with reductions in spending and rises in case complexity having forced them to adapt and reform – a process that has prompted widespread concerns about the quality of justice now being dispensed across the UK. HMCTS spending was 18% lower in real terms in 2018/19 than it was in 2010/11 forcing the courts to make efficiencies. While the number of cases that the courts receive has fallen, the complexity of cases has increased since 2010/11, which has led to marked increases in hearing times and demand.
- **[Prisons](#)**: The Tracker highlights a dramatic deterioration in standards across prisons since 2009/10, evidenced by a sharp rise in deaths, violence, self-harm, poor behaviour and drug use – as well as a drop-off in efforts to rehabilitate prisoners. This, it is argued, can all be linked to the cuts in government spending and a fall in the number of prison officers between 2009/10 and 2015/16. The government has started to reverse these reductions in spending, however, the number of prison officers remains below 2009/10 levels and prison performance continues to deteriorate. The assessment warns that the gap between spending and demand in 2023/24 may be even larger given government plans on police numbers, CPS spending and sentencing reform.

[The shape of things to come: Charting the changing size and shape of the UK state](#) – 4 November 2019

Resolution Foundation report considers the size and shape of UK government spending and public finance challenges related to the legacy of austerity; the need to establish a new fiscal framework that considers the sustainability of state expansion; and demographic headwinds associated with an ageing population.

[National Referral Mechanism Statistics April to September 2019](#) – Published 14 November 2019

Latest Home Office statistics highlight a 61% increase in potential victims of modern slavery referred into the NRM when compared to the same quarter in 2018. 5,128 potential victims from around 91 different nationalities were referred, with the UK, Albania and Vietnam being the most common. The most common type of exploitation for both adults and minors was labour exploitation, which includes criminal exploitation. Around 90% (4,650) of referrals were transferred to police forces in England for further investigation, while 181 were transferred to Welsh police forces.

[Targeting the Most Harmful Offenders](#) – 8 November 2019

Cambridge Journal of Evidence-Based Policing paper on 'Continuity and Change of Membership' among the Most Harmful Offenders finds that crime harm is much more concentrated among offenders than crime volume. 80% of crime harm that is identified to an offender is linked to a "felonious few" of 7% of all detected offenders. The paper notes that individual members of the felonious few rarely maintain that position year on year. Over 95% of each year's list is composed of individuals not present in previous years list. Within individual crime histories, a pattern of de-escalation in crime harm per offence over time was observed. "One-time" offenders, with only one crime record, typically made up a third of the felonious few in both number and harm contribution. The findings demonstrate the potential to target a small number of repeat offenders for harm reduction strategies based on total crime severity as opposed to volume, despite a substantial portion of crime harm caused by one-time offenders that may be largely unpredictable.

[Learning about online sexual harm](#) – 14 November 2019

Research commissioned and undertaken on behalf of IICSA analyses the views of more than 260 primary and secondary school children across England and Wales alongside interviews with nine young people who had experienced online sexual harm. The report finds that many children tend to accept the risk of being exposed to sexual harm as a 'normal part' of being online, with girls particularly accustomed to receiving explicit images. The report highlights the existence of an online 'approval culture', exacerbated by celebrities and the media, which can lead young people to ignore privacy settings in order to increase their audience.

[Mindfulness in Policing: Final Report](#) – 4 November 2019

A randomised controlled trial undertaken by the College of Policing concludes that online mindfulness training can improve the wellbeing of officers and staff. Both the Headspace (commercially available mindfulness resource) and [Mindfit Cop](#) (bespoke online eight-week mindfulness course for policing) improved wellbeing, life satisfaction, resilience and performance, compared to the control group. Participants who reported low job control (little control over their tasks and scheduling) benefited most from using the resources.

[Fire and rescue incident statistics to June 2019](#) – Published 14 November 2019

Latest Home Office fire and rescue incident statistics for England show a 2% increase in incidents attended (573,221) in the year to June 2019 compared to the previous year. Of these, 32% were fires with the number (182,491) having risen by 14% on account of a rise in secondary fires (+28%) during the dry 2018 summer. There were 268 fire-related fatalities in the year to June 2019, marking a marginal increase (+6%) on 2018.

[Criminal Justice System statistics quarterly: June 2019](#) – Published 14 November 2019

Latest Ministry of Justice official statistics show ongoing reductions in the number of individuals formally dealt with by the Criminal Justice System (-2%), with levels reaching the lowest since comparable records began. The number of defendants prosecuted at magistrates' courts has continued to decline since June 2016, however, the conviction rate remains stable at 87%. The number of defendants remanded on bail by the police fell by 10% in the year to June 2018. The custody rate decreased to 6.5%, the lowest in the decade. The numbers sentenced to immediate custody (75,800) was the lowest since 2009. The average custodial sentence, however, reached the highest in a decade (20.3 months), having been increasing since 2009.

[Prison population data to October 2019](#) – Published 1 November 2019

[Youth custody data to September 2019](#) – Published 8 November 2019

Upcoming publications

- Fire prevention and protection statistics: 2018/19 – 28 November 2019
- Operation of Police Powers under the Terrorism Act 2000 to September 2019 – 5 December 2019
- Seizures of drugs in England and Wales, 2019 – 5 December 2019
- Police use of force statistics, England and Wales, 2018/19 – 19 December 2019
- Individuals referred to and supported through the Prevent Programme 2018/19 – 19 December 2019

3. AUDITS AND INSPECTIONS

Upcoming reports and inspection activity

- [National Joint Targeted area inspections of Child Protection Thematic](#) Pending
- Evidence-led Domestic Abuse prosecutions (HMCPSI) Pending
- Joint Inspection of Prosecution team case file quality (Police / CPS) Fieldwork 2019
- HMICFRS Roads Policing Thematic (Sec. State Transport Commission) Fieldwork 2019
- PEEL inspection fieldwork Autumn 2019
- Fire and Rescue Service inspection (third tranche) December 2019
- HMICFRS State of Fire and Rescue Services in England December 2019
- Integrated Offender Management: Follow-up to explore IOM in TR environment Early 2020
- PEEL Reports 2019/20 – Tranche 3 January 2020
- HMICFRS: Independent study of police air support 2019/20
- HMICFRS: Police response to county lines (Thematic) 2019/20
- HMICFRS: Counter-terrorism 2019/20
- HMICFRS: Older people in the criminal justice system 2019/20
- HMICFRS: Use of PNC by non-police organisations (Home Office commission) 2019/20
- HMICFRS: Police response to domestic abuse (annual review) 2019/20
- Joint Inspection of Domestic Abuse: Evidence-led prosecutions (Police/CSP) 2019/20
- PEEL Reports 2020/21 – Tranche 1 May 2020
- HMICFRS: State of Policing 2019 July 2020
- [National Joint Targeted area inspections of Child Protection Thematic \(x8\)](#) July 2020
- Released Under Investigation: Impact of changes to police bail procedures July 2020
- PEEL Reports 2019/20 – Tranche 2 September 2020
- [HMIC: Crime data integrity \(individual force reports\)](#) Ongoing
- [HMI Prisons: Joint inspection of Police Custody Arrangements](#) Ongoing
- [HMICFRS: Police Effectiveness - Child Protection \(x6\)](#) Ongoing
- [HMI Probation: Joint inspection of Youth Offending Teams](#) Ongoing

4. REVIEWS AND INQUIRIES

Dissolution of Parliament – 6 November 2019

Parliament dissolved on Wednesday 6 November 2019 ahead of the general election on 12 December 2019. Bills and Committee inquiries which did not conclude before this date have 'fallen' and are in most cases unlikely to be reintroduced by the next parliament in the same form. Committees have lapsed and new memberships and Chairs must be elected by MPs. Chairs can decide to launch a new inquiry and draw on evidence submitted to an inconclusive inquiry from the last the parliament however this is not common practice.

Government confirms plans to review law on pre-charge bail – 5 November 2019

Home Office confirms plans to review pre-charge bail legislation to ensure the safety of victims and witnesses is prioritised and police are supported in investigating all offences. This follows reforms made in 2017 which limited the length of pre-charge bail to an initial 28 days and required that the extension of bail conditions for up to three months should be authorised by a senior officer. The review will also aim to ensure that pre-charge bail supports the timely progression of cases to courts while enabling flexibility to support effective operational decisions. A joint HMICFRS / HMCPS inspection of police use of bail is currently underway.

5. LEGISLATION

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6. CONSULTATIONS

[Statutory guidance review for local youth services: have your say](#)

Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport consultation to inform a review of the guidance which sets out the statutory duty placed on Local Authorities to provide appropriate local services to improve young people's wellbeing. Review aims to highlight the positive role Local Authorities should play in providing youth services.

Open date: 03/10/2019

Close date: 30/11/2019

[Proposed fire and rescue services inspection programme and framework 2020/21](#)

HMICFRS consultation on minor changes to the FRS inspection framework due to begin in 2020.

Open date: 22/10/2019

Close date: 29/11/2019

[Independent review of Prevent: Call for evidence](#)

Home Office call for evidence seeking views on the Government's strategy for supporting people vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism (CONTEST). The review would like to hear from those working to deliver Prevent, responsible for implementing the statutory duty, communities, civic groups and charitable organisations, academic institutions and individuals who have accessed Prevent services, and their friends and families.

Open date: 07/10/2019

Close date: 09/12/2019

[Strategic Review of Policing in England and Wales: Call for evidence](#)

Police Foundation Call for Evidence to inform its review of policing and help set the long-term strategic vision and recommendations for reform of the service. The consultation seeks views on understanding crime, threat and demand, understanding public and societal expectations, reconsidering the police mission and purpose and 'looking ahead' to ensure a modern service capable of meeting the challenges of the 21st century.

Open date: 09/10/2019

Close date: 20/12/2019

[Sentencing guidelines for terrorism offences](#)

Sentencing Council consultation on revisions to sentencing guidelines for terrorism offences following changes to terrorism legislation brought in by the new Counter Terrorism and Border Security Act 2019. These include increases to the statutory maximum sentences for some offences and amendment of culpability factors. T

Open date: 22/10/2019

Close date: 03/12/2019

[Sentencing guidelines for firearms offences](#)

Sentencing Council consultation guidelines for sentencing firearms offences under the Firearms Act 1968, including possession, use, manufacture, sale and acquisition. Consultation is aimed at judges, magistrates, legal practitioners and others interested parties. There are currently no sentencing guidelines in the Crown Court and only one for use in magistrates' courts.

Open date: 09/10/2019

Close date: 14/01/2020

[Strengthening police powers to tackle unauthorised encampments](#)

Home Office consultation on measures to criminalise trespassing when setting up an unauthorised encampment or alternative approaches such as permitting the police to direct trespassers to suitable authorised sites located in neighbouring local authority areas, increasing the period of time in which trespassers directed from land would be unable to return from 3 months to 12 months or lowering the number of vehicles needing to be involved in an unauthorised encampment before police powers can be exercised

Open date: 22/10/2019

Close date: 03/12/2019