

Police and Crime Commissioner's Horizon Scanning Briefing

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|----------------------------|--|
| 1. Policy and Practice | <i>Government strategy, guidance and policy announcements</i> |
| 2. Research and Statistics | <i>Policing and criminal justice statistical publications and research</i> |
| 3. Audits and Inspections | <i>Criminal justice inspectorate reports and government audits</i> |
| 4. Reviews and Inquiries | <i>Government and independent inquiries and legislative reviews</i> |
| 5. Parliamentary Bills | <i>Summary of legislation currently progressing through parliament</i> |
| 6. Live Consultations | <i>Current police and criminal justice-related consultation activity</i> |

To be included on our mailing list, please contact [Dan Howitt](#), Nottinghamshire OPCC

1. POLICY AND PRACTICE

[£12.4m Serious Violence Funding allocated to a further 18 police forces](#) – 8 May 2019

Home Office distributes £12.4m of the £100m Serious Violence Fund to the 18 police forces worst affected by violent crime. This follows the allocation of [£51m surge funding](#) to forces in April for additional deployments, improved intelligence and short-term operational such as targeting habitual knife carriers. Of the remaining fund

- £1.6m will be spent on ensuring forces collect better data to help their planning and ensure targeted action
- £35m will support the establishment of Violence Reduction Units (VRUs) in 2019/20 which will bring together police, health, local government, and community representatives to tackle violent crime and its underlying causes. The allocation criteria for VRU funding is expected to be announced in early June 2019.

[Apply for funding: £1.9m available to support rough sleepers with complex needs](#) – 10 May 2019

Department for Health and Social Care [announce](#) £1.9m PHE grant funding for councils to improve healthcare support for rough sleepers with mental illness and substance misuse issues, including those at risk of returning to rough sleeping. Support could include 'in-reach' care models, street level 'outreach' models and targeted interventions such as peer health advocacy. Expressions of interest along with completed budget templates should be returned to roughsleepinggrant@phe.gov.uk by 5pm on Friday 5 July 2019.

[£30m increase in funding for councils looking after asylum seeking children](#) – 8 May 2019

Home Office announces an increase in funding for unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) to ensure that local authorities are paid the same amount (£114 per day) for every UASC they look after, regardless of the child's age or when they entered the UK.

[Government response to 'Strengthening probation, building confidence' consultation](#) – 16 May 2019

Ministry of Justice [announces](#) plans to place responsibility for all offender management services, including low and medium risk offenders, with the National Probation Service aligned to 11 probation regions across England and Wales. Each NPS region will be overseen by a Regional Probation Director who will provide strategic leadership and be responsible for the overall delivery and commissioning of probation services and be responsible for strengthening partnership working with PCCs, local authorities, health commissioners and other key stakeholders. The government will bring forward a statutory professional regulatory framework across for probation as soon as parliamentary time allows and run a period of market and stakeholder engagement to finalise their proposals. Key services, such as Unpaid Work, Accredited Programmes and other resettlement and rehabilitative interventions will continue to be sourced from the private and voluntary sector markets, with up to £280m being made available each year. This will be done as part of a competitive process that will be launched later in the year, with the new model anticipated to come in to effect in Spring 2021.

[Government response - Fit for the future: transforming the court and tribunal estate](#) – 10 May 2019

Ministry of Justice consultation response sets out how efficiencies to the courts and tribunals estate will be made while maintaining access to justice as a top priority. The response sets out principles for future court changes whereby travel times and ease of transport will be prioritised alongside added support for vulnerable users. Specialist front-of-house staff will be at courts to support the public and legal professionals, and will be trained in new technologies. The number of people accessing courts remotely is expected to increase.

[Support for victims of domestic abuse in safe accommodation](#) – 13 May 2019

Ministry of Housing, CLG [launches](#) consultation seeking views of victims, survivors, service providers, local authorities, PCCs and other public agencies on proposals to place a legal duty on local authorities to deliver support to meet the diverse needs of survivors of domestic abuse and their children in accommodation-based services. As part of the proposals, local authorities would be required to work with neighbouring councils to ensure domestic abuse services reflect the needs of local people – including targeted, specialist support for BAME, LGBT and Gypsy, Roma and Traveller survivors, and develop and publish strategies which set out the range of support services available for survivors and their children – including refuge accommodation. The Prime Minister announced that funding will be made available to place these services on a longer-term, sustainable footing, with the amount being determined based further stakeholder consultation.

[National Programme of specialist support for children at risk of exploitation](#) – 9 May 2019

Education Secretary launches the new £2m 'Tackling Child Exploitation Support Programme' which aims to improve how different local areas respond to and protect children from the risk of criminal or sexual exploitation. The programme will be led by a team of academics and experts in partnership with Research in Practice, The Children's Society and the University of Bedfordshire. It will equip specialists across education, health, social care, police and the voluntary sector to better identify children at risk of exploitation in their communities through support from expert staff, providing help in assessing the needs, strengths and weaknesses in responding to exploitation threats, signposting to online learning materials based on the best available evidence, providing support to create strategies and improving data collation, and setting up research projects in local areas to build a better knowledge base about threats to children outside their family home.

[Dame Vera Baird appointed as new Victims' Commissioner](#) – 13 May 2019

[IOPC Monthly roundup: April 2019](#) – Published 9 May 2019

[College of Policing Brief: April/May 2019](#) – Published 13 May 2019

[Minister for Equalities speech on LGBT+ domestic abuse](#) – 9 May 2019

[Lynne Owens speech on the Strategic Assessment of Serious and Organised Crime](#) – 14 May 2019

Recent Parliamentary briefings: [Local government: alternative models of service delivery](#) (16 May), [Intimidation in public life](#) (16 May), [Public Procurement: Social Value and the Civil Society Strategy](#) (16 May), [Criminal Injuries Compensation for victims of child abuse](#) (16 May), [International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia](#) (15 May), [British Transport Police](#) (14 May), [Definition of Islamophobia](#) (14 May), [Serious violence](#) (14 May), [Proscribed Terrorist Organisations](#) (14 May), [Off-rolling in English schools](#) (10 May), [Prisons and probation](#) (10 May), [Gypsies and Travellers](#) (9 May), [Grooming Gangs](#) (7 May)

Recent Parliamentary debates: [Serious Violence](#) (15 May), [Domestic Abuse](#) (14 May), [Stalking](#) (14 May), [Victims of Crime: Mobile Phone Data](#) (8 May)

2. RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND STATISTICS

[Evidence vs. Professional Judgment in Ranking Crime Targets](#) – 14 May 2019

Cambridge Journal of Evidence Based Policing open access article explores how accurately local police officers use professional judgement to identify the highest-crime street locations and offenders with the most crime and harm, compared to an evidence-based rank-ordering of all possible locations and names derived from police force records. The research concludes that police officers can benefit from evidence-based targeting analysis to help them decide where their proactive and preventive work can be deployed with the greatest benefit.

[Targeting the Most Harmful Co-Offenders in Denmark](#) – 8 May 2019

Cambridge Journal of Evidence Based Policing open access article detailing research in Denmark that identified a 'power few' who through consistent co-offending, produce the highest frequency of crimes and the most harm to society. The evidence suggests that targeting co-offenders based on social network analysis can enhance the harm potentially reduced by both investigations and crime prevention strategies.

[Examining job satisfaction among analysts](#) – 6 May 2019

Findings from a survey of members of the International Association of Crime Analysts indicate that when analysts have a greater perception that their work is fully integrated into the mission of the department, and their role is clear, job satisfaction is higher. Implications for future research and policy are discussed.

[Updates to the College of Policing's Crime Reduction Toolkit](#) – 7 May 2019

Toolkit has been updated to include a new '[bubble mode](#)' and newly added systematic reviews of:

- [Aggression Replacement Training \(ART\) for reducing ASB](#) – no overall evidence of an impact on crime
- [Drug substitutes](#) – which can reduce crime, but evidence is mixed and dependent on drug / treatment used
- [Psychological treatment of adults convicted of sex offences against children](#) – little evidence of effect
- [Therapeutic communities](#) – where evidence suggests that they have reduced crime among adult participants

[Prison and probation evidence resource](#) – Published 15 May 2019

Collection of evidence-based information designed to help for organisations and practitioners make evidence-informed decisions to improve services and help reduce reoffending. Includes details and assessment of available evidence relating to the [needs and characteristics of people in prison and on probation](#), [offender management](#), [safety](#), [ways of working and partnerships](#) and [supporting rehabilitation](#).

[Criminal Justice System statistics quarterly: December 2018](#) – Published 16 May 2019

The total number of individuals formally dealt with by the CJS in England and Wales has been declining since 2015 and fell 3% in the latest year to a record low (since 1970). The number of defendants prosecuted has fallen by 2% since 2017, with decreases in all offence groups except possession of weapons (up 4%) and summary motoring offences (up 3%). The overall conviction ratio has remained broadly stable at 87%, however there have been increases among some offence groups including sexual offences, possession of weapons and fraud offences. Decreases were observed in other offence groups including robbery and theft offences. The number of defendants remanded on bail by the Police has fallen by 24% in the last year, while the number remanded in custody fell by 7%. A similar trend was observed at courts. The custody rate, however, has remained stable at 7% despite the number sentenced to immediate custody having decreased since 2011. Those that were sentenced to custody received a longer average custodial sentence length increasing from 13.3 months in 2008 to 17.3 months in 2018. The proportion of offenders with a long criminal career (15+ previous cautions or convictions) has increased to account for around 37% of the offending population.

[Prison and Probation workforce quarterly: March 2019](#) – Published 16 May 2019

[Youth custody data monthly: March 2019](#) – Published 10 May 2019

[National Referral Mechanism Statistics](#) and [data](#) October to December 2018 – Published 7 May 2019

3. AUDITS AND INSPECTIONS

Criminal Justice Joint Inspection Programme 2019/20 (consultation) – 14 May 2019

Proposed Joint Criminal Justice System Inspection programme for 2019/20 opens for consultation until 11 June 2019. A revised plan will be published by July 2019. The plan includes:-

- Ongoing core inspections (Prison Offender Management, Custody Inspections, Joint Targeted area inspections of child protection, Youth Offending Team Inspections)
- Thematic Inspections: Domestic abuse: Evidence-led prosecutions, Crimes against older people, Released under Investigation, Integrated Offender Management
- New inspections: Joint (Police / CPS) inspection of prosecution team case file quality
- Scoping and feasibility studies: Ethnic disproportionality within the CJS, Welfare and Dignity in Custody, Mental Health, Youth Violence

Upcoming reports and inspection activity

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| • Deadline for HMICFRS 2018/19 force data return | May 2019 |
| • Fire and Rescue Service inspection reports published (second tranche) | June 2019 |
| • Fire and Rescue Service inspection fieldwork commences (third tranche) | June 2019 |
| • Joint Inspection of Domestic Abuse: Evidence-led prosecutions (Police/CSP) | June 2019 |
| • Joint Inspection of Crimes against older people (Police/CPS) | July / Aug 2019 |
| • Joint Inspection of Prosecution team case file quality (Police / CPS) | Fieldwork 2019 |
| • Released Under Investigation: Impact of changes to police bail procedures | Early 2020 |
| • Integrated Offender Management: Follow-up to explore IOM in TR environment | Early 2020 |
| • HMICFRS: Independent study of police air support | 2019/20 |
| • HMICFRS: Police response to county lines (Thematic) | 2019/20 |
| • HMIC: Crime data integrity (individual force reports) | Ongoing |
| • HMI Prisons: Joint inspection of Police Custody Arrangements | Ongoing |
| • HMICFRS: Joint Targeted area inspections of Child Protection | Ongoing |
| • HMI Probation: Joint inspection of Youth Offending Teams | Ongoing |

4. REVIEWS AND INQUIRIES

Progress delivering the Emergency Services Network – 10 May 2019

National Audit Office report concludes that the Home Office's failure to manage identified risks has led to delays in bringing the intended benefits of ESN to emergency services, with ESN now forecast to cost £3.1 bn more than originally planned. To date, the Home Office's management of this critical programme has represented poor value for money. The Home Office emphasis on limiting the costs of extending Airwave has meant that its plans are not sufficiently developed to give decision-makers all the information they need. The Home Office does not yet have a robust and sufficiently detailed plan that demonstrates that it understands the challenges faced by emergency services in introducing ESN, and it is also not clear how the various programme components of ESN will be integrated successfully. This lack of understanding creates a risk that poor decisions will be made and further 'resets' will be needed in future. There are still significant risks and, based on past performance, it seems unlikely that ESN can be delivered by the target date of 2022.

Timpson Review on school exclusions – 7 May 2019

Edward Timpson's review of school exclusions, commissioned by the Education Secretary in March 2018 finds

- Use of exclusions and 'off rolling' is not widespread: 85% of all mainstream schools did not expel a single child in 2016/17, while 0.2% (47) of secondary schools expelled more than ten pupils during the same year
- The type of school a child attends "will not, in itself, determine how well exclusion is used - there are schools of all types that can use exclusion to better effect"
- Vulnerable children are more likely to be excluded: 78% of permanent exclusions involved children who had special educational needs (SEN), or classified as in need or eligible for free school meals.
- Children on a 'Children in Need Plan' are around 4 times more likely to be permanently excluded compared to those with no social care classification - children who have a Child Protection Plan or are 'looked after' are respectively around 3.5 times and 2.3 times more likely to be permanently excluded than those that are not
- 89% of permanent exclusions and 87% of suspensions in primary schools were boys, with opportunities being missed for diversion. Boys with social, emotional and mental health difficulties (SEMH) but no statement were also around 3.8 times more likely to be permanently excluded than a non-SEN child
- Disparity by ethnic background, with Bangladeshi and Indian pupils having lower rates of exclusion than White British and Black Caribbean and Mixed White and Black Caribbean pupils having higher rates. Traveller children of Irish heritage had the highest rate, followed by Gypsy and Roma children.

The review concludes that while there is no optimal number of exclusions, action needs to be taken to ensure permanent exclusions are only used as a last resort. The report's 30 recommendations to Government include:-

- strengthen accountability around the use of exclusions and capturing details of AP via the school census
- give schools greater control of commissioning and funding arrangements for alternative provision (AP)
- Renaming 'Pupil Referral Units' to reflect them as both schools and places to support overcoming barriers
- supporting those most at risk of exclusion, taking action before it happens and considering a "right to return" period for pupils to re-join school after leaving for home education
- Consult on placing a revised limit on the total number of days a pupil can be (fixed-term) excluded for
- Enable local authorities to establish forums for schools and other local services to convene to plan support for vulnerable children who are at risk of leaving school, by exclusion or otherwise.
- Take action across Government for children who are at risk of being drawn into crime, such as ensuring the Youth Endowment Fund is open to schools and AP settings

The government agreed, in principle, to all 30 recommendations and committed to ensuring schools become more accountable for the pupils they exclude, addressing the practice of 'off-rolling' and re-writing guidance on managing behaviour and the use of exclusions. Damian Hinds also proposed the introduction of guidance on 'off-rolling' which would include an "actual definition, leaving no room for any doubt" on when it should be used. A new Ofsted framework will require inspectors to question schools where there are signs of off-rolling. A consultation will be launched autumn 2019 setting out proposals for taking the recommendations forward.

[Exclusions from mainstream schools – 7 May 2019](#)

Children's Commissioner report explores the experiences of children excluded from mainstream school, both officially and unofficially; the reasons for their exclusion; the response of mainstream schools in meeting their needs prior to exclusion; the impact these experiences have had and; the expectations and experiences of educational provision for children following exclusion from mainstream education. In particular, the research highlights the difficulties faced by children with SEND and their families in accessing early support for any behavioural difficulties and appropriate assessment and diagnosis.

[Who are they? Where are they? – Children Locked Up – 16 May 2019](#)

Children's Commissioner report on children in secure children's homes, secure training centre, young offenders institutions, mental health wards and other residential placements seeks to identify who these children are, where they living, the costs of keeping them locked up, and understand more about whether these places are truly meeting their needs. Findings indicate that around 1,465 children in England were securely detained in March 2018, of whom 873 were in youth justice settings, 505 were detained under the Mental Health Act, and 87 were in secure children's homes for their own welfare. This equates to an estimated cost of over £300m per year. The report also found that there are at least 200 children 'deprived of liberty' in other settings, but they are 'invisible' from publicly available data. The report calls on government to have proper oversight and accountability for these vulnerable children, to ensure that they are not overlooked or forgotten.

[National Strategic Assessment of Serious and Organised Crime 2019 – 14 May 2019](#)

National Crime Agency Assessment of Serious and Organised Crime (SOC) threats to the UK, structured around the priority areas of identifying and disrupting high-harm, high-impact criminals and organised crime groups (OCGs) and diminishing their capability, infrastructure and influence. The assessment notes that:-

- SOC is estimated to cost the UK over £37bn a year, with cost and people involved increasing year on year
- The threat is growing in both volume and complexity, impacting a broader range of victims
- The dominant motivation remains financial gain, although sexual gratification is the main motivator of CSAE
- Growing numbers of children and young adults are becoming involved in SOC
- In parts of the UK, crime groups made up almost exclusively of young people have emerged, adopting business-like operating models - however, these still comprise a minority of total OCG nominals.
- SOC threats are increasingly interlinked and polycriminality remains a key feature of the landscape, however in areas such as CSAE, it remains relatively uncommon for criminals to work in identifiable networks
- The majority of SOC activity in the UK retains a clear international dimension
- There remains no indication that OCGs active in the UK are co-operating with terrorist groups
- SOC offenders draw on a range of cross-cutting enablers in carrying out their criminal activities which include: The use of technology, border vulnerabilities, corruption in the UK, prisoners and those on license

Inquiries

[Serious Violence Strategy](#) - Home Affairs Committee – Latest evidence 14 May 2019

[Apprenticeships programme: progress review](#) - Public Accounts – Latest evidence 14 May 2019

[The Macpherson Report: Twenty Years On](#) – Home Affairs Committee – Latest evidence 14 May 2019

[Court and Tribunal Reforms](#) – Justice Committee – Latest evidence 14 May 2019

[Islamophobia](#) – Home Affairs Committee – Latest evidence 14 May 2019

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

- [New investigation into CP in religious organisations and settings announced](#) – 2 May 2019

5. LEGISLATION

[Offensive Weapons Act](#) – Royal Assent – 16 May 2019

[Overarching documents](#) [Briefing](#)

Act to makes provision for and in connection with offences relating to offensive weapons, which:-

- make it illegal to [possess dangerous weapons](#) in private, including knuckledusters, zombie knives and death star knives, flick knives and gravity knives – and update definition of flick knives to reflect changing designs
- make it a criminal offence to [dispatch bladed products](#) sold online without verifying the buyer is over 18
- ban the possession, manufacture and sale of rapid firing rifles and bump stocks with immediate effect
- change the legal definition for [threatening someone](#) with an offensive weapon to aid prosecutions
- ban the [sale of corrosive products](#) to under 18s and make [possession of a corrosive substance](#) in a public place without good reason an offence
- provide the police with extra powers to search for and seize dangerous weapons and corrosive substances
- introduce of [Knife Crime Prevention Orders](#) which enable the courts to place restrictions on individuals to help the police manage those at risk in the community. Guidance on the process for Knife Crime Prevention Orders will be published, including operational guidance to police forces, ahead of a pilot in London

[Asset Freezing \(Compensation\) Bill](#) – Commons 2nd reading – TBA

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

[Modern Slavery \(Victim Support\) Bill](#) – Commons 2nd reading – TBA

[Briefing](#)

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

[Age of Criminal Responsibility Bill](#) – Lords 3rd Reading – TBA

[Briefing](#)

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

[Lords Briefing](#)

[Anonymity \(Arrested Persons\) Bill](#) - Lords Committee stage – TBA

[Emergency Response Drivers \(Protections\) Bill](#) - Commons 2nd reading – TBA

[Freedom of Information \(Extension\) Bill](#) – Commons 2nd reading – TBA

[Violent Crime \(Sentences\) Bill](#) – Commons 2nd reading – TBA

[Human Trafficking \(Child Protection\) Bill](#) - Commons 2nd reading – TBA

[Youth \(Services and Provisions\) Bill](#) – Commons 2nd reading – TBA

[Licensing of Taxis and Private Hire Vehicles Bill](#) – Lords 2nd reading – TBA

[Criminal Fraud \(Private Prosecutions\) Bill](#) - Commons 2nd reading – TBA

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

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

[Victims of Crime \(Rights, Entitlements, Notification of CSA\) 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 – TBA

[Draft Drones Bill](#) introducing new police powers to issue fixed penalty notices for minor drone offences

6. CONSULTATIONS

[Serious violence: new legal duty to support multi-agency action](#)

Home Office consultation on proposals for a new multi-agency 'public health' approach to preventing and tackling serious violence, including the introduction of a new legal duty and a non-legislative option for partners to work together voluntarily to prevent and tackle serious violence.

Open date: 01/04/2019

Close date: 28/05/2019

[Mental Health Conditions and Disorders: Draft Legal Guidance](#)

CPS consultation on proposed amendments to Legal Guidance on prosecuting defendants with mental health issues which includes signposting to key policy documents, addressing issues across a case life, providing additional information about a variety of mental health conditions and setting out types of disposal available

Open date: 12/03/2019

Close date: 04/06/2019

[Regulatory proposals on consumer 'Internet of Things' security](#)

Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport consultation on new mandatory industry requirements to ensure basic cyber security features are built into internet enabled products and consumers have better information on how secure their devices.

Open date: 01/05/2019

Close date: 05/06/2019

[Review of drugs: call for evidence](#) **NEW**

Home Office call for evidence to inform an independent review of drugs led by Professor Dame Carol Black. Interested parties are invited to share their insights and experiences in order to increase our understanding of both drug use and drug supply.

Open date: 10/05/2019

Close date: 07/06/2019

[Criminal Justice Joint Inspection Programme 2019/20](#) **NEW**

Joint Criminal Justice System Inspection programme for 2019/20 detailing proposed core inspections, thematic inspections, new inspections and scoping and feasibility studies in which two or more of our inspectorates will be working together in 2019/20. Includes proposed feasibility studies for ethnic disproportionality within the CJS, Welfare and Dignity in Custody, Mental Health and Youth Violence

Open date: 14/05/2019

Close date: 11/06/2019

[Children not in school](#)

Department for Education consultation on proposals to introduce register of all children not being educated in state-funded or registered independent schools and to introduce a legal duty for local authorities to provide assistance and resources to support parents who choose to educate their children at home

Open date: 02/04/2019

Close date: 24/06/2019

[Violence and abuse toward shop staff: call for evidence](#)

Home Office call for evidence seeking views from organisations and individuals wishing to contribute to understanding the problem of violence and abuse toward shop staff in England and Wales. Responses are encouraged from retailers, trade associations and unions, as well as those working in the retail industry

Open date: 05/04/2019

Close date: 28/06/2019

[Online Harms White Paper](#)

Home Office White Paper seeking views on government plans to make internet companies more responsible for their users' safety online, especially children and other vulnerable groups, via a **mandatory "duty of care"** and to introduce new standards and penalties alongside an independent regulatory body to enforce them

Open date: 08/04/2019

Close date: 01/07/2019

[Sentencing offenders with mental health conditions](#)

Sentencing Council consultation on draft guideline on sentencing offenders with mental health conditions or disorders, including principles that courts should focus on individual circumstances and decide how much responsibility the offender retains for the offence, given the specific facts of the case.

Open date: 09/04/2019

Close date: 09/07/2019

[Support for victims of domestic abuse in safe accommodation](#) **NEW**

Ministry of Housing, CLG consultation seeks views of victims, survivors, service providers, local authorities, and PCCs on proposals to place a legal duty on local authorities to deliver support to meet the diverse needs of survivors of domestic abuse and their children in accommodation-based services.

Open date: 13/05/2019

Close date: 02/08/2019