

Police and Crime Commissioner's Horizon Scanning Briefing

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1. POLICY AND PRACTICE

[£30m additional funding for technology to tackle online child abuse](#) – 16 September 2019

Home Office announce £30m extra funding to further develop the UK's Child Abuse Image Database (CAID) and the tools available to law enforcement agencies to identify the dangerous and sophisticated paedophiles from seized devices, online activity and the dark web. The new funding will be used to explore enhanced Artificial Intelligence tools, such as voice analytics and age estimation, which will further strengthen existing capabilities and reducing the time taken to identify illegal images, victims and perpetrators.

[£5m additional funding to support victims of rape and sexual abuse](#) – 18 September 2019

Ministry of Justice increases funding available for specialist support services from £8m to £12m per year. This includes a further £1m towards the recruitment of Independent Sexual Violence Advisors and forms part of a Rape Victims' Pledge to provide additional support and information for victims in order to make their engagement with the criminal justice system simpler and less distressing. New national minimum standards for ISVAs will also be developed to ensure victims across the country receive consistent, high-quality support.

[£100,000 funding announced to help tackle online antisemitism](#) – 15 September 2019

Communities Secretary confirms £100,000 funding for the Antisemitism Policy Trust to develop short, educative videos to counter and undermine the proliferation of hateful antisemitic material online

[Unduly Lenient Sentence scheme to be extended to 14 new offences](#) – 17 September 2019

Ministry of Justice announces plans to extend the [Unduly Lenient Sentence scheme](#) to 14 new offences, including stalking, harassment, controlling and coercive behaviour and child sexual abuse. This will give victims and other interested parties the power to ask the Attorney General to consider referring a sentence to the Court of Appeal for reconsideration in these cases. This could result in the sentence being increased if victims or the public think the punishment is too lenient. The scheme already covers crimes such as murder and robbery.

[Trial new technology to detect knives in public places commences](#) – 16 September 2019

BTP and MET commence Home Office funded trial of new technology to detect hidden weapons in public places, enabling trained officers to identify objects without the need for a physical search. The technology can safely detect weapons including guns, knives and explosive devices at distances of up to 30 feet by revealing objects concealed in clothing that block a person's body heat. The 5 day trial taking place in Stratford station, East London is already in use in the Los Angeles Metro.

[Home Office Circular 007/2019: Eyesight standards, police recruitment](#) – 16 September 2019

[New measures to make sure government supply chains free from slavery](#) – 18 September 2019

Cabinet Office announces new steps to ensure government is able to tackle risks of modern slavery in supply chains, which includes: new modern slavery guidance for government commercial practitioners at all levels to help identify and manage modern slavery risks in existing contracts and new procurement activity; a new assessment tool for departments to use with their suppliers to identify modern slavery risks; a new partnership with the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply to offer online training to commercial officials across government on how to identify and report modern slavery.

[The use of facial recognition technology by South Wales police](#) – 11 September 2019

Surveillance Camera Commissioner issues statement on intentions to update guidance on the police use of Automatic Facial Recognition technology following High Court judgment on its use by South Wales police.

[UK's First Domestic Abuse Commissioner announced](#) – 18 September 2019

Home Secretary announces Nicole Jacobs as the designate Domestic Abuse Commissioner. The independent Office of Domestic Abuse Commissioner will be tasked with encouraging good practice in preventing domestic abuse; identifying both those at risk of abuse as well as those perpetrating it and improving the protection and provision of support to those affected by domestic abuse. They will also be able to publish reports that hold statutory agencies and the government to account.

[Tackling modern slavery: council case studies](#) – 18 September 2019

LGA publish a series of case studies highlighting the work being undertaken by local councils to tackle and prevent modern slavery and support victims. The document builds on detailed [guidance](#) published in 2017.

[Recognising and responding to signs of child sexual abuse](#) – 11 September 2019

Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse publishes key messages from research on responding to disclosure

[IOPC Monthly roundup - August 2019](#) – Published 13 September 2019

[Home Secretary speech at Police Superintendents' Association](#) – 9 September 2019

[HMCIC speech at the Institute of Criminology, Cambridge University](#) – 19 September 2019

Sir Thomas Winsor's speech 'Criminal justice – can the system cope?' criticises the lack of public investment in early prevention of crime and disorder which is affecting the police's ability to meet demand, and argues that the public must decide how much crime and disorder they are prepared to tolerate.

Recent Parliamentary briefings: [Undercover policing in England and Wales](#) (13 Sep), [The Parole System of England and Wales](#) (9 Sep)

2. RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND STATISTICS

[Serious Violence in Context: understanding scale and nature](#) – 19 September 2019

Crest Advisory report bringing together data from a range of sources indicates that the scale, complexity and reach of the serious violence in England and Wales may be bigger than previously thought. The report explores the personal and societal factors which have escalated into serious offending and, by default, become the responsibility of the criminal justice system as the 'service of last resort'. Changing drug markets, fuelled by rising demand for heroin and crack cocaine and enabled by social media and a decline in effective enforcement, have driven the significant rises in high-harm offences of homicide, robbery and knife crime over the past five years. This has been compounded by a decline in neighbourhood policing, a struggling prisons system and an apparent reduction in the police focus on drugs. These challenges have come during and partly because of budget cuts to public services. The report reaffirms the need to develop a public health approach to serious violence taking a multi-faceted view of the problem and recognising our gaps in knowledge.

[Data Analytics and Algorithmic Bias in Policing](#) – 16 September 2019

RUSI briefing summarises the use of analytics and algorithms for policing and explores different types of bias that can arise during the product lifecycle. This could include unfair discrimination on the grounds of protected characteristics, real or apparent skewing of the decision-making process, or outcomes which are systematically less fair to individuals within a particular group. The briefing notes that while various legal frameworks and codes of practice are relevant to police use of analytics, the underlying legal basis must be considered in parallel to the development of policy and regulation. The lack of organisational guidelines or clear processes for scrutiny, regulation and enforcement of standards should be addressed as part of a new draft code of practice.

[Violence Against Women and Girls Report 2018/19](#) – Published 12 September 2019

CPS' annual report analysing key prosecution performance issues relating to Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG). In the latest year, the CPS has continued to see decreases in:

- suspects referred to CPS by the police for a charging decision – 8.2% decrease from 283,162 to 260,052;
- pre-charge decisions completed, following police referrals – 9.2% decrease from 273,723 to 248,427;
- the number (-13.2%) and proportion of suspects charged - decreased from 77.7% to 75.5%
- prosecution volumes – 6.2% decrease in Magistrates' courts and 13% decrease in Crown Courts;
- conviction volumes – 6.7% decrease in in Magistrates' courts and 13.0% decrease in Crown Courts; and
- conviction rate – largely due to a 0.5% point decrease in Magistrates' courts to 84.4%

The proportion of pre-charge decisions cases where the police do not respond to CPS requests for additional evidence or reasonable lines of enquiry within three months, meanwhile, increased from 11.7% to 13.1%. The report and [NPCC response](#) also highlight the increasing levels of digital material involved in these cases, which is extending the length and complexity of investigations. The report provides a further breakdown of data and performance outcomes across the strands of domestic abuse, stalking, harassment, sexual offences, forced marriage, so-called 'honour-based' abuse, female genital mutilation, child abuse, human trafficking for sexual exploitation, prostitution and pornography. Report also contains prosecution data at police force level.

[Drug misuse: Findings from the 2018/19 Crime Survey for England and Wales](#) – 19 September 2019

Annual ONS report on trends in illicit drug use among adults (16 to 59) and young adults (16 to 24) based on findings from the Crime Survey for England and Wales. The latest report highlights:-

- a further (non-significant) rise in the proportion of adults (9.4%) and young adults (20.3%) that have taken an illicit drug in the last year, continuing an upward trend seen since 2015/16 (8.3% and 18.0% respectively).
- Higher rates of drug use were found among men (12.6%) those that frequency of visit pubs, bars and nightclubs, people living in urban areas (9.8%) and those reporting lower levels of happiness (19.3%)
- As an indicator of recent drug use, 5.0% of adults and 11.4% of young adults had taken a drug in the last month, which continues the steady upward trend seen since 2016/17 (4.0%, 8.9%).
- 3.7% of adults and 8.7% of young adults had taken a Class A drug in the last year, continuing the upward trend seen since 2012/13 (2.5%, 4.8%) - driven mainly by increases in powder cocaine and ecstasy use
- The most recent (2018) survey of Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use among Young People indicates that the proportion of 11 to 15 year olds having taken 'any drug' in the last year remains stable at around 14.5%.
- Cannabis remains the most commonly used drug among adults (7.6%) and young adults (17.3%), with use having been increasing since 2015/16. Powder cocaine remains the second most prevalent drug among adults (2.9%) and third most prevalent drug among young adults (6.2%) after nitrous oxide (8.7%).
- Although much lower in prevalence, use of Ketamine use has increased from a decade ago among both adults (from 0.5% to 0.8%) and young adults (from 1.9% to 2.9%), while use of amphetamines have decreased among both adults (from 1.2% to 0.6%) and young adults (from 2.6% to 1.0%)
- Levels of use of NPS have not changed in the most recent survey year, with around 0.5% of adults and 1.4% of young adults having used NPS in the last year. Around half of all NPS users were aged 16 to 24.

[Youth custody data to June 2019](#) – Published 13 September 2019

Monthly statistics on the population in custody of children and young people within the secure estate

Arresting the entry of women into the criminal justice system – 10 September 2019

First report published as part of the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Women in the Penal System's inquiry scopes the current situation with regard to the arrests of women and how women with complex needs can be diverted to more appropriate services, such as women's centres. The report notes that many women who are arrested are released with no further action and sets out plans to explore with police forces why this is the case and how best to prevent arrests. The report also notes that the police can only divert vulnerable women away from the criminal justice system towards support if there are sufficient and appropriate services to divert them to. Women Centred Working (2016) has estimated that the costs of providing tailored support services for a vulnerable woman with complex needs was just over £2,000 per annum. The APPG on Women in the Penal System (2015) also found that women's centres were one of the best models for reducing the unnecessary criminalisation of women

Police workforce statistics as at 31 March 2019 – 16 September 2019

Home Office publish latest national police workforce statistics which highlight a marginal (1%) increase in the police workforce (202,023) in the year to March 2019 largely driven by an increase in police staff and those referred to as "designated officers" (with limited powers designated to them by a chief constable). This marks the second consecutive annual increase in the police workforce following reductions between 2010 and 2017 and the first increase (+0.6%, +766 FTE) in police officer numbers (123,171) since 2009. As at 31 March 2019 there were 103,347 police officers employed in frontline policing roles, a fall of 490 officers (-0.5%) compared with the previous year. The proportion of all officers that are female (30%) or from Black and Minority Ethnic backgrounds (7%) have reached the highest levels since records began – but remain under-represented as a proportion of the population in England and Wales (51% and 14% respectively). [Local force-level data available](#)

Football-related arrests and banning orders, 2018 to 2019 season – 19 September 2019

Home Office statistics highlighting a 3% reduction in the number of football banning orders in place (1,771) as at 1 August 2018 compared to the previous year. This continues the steady decline seen since 2011. There was a 4% reduction in incidents (1,050) recorded at football fixtures and 10% reduction in football-related arrests under Schedule 1 of the Football Spectators Act 1989 (1,381) during the 2018/19 season. Offences commonly comprise of public disorder (38%) and violent disorder (19%), while incidents commonly comprised of pyrotechnics (33%), throwing of missiles (30%) and pitch incursion (19%). Clubs with the highest number of supporters arrested were Stoke City (80), Leeds United (49) and Aston Villa (42).

Asset recovery statistical bulletin: financial years ending 2014 to 2019 – Published 13 September 2019

Five year data snapshot of asset recovery, using Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 powers highlights that:-

- Almost £217m of the proceeds of crime were collected in 2018/19, marking a 21% increase on levels in 2013/14 (£179m) when comparative records began
- £51m was collected through cash forfeiture in 2018/19 and this represents the highest figure recorded
- Since Criminal Finances Act 2017 was introduced, 15 Unexplained Wealth Orders have been granted with an estimated total value of just over £143m. In 2018/19, over 670 bank and building society accounts were frozen through the use of Account Freezing Orders accounting for a total of £110m
- In 2016/17, the proportion of Asset Recovery Incentivisation Scheme (ARIS) money invested into future asset recovery work accounted for 94% of available funds
- In 2018/19, just over £36m was paid in compensation to victims from the proceeds of confiscation, marking an increase of 20% on 2017/18 following reductions over the previous two years in which the sum fell.

[Local data available](#) at force and reporting agency level

Detailed analysis of fires attended by fire and rescue services, 2018/19 – Published 12 September 2019

Home Office statistics highlighting a 9% increase in fires attended by FRSs in England in 2018/19 (182,825), largely driven by a rise in secondary and 'other outdoor' primary fires linked to the hot dry summer of 2018. The number of most serious (primary) fires fell by 1% during the year. The overall number of incidents attended by FRSs in 2018/19 (576,040) increased by 2% on the previous year (566,433). Fires accounted for 32% of incidents while fire false alarms accounted for 40%. 28% of incidents were non-fire incidents.

[Rough Sleeping Initiative 2018: impact evaluation](#) – Published 12 September 2019

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government evaluation report estimates that the initiative launched in March 2018 supported a 32% reduction in rough sleeping levels compared to what it would have been had the initiative not been in place. This is based on data obtained during the annual rough sleeper snapshots taken in 2017 and 2018 among the 83 local authorities which shared the £30m RSI funding. In its first year, the RSI provided over 1,750 new bed spaces and 500 staff.

Upcoming publications

- [English Indices of Deprivation 2019](#) – 26 September 2019
- Fire prevention and protection statistics 2018/19 – 3 October 2019
- Hate crime, England and Wales, 2018 to 2019 – 15 October 2019
- Crime outcomes in England and Wales, year to June 2019 – 17 October 2019

3. AUDITS AND INSPECTIONS

Upcoming reports and inspection activity

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| • National Joint Targeted area inspections of Child Protection Thematic | Pending |
| • Evidence-led Domestic Abuse prosecutions (HMCPSI) | Pending |
| • PEEL Reports 2019/20 – Tranche 2 | September 2019 |
| • Joint Inspection of Prosecution team case file quality (Police / CPS) | Fieldwork 2019 |
| • HMICFRS Roads Policing Thematic (Sec. State Transport Commission) | Fieldwork Oct 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 |
| • PEEL Reports 2020/21 – Tranche 1 | May 2020 |
| • HMICFRS: State of Policing 2019 | July 2020 |
| • Released Under Investigation: Impact of changes to police bail procedures | July 2020 |
| • National Joint Targeted area inspections of Child Protection Thematic (x8) | July 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 |
| • HMIC: Crime data integrity (individual force reports) | Ongoing |
| • HMI Prisons: Joint inspection of Police Custody Arrangements | Ongoing |
| • HMI Probation: Joint inspection of Youth Offending Teams | Ongoing |

4. REVIEWS AND INQUIRIES

[Independent Strategic Review of Policing launched](#) – 10 September 2019

Police Foundation launches a major independent review of policing in England and Wales, which will be chaired by Sir Michael Barber, former head of the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit. The Review will consider

- How crime and wider demands on the police are changing and what implications this has for the service;
- What the police mission should be, looking in particular at the public's expectations of the police;
- The capabilities the police service needs to achieve this mission, including its use of technology;
- What the future police officer should look like, including role and responsibilities, skills and career pathways;
- How the police service should be structured and held to account locally, regionally and nationally;
- How the police should work with other sectors to deal with complex social problems;
- How much funding the police service requires and how this should be allocated geographically.

[Independent review of Prevent: terms of reference published](#) – 16 September 2019

The review consider the following whether Prevent achieving its objectives; how effectively it is being delivered at both the local and national levels; how effectively it interacts with other safeguarding and vulnerability strategies, and what the critical dependencies and common threads are. It will also examine how effective the Statutory Prevent Duty is and how effectively it is being implemented, and look at how Prevent could be improved to respond to justified criticisms and complaints.

[Criminal legal aid review plan for accelerated work published](#) – 19 September 2019

Plan published as part of the Ministry of Justice's [review of criminal legal aid](#) announced in December 2018. The review considers criminal legal aid throughout the life cycle of a criminal case, including pre-charge advice at the police station, advice and advocacy services in the Magistrates' Court and Youth Court, and advice and advocacy for prisoners; advice and litigation services in the Crown Court through the Litigators' Graduated Fee Scheme; advocacy services in the Crown Court through the Advocates' Graduated Fee Scheme and; litigation and advocacy services for very high cost Crown Court cases through the Very High Cost Case Scheme

[Transforming courts and tribunals: a progress update](#) – 11 September 2019

National Audit Office progress update highlights that people can now access services through simpler online routes because of the reforms delivered to date, although some planned services are not yet fully available to the public because HMCTS has made less progress than it had expected. HMCTS has acted on concerns raised in the previous NAO report, but has had to further reduce the scope of the reform portfolio and extend the timetable, which has decreased risk but also cut expected savings. The total savings claimed by HMCTS may not all directly result from reformed services.

[Irreparable harm caused to children whose mothers are in prison](#) – 9 September 2019

Joint Committee on Human Rights report highlights the harmful effects on children of a mother going to prison, with an estimated 17,000 children a year being affected. The report notes that children whose mothers are sent to prison are more likely than their peers to have future problems such as involvement in criminal behaviour, mental health problems and drug and alcohol addiction. They are more likely to die before the age of 65. The Committee makes proposal for urgent reform in the areas of data collection, sentencing, support for children and pregnancy and maternity.

Inquiries accepting evidence

[Ageing prison population](#) – Justice Committee – Accepting evidence until 1 October 2019

[Children and young people in custody](#) – Justice Committee – Accepting evidence until 1 October 2019

5. LEGISLATION

[Prime Minister announces prorogation of Parliament](#) – 28 August 2019

The current parliamentary session has been brought to an end. Any bills set to be re-introduced as part of the new legislative programme will be announced as part of the Queen's Speech. The Prime Minister confirmed that the European Union Withdrawal Agreement Bill will be a central feature of the new legislative programme alongside work to address crucial public priorities such as 'helping the NHS, fighting violent crime, investing in infrastructure and science and cutting the cost of living'.

6. CONSULTATIONS

[Knife Crime Prevention Orders \(KCPOs\): guidance](#)

Home Office consultation on guidance for police and CPS in relation to the operation of, and application for, new Knife Crime Prevention Orders (KCPOs) which have been introduced through the Offensive Weapons Act 2019. The new preventative civil Orders will be an additional tool that the police will be able to use to work with young people and adults to encourage them to help steer them away from knife crime and serious violence.

Open date: 15/08/2019

Close date: 25/09/2019

[Proposed amends to APP \(guidance\) on Stop and Search](#)

College of Policing public consultation on proposed updates to stop and search guidance in view of changes to Section 60 'non-suspicion' searches announced in March 2019. This includes guidance on how forces should speak with communities about their use of Section 60, share results and explain its impact; principles for public scrutiny and benefits of using body-worn video footage as part of the public scrutiny process.

Open date: 01/08/2019

Close date: 29/09/2019

[Offensive Weapons Act 2019: draft statutory guidance](#)

Home Office consultation on draft statutory guidance for police, retailers and trading standards on how the Offensive Weapons Act 2019 should be implemented and applied, the obligations imposed under the act, and what factors should be taken into account when making decisions on how to proceed with individual cases of the possession, sale and delivery of knives, corrosives and offensive weapons, and their use to threaten others.

Open date: 15/08/2019

Close date: 09/10/2019

[Sexual Harassment in the Workplace](#)

Government Equalities Office consultation on proposed reforms to the Equality Act 2010 to better protect employees, including interns and volunteers, from sexual harassment in the workplace. GEO is particularly keen to hear from people with direct or third party experience of harassment in the workplace.

Open date: 11/07/2019

Close date: 02/10/2019