

Police and Crime Commissioner's Horizon Scanning Briefing

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1. POLICY AND PRACTICE

[£460,000 Government investment in knife-detection technology research](#) – 1 April 2019

Home Office and Department of Transport awards funding to six UK companies to fast-track innovative technologies to detect people carrying knives in crowded places as part of the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl) and Defence and Security Accelerator (DASA). The companies are exploring how solutions involving radar and electromagnetic and acoustic sensors could help detect steel-bladed knives

[Greater powers for police to use stop and search to tackle violent crime](#) – 31 March 2019

Home Secretary announces greater flexibility in use of s60 stop and search powers under the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act for the 7 police forces most affected by knife crime. The flexibilities reduce the level of authorisation required for s60 reasonable grounds search from senior officer to inspector level and lower the degree of certainty of serious violence required from 'will' occur to 'may' occur. The changes to the voluntary Best Use of Stop and Search Scheme will run for up to a year and will be reviewed after 6 months.

[Government proposals for public health duty to tackle serious violence](#) – 1 April 2019 [LGA Response](#)

Home Secretary launches consultation on proposals for a new, multi-agency duty to ensure public bodies in health, education, police, social services and housing raise concerns about children at risk of becoming involved in knife crime and are held accountable for working together to prevent and tackle serious violence. This could include, for example jointly funding early intervention services to improve local coordination.

[Government proposals to introduce register of all children not being educated in school](#) – 2 April 2019

Department for Education launches consultation on proposals to introduce a new register of children not being educated in school. The proposals would enable local authorities to better identify and intervene where the standard of a child's education is below expectations or where there may be risk of harm.

[Government to harness power of sport to help tackle youth violence](#) – 1 April 2019

Government renews commitment to use sport to support young people in serious violence hot spots, including work with the 'Premier League Kicks' community programme, Sport England, and a range of other community-based sports charities engaging young people in hard to reach areas.

[National Prison Drugs Strategy](#) – 4 April 2019

MoJ and HM Prison and Probation Service drug strategy sets out ambitions to tackle drugs by restricting supply, reducing demand and building recovery, mirroring the 3 strands of the HM Government Drug Strategy.

Commissioner's e-Briefing: 8 April 2019

[Impact Statements for Business](#) – 4 April 2019

MoJ guidance for businesses wanting to make an Impact Statement Under the Victims' Code of Practice

[Prime Minister Speech - Serious Violence Summit](#) - 1 April 2019

[Counting rules for recorded crime – Updated Home Office Guidance](#) – 1 April 2019

[Circular 019/2018: Control of pregabalin & gabapentin under Misuse of Drugs Act 1971](#) – 31 March 2019

Statutory Instruments 2018/1356 and 2018/1383 come into force on 1 April 2019

Recent Parliamentary briefings: [Prevention of retail crime](#) (5 Apr), [Definition of Islamophobia](#) (5 Apr), [Restrictive Intervention of Children and Young People](#) (3 Apr), [Rough Sleepers and Anti-Social Behaviour](#) (2 Apr), [Youth inmates in solitary confinement](#) (29 Mar), [Puppy Smuggling](#) (29 Mar), [Gypsies and travellers: planning provisions](#) (28 Mar), [Local audit](#) (28 Mar), [Modern slavery and victim support](#) (26 Mar), [Doorstep selling](#) (25 Mar), [Late night levy](#) (22 Mar), [Knives and offensive weapons](#) (21 Mar)

Recent Parliamentary debates: [Police Recruitment Criteria](#) (2 Apr), [Serious Violence Prevention](#) (1 Apr), [Serious Violent Crime: Police Investigation](#) (1 Apr), [Violent Crime: Young People](#) (1 Apr), [Police Funding: Rural Areas](#) (1 Apr), [Rural Crime](#) (28 Mar), [Wildlife Crime Enforcement](#) (28 Mar), [Modern Slavery and Victim Support](#) (27 Mar), [Royal Commission on Police Funding](#) (26 Mar), [Knife Crime](#) (25 Mar)

2. RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND STATISTICS

[Crack cocaine increase: inquiry findings](#) – 25 March 2019

Public Health England and Home Office review of increases in crack cocaine use in England highlights the need to explore more effective methods of getting crack users into treatment and to provide a more attractive treatment offer which is tailored to their specific needs. It has also identifies the need for more effective links from the criminal justice system into treatment services for these individuals. The review concludes that:-

- Increased availability and affordability of crack and aggressive marketing of the drug by dealers is likely to have influenced the rise in crack use, alongside the global surge in opium production seen in 2017 (+65%)
- Other factors may include a reduction in stigma about crack use and lack of police focus on targeting dealing
- While organised crime groups have pushed crack cocaine onto a captive market of entrenched heroin users, there are also new 'hidden' crack users who are not using heroin or engaging with treatment services
- There was a widespread view among police, treatment workers and service users that county-lines groups are much more likely than local groups to engage in serious violence and to exploit young people

[Opiate and crack cocaine use: prevalence estimates by local area](#) – Updated 25 March 2019

Estimates of the number of opiate and crack cocaine users by local authority areas, including prevalence estimates of opiate and/or crack cocaine users by age and gender. An accompanying report 'Estimates of the prevalence of opiate use and/or crack cocaine use, 2016 to 2017' published by the Liverpool John Moores University (LJMU) includes the methods used to get to the estimates, along with comparisons to previous data.

[Helping children recover from child sexual exploitation](#) – 25 March 2019

NSPCC publish evaluation of the Protect and Respect programme which supports children and young people who have been, or are at risk of being, sexually exploited. The evaluation found that:-

- Young people benefitted from having a nurturing, safe, therapeutic relationship with a practitioner
- Directly engaging children and young people in a discussion about sexual exploitation wasn't always the best approach to addressing concerns, especially when coupled with adversities, abuse and neglect
- Practitioners should work with a young person to understand what factors in their life may lead to an increased risk of CSE and identify what long-term support is needed

[Cyber Security Breaches Survey 2019 – Published 3 April 2019](#)

Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport survey of UK businesses and charities on their approach to cyber security finds that:-

- 32% of businesses and 22% of charities report cyber security breaches or attacks in the last 12 months
- For businesses, this has fallen from 46% in 2017 (reflecting trends among the general public - CSEW) and is likely to be a result of greater cyber security and more narrowly focussed attacker behaviour
- The most common types breaches or attacks are phishing (80% - 81%), impersonating an organisation in emails or online (20% - 28%) and viruses, spyware, malware or ransomware (18% - 27%)
- The mean average cost of cyber breaches to businesses has risen from £2,450 in 2017 to £4,180 in 2019
- The average cost to large (£22,700) or medium (£9,270) firms and charities (£9,470) is considerably higher
- More businesses have taken steps to improve their cyber security, due in part to the introduction of GDPR
- 78% of businesses and 75% charities say that cyber security is a high priority for their organisation's senior management. This has risen from 74% and 53% respectively since 2018
- More businesses (33%) and charities (36%) have written cyber security policies than in 2018 (27%, 21%)
- Still, very few businesses (16%) and charities (11%) have formal cyber security incident management processes in place and many would benefit from better signposting to guidance on cyber security

[Domestic Abuse Report 2019: The Economics of Abuse – 11 March 2019](#)

Women's Aid briefing explores the relationship between domestic abuse and economic resources, looking at the needs and experiences of survivors around finances, welfare, housing and employment (economic needs), and how these needs are met by specialist domestic abuse services. In particular, the report highlights multiple economic challenges facing women while or after leaving an abusive relationship, including delays in accessing state benefits and the impact of welfare reforms on the ability of domestic abuse survivors to find housing. The report also highlights missed opportunities for employers in supporting survivors to rebuild their lives.

[Independent Office for Police Conduct \(IOPC\) Youth Panel Report – 28 March 2019](#)

Report from the Independent Office for Police Conduct's Youth Panel highlights feelings of powerlessness, a lack of trust and confidence in the police and other authority figures among young people. The report also considers the how ethnicity, sexual orientation and class impact upon trust and confidence in the complaint system. The panel make a range of recommendations, including the need for improvements targeted awareness campaigns, staff training in engagement, better use of social media platforms, development of a young person's guide to the complaints system and working with trusted third parties and 'youth advocates' in the community to support young people who may wish to make a complaint.

[Causes of homelessness and rough sleeping feasibility study – 25 March 2019](#)

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government report reviews evidence on the causes of homelessness and rough sleeping and options for modelling to understand future trends and appraise policy

[Criminal court statistics quarterly: October to December 2018 – Published 28 March 2019](#)

Magistrates' court workload has fallen steadily over the previous three years with receipts at the lowest level since comparable records began. The volume of outstanding cases remains largely in line with levels seen since 2016. Receipts disposals and outstanding cases continue to fall in the Crown Courts, reaching the lowest level of outstanding cases since 2000.

[Hate Crime Statistics – 28 March 2019](#)

Commons briefing on hate crime statistics provided by the Crime Survey of England and Wales (CSEW) and the Police Recorded Crime Series. Includes data at police force level

[Alcohol and late night refreshment licensing 31 March 2018 – Published 28 March 2019](#)

Includes data on premises licences, late night refreshment and 24-hour alcohol licences at local authority level

[Developing a toolkit to measure reoffending reduction from mentoring interventions – 22 March 2019](#)

3. AUDITS AND INSPECTIONS

[Fraud: Time to choose – An inspection of the police response to fraud – 2 April 2019](#)

HMICFRS inspection commissioned by the Home Secretary concludes that the law enforcement response to fraud is disjointed and ineffective and in need of a clear national strategy. The inspectorate highlights that not enough is being done to disseminate the pockets of good practice, roles and responsibilities are unclear across forces, regional organised crime units and national bodies, and there is no clear understanding of expected levels of performance. Few forces make good use of the intelligence provided by the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau or have local strategies / guidance about how they intended to tackle fraud. While vulnerable victims receive a good service, most victims do not and are often given confusing and misleading advice about how their case will be investigated or progressed. The report suggests Chief Constables should:

- Improve use of National Fraud Intelligence Bureau monthly victim list to identify / support vulnerable victims;
- Improve the identification and mapping of organised crime groups in which the principal criminality is fraud;
- Consider fraud serious organised crime prevent tactics for police, SOC partnerships and IOM processes;
- increase use of ancillary orders against fraudsters and ensure compliance with Victim's Code of Practice

The report also makes formal recommendations for:-

- Chief constables to publish force policy for responding to / investigating fraud allegations by 30 Sep 2019
- NPCC and Coordinator for Economic Crime to develop a national policing strategy for fraud by 31 Mar 2020
- NPCC Coordinator for Economic Crime to evaluate monthly victim lists and six-monthly force profiles by 30 Sep 2019 and redesign the dissemination for enforcement documentation by 31 March 2020
- NPCC Coordinator to issue guidance to police forces by 30 Sep 2019 on: how to accurately record, report on and determine a response to NFIB 'disseminations for enforcement'; ensure that when not to investigating 'disseminations for enforcement', victims are provided with a clear written rationale;
- NPCC Coordinator to issue guidance to forces by 30 Sep 2019 on fraud-related calls for service requiring local intervention or referral to Action Fraud; ensuring victims are provided with explanations of the role of Action Fraud and the process for handling their case, including their options and how to obtain updates
- NPCC Coordinator should, with immediate effect, carry out a campaign to raise public awareness of Action Fraud and provide chief constables with a description of their role to be uploaded to force websites
- NPCC Coordinator should take steps to publish performance indicators for Action Fraud which include call handling waiting times and abandonment rates, online reporting and victim satisfaction
- Ensure forces have processes in place to accurately and efficiently report fraud outcomes to the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau by 31 March 2020 and
- Work with College of Policing to evaluate and disseminate best practice advice on the police response

[Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority inspection – 4 April 2019](#)

HMICFRS inspection report examining the use of investigative powers by the Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA) concludes that sufficient numbers of staff have been adequately trained, however, there remain unresolved issues over the legislative framework within which they work which include constraints on the use of PACE powers when investigating or acting in a compliance or enforcement capacity

[Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration 2019/20 Inspection Plan – 2 April 2019](#)

Chief Inspector publishes updated 3-year inspection plan for 2019/20 which is informed by previous ICIBI inspections and the views of Ministers, officials and other key stakeholders. The timing of some aspects of the plan will depend on events outside ICIBI's control and their effects on the UK's border and immigration functions, in particular the UK's exit from the EU and the outcome of the Windrush 'Lessons Learned' review.

Report of the Chief Inspector of Probation – 28 March 2019

Final Annual Report of CI Inspector of Probation, Dame Glenys Stacey highlights that the exception strain on the sector and significant performance concerns for a system design that is 'irredeemably flawed'. The inspector reports a national shortage of qualified probation professionals and calls for probation services to be:-

- **Evidence based:** HMPPS should ensure pre-sentence reports are prepared more often and in almost all cases where imprisonment is an option; government should pilot alternatives to custody for short-term prisoners which include supported accommodation options, and mental health and substance misuse treatment, and should consider more specific rehabilitative options for community sentences. MoJ should ensure accredited programmes are locally available and recommended to the court where appropriate. The local availability of mental health, drug and alcohol treatments should be increased to meet need. Future arrangements for probation services should ensure continuity of probation worker, so far as possible.
- **Designed to meet both the needs of victims and those under supervision:** MoJ should review the Victim Contact Scheme to meet the reasonable expectations of today's victims. The government's Reducing Reoffending Board should consider how to improve accommodation provision for those without a home and the speed in which initial payments are made. Future arrangements should promote professional judgement, effective sentence planning and more consistent and effective supervision for all offenders
- **An integrated and professional service:** MOJ should ensure workforce capacity and specialist services available match demand and provide contingency to cope with changes in service pressures. Professional staff pay should recognise regional and area pressures. Improvements should be made in the way staff engagement is measured to drive improvement. Future arrangements should aim to develop staff and ensure initial assessments are of the right quality and case records are comprehensive and up to date. An independent professional body should be created for the regulation of the profession and probation premises should be kept safe, secure, and serviceable
- **Able to command confidence of the judiciary, victims, staff and the wider public:** Government should give weight to measures of the quality of probation work done in evaluating their performance. SFO reviews should be conducted with sufficient independence and transparency, so that learning is shared and systemic issues are identified and addressed. The probation service should conform to the usual public service governance, accountability and transparency expectations. Nationwide strategies for estates, IT, the workforce and the commissioning of specialist services should be developed. The latter should strike a proper balance between central and locally commissioned services.

Upcoming reports and inspection activity

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|---|-----------------|
| • Stalking and harassment - Sussex PCC commission | 8 April 2019 |
| • All Force Integrated PEEL Assessments 2018/19 published | Late April 2019 |
| • 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 |
| • Crimes against older people: Police and CPS responses | July 2019 |
| • HMICFRS: Police response to county lines (Thematic) | Pending |
| • HMICFRS: Crime data integrity (individual force reports) | Ongoing |
| • HMICFRS: Joint inspection of Police Custody Arrangements | Ongoing |
| • HMICFRS: National Child Protection Inspection (HMIC-led) examining police effectiveness in their interactions with children | Ongoing |

4. REVIEWS AND INQUIRIES

[Building resilient families: 3rd annual report of Troubled Families Programme 2018/19](#) – 28 March 2019

Department for Housing, Communities & Local Government publishes 3rd annual report of the Troubled Families Programme drawing on findings from an [evaluation of the Troubled Families Programme](#) 2015 to 2020. The evaluation highlights a total net public benefit of the programme of around £366m in 2017/18, with pure fiscal benefits of around £147m - although not all of these were cashable. Research indicates that the programme has been successful in driving transformation, proactive early intervention and data sharing.

[Please procure responsibly: the state of public service commissioning](#) – 28 March 2019

Report from 'Reform' examines the systems used by central and local government to procure public services, and makes recommendations to upskill contracting authorities and improve accountability and transparency by

- Creating a 'make or buy' flowchart for commissioning teams alongside extra guidance for considering whether the nature of the service naturally lends itself to outsourcing
- Producing a national guidance framework and toolkit for public service commissioners and providers explaining how to identify and quantify Social Value in public service contracts
- Providing stable funding to the Public Service Transformation Academy and provide more consistent regional networks for local authorities and Small- and Medium-sized Enterprises and VCS Enterprises.
- Introducing a national training framework for public service commissioners who contract over the Official Journal of the European Union financial thresholds for public service contracts
- Adopt a 'statement of responsibility' regime and responsibility maps for government departments that commission public services, modelled on the Financial Conduct Authority's example
- Regularly publish a list of Contracting Authorities found to have failed to meet their obligations regarding publication of tenders and awards on Contracts Finder and develop a public "black-list" for non-compliance

Inquiries

[Forensic Science](#) – Science and technology Committee – Report in preparation

[Cyber security in the UK](#) – Public Accounts Committee – Announced 20 March 2019

[Progress implementation Lammy Review recommendations](#) – Justice Committee – 25 March 2019

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

- [Mandatory Reporting Seminar](#) – 29 to 30 April 2019
- [Bids for research into victims and survivors' experiences of support services](#) – 19 March 2019
- [Applications for core participants in CSE by organised networks investigation](#) – 6 March 2019

[Apprenticeships programme: progress review](#) - Public Accounts – Evidence session 25 March 2019

[Pitchford Undercover Policing inquiry](#) – Ongoing

[Serious Violence Strategy](#) - Home Affairs Committee – Oral evidence session 26 March 2019

[Local government governance & accountability](#) – Public Accounts – Evidence session 27 March 2019

[Detention of children with learning disabilities](#) - JC on Human Rights - Evidence session 27 March 2019

[The Macpherson Report: Twenty Years On](#) – Home Affairs Committee – latest evidence 12 March 2019

[Disclosure & Barring Service: progress review](#) - Public Accounts Committee – Launched 5 March 2019

5. LEGISLATION

[Offensive Weapons Bill](#) – Ping Pong – 10 April 2019

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

Government 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

[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](#)

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

[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

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

Private Members' Bill to prohibit the publication of certain personal information until an arrested person has been charged with an offence / set out circumstances where such information can be published

[Emergency Response Drivers \(Protections\) Bill](#) - Commons 2nd reading – 22 March 2019

Private Members' Bill to protect drivers of emergency vehicles responding to emergencies from civil liability and criminal prosecution in specified circumstances and related provision about criminal proceedings

[Freedom of Information \(Extension\) Bill](#) – Commons 2nd reading – 22 March 2019

Private Members' Bill to extend Freedom of Information Act 2000 in respect of public authorities and extend powers of the Information Commissioner

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

Private Members' Bill to make provision for the removal of foreign national criminal offenders from UK

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

Private Members' Bill to increase the minimum custodial sentence on conviction for possession of a knife or other offensive weapon for an offender aged 18 or over and to increase the minimum period of detention and training order for a person aged 16 or 17; set a minimum custodial sentence on conviction for an offender in possession of a knife and intending to commit an offence or having a weapon to use in committing murder

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

Private Members' Bill to require the Secretary of State to promote and secure youth services and provision of a requisite standard; to impose a duty on local authorities to provide youth services and establish local youth service partnerships with youth participation

[Draft Drones Bill](#) introducing new police powers to issue fixed penalty notices for minor drone offences, request evidence from drone users where there is reasonable suspicion of an offence being committed and to land, seize and search drones. Require registration and competency testing for drone use

6. CONSULTATIONS

[Taxi and private hire vehicle licensing: protecting users](#)

Department for Transport consultation seeking views on proposed statutory guidance to taxi and private hire vehicle licensing authorities on how to use their licensing powers to protect children and vulnerable adults.

Open date: 12/02/2019

Close date: 22/04/2019

[Tackling homelessness together](#)

Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government consultation seeking views on the effectiveness of existing non-statutory and statutory local accountability and partnership structures in homelessness services and whether the government should introduce Homelessness Reduction Boards. Also seeking views on how else local accountability and partnership working could be improved.

Open date: 21/02/2019

Close date: 16/05/2019

[Expanded explanations in offence specific guidelines](#)

Sentencing Council consultation on plans to provide expanded explanations in digital guidelines to reflect and encourage current best practice rather than to alter sentencing practice. The new explanations will provide judges, magistrates and other court users with useful information relating to commonly used factors in guidelines and improve transparency for victims, defendants and the wider public.

Open date: 28/02/2019

Close date: 23/05/2019

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

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

[Children not in school](#) **NEW**

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](#) **NEW**

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