

Police and Crime Commissioner's Horizon Scanning Briefing

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1. POLICY AND PRACTICE

[Apply for funding: COVID-19: Domestic abuse and sexual violence support services – 19 May 2020](#)

MOJ guidance on extraordinary domestic and sexual violence support service funding being distributed via:-

- Police and Crime Commissioners – £10m for domestic abuse services already commissioned by PCCs and £5m for domestic abuse services that are not currently commissioned by PCCs. £5m is also available for sexual violence services (both PCC and non-PCC commissioned). PCCs will conduct an assessment of need for emergency funding in these areas and encourage funding requests from small specialist organisations that support groups with protected characteristics. Separately, the MOJ will also provide an extra £3 million to PCCs specifically to fund Independent Sexual Violence Advisers (ISVAs) until 2022.
- National Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Fund to help registered charities meet the additional costs incurred whilst adapting their services during the COVID-19 pandemic, including short term income disruption, essential costs of sustaining current activities and meeting increased demand. Funding requests should be submitted to rapesupport@justice.gov.uk by 31 May 2020.

[Apply for funding: COVID-19: Extraordinary funding for domestic abuse support services – 22 May 2020](#)

Home Office launch £2 million fund for non-local domestic abuse charities affected by the COVID-19 pandemic that are not in receipt of other specifically designed funding. This includes organisations providing a national or umbrella services and organisations supporting geographically dispersed victims over multiple PCC areas. Funding must be used to cover additional COVID-19 related costs incurred or anticipated up to October 2020. The Domestic Abuse Commissioner will oversee the process. The deadline for applications is 8 June 2020.

[Apply for funding: COVID-19: £200m Community Support Fund – 22 May 2020](#)

The Government and National Lottery launches £200 million fund for small and medium sized charities and social enterprises supporting vulnerable people that are experiencing income disruption and/or increased demand as a result of the crisis. DCMS will review learning from the distribution of £90 million funding and evolving picture on the impact of the crisis to inform decisions on the distribution of the remaining £110 million. Funding is available in allocations of £300 to £10,000 and £10,000+.

[Justice responses to COVID-19 around the world – Updated 27 May 2020](#)

Centre for Justice Innovation tracker contrasting the justice system response to the COVID-19 across different regions of the world. Latest update includes a briefing on the [justice response to domestic abuse](#) during the crisis, noting consistency in way domestic abuse has been categorised as a priority. The briefing also considers the strengths and weaknesses of a shift towards a virtual court system.

[Prime Minister Speech: Further easing of Coronavirus Restrictions – 25-28 May 2020](#)

Prime Minister announces further easing of restrictions from 1 June which include:

- Allowing groups of six people to meet outdoors (observing strict social distancing guidelines) from 1 June
- Reopening nurseries and primary schools for reception, year 1 and year 6 children from 1 June
- Reopening outdoor markets and car showrooms that meet necessary guidelines from 1 June
- Opening other non-essential retail that meet the secure guidelines from 15 June provided the [5 tests](#) are met
- Beginning some face-to-face contact time for year 10 and 12 secondary school students from 15 June

The latest police guidance on the enforcement of [Coronavirus Restrictions](#) can be accessed via the [College of Policing's COVID-19 Hub](#). Officers are advised to continue to use their discretion to determine what is reasonable and continue to apply the 4 step escalation principles of engage, explain, encourage and enforce.

[Government outlines plans to better protect vulnerable people from harm – 21 May 2020](#)

Prime Minister outlines government action to tackle domestic abuse, child sexual exploitation and modern slavery ahead of the virtual [Hidden Harms Summit](#) hosted from Downing Street on 21 May. Measures include:-

- A new codeword scheme for domestic abuse victims which will allow people in urgent or immediate danger to get help from shop workers by using a specific phrase that staff are trained to identify
- Further work to identify the best law enforcement responses to domestic abuse by analysing data and intelligence on incidents during the lockdown period
- A commitment to review the delivery model for victim support services
- Around £10 million additional funding to boost NCA ability to tackle paedophiles operating on the dark web
- A further £3.36 million to projects to understand the threat posed by the most serious criminals
- £1.4 million for the Modern Slavery and Organised Immigration Crime Programme to support the police to increase prosecutions and crack down on organised immigration crime
- A new £2.8 million child sexual abuse Support Services Transformation Fund to improve support available for children and young people affected by sexual abuse by building our understanding of what support works for victims and promoting best practice between providers and communities
- A further £3.7 million Trusted Relationship Funding for 11 local authority-led projects to support young people at high risk of sexual or criminal exploitation by providing bespoke help from adult role models
- £800,000 for a helpline, email service, and online tool to assist unrepresented victims seeking an emergency protective order from the family court with making their applications

[Alcohol Abstinence Monitoring Requirement comes into force – 19 May 2020](#)

S76 of the [Legal Aid, Sentencing & Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 \(Com. 14\) Order 2020](#) comes into force enabling Alcohol Abstinence and Monitoring Requirements to be imposed as a sentencing option for alcohol related offending as part of a community order or suspended sentence. Breach of the order could result in a fine, extending the length of the order or imprisonment. To monitor compliance with the order, courts can require offenders to wear alcohol monitoring tags for up to 120 days which sample sweat every half-hour to determine whether alcohol has been consumed. The 'sobriety tags' were successfully piloted in Humberside, Lincolnshire, North Yorkshire and London where 94% of offenders successfully completed the requirement and offenders remained alcohol free on 97% of the days monitored. Participants also reported positive improvements in wellbeing and behaviour. National roll out of the ankle tags will begin in Winter 2020.

[Suspicious Activity Reporting \(SAR\): SARs In Action Briefing – 27 May 2020](#)

NCA / UKFIU briefing features details of the National Economic Crime Command's support to maximising the exploitation of intelligence, SARS analysis on COVID-19, the UKFIU's work to tackle those that exploit vulnerabilities of the public and private sectors, and the work of the NCA's Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Unit to combat financially motivated crimes.

[Ending the detention of unsentenced children during the Covid-19 pandemic – 18 May 2020](#)

Howard League for Penal Reform paper providing legal and practical guidance for defence lawyers in resisting applications to remand children to custody during the Covid-19 pandemic and making effective bail applications.

Commissioner's e-Briefing: 1 June 2020

[Probation Change Bulletin: Strengthening probation, building confidence](#) – Published 29 May 2020

Stakeholder update on the progress of both the HMPPS probation reform and workforce programmes

[Prison and Probation Ombudsman Covid-19 update](#) – Published 27 May 2020

[College of Policing Brief: April / May 2020](#) – Published 22 May 2020

Home Office COVID-19 Modern Slavery Guidance: [First Responders](#) & [Spotting the Signs](#) – 20 May 2020

[Law Society briefing: Coronavirus and our courts Westminster Update](#) – Published 26 May 2020

[NSPCC Guidance: Online Safety during coronavirus](#) – 18 May 2020

[Parliamentary briefing: Coronavirus: the lockdown laws](#) - 18 May 2020

2. RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND STATISTICS

[Police recorded crime throughout COVID-19 lockdown](#) – 21 May 2020

Provisional [data](#) from the NPCC shows a 25% reduction in police recorded crime during the 13 April to 10 May 2020 lockdown period compared to the same period in 2019 (excludes crimes recorded by Action Fraud). The most notable reductions were seen in shoplifting (-53%), vehicle crime (-41%) and residential burglary (-36%). 999 and 101 call volumes fell by 23% and 25% respectively, while the number of cases being brought to the police relating to mental health and missing persons fell by 8% and 37% respectively. Police recorded domestic incidents, however, increased by 4%, while assaults on emergency service workers increased by 14%.

[Criminal Justice Statistics quarterly: December 2019](#) – Published 28 May 2020

Latest Ministry of Justice statistics highlighting a further (1%) reduction in the number of individuals formally dealt with by the criminal justice system (excluding cautions) in 2019, continuing the downward trend seen since 2015. Prosecutions have also been falling since 2010, however, prosecutions for violence against the person (+26%) and drug offences (+13%) increased during 2019 – partly driven by the new 'assaults on emergency workers' offence and increased police proactivity. In the last 5 years the proportion of defendants remanded on bail in Crown Courts has fallen from 49% to 36%, while the proportion not remanded continues to increase. The use of out of court disposals remains in decline following policy changes relating to police practice and OOCOD availability. Prosecutions for motoring offences rose by 1% in 2019 impacted, in part, by increases in prosecutions for 'driving a motor vehicle while over the limit of specified controlled drug (+19%) and 'Other offences related to drink or drug-driving (+12%)'. Prosecutions for use a handheld mobile phone whilst driving fell by 16% while prosecutions for offences causing injury or death fell from 820 to 799 in 2019.

[County Lines after COVID - a new threat?](#) – 19 May 2020

Crest Advisory article considers the impact of the COVID-19 lockdown on county lines activity and risk and factors linked to exploitation. The article notes that while the number of missing episodes has reduced, some areas have seen increases in missing episodes lengths. There are also indications that organised crime groups are increasingly recruiting children living locally to the dealing base as opposed to arranging travel from urban bases. This is partly due to improvements in road and rail networks enforcement. The article highlights the need for a radical new approach to prevention, working with schools, pupil referral units and providers of alternative provision as COVID-19 restrictions begin to lift. Crest Advisory is undertaking further deep dives analyses of emerging trends in this area in North Wales and Merseyside. Findings will be used to help inform the development of new approaches to protecting vulnerable young people and will be reported later in the year.

[Government announces plans to publish a group-based offending research paper](#) – 19 May 2020

Home Office announce plans to publish a research paper on group-based child sexual exploitation later in the year which will consider the characteristics of offenders and victims, the context in which these crimes are committed and how agencies can learn lessons from the past to better safeguard vulnerable children. The Home Office is also due to publish the first cross-government Child Sexual Abuse Strategy.

[Assessing the needs of sentenced children in the Youth Justice System](#) – 28 May 2020

Ministry of Justice publish experimental statistics on AssetPlus for 2018/19 which highlight the range of interdependent and interrelated needs exhibited by a large proportion of children supervised by YOTs. The report finds that the number of concerns each child exhibited increased with the severity of the type of sentence they received. At least 70% of children assessed had concerns relating to Safety and Wellbeing (88%), Risk to Others (85%), Substance Misuse (75%), Speech, Language and Communication (71%) or Mental Health (71%). 56% of children assessed to had a current or previous Child in Need status. The Youth Justice Board will continue to explore this information as part of subsequent publications.

Upcoming publications

- National Referral Mechanism statistics UK, January to March 2020 - 4 June 2020
- Statistics on firearm and shotgun certificates, 2019/21 – June 2020
- Operation of police powers under the Terrorism Act 2000, 2019/20 – 11 June 2020
- Crime outcomes in England and Wales 2019 to 2020 – 17 July 2020

3. AUDITS AND INSPECTIONS

Upcoming reports and inspection activity

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| • HMICFRS: Police Control Room (Thematic) | Pending |
| • Regional Organised Crime Units | Pending |
| • PEEL Reports 2020/21 – Tranche 1 | Pending |
| • HMICFRS: State of Policing 2020 | July 2020 |
| • Released Under Investigation: Impact of changes to police bail procedures | July 2020 |
| • <u>National Joint Targeted area inspections of Child Protection Thematic (x8)</u> | July 2020 |
| • PEEL Reports 2019/20 – Tranche 2 | September 2020 |
| • Joint Inspection of Prosecution team case file quality (Police / CPS) | 2020 |
| • HMICFRS Roads Policing Thematic (Sec. State Transport Commission) | 2020 |
| • HMICFRS: Older people in the criminal justice system | 2020 |
| • HMICFRS: Use of PNC by non-police organisations (Home Office commission) | 2020 |
| • <u>National Joint Targeted area inspections of Child Protection Thematic</u> | 2020 |
| • <u>HMIC: Crime data integrity (individual force reports)</u> | Ongoing |
| • <u>HMI Prisons: Joint inspection of Police Custody Arrangements</u> | Ongoing |
| • <u>HMI Probation: Joint inspection of Youth Offending Teams</u> | Ongoing |

4. REVIEWS AND INQUIRIES

[New Inquiry Launched: Public Services: Lessons from Coronavirus – 29 May 2020](#)

House of Lords Select Committee on Public Services will examine what the COVID-19 experience can tell us about the future role, priorities and shape of public services with a focus on: service integration; inequalities in access and outcomes; relationships between local and national services and; the role of civil society. The Select Committee on Public Services was established to examine public service transformation and ensure that the sector is fit for the 21st century. The committee will hold its first public evidence session on 3 June.

[Funding and spending on children's and young people's services 2010/11 to 2018/19 – 16 May 2020](#)

Barnardo's update report highlighting that a combination of cuts to youth services and rising demand has led to a shift away from 'early intervention' services towards spending on statutory areas such as safeguarding and children in care. A supplementary deep dive analysis of [pressures on children's and young people's services](#) finds disproportionality in the specific groups affected by funding reductions, but innovative practice to mitigate service reductions in some areas. The report warns that concludes that the trend towards late intervention spending is at risk of accelerating following the COVID-19 pandemic due to a multitude of additional pressures placed on local authorities. At the same time, spending power for children's services will be threatened as business rates, council tax and other revenue streams are diminished by the economic impact of the pandemic.

5. LEGISLATION

Government Bills

[Counter-Terrorism \(Sentencing and Release\) Bill](#) receives first reading in the Commons – 20 May 2020

Government Bill announced as part of [Queen's Speech](#) to make provision about the sentencing of offenders convicted of terrorism offences received its first reading. The Bill aims to ensure that the most serious and dangerous terrorist offenders receive longer sentences and those that receive extended determinate sentences are no longer eligible for early release. A new Serious Terrorism Sentence will be introduced requiring those convicted of offences such as preparing acts of terrorism or directing a terrorist organisation to spend a mandatory minimum of 14 years in prison and remain on license for up to 25 years. The list of offences that can be classed as terror-related will be widened and Terrorism Prevention and Investigation Measures (TPIMs) will be strengthened alongside the use of Serious Crime Prevention Orders (SCPOs) in terrorism cases. The government also plans to double the number of specialist counter-terrorism probation officers and introduce measures such as mandatory polygraph testing. [Bill and explanatory notes](#) were also published on 20 May 2020. A date for the second reading is yet to be announced.

[Prisoners \(Disclosure of Information about Victims\) Bill](#) – Committee stage in Lords – 20 May 2020

Government Bill to require Parole Board to take account of failure by prisoners serving sentence for unlawful killing or for taking or making an indecent image of a child to disclose information about the victim. The House of Lords undertook [line by line scrutiny of the bill](#) in 20 May 2020. Report stage is yet to be announced.

- [Domestic Abuse Bill](#) – Commons Committee stage - TBA
- [Sentencing \(Pre-consolidation Amendments\) Bill](#) – Public Bill Committee postponed
- [Fire Safety Bill](#) – Committee stage in the Commons – TBA
- [Sentencing Bill](#) – Second reading in the Lords – TBA
- [Air Traffic Management and Unmanned Aircraft Bill](#) – Second reading in the Lords – TBA
- [Extradition \(Provisional Arrest\) Bill](#) – Third reading in the Lords - TBA
- [Police Powers and Protections Bill](#) – Second reading - TBA
- [Divorce, Dissolution and Separation Bill](#) – Second Reading in Lords - TBA
- [Online Harms Bill](#) - Pending
- [Serious Violence Bill](#) – Pending

Commissioner's e-Briefing: 1 June 2020

Private Member's Bills

[Assaults on Retail Workers \(Offences\) Bill](#) - Second reading in Commons – 26 June 2020

Bill sponsored by Alex Norris to make certain offences aggravated when perpetrated against a retail worker.

[Foreign Nationals \(Offender and Prisoner Removal\) Bill](#) – Second Reading in Commons – 26 June 2020

Bill sponsored by Sir Christopher Chope to improve the justice system's response to foreign national offenders

[Forensic Science Regulator and Biometrics Strategy Bill](#) - Second reading in Commons – 26 June 2020

Bill sponsored by Darren Jones to make provision for appointment of the Forensic Science Regulator / regulation

[Prisons \(Substance Testing\) Bill](#) - Second reading in Commons – 10 July 2020

Bill sponsored by Dame Cheryl Gillan to make provision about substance testing in prisons and similar institutions

[Victims of Abuse \(Support\) Bill](#) – Second reading in Commons – 11 September 2020

Bill sponsored by Munira Wilson to establish a right to specialist sexual violence and abuse support services for victims

[Protest \(Abortion Clinics\) Bill](#) – Second reading in Commons – 16 October 2020

Bill sponsored by Sarah Olney to prohibit anti-abortion protests within 150 metres of abortion clinics

[Hate Crime \(Misandry and Misogyny\) Bill](#) – Second reading in Commons – 30 October 2020

Bill sponsored by Mr Philip Hollobone to make motivation by misandry or misogyny an aggravating factor in sentencing

[Sentencing \(Women\) Bill](#) - Second reading in Commons – 30 October 2020

Bill sponsored by Daisy Cooper to require courts to impose community sentences for women committing non serious crime

[Human Trafficking \(Child Protection\) Bill](#) - Second reading in the Commons – 27 November 2020

Bill sponsored by Peter Bone to make provision for creation of secure safe houses for trafficked children

[Criminal Fraud \(Private Prosecutions\) Bill](#) - Second reading in the Commons – 15 January 2021

Bill sponsored by Sir Christopher Chope to make provision about private prosecutions in cases of suspected criminal fraud

[Criminal Records Bill](#) - Second reading in the Lords – TBA

Bill sponsored by Lord Ramsbotham to amend criminal record length under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974

[Police Conduct \(Operation Conifer\) Inquiry Bill](#) - Second reading in the Lords – TBA

Bill sponsored by Lord Black of Brentwood to make provision for an inquiry into police conduct of Operation Conifer

[Online Harms Reduction Regulator \(Report\) Bill](#) - Second reading in the Lords – TBA

Bill sponsored by Lord McNally to require Ofcom to prepare for regulation as an interim online harms regulator.

[Policing Resources Bill](#) - Second reading in the Lords – TBA

Bill sponsored by Lord Wigley to make provision to ensure the police forces in England and Wales have sufficient resources

[Age of Criminal Responsibility Bill](#) - Second reading in the Lords – TBA

Bill sponsored by Lord Dholakia to raise the age of criminal responsibility

[Automated Facial Recognition Technology \(Review\) Bill](#) - Second reading in the Lords – TBA

Bill sponsored by Lord Clement-Jones to prohibit the use of automated facial recognition technology in public places

[Public Contracts \(Modern Slavery\) Bill](#)

Bill sponsored by Lord Hogan-Howe to make provision for avoidance of modern slavery in procurement of public contracts

[Duty to Plan for Terrorism \(Consultation\) Bill](#) - Second reading in the Lords – TBA

Bill sponsored by Lord Harris of Haringey to provide for a consultation on the introduction of a Duty to Plan

[Modern Slavery \(Victim Support\) Bill](#) - Second reading in the Lords – TBA

Bill sponsored by Lord McColl of Dulwich to make provision for supporting victims of modern slavery

[Victims of Crime \(Rights, Entitlements, and Notification of CSA\)](#) – Second reading in the Lords – TBA

Bill sponsored by Baroness Brinton making provision for specifying new statutory rights and entitlements for victims of crime

[Anonymity \(Arrested Persons\) Bill](#) – Second reading in the Lords – TBA

Bill sponsored by Lord Paddick to prohibit publication of certain information pertaining to arrested until charged

6. CONSULTATIONS

[Protecting places of worship](#)

Home Office consultation on what steps should be taken to provide greater protection from hate crime for places of worship. The consultation is open to the public and targeted at individuals, businesses and organisations in England and Wales with an interest in the security of places of worship and other faith related locations, including schools and community centres.

Open date: 15/03/2020

Close date: 28/06/2020

[What next for the Sentencing Council?](#)

Sentencing Council launch public consultation to determine its future direction and balance its priorities against limited resources. The consultation seeks views in relation to guideline development, analysis and research, increasing public confidence, cost and effectiveness of sentencing and how the Council works.

Open date: 10/03/2020

Close date: 09/09/2020

[Assault Offences](#)

Sentencing Council consultation to inform a review of the Assault Definitive Guideline and identify the causes of the unintended impacts of the guidelines since introduced in 2011 and take account of new legislation to increase sentences for Assaults on Emergency Workers.

Open date: 16/04/2020

Close date: 15/09/2020

[Call for ideas: COVID-19 Police Ideas map](#)

College of Policing calls for ideas, suggestions and good practice from front line staff in the policing response to COVID-19. Information provided will be used to help populate the COVID-19 Police Ideas map and work will be undertaken to progress ideas which may make a positive difference quickly.