

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> |

If you would like to be included on our mailing list, please contact [Dan Howitt](#), Nottinghamshire OPCC

1. POLICY AND PRACTICE

[Apply for funding: Child Sexual Abuse: National support services fund – 6 April 2020](#)

Home Office launches £2.4m Support for Victims and Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse Fund for 2021-22 for non-statutory organisations working at a national level to support survivors of child sexual abuse. Service(s) should be offered across at least 3 PCC areas, with higher scores being awarded for reaching significantly larger areas. There are no restrictions on the type of service that the fund can support, but this could include support lines, online resources, evidence-based telephone and online counselling services, support groups and services targeting specific hard to reach groups. The deadline for applications is 28 May 2020.

[Extra £750m coronavirus funding announced for frontline charities – 8 April 2020](#)

The Chancellor announced an additional £750m for charities providing key services to the most vulnerable in society during the Covid-19 crisis. £360m will be directly allocated by government departments while £370m will be made available for small and medium-sized charities, including grants via the National Lottery Community Fund. Charities providing services for victims of domestic abuse and their families and vulnerable children will be eligible for the funding. Government departments are identifying priority recipients and the application system for the National Lottery Community Fund grant will be launched in the coming weeks.

[Home Secretary launches a new domestic abuse awareness raising campaign – 11 April 2020](#)

Home Secretary launches the #YouAreNotAlone campaign to raise awareness of the services available to support those at risk of, or experiencing domestic abuse. The campaign encourages the general public to show their solidarity and support for those who may be suffering domestic abuse, by sharing government digital content or a photo of a heart on their palm. The campaign also publicises the free phone 24 hour National Domestic Abuse Helpline number – 0808 2000 247 – run by Refuge, and www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk. The Home Secretary also announced an additional £2m to bolster domestic abuse helplines and online support.

[Home Secretary outlines how the COVID-19 virus is impacting upon crime trends – 11 April 2020](#)

Home Secretary's address as part of the Government's daily Coronavirus update considers the impact the virus is having on crime. While total police recorded crime has fallen, the risk among some vulnerable and isolated groups has increased, particularly with regard to fraud, online child sexual abuse and domestic abuse. The address highlights how coronavirus-related fraud has already led to losses to victims of over £1.8m, while calls to the National Domestic Abuse Helpline have risen by 120%. The Home Secretary also confirmed that the government are "looking at alternative accommodation to best support the work of refugees at this difficult time".

Commissioner's e-Briefing: 20 April 2020

[Prisoner Early Release Scheme](#) – 4 April 2020

Ministry of Justice announces plans for the temporary early release of prisoners with two months or less left on their sentence as part of the national plan to limit the spread of Coronavirus. Only low-risk offenders, within weeks of their release dates will be eligible. The offenders will be electronically tagged, temporarily released on licence in stages and recalled at the first sign of concern. The releases will be phased over time but will start from the week commencing 13 April 2020. Violent and sexual offenders and those of security concern will not be considered for the scheme. The [Parole Board](#) also clarified that prisoners whose release is a Parole Board decision will not be eligible for the scheme. Additionally, the Justice Secretary granted temporary release of [pregnant women in custody](#), while movements between jails have been limited in all but exceptional cases.

[Prison estate expanded to protect NHS from coronavirus risk](#) – 9 April 2020

Ministry of Justice announce first wave of 500 temporary prison cells to help limit the spread of Coronavirus alongside ongoing work to provide early release of low-risk offenders,

[Temporary suspension of the 45 day limit on Modern Slavery Safe Accommodation](#) - 6 April 2020

Government suspends the 45 day limit on government-funded safe accommodation for those being supported through the modern slavery victim care, allowing victims and potential victims to remain in accommodation over the next three months. This forms part of measures to protect vulnerable people from coronavirus. The policy will be reviewed at the end of June 2020.

[Guidance: Coronavirus: support for victims of modern slavery](#) – 6 April 2020

Home Office guidance providing advice about modern slavery and how to refer suspected cases

[Guidance: Coronavirus: keeping children safe online](#) – 14 April 2020

Home Office guidance for parents and carers to help keep children safe online during the COVID-19 outbreak

[Guidance: Coronavirus and domestic abuse](#) – Updated 14 April 2020

Home Office guidance for those experiencing or at risk of domestic abuse during the COVID-19 outbreak

[Guidance: Coronavirus: Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\)](#) – 9 April 2020

National Police Chiefs' Council issues guidance on the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) for police. The guidance was written in consultation with Public Health England and includes advice for officers and staff when carrying out duties inside stations, including cleaning patrol cars and equipment and advice for police when patrolling, including close contact with the public.

[Law Society: Interactive map of operational courts during COVID-19 emergency period](#) – 15 April 2020

[LGA: Coronavirus: Information for councils](#) – 14 April 2020

[LGA: Remote working: Top tips](#) – 6 April 2020

[APCC: Statement to OPCC Teams](#) – 9 April 2020

Recent Parliamentary briefings: [Coronavirus: Policing the instruction to stay at home](#) (9 Apr), [Coronavirus: Domestic abuse](#) (3 Apr)

Recent Parliamentary debates: [Engagements](#) (25 Mar), [Coronavirus Bill](#) (24 Mar)

2. RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND STATISTICS

[Policing the COVID-19 Lockdown – What the public thinks](#) – 8 April 2020

Crest Advisory publish findings from their YouGov poll showing that 42% of the UK public fully support the current police approach to enforcing the COVID-19 lockdown, rising to 46% among women and falling to 35% among young people aged 18 to 24. A further 32% supported the current approach, but felt that the police had, in some cases, gone too far. Only 14% of respondents wanted the police to take tougher action. The survey also asked respondents how comfortable or uncomfortable they were with a range of police tactics, including:

- Use of 'stop and account' powers for those not at home (82% comfortable; 14% uncomfortable)
- Issuing fines to people who breached the lockdown (75% comfortable; 19% uncomfortable)
- Arresting people who fail to comply with instructions to return home (72% comfortable; 22% uncomfortable)
- Using of roadblocks asking motorists to justify their journeys (70% comfortable; 24% uncomfortable)
- Asking people to report others who breach the rules (51% comfortable; 42% uncomfortable);
- Using facial recognition in public places to lockdown breaches (50% comfortable; 42% uncomfortable)
- Using drones to photograph people making unnecessary journeys (50% comfortable; 43% uncomfortable)
- Analysis of social media accounts to identify lockdown breaches (43% comfortable; 48% uncomfortable)
- Naming and shaming people on social media (38% comfortable; 54% uncomfortable).

[Justice responses to COVID-19 around the world](#) – 3 April 2020

Centre for Justice Innovation launches a weekly tracker of the justice system response to the COVID-19 outbreak across different regions of the world. The tracker details of contrasting approaches to areas of justice including the criminal courts, community sentences and community supervision and releases from prison. It finds a pattern of certain services being paused and others adapting and adopting new innovative approaches. The tracker will be updated on a weekly basis.

[Suicide death registrations in England](#) – 8 April 2020

ONS publish quarterly suicide death registrations between 2001 and 2018 alongside provisional data for 2019. Provisional data indicates that the suicide death rate reached the highest level since 2001 during October to December 2019, having increased incrementally throughout the year. Around 5,248 suicide deaths were registered during 2019 compared to 5,021 in 2018. Suicide death rates per 100,000 persons remain significantly higher among males (17.0) than females (5.9)

[Sowing the Seeds: Children's experience of domestic abuse and criminality](#) – 1 April 2020

Victims' Commissioner report exploring the overlap between children's experience of domestic abuse and children's offending behaviour makes recommendations for earlier intervention and more consistent practice. The findings suggest this should not be regarded as a short-term problem. The impact of domestic abuse on children will be huge and far reaching.

[Courts and tribunals data on audio and video technology use during COVID-19 outbreak](#) – 14 April 2020

Indicative estimates of the number of hearings that have taken place using audio and video technology in HMCTS since 19 March 2020 based on data provided by individual courts and tribunals.

[Assault offences: Sentencing Council Statistical bulletin](#) – 15 April 2020

Volumes and sentence outcomes for adult offenders sentenced for assault offences including common assault, assaults on emergency workers, assault with intent to resist arrest, ABH, GBH and attempted murder.

Upcoming publications

- Recorded crime and crime outcomes in England and Wales, 2019 – 23 April 2020
- Police officer uplift, quarterly update to March 2020 – 30 April 2020
- Fire and rescue incident statistics 2019 – 14 May 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 |

4. REVIEWS AND INQUIRIES

[Home Office preparedness for Covid-19 Inquiry](#) – Call for evidence open until 21 April 2020

Short Home Affairs Committee inquiry into Home Office's preparations for and response to Covid-19

[Home Office preparedness for Covid-19: Policing](#) – 17 April 2020

Home Affairs Committee concludes that the police are adapting quickly and effectively to challenges in upholding the new Coronavirus Regulations and welcome the strategy to engage, explain and encourage before considering enforcement. The [inquiry](#) notes some early problems and errors in enforcement, largely affected by the pace at which the new regulations were implemented, but notes the subsequent provision of further guidance and swift clarifications and apologies from forces affected. The report recommends that:-

- The NPCC and the College of Policing should collate and publish figures for use of new enforcement measures by all UK forces on a weekly basis and monitor where there is significant divergence in the use
- All forces and all officers understand the distinction between Government advice and legal requirement, and that the tone and tactics they use are appropriate to each case
- Parks and green spaces are important during lockdown, especially for those who don't have gardens or outdoor space. Enforcement action against those flouting social distancing regulations should be prioritised over universal action by police forces and local authorities to close parks and green spaces to everyone
- Police officers must be an early priority for COVID-19 antigen testing in order to increase their availability and the amount of support they are able to provide to the public. The Home Office should also explain if police forces will be required to purchase their own tests once they become available
- Home Office and NPCC should ensure there is a secure and robust supply chain for PPE—including building in extra supplies both locally and nationally to ensure forces can cope with surges in demand,
- The NPCC must immediately work with Public Health England, the Health and Safety Executive and any other appropriate bodies to address any confusion resulting from inconsistencies in guidance issued to officers about the appropriate use of PPE
- Spit guards must be made readily available to forces where chief constables require them. All forces should write to the committee to explain their policy for providing spit guards to frontline officers during the outbreak.
- Police officers must get the support they need both to respond to mental health cases and look after their own mental health during this crisis. Forces should have the resources to be able adequately to support officers who have had to deal with traumatic incidents, including attending deaths resulting from COVID-19
- The Home Office should immediately addresses the discrepancy in s7 of the Coronavirus Act 2020, and list special constables amongst the types of volunteers employers are compelled to release on full paid leave should they be needed to report for duty by their chief constable
- The Government should review which workers in the criminal justice system have not been afforded key worker status, and consider extending the status to them
- The Home Office, NCA and NPCC set out what action they are taking to address COVID-19 related online fraud in the short term. As per previous Home Affairs Committee recommendations, it is imperative that the Home Office overhauls and modernises action against online fraud.

A further call for evidence on concerns relating to the increased risk of domestic abuse has been issued with a view to producing a further short, specific report over the coming weeks.

Commissioner's e-Briefing: 20 April 2020

Home Office preparedness for Covid-19: Domestic and child abuse – 14 April 2020

Home Affairs Committee examines the impact of the Covid-19 crisis on domestic and child abuse and the Government's response to the increased risks of harm within the home. Final report pending.

- 15 April 2020 – Oral Evidence session on the response to risks relating to [Domestic abuse and Child Abuse](#) during the Covid-19 lock down, hearing from the Independent Victims' Commissioner, Domestic Abuse Commissioner and Children's Commissioner – [watch here](#)

National Crime Agency Annual Plan 2020-21 – Published 7 April 2020

NCA Annual plan summarises findings from the [National Strategic Assessment of Serious and Organised Crime](#), published 3 April 2020, alongside the strategic and operational priorities of the NCA and details of how their success will be measured. The NCA's strategic priorities are to:-

- Reduce the number of victims of exploitation: this includes Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation, Modern Slavery and Human trafficking and Organised Immigration Crime
- Reduce the impact of serious and organised crime on communities, particularly firearms and drugs, and to
- Reduce the harm to individuals, the UK Economy and Institutions from economic crime – the main threats under this includes money laundering, fraud, and cybercrime.

5. LEGISLATION

Government Bills

Prisoners (Disclosure of Information about Victims) Bill – Second reading in the Lords – 28 April 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

Domestic Abuse Bill – Second reading in the Commons – TBA

Bill to raise awareness and understanding of the impact of domestic abuse on victims and families, improve the effectiveness of the justice system in providing protection for victims and bringing perpetrators to justice, and strengthen support for victims of abuse across statutory agencies.

Sentencing (Pre-consolidation Amendments) Bill – Public Bill Committee postponed

Sentencing Bill – Second reading in the Lords – TBA

Fire Safety Bill – Second reading in the Commons – TBA

Air Traffic Management and Unmanned Aircraft Bill – Second reading in the Lords - TBA

Extradition (Provisional Arrest) Bill – Third reading in the Lords - TBA

Counter-Terrorism (Sentencing and Release) Bill - Second reading – TBA

Serious Violence Bill – Second reading - TBA

Police Powers and Protections Bill – Second reading - TBA

Divorce, Dissolution and Separation Bill – Second Reading in Lords - TBA

Private Member's Bills

[Foreign Nationals \(Offender and Prisoner Removal\) Bill](#) – Second Reading in Commons – 15 May 2020

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

[Prisons \(Substance Testing\) Bill](#) - Second reading in the Commons – 12 June 2020

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

[Victims of Abuse \(Support\) Bill](#) – Second reading in the Commons – 26 June 2020

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

[Protest \(Abortion Clinics\) Bill](#) – Second reading in the Commons – 10 July 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 the Commons – 1 September 2020

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

[Sentencing \(Women\) Bill](#) - Second reading in the Commons – 11 September 2020

Bill sponsored by Daisy Cooper to require courts to impose community sentences for low risk female offenders

[Criminal Fraud \(Private Prosecutions\) Bill](#) - Second reading in the Commons – 30 October 2020

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 time for which an individual has a criminal record under the RoO Act 1974

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

Bill sponsored by Lord Black of Brentwood 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 ensure police forces have sufficient resources to deliver police services

[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 & review use of automated facial recognition technology in public places

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

Bill sponsored by Lord Harris of Haringey for consultation on a Duty to Plan for terrorist threats (Category 1 responders)

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

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

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

Bill sponsored by Lord McColl of Dulwich received first reading in the House of Lords.

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

Bill sponsored by Baroness Brinton 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 the publication of certain information pertaining to arrestees until charge

6. CONSULTATIONS

[Police Covenant for England and Wales](#)

Government consultation seeking views on the principle of implementing a Police Covenant in England and Wales to enhance physical and health and wellbeing support for serving and former police personnel and their families. The consultation also considers the scope of the Covenant, who should be covered and seeks views on how officers should be publicly recognised for their bravery and work.

Open date: 26/02/2020

Close date: 22/04/2020

[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: 10/05/2020

[Improving the Victims' Code](#)

Ministry of Justice consultation on proposals to improve the Victims' Code which first came into effect in 2006, by addressing complexity and accessibility issues with the current Code, changing its structure to become a clearly defined set of rights, updating the entitlements to better meet victims needs and ensuring that the right support is available at the right time. The revisions will help pave the way for a Victims' Law to guarantee victims their rights.

Open date: 05/03/2020

Close date: 28/05/2020

[Police powers: pre-charge bail](#)

Home Office consultation on proposals to end the presumption against pre-charge bail, introduce requirements for consideration when applying pre-charge bail, amending statutory timescales and authorisations and introducing a new framework for the supervision of suspects released under investigation (RUI) and Voluntary Attendance. The consultation forms part of the government's review of pre-charge bail legislation following stakeholder concerns raised about the impact of rule changes made in 2017.

Open date: 05/02/2020

Close date: 29/05/2020

[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

[Proposed Policing Inspection Programme and Framework 2020 to 2021](#)

Close date: TBC