

Police and Crime Commissioner's Horizon Scanning Briefing

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

1. POLICY AND PRACTICE

Covid-19 Pandemic - March 2020

- [Public Health England Guidance for first responders](#) – 27 February 2020
- [LGA Guidance: Coronavirus: information for councils](#) – 19 March 2020
- [Policing Insight: Policing the pandemic: Managing the police response to Covid-19](#) – 19 March 2020
- [May 2020 local and PCC elections postponed to May 2021](#) – 13 March 2020
- [HMICFRS suspends inspections of police and fire services](#) – 18 March 2020
- [College of Policing advice and details of postponed training and events](#) – March 2020
- [NPCC Publication Strategy Operation Talla](#) – 17 March 2020

[Apply for funding: Safer Streets Fund](#)

Deadline for applications to the Home Office Safer Streets Fund is extended to 3 April 2020

[Apply for funding: Faith, Race and Hate Crime Grant scheme](#) – 6 March 2020

Communities Secretary opens new £2m grant scheme for bids of between £100,000 and £450,000 to promote shared values between people of all backgrounds and to tackle and prevent religiously and racially discriminatory behaviour. The deadline for applications is 17 April 2020

[HM Treasury: Budget 2020](#) – 12 March 2020

Chancellor Rishi Sunak delivers first budget of the new Parliament, which includes commitments of:-

- £10m for innovative new approaches to domestic abuse in order to protect victims, their children and reduce the number of serial perpetrators, including work with PCCs to expand projects such as the Drive programme
- An extra £5m for the Youth Endowment Fund to support a Centre of Excellence for Tackling Youth Violence
- £68.5m to strengthen community sentences by increasing requirements in relation to electronic tagging
- £114m for counter terrorism in 2020/21, including an extra £83m for CT policing

[Forces £6.7m additional funding for Taser](#) – 2 March 2020

Home Office publishes details of the 41 forces that submitted bids for an uplift in Taser through to March 2021. All bids submitted to the £10m ring fenced fund were successful, equating to an additional 8,155 Taser devices across England and Wales. A further £150,000 has been allocated to training for Taser instructors and the £3.1m remaining will be diverted to tackling serious violence and county lines.

Commissioner's e-Briefing: 23 March 2020

[Home Office places of worship funding update](#) – 15 March 2020

Home Office publishes details of the 49 places of worship (27 mosques, 13 churches, 5 gurdwaras and 4 Hindu temples) that received a share of £1.6m protective security funding in 2019/20. The amount of funding available to places of worship vulnerable to hate crime will be doubled in 2020/21 to £3.2 million.

[Knife crime prevention orders pilot announced](#) – 4 March 2020

Home Office announces pilot of Knife Crime Prevention Orders to be undertaken by Metropolitan Police in April 2020. Introduced as part of the Offensive Weapons Act 2019, the orders can be imposed by courts on any person aged 12 or above who police believe is regularly carrying a knife or has received a conviction for a knife-related offence. The civil tool is intended to be preventative rather than punitive with courts able to set positive requirements such as attendance at educational courses or participation in anger management classes, alongside restrictive measures such as curfews and non-association requirements where appropriate. The pilot will run for 14 months from 6 April, with orders being rolled out across all forces pending results.

[Draft Target Operating Model: Probation Reform Programme](#) – 3 March 2020

HMPPS and NPS publish [briefings](#) on how changes to the probation service are being implemented. This includes: unifying how sentences are managed so all individuals are case-managed within the same organisation; commissioning and co-commissioning specialist services from commercial, voluntary, community and social enterprise sectors; modernising probation's estate and technology and enabling staff to be their best. The briefing notes that with new regional leaders, PCCs, devolution in Wales and directly elected Mayors, probation will be able to contribute to local problem-solving, respond to regional challenges and help bring different parts of the justice system together at a more local level under shared objectives.

[Voluntary Principles to Counter Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse](#) – 5 March 2020

The UK government joins Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the USA in agreeing 11 voluntary principles for tech firms to take to ensure children are not sexually exploited on platforms. These include pledges to stop existing and new child sexual abuse material appearing on platforms, taking steps to stop the livestreaming of abuse, identifying and stopping grooming and predatory behaviour, and to keep ahead of the evolving threat. Facebook, Google, Microsoft, Twitter, Snap and Roblox are among the companies to endorse the principles

[Facial recognition technology and predictive policing algorithms out-pacing the law](#) – 12 March 2020

Equality and Human Rights Commission call for suspension of the use of automated facial recognition and predictive algorithms in policing until their impact has been independently scrutinised and laws are improved

[College of Policing bursary opens for applications](#) – 9 March 2020

The College of Policing launches its fifth bursary scheme giving police officers and staff across England and Wales the opportunity to apply for financial support towards their higher education fees.

[Home Office Guidance: Trafficking in supply chains: principles for government action](#) – 13 March 2020

[Updated leaflet: Support for people affected by terrorist attacks in the UK](#) – 4 March 2020

[UKFIB Briefing: SARs In Action](#) – 17 March 2020

NCA publishes the UKFIU's fourth Suspicious Activity Reports stakeholder briefing

Recent Parliamentary briefings: [The Modern Slavery Act 2015 five years on](#) (18 Mar), [Tackling alcohol harm](#) (16 Mar), [Health and safety for prison staff](#) (16 Mar), [Introduction to police powers](#) (11 Mar), [Police detention powers](#) (6 Mar), [Police service strength](#) (4 Mar), [Children and domestic abuse](#) (2 Mar)

Recent Parliamentary debates: [Organised Crime in Rural Areas](#) (18 Mar), [Metropolitan Police: Live Facial Recognition](#) (16 Mar), [Victims Code of Practice](#) (5 Mar), [Children and Domestic Abuse](#) (3 Mar)

2. RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND STATISTICS

Safeguarding children at risk from criminal exploitation – 4 March 2020

Report of the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel notes that boys from black and minority ethnic backgrounds appear to be more vulnerable to harm from criminal exploitation and work to build trusted relationships between children and practitioners are highly important. Exclusion from mainstream school was identified by practitioners and family members as a trigger point for risk of serious harm. While known risk factors around vulnerability do not always act as predictors, parental engagement is nearly always a protective factor. The report notes that more priority should be given to disrupting perpetrator activity. It also notes that the NRM does not always fit well with the circumstances of this group of children. Furthermore, an intensive risk management plan which includes control measures such as electronic tags, within the context of a good relationship with the child and with parental support, can be effective in reducing risk. The report recommends:-

- Funding trials of the new practice framework for responding to children at risk of criminal exploitation
- Reviewing the government's Working Together 2018 guidance to reflect harm from criminal networks
- Reviewing whether the National Referral Mechanism is an effective tool to help this group
- Collecting systematic data to help accurately assess prevalence, characteristics and service responses

Child abuse and the criminal justice system – Published 5 March 2020

ONS report on child abuse within the CJS finds that around 227,500 identifiable child abuse offences were recorded by the police in 2018/19, of which around 1 in 25 (4%) resulted in a charge or summons. The number of suspects the police had referred to the CPS for a charging decision fell by 22% while the charging rate for legal decisions also fell from 73% to 68%. While not all cases continue through the criminal justice system, 79% of child abuse-flagged CPS prosecutions were successful in securing a conviction in 2018/19. Immediate custody accounted for 50% of sentencing outcomes for identifiable child sexual abuse offences, and 23% of cruelty to and neglect of children offences. 49% of child abuse offences recorded by the police do not proceed further through the criminal justice system because of evidential difficulties. This reflects the challenges involved in investigating child abuse offences, and cases that may have occurred a long time in the past.

Successes and challenges of delivering hate crime community projects – 16 March 2020

Home Office report summarising lessons learnt from the first two years of the Hate Crime Community Project Fund highlights the importance of ensuring accessibility, particularly for victims of hate crime, and using the views of participants to shape project delivery. Successful projects also made good use of local partnerships and experts who had a good understanding of local issues. Engaging and empowering content was believed to be key to maintaining interest among participants and increasing the likelihood of projects achieving positive outcomes, particularly among young people and projects operating in schools. Safe spaces also were important to ensure participants' full engagement and all participants needed to feel they had access to support, both during and following project participation. The report sets out guidance for future projects.

Trends and drivers of homicide – 5 March 2020

Home Office research report concludes that while homicide is a complex crime, rates can be reduced as part of a scientific data-led long term approach. This includes developing a more data-driven understanding of the nexus of gangs, organised crime groups, drug markets and serious violence. The review also suggests that other policies to reduce hazardous drinking, re-inforce anti-violent norms and legitimise the rule of law in areas and markets where it is currently rejected may also have a positive impact. The report also notes that:-

- Homicide trends have become more volatile in England and Wales since 1980 and more male-on-male driven. Homicides against women, young children and babies, meanwhile, have fallen markedly
- While homicide rates remain low, there has been an increase since 2014 partly driven by drug-related cases and terrorism cases. This follows a peak in the early 2000's which included a rise in gun homicides
- Knives or sharp instruments remain the most common weapons used in homicide and have been a notable factor associated with rises in homicide since 2014.

[Nature of fraud and computer misuse in England and Wales: 2018/19](#) – Published 19 March 2020

ONS report on victims, circumstances and long-term trends in fraud and computer misuse, informed by the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) among other data sources. The report notes that there were an estimated 3.8 million incidents of fraud in 2018/19, with evidence of a rising trend. Fraud victimisation shows little variation across different demographic groups. In 63% of fraud incidents, there had been no contact between the victim and the offender; and in 76% of fraud incidents, the victim incurred a financial loss, often of less than £250 (58%). Around 15% of fraud incidents were reported to Action Fraud or the police - the most common reason given for not doing so was that the incident was reported to financial authorities instead.

[Designing the Swedish Crime Harm Index: an Evidence-Based Strategy](#) – 11 March 2020

Open access article from the Cambridge Journal of Evidence-Based Policing (Fredrik Kärholm, Peter Neyroud and John Smaaland) concludes that average sentences over a recent time period provides across different crime types offers the most sensitive, reliable and democratic method for establishing an indicator of crime harm across offences of both high and low severity. Applying the method to both crime trends and crime mapping produces substantially different results from counting all crimes with equal weight and can be used by police and others to allocate resources with greater precision in relation to harm prevention.

[Understanding Disproportionality in Police Complaint and Misconduct Cases](#) – 10 March 2020

NPCC report highlights disparity in aspects of complaint and misconduct investigations for BAME police officers, including internal conduct allegations' and initial severity assessments of allegations for police staff. The report also highlights low levels of ethnic diversity across many force PSD departments, with 63% of the 39 PSDs providing information having no BAME police officers or staff within those departments and 78% not having a specific positive action plan for their PSD. The report also identified weak supervision, a failure to deal with performance and misconduct issues at the earliest opportunity and the detrimental impact of investigations on officer health, career progression and family life. Recommendations from the report include:-

- NPCC to work in partnership to develop a common data set for forces to enable the capture of protected characteristic data within PSD's at appropriate points within the misconduct and complaints processes
- NPCC and HMICFRS to consider developing an inspection question set that measures the progress made against this and previous reports, with the aim of introducing it to the 2021 PEEL inspection framework.
- NPCC to work with the Home Office and IOPC to incorporate a means to identify and assess 'trigger incidents' into the misconduct guidance and if individuals are subject to any detriment as a result
- PSDs to support an agreed standardisation of data collection sets within so that disparity of all backgrounds and protective characteristic can be monitored and performance improved.
- PSDs should increase in diversity and representation within PSD's through a bespoke positive action programme based on the NPCC Workforce Representation Toolkit and improve cultural awareness
- Consider reviewing the Appropriate Authority training to ensure it captures disproportionality and its impact on severity assessments.

[Knife and offensive weapon sentencing statistics 2019](#) – Published 12 March 2020

Ministry of Justice statistics show a 3% increase in knife and offensive weapon offences formally dealt with by the CJS (22,300) in 2019 compared to 2018, continuing the with upward trend seen since 2014. The rate of increase, however, is diminishing when compared to rises of 4.6% in 2018 and 8.0% in 2017. The increase has been largely driven by possession offences (+3.8%) and increases in police pro-activity. 38% of knife and offensive weapon offences resulted in an immediate custodial sentence compared to 23% a decade ago. The proportion of offenders for whom this is their first knife or offensive weapon possession offence has fallen from 80% to 71% over the last decade, reaching the lowest proportion recorded since comparable records began. The average custodial sentence for offenders sentenced under section 28 of the Criminal Justice and Courts Act 2015 has increased from 7.1 months to 8.0 months since 2016. [Data available at police force level](#)

[Reducing the prison population: Home Detention Curfew & scrapping short sentences](#) – 20 March 2020

Reform report assesses current Government policy to reduce prison overcrowding and sets out the need to

- Extend Home Detention Curfew to allow more prisoners to be released before their scheduled release date subject to strict monitoring conditions, including electronically monitored curfews. This would give people leaving prison more time to prepare for resettlement and reduce the prison population by around 500.
- Introduce emergency legislation to transfer all prisoners currently serving a sentence of less than six months into the HDC population, and ban sentencers from passing a sentence of six months or less. Violent, weapons and sexual offenders should be exempt from this ban.

[Operation of police powers under the Terrorism Act 2000](#) – 5 March 2020

Latest Home Office statistics show that there were 280 arrests for terrorism-related activity in 2019, which was broadly similar to the level recorded in 2018 (282). Of the 280 arrests for terrorist-related activity, 110 (39%) were either released under bail pending further investigation or released under investigation without bail conditions, 87 (31%) resulted in a charge, of which 65 were for terrorism-related offences. 63 people (23%) were released without charge and 19 (7%) faced alternative action, for example receiving a caution, being recalled to prison or being transferred to immigration authorities. 1 case was pending an outcome.

[Community Performance Quarterly, update to March 2019](#) – Published 2 March 2020

Quarterly performance statistics for the National Probation Service, Community Rehabilitation Companies and Electronic Monitoring Service, including an annual annex on Accommodation and Employment Circumstances

Upcoming publications

- National Referral Mechanism statistics: End of year summary 2019 – 2 April 2020
- 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
- Statistics on firearm and shotgun certificates, 2019/21 – June 2020
- Operation of police powers under the Terrorism Act 2000, 2019/20 – June 2020

3. AUDITS AND INSPECTIONS

[Proposed Policing Inspection Programme and Framework 2020 to 2021](#) – 6 March 2020

Home Office and HMICFRS consultation on proposed inspection programme for 2020/21 includes:-

- The 2020 PEEL programme as part of the continuous force assessment model, which will include a further review of the police response to domestic abuse
- National thematic inspections of child protection; investigating and prosecuting rape cases; the multi-agency response to suspects and offenders who have mental ill health; serious youth violence; how well policing responds to serious organised crime (SOC) and public order
- Rolling programmes of inspection on child protection and youth offending teams
- Joint targeted area inspections with Ofsted, the Care Quality Commission and HM Probation to examine how well agencies work together to help and protect children. Deep dive themes in 2020/21 will include early intervention and prevention and the experience of older children (16 and 17 years).
- Inspections of national agencies and non-Home Office forces, including HM Revenue & Customs, the Royal Military Police, the National Crime Agency, British Transport Police, Gangmasters LAA and the CNC

Counter-terrorism policing: An inspection of the police's contribution to Prevent – 9 March 2020

HMICRFS inspection report considers the police's contribution to the government's strategy for countering terrorism, based on visits to all 43 police forces, the British Transport Police, the Civil Nuclear Constabulary and the Ministry of Defence Police (October 2018 to February 2019). The report concludes that forces in general are meeting their Prevent duty, working effectively with other organisations and using policies and effective processes designed to protect people from being radicalised. The report makes recommendations for:-

- NPCC and College of Policing to develop a training and awareness package that encompasses continuous professional development for Prevent strategic leads in forces by June 2020 and add vulnerability to radicalisation as the 14th core discipline of public protection
- NPCC national Prevent lead to create national guidance for the police service on applying Prevent to staff vulnerable to radicalisation or extremism, to identify a range of options, such as selection processes, welfare and vetting, including guidance on risk thresholds
- NPCC and Office for Security and Counter-terrorism should undertake a national review of counter-terrorism local profiles (CTLP), produce revised CTLP guidance and develop performance measures that will help police forces assess their operational contributions to Prevent by June 2020
- NPCC national Prevent lead and each force Prevent lead should review the attendance of force representatives at Channel panels so that police are correctly represented by decision makers who can contribute to managing risk.

Serious Youth Crime – 5 March 2020

HMCPSI review of how the CPS handles serious youth crime finds that while there are now far fewer children entering the youth justice system, the cases that do are often complex, serious and sensitive in nature. Inspectors found regional discrepancies between how well youth cases were dealt with which was affecting the quality of the casework. The quality of casework was much better where there were youth courts and fully involved Area youth justice co-ordinators with clear defined roles or particular specialists. The inspection found that youth policy and guidance was applied fully in 38% of the cases inspected. Case strategy and analysis were rated as satisfactory in 56.1% of cases examined and disclosure obligations were dealt with fully in 51.7% of cases. The report makes recommendations for the CPS to review the criteria for becoming an approved youth offender specialist and ensure that specialist youth training is delivered to all those dealing with youth work, and that training, guidance and policy are always up-to-date. Data and quality assurance also need to be provided by Areas to help drive improvement in youth casework. Prosecutors should have refreshed their knowledge of policy and guidance and be given enough time to prepare youth cases for trial. Furthermore, there needs to be a clear strategy for prioritising youth work, to ensure that it is dealt with promptly.

The Effective Use of Agents in the Magistrates' Court – 12 March 2020

HMCPSI inspection finds the use of agents as a flexible resource in the Magistrates courts to be a sensible and cost effective approach. The CPS use agents in just over a quarter of all cases, predominantly to cover trial advocacy. Inspectors also found, however, that the training of agents varied between areas and agent quality was very rarely assessed, often due to resource and time constraints. The report makes recommendations for the CPS to provide key tools needed to manage agents effectively, guidance should be produced on processes for the introduction of new agents, and all agents should be supplied with contact details to ensure that they received effective and efficient case support. CPS should also ensure the right quality of agents are selected.

Upcoming reports and inspection activity

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| • HMICFRS: Police Control Room (Thematic) | Pending |
| • Regional Organised Crime Units | Early 2020 |
| • PEEL Reports 2020/21 – Tranche 1 | May 2020 |
| • HMICFRS: State of Policing 2020 | July 2020 |
| • Released Under Investigation: Impact of changes to police bail procedures | July 2020 |

4. REVIEWS AND INQUIRIES

The Terrorism Acts in 2018 – 19 March 2020

Annual report by the Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation notes that while in 2018 there was no repeat of the fatal terrorist attacks in London and Manchester, the Novichok poisoning by hostile state actors in Salisbury in March 2018 complicated the threat picture. Violent Islamist extremism remains the principal source of threat in England and Wales, however Right Wing terrorism is continuing to have an impact. The ethnicity of those convicted of terrorism offences is also changing with more persons of White and Black ethnic appearance and fewer Asians convicted in 2018.

5. LEGISLATION

Coronavirus Bill – First reading in the Commons – 19 March 2020

Emergency Bill introduced by the Government in response to the Covid-19 pandemic which aims to increase the available health and social care workforce, ease the burden on frontline staff, contain and slow the virus, manage the deceased with respect and dignity and support people. The Bill also makes arrangements for:-

- Postponement of local and PCC elections (c57, 58 & 60) which were due to be held on 7 May 2020 until “the ordinary day of election” in 2021 - which is Thursday 6 May
- Enabling the use of video and audio technology in court and tribunal hearings (c51-55) among all participants who may be infectious without being subject to appeal, and enabling the public to see and hear proceedings which are held fully by video link or fully by audio link where appropriate.

A second reading of the Coronavirus Bill is scheduled for 23 March 2020.

Domestic Abuse Bill – First Reading in the Commons – 3 March 2020

Enhanced version of the Domestic Abuse Bill is introduced to Parliament which includes new measures requiring tier one local authorities to provide support and ensure safe accommodation for victims and their children and extending the ban on abusers cross-examining their victims to apply to all family proceedings where there is evidence of domestic abuse. The government has also announced that it will fund any court costs for police applying for Domestic Abuse Protection Orders under the pilot, ensuring that cost will not be a barrier to implementing this important tool.

Government 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. Measures include:-

- legislating for a [statutory definition](#) of domestic abuse
- providing for [Domestic Abuse Protection Notices and Orders](#) to better protect victims
- placing a duty on local authorities to provide [accommodation-based services](#)
- helping victims give [best evidence](#) and preventing [cross-examination](#) by abusers
- introducing a [Domestic Abuse Commissioner](#) to drive consistency / improvements
- [Secure tenancies](#) to support for victims in social housing in leaving abusive situations
- introducing mandatory [polygraph testing](#) as a license condition for perpetrators
- new statutory guidance on the [Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme](#) (Clare's law)

A collection of [briefings and factsheets](#) was also published – 3 March 2020

Victims of Abuse (Support) Bill – First reading in the Commons – 10 March 2020

Private member's Bill to establish a right to specialist sexual violence and abuse support services for victims of sexual, violent and domestic abuse; and for connected purposes.

[Prisoners \(Disclosure of Information about Victims\) Bill](#) – First reading in the Lords – 3 March 2020

Government Bill to require Parole Board to take account of failure by certain prisoners to disclose information about the victim. Second reading scheduled for 28 March 2020

[Sentencing \(Pre-consolidation Amendments\) Bill](#) – Second reading in the Commons – 4 March 2020

Government Bill to consolidate the law on sentencing procedure in England and Wales and to ensure the most serious and violent offenders serve more of their sentences in custody. [Lords Briefing](#) – 13 March 2020

[Sentencing Bill](#) – First reading in the Lords – 5 March 2020

Government Bill to: change the automatic release point from halfway to the two-thirds point for adult offenders serving sentences of four years or more for serious violent or sexual offences; align how life tariffs are calculated with the extended release points for serious sexual and violent offenders; extend the range of reasons where the starting point for the sentence in cases of murder is a whole life order;

[Fire Safety Bill](#) – First reading in the Commons – 19 March 2020

Government bill to amend the Fire Safety Order 2005 to clarify that the responsible person or duty-holder for multi-occupied, residential buildings must manage and reduce the risk of fire for the structure and external walls of the building, including cladding, balconies and windows and entrance doors to individual flats that open into common parts. Builds on action already taken in the wake of the Grenfell Tower tragedy. [Briefing](#)

[Protest \(Abortion Clinics\) Bill](#) – Introduced in the Commons – 11 March 2020

Private member's Bill to prohibit anti-abortion protests within 150 metres of abortion clinics; and for connected purposes. Second reading scheduled for 26 June 2020

[Hate Crime \(Misandry and Misogyny\) Bill](#) - Introduced in the Commons – 9 March 2020

Private member's Bill to make motivation by misandry or misogyny an aggravating factor in criminal sentencing; to require police forces to record hate crimes motivated by misandry or misogyny; and for connected purposes. Second reading scheduled for 10 July 2020

[Sentencing \(Women\) Bill](#) - Introduced in the Commons – 3 March 2020

Private member's Bill to require courts to impose community sentences on women offenders unless they have committed a serious or violent offence and pose a threat to the public; and for connected purposes. Second reading scheduled for 10 July 2020

Other Government Bills

[Air Traffic Management and Unmanned Aircraft Bill](#)

[Extradition \(Provisional Arrest\) Bill](#)

[Counter-Terrorism \(Sentencing and Release\) Bill](#)

[Serious Violence Bill](#)

[Police Powers and Protections Bill](#)

[Foreign National Offenders Bill](#)

[Divorce, Dissolution and Separation Bill](#)

[Online Harms Bill](#)

6. CONSULTATIONS

[Criminal Legal Aid Review](#)

Ministry of Justice consultation on an accelerated package of measures amending the criminal legal aid fee schemes relating to unused material (Advocates' Graduated Fee Scheme and Litigators' Graduated Fee Scheme), paper heavy cases, cracked trials in the Crown Court, sending cases to the Crown Court and pre-charge engagement to facilitate the early resolution of evidential issues.

Open date: 28/02/2020

Close date: 27/03/2020

[Decriminalising TV licence evasion](#)

Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport consultation on proposals to decriminalise TV licence evasion in order to ensure a proportionate and fair approach to licence fee penalties and payments is in place, which protects the most vulnerable people in society.

Open date: 05/02/2020

Close date: 01/04/2020

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

Home Office and HMICFRS consultation on proposed policing inspection programme for 2020/21, which includes the 2020 PEEL programme and national thematic inspections of child protection; investigating and prosecuting rape cases; the multi-agency response to suspects and offenders who have mental ill health; serious youth violence; how well policing responds to serious organised crime (SOC) and public order

Open date: 06/03/2020

Close date: TBC

[Drug offences consultation](#)

Sentencing Council consultation on proposals to revise sentencing guidelines for five drug offences under the Misuse of Drugs Act (MDA) 1971 in line with the changing nature and severity of offending involving emerging drugs and new offences in psychoactive substances – and to introduce four guidelines for new offences created by the Psychoactive Substances Act (PSA) 2016.

Open date: 15/01/2020

Close date: 07/04/2020

[Magistrates' Court Sentencing Guidelines for driving offences disqualifications](#)

Sentencing Council consultation on proposals revise guidelines for driving offences disqualifications, breach of community orders and clarifications to some explanatory materials. Proposed new guidance covers 'totting up' disqualifications, which are imposed when an offender incurs 12 or more points on their licence. Drivers can avoid disqualification if they successfully claim that not being able to drive would lead to "exceptional hardship".

Open date: 22/01/2020

Close date: 15/04/2020

[Improving the Victims' Code](#) **NEW**

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: 16/04/2020

[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

[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: 29/04/2020

[Protecting places of worship](#) **NEW**

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

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

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