

Police and Crime Commissioner's Horizon Scanning Briefing

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1. POLICY AND PRACTICE

[Apply for funding: Conducted Energy Devices \(CEDs\) / Tasers™ - 13 January 2020](#)

Home Office makes £10m ring fenced grant funding available to Police and Crime Commissioners across England and Wales to equip more of their officers with Tasers as part of a Home Office drive to increase officer safety and tackle crime. Bidding opened on a new online platform launched by the Home Office, with Police and Crime Commissioners being required to outline how many additional officers they plan to train to use Tasers based on the threat and risk in their local area. Bidding closes on 4th February, with final funding allocations for 2019 to 2020 and 2020 to 2021 to be announced later that month.

[Police grants in England and Wales: 2020 to 2021 – Published 22 January 2020](#)

Home Office publish final police grant settlement for 2020 to 2021 which includes a 10% increase in core grant funding, in part to support the recruitment of up to 6,000 additional officers by March 2021. Police and Crime Commissioners have also been given flexibility for to increase the local precept for policing by up to £10 for a typical (Band D) property without requiring a local referendum. This takes the total funding available to the policing system to [£15.2bn](#) in 2020/21 assuming all PCCs maximise their precept flexibility. The Government has also allocated £153m to cover additional pension costs and £906m for counter-terrorism policing.

[Stalking Protection Orders \(SPOs\) come into force – 20 January 2020](#)

New orders come into force under the Stalking Protection Act 2019 enabling the police to apply to a Magistrates' Court for a civil Stalking Protection Order (SPO) which could impose a series of both prohibitions and requirements on a perpetrator. Breaching a SPO would be criminal offence that could result in up to five years' imprisonment. Courts can also impose interim SPOs to provide immediate protection for victims whilst a decision on a full order is being made. The Orders will usually last for a minimum of 2 years. The Home Office also published new [statutory guidance](#) for police and other relevant bodies on responsibilities under the Stalking Protection Act and how to applying for an SPO. Further guidance material available from the [College of Policing](#)

[National Digital Policing Strategy 2020-2030 – Published 22 January 2020](#)

NPCC and APCC launch National Digital Policing Strategy setting out a new digital ambition and priorities for UK policing which include seamless citizen experience, addressing harm, enabling officers, embedding a whole public system approach and empowering the private sector. The strategy identifies a range of technology enablers to help improve digital capability and sets out a three phase roadmap for the next five years.

[Procurement through the Dynamic framework – 17 January 2020](#)

HM Prison & Probation Service presentation on new Dynamic Framework for rehabilitative service procurement

Commissioner's e-Briefing: 27 January 2020

[Armed Policing Code of Practice – 14 January 2020](#)

College of Policing issue new Authorised Professional Practice (APP) replacing the 2003 Code of Practice for the Police Use of Firearms and Less Lethal Weapons

[NPCC Guidance: When to call the Police: Guidance for Schools and Colleges – 16 January 2020](#)

[LGBT+ bullying and hate crime schools pack updated – 21 January 2020](#)

Updated CPS resource pack for teachers of key stages 3 and 4 is issued. The pack, developed in partnership with Stonewall, the NPCC, Gendered Intelligence and NASUWT, aims to protect potential victims by deterring would-be abusers and encouraging and supporting victims of identity based bullying to report incidents.

[Female genital mutilation: Lesson plan for Key Stage 3 students – 24 January 2020](#)

[IOPC Learning the Lessons Briefing 37: Young People – 22 January 2020](#)

Latest issue guest edited by members of the IOPC youth panel

Recent Parliamentary briefings: [Bogus charity clothing collections](#) (22 Jan), [Firearms](#) (20 Jan), [Misuse of Civilian Drones](#) (17 Jan), [Regulation of fireworks](#) (16 Jan), [Policing in the UK: Serious and Organised Crime](#) (16 Jan), [Policing in the UK: Governance, Oversight and Complaints](#) (14 Jan), [Comparison of public sector administrative boundaries](#) (15 Jan), [Hate crime](#) (14 Jan), [Racism in Football](#) (14 Jan), [Pavement and on-street parking in England](#) (14 Jan), [Local authority support for children in need](#) (13 Jan)

Recent Parliamentary debates: [LGBT Hate Crime](#) (23 Jan), [Prevent Programme](#) (22 Jan), [Hate Crimes: Prosecution Rate](#) (16 Jan), [Asylum Claims: Child Trafficking](#) (16 Jan), [Rapes Reported to the Police: Number of Suspects Charged](#) (14 Jan), [Topical Questions](#) (14 Jan), [Criminal Appeals: Victims of Crime](#) (14 Jan), [Local Government Funding: Crime and Disorder](#) (13 Jan)

2. RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND STATISTICS

[Child abuse in England and Wales: January 2020 – Published 14 January 2020](#)

ONS analysis bringing together findings on child abuse in England and Wales from a wide range of sources highlights that an estimated one in five adults aged 18 to 74 have experienced at least one form of child abuse, whether emotional abuse, physical abuse, sexual abuse, or witnessing domestic violence or abuse, before the age of 16 years, with around 1 in 100 adults aged 18 to 74 having experienced physical neglect before the age of 16 years. Around 3.1 million adults aged 18 to 74 years were victims of sexual abuse before the age of 16 years, with prevalence being higher among females than males for all abuse types except physical abuse where there was no difference. Police recorded around 227,530 child abuse offences in 2018/19 while Childline delivered 19,847 counselling sessions to children in the UK where abuse was the primary concern. Around half of adults (52%) who experienced abuse before the age of 16 years also experienced domestic abuse later in life, compared with 13% of those who did not experience abuse before the age of 16 years.

[Association between offender sex, ethnicity and sentencing for drug offences – 15 January 2020](#)

Sentencing Council analysis of Crown Court sentencing data finds that offenders male offenders sentenced for drug offences are considerably more likely to be sentenced to immediate custody than females and receive longer custodial sentences. Black, Asian and Other offenders were found to be more likely to receive an immediate custodial sentence for these offences than White offenders. It should be noted that not all factors considered by the judge could be included in the analysis.

[Knife & Offensive Weapon Sentencing Statistics: July to September 2019](#) – Published 16 January 2020

Ministry of Justice statistics show a further 3.4% increase in the number of knife and offensive weapon offences formally dealt with by the CJS (22,286) in the year to September 2019, continuing the with upward trend seen since 2014. The rate of increase is, however, diminishing when compared to rises of 4.6% in 2018 and 8.0% in 2017. The increase has been largely driven by possession offences (+4.1%) and increased police pro-activity. 38% of knife and offensive weapon offences resulted in an immediate custodial sentence compared to 23% a decade ago. The average length of the custodial sentences also increased from 6.0 months to 8.1 months over this period. 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 7.2 months to 8.0 months. Data available at [police force level](#)

[Crime in England and Wales to September 2019](#) – Published 23 January 2020

ONS publish latest Crime Survey for England and Wales and police recorded crime statistics which show no significant change in overall crime over the previous year. At offence-level, however, there have been continued increases in vehicle offences (+4%), robbery (+12%) and fraud (+9%), and further reductions in burglaries (-4%) and homicide offences (-6%). Offences involving knives and sharp instruments (+7%) reached the highest level since comparable records began in 2019, reflecting both a real increase and improvements in recording practices. Lower-harm violent offences showed no significant change. Recent increases in firearms offences have now levelled off (+0.5%). Data available at [force](#) and [CSP](#) level

[Crime outcomes in England and Wales to September 2019](#) – Published 23 January 2020

Excluding GMP, the proportion of crimes resulting in a charge or summons in across England and Wales has fallen from around 8.4% to 7.3% over the last year, continuing the downward trend seen since March 2015 (15%). The number and proportion of offences resolved by out of court disposals has fallen from 4.1% to 3.7%. The proportion of offences that were closed as a result of 'evidential difficulties', meanwhile, has increased from 30.6% to 32.7% over the last year, while the proportion of investigations completed with no suspect identified fell from 45.1% to 43.4%. Police recorded outcome data can in part be affected by improvements in crime recording and changes in crime caseloads. Data available at [police force level](#)

[Response times to fires attended by fire and rescue services 2018/19](#) – Published 16 January 2020

[National DNA Database statistics to December 2019](#) – Published 15 January 2020

Upcoming publications

- Police workforce statistics, England and Wales as at 30 September 2019 – 30 January 2020
- Detailed analysis of non-fire incidents in England, 2018/19 – 30 January 2020
- Statistics on firearm and shotgun certificates, 2019/21 – June 2020

3. AUDITS AND INSPECTIONS

Evidence-led domestic abuse prosecutions - 23 January 2020

HMCPSI and HMICFRS joint inspection of police and prosecutor guidance, policy and practice in pursuing evidence led prosecutions in cases where victims do not support further criminal justice action. The inspection concludes that more should be done by officers and prosecutors from the outset to consider how a prosecution that is in the public interest would progress if the victim were to withdraw support. This would result in a more detailed investigation at the scene (e.g. evidence from neighbours, forensic and photographic sources) and an equal level of training as that offered to staff dealing with general domestic abuse. In 15 of the 78 domestic abuse cases reviewed, investigators had missed the opportunity to explore reasonable lines of enquiry before the investigation was concluded and there was a lack of quality assurance of the decision to take no further action. The inspectors found that neither the police nor the CPS have a system to identify and measure performance in evidence led cases. The report makes recommendations for:-

- Police supervisors and CPA legal managers to maximise opportunities to share examples of good practice
- Police and CPS ensure that refresher training in domestic abuse / evidence led cases, is available to staff
- Police to review training plans to ensure that all appropriate staff are trained how to handle such cases
- Police forces with domestic abuse champions should raise awareness of the role and maximise their use
- Police should ensure clear messaging that evidence led cases receive the same quality of investigation and early gathering of evidence and supervisory oversight as other domestic abuse cases
- Police should ensure that investigations and decisions to take no further action receive robust oversight
- Prosecutors should ensure all cases set out whether an evidence led prosecution is viable at charging stage
- Prosecutors should ensure all appropriate cases clearly outline a strategy for proceeding at review stage.

State of Fire and Rescue 2019 – 15 January 2020

HMICFRS annual assessment of Fire and Rescue Services in England highlights 'unjustifiable variation' in the level of service the public receives across the country. Despite a clear commitment to their profession and communities and a highly skilled emergency response, the service needs to do more to improve compliance with fire safety regulations, the lack of diversity in its workforce and, in some cases, a 'toxic' bullying culture. Sir Thomas Winsor recommends the introduction of a code of ethics for the service, more joint working and reforms to address some out-of-date working practices. The Chief Inspector of FRS also noted, however, that union influence can act as barrier to necessary reform.

Separation of children in young offender institutions – 21 January 2020

HMI Prisons thematic review of the separation of young offenders from their peers in YOIs as method of maintaining order and discipline found that the necessary oversight of the practice under rule 49 'removal from association' oversight arrangements was not consistently implemented, and where they were had not had any meaningful impact on the time that separated children spent out of their cells or the amount of education provided to them. Contrary to HMPPS policy, separation was found to be used as a punishment, both implicitly and explicitly for children, with most separated children experiencing a regime that amounts to the widely accepted definition of solitary confinement. For a minority of separated children, this had been prolonged in nature and in a number of cases mainstream residential units were unable to provide children with their basic entitlements of a daily shower, telephone call and exercise. The review makes recommendations for:-

- Current models of separating children in YOIs are replaced with a new system that is equivalent to non-separated peers and ensures reintegration planning starts from the day a child is separated
- Separated children have access to an equivalent education day to non-separated peers and are encouraged to spend time out of their cell interacting with staff and peers and an hour a day exercising in the open air
- Oversight arrangements should enable national managers to monitor how many children have been separated and for how long, and this information should be published
- Children who require a mental health assessment should receive one without delay and children assessed as needing a mental health bed should be transferred within two weeks, in line with national NHS guidelines.

[An inspection of central functions supporting the National Probation Service – 14 January 2020](#)

HMI Probation inspection of all seven divisions of the NPS finds many areas of good practice, particularly in terms of leadership and management support. The inspection also found room for improvement, however, in staffing standards and information services and facilities. The inspection found that NPS operational staff often felt disconnected from the 'centre' and viewed HMPPS as remote and distanced from operational delivery. Probation officer vacancies also remain high, particularly in London, and workloads for probation officers remain 'unreasonably high'. Furthermore, the continuing professional development of qualified staff is not sufficiently comprehensive or responsive and gaps in local provision are apparent, with the NPS commissioning services from CRCs but then purchasing very few of them. The inspection also noted underinvestment in NPS buildings which has led to many probation staff working from buildings that are in disrepair.

Upcoming reports and inspection activity

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| • HMICFRS: Police Control Room (Thematic) | Pending |
| • <u>National Joint Targeted area inspections of Child Protection Thematic</u> | Pending |
| • PEEL Reports 2019/20 – Tranche 3 | Pending |
| • Integrated Offender Management: Follow-up to explore IOM in TR environment | Early 2020 |
| • Regional Organised Crime Units | Fieldwork underway |
| • <u>HMIC: Crime data integrity (individual force reports)</u> | Ongoing |
| • <u>HMI Prisons: Joint inspection of Police Custody Arrangements</u> | Ongoing |
| • <u>HMICFRS: Police Effectiveness - Child Protection (x6)</u> | Ongoing |
| • <u>HMI Probation: Joint inspection of Youth Offending Teams</u> | Ongoing |

4. REVIEWS AND INQUIRIES

[Policing 4.0: How 20,000 officers can transform UK policing – 16 January 2020](#)

Deloitte report highlights emerging approaches in policing and other sectors that can help transform the service alongside tools to help leaders make judgements on the right choices for their organisations and teams. The report argues that the government and national policing leaders need to continue to invest beyond the current officer recruitment targets and, if this is not possible, adjust timescales. The service should also build new crime reduction capabilities that sit above the level of individual forces, provide increased stability of investment and stronger co-ordination around national and specialist capability programmes and harness the Police Foundation's strategic review to build solutions and consensus on overall police structures and governance.

[What if the dock was abolished in criminal courts? – 21 January 2020](#)

Howard League for Penal Reform 'what if?' pamphlet proposes that the widespread use of the dock in English and Welsh courtrooms is anachronistic and that its continued use interferes with a defendant's right to a fair trial and dignified treatment. This pamphlet draws on new research findings and empirical research.

[The Prison System: Priorities for investment – 20 January 2020](#)

Reform paper assesses the state of the prison system and makes recommendations for Government to focus on smarter sentencing, creating prison estate that is fit for purpose, creating safer prisons and developing the prison officer workforce.

[College of Policing Annual Report and Accounts 2018/19 – 23 January 2020](#)

5. LEGISLATION

[New Bill: Victims of Crime \(Rights, Entitlements, and Notification of CSA\) – 22 January 2020](#)

Bill introduced by Baroness Brinton receives first reading in the House of Lords. Makes provision for specifying new statutory rights and entitlements for victims of crime under the victims' code of practice; requires PCCs to assess victims' services; increases duties of the Commissioner for Victims and Witnesses; grants victims the right to request a review of a decision not to prosecute; establishes reviews into homicides where no criminal charge was made; creates an obligation on professions to notify cases of possible victims of child sexual abuse

[New Bill: Modern Slavery \(Victim Support\) Bill – 13 January 2020](#)

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

Bill makes provision for supporting victims of modern slavery

[New Bill: Online Harms Reduction Regulator \(Report\) Bill – 14 January 2020](#)

Government Bill to assign certain functions to Ofcom in relation to online harms received first reading in the House of Lords

[Counter-Terrorism \(Sentencing and Release\) Bill – Home Office Update – 21 January 2020](#)

Home Secretary confirms plans to introduce tougher sentences, early release and undertake a major review of the management of convicted terrorists as part of the [Counter-Terrorism \(Sentencing and Release\) Bill](#). Dangerous terrorist offenders who receive extended determinate sentences will be required to serve the whole time in custody, while those convicted of serious offences such as preparing acts of terrorism or directing a terrorist organisation spend a mandatory minimum of 14 years in prison. The government will also overhaul the terrorist licensing regime, double the number of specialist counter-terrorism probation officers and introduce measures such as polygraph testing. The government will also review support available to victims of terrorism and immediately invest £500,000 to increase the support provided by the Victims of Terrorism Unit. Alongside the bill, the government is also doubling the number of counter-terrorism specialist probation staff, increasing the number of specialist psychologists and specially trained imams who assess risk and challenge the beliefs of radicalised offenders and increasing the resources dedicated to training front-line prison and probation staff.

[Air Traffic Management and Unmanned Aircraft Bill – Lords Library Briefing – 20 January 2020](#)

House of Lords library briefing providing background information on the [Air Traffic Management and Unmanned Aircraft Bill](#) ahead of its second reading in the House of Lords on 27 January 2020. The Bill includes further provisions to tackle the illegal unlawful use of drones including new powers for police and prison authorities to tackle the unlawful use of unmanned aircraft (UA), require a person to land UA and enhanced stop and search powers when UA-related offences are suspected.

[Domestic Abuse Bill - re-introduced as part of the Queen's Speech on 19 December 2019](#)

Bill to strengthen protections for victims by introducing new protection orders and placing the Domestic Violence Notification scheme 'Clare's Law' on a legal footing. Provide new enforcement mechanisms, set a wider statutory definition of domestic abuse and introduce a domestic abuse commissioner.

- [Call to action for government to publish and fund a perpetrator strategy](#) – 20 January 2020

Other bills announced as part of the [Queen's Speech](#) in December 2019 include:

- [Serious Violence Bill](#) – placing a new duty on schools, councils, police and health authorities to work together to prevent serious; introducing measures to ensure that the most serious offenders serve longer in custody, with automatic release only being considered after two thirds of the sentence is served. Those charged with knife possession will face "swift justice", introduce new court orders to target known knife carriers will make it easier for the police to stop and search those convicted for knife crime offences

- [Police Powers and Protections Bill](#) - establishing a Police Covenant and ensuring the police are able to fully conduct their duties by providing them with additional support and protection. Includes clearer protections and a new test for police drivers, new powers to tackle illegal encampments and enabling Police Specials to join the Federation.
- [Extradition \(Provisional Arrest\) Bill \[HL\]](#) - to create a power of arrest, without warrant, for the purpose of extraditing people for serious offences. Addresses gaps' in current arrangements for cooperation with foreign states in the event of no longer having access to the European Arrest Warrant
- [Prisoners \(Disclosure of Information about Victims\) Bill 2019-20](#) - to require the Parole Board to take account of failure by a prisoner serving a sentence for unlawful killing or for taking or making an indecent image of a child to disclose information about the victim (a version of "Helen's Law")
- [Sentencing \(Pre-consolidation Amendments 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
- [Divorce, Dissolution and Separation Bill](#) – to remove unnecessary conflict during the divorce process, in which children are so often caught up, while ensuring that divorce remains a carefully considered decision

6. CONSULTATIONS

[Strengthening police powers to tackle unauthorised encampments](#)

Home Office consultation on measures to criminalise trespassing when setting up an unauthorised encampment or alternative approaches such as permitting the police to direct trespassers to suitable authorised sites located in neighbouring local authority areas, increasing the period of time in which trespassers directed from land would be unable to return from 3 months to 12 months or lowering the number of vehicles needing to be involved in an unauthorised encampment before police powers can be exercised.

Open date: 05/11/2019

Close date: 04/04/2020

[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