

Police and Crime Commissioner's Horizon Scanning Briefing

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1. POLICY AND PRACTICE

[Funding Allocations: Support for victims of sexual violence and abuse \(COVID-19\) – 22 July 2020](#)

Ministry of Justice publish details of the £22m allocated to Police and Crime Commissioners, Rape Support Centres, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence support organisations over recent months. The remaining £3m from the support fund will be allocated in due course.

[National Police Chiefs' Council replaces the Digital Processing Notice – 16 July 2020](#)

NPCC to replace digital consent forms used to access the contents of victims' mobile phones – usually in cases involving allegations of rape and sexual assault. The move follows recommendations from the [Information Commissioner's Office](#) as part of their report into the use of mobile phone extraction by police forces in June and a recent Court of Appeal judgment. The forms will be replaced with an interim version from 13 August 2020 pending the production of a permanent replacement. The College of Policing will also produce guidance on investigative practice when mobile phone investigation is needed. [Victim Commissioner Comment](#)

[New Common Platform to be tested in criminal courts – 24 July 2020](#)

HM Courts & Tribunals Service announces plans to test the Common Platform system in seven early adopter areas from September before wider rollout across criminal courts in England and Wales over the next 12 months. The system provides access to relevant case information for all parties involved in criminal cases, including the judiciary, solicitors and barristers, the Crown Prosecution Service and court staff.

[New guidance: Post-incident procedures following death or serious injury – 20 July 2020](#)

College of Policing issue new national guidance for police to ensure forces take a consistent approach when responding to and investigating deaths or serious injuries (DSI) following police contact.

[New Sentencing guideline for offenders with mental disorders – 22 July 2020](#)

Sentencing Council publish new guideline for sentencing adult offenders with mental disorders, developmental disorders or neurological impairments which will come into force on 1 October 2020.

[Taking a public health approach to tackling serious violent crime: case studies – 14 July 2020](#)

LGA publication compiling case studies to highlight examples of best practice across local government

[Police funding for England and Wales 2015 to 2021 – 14 July 2020](#)

Home Office publication bringing together previously published police funding figures for England and Wales into a single definitive publication for the last six years.

Commissioner's e-Briefing: 27 July 2020

Recent Parliamentary briefings: [Covid-19 impact on jury trials](#) (21 Jul), [Nitrous oxide: No laughing matter?](#) (20 Jul), [Coronavirus: the lockdown laws](#) (16 Jul), [Covid-19: The impact on human trafficking](#) (10 Jul)

Recent Parliamentary debates: [Knife Crime](#) (21 Jul), [Support for Victims of Crime](#) (14 Jul), [Police Officer Numbers](#) (13 Jul), [Police Funding](#) (13 Jul)

2. RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND STATISTICS

[Final report of the Youth Violence Commission](#) – 15 July 2020

Final report of the cross-party Youth Violence Commission highlights a range of factors most significantly associated with risk of serious violence, which include:- experience of domestic abuse as children; a lack of parental care and attention – often linked to issues of drug or alcohol addiction or being forced to work multiple low-paying jobs with unpredictable hours; exclusion from mainstream education; the closure of youth service organisations and a 'toxic climate' of inadequate and ineffective provision; the erosion of trust and confidence in the police as a result of cuts in officer numbers and 'unduly high' rates of stop and search imposed disproportionately on young people from BAME backgrounds. Employment, housing, poverty and inequality also remain critical compounding factors. The report also concludes that in 2018/19, serious youth violence across England and Wales generated a total economic and social cost of around £1.3 billion, marking a rise of over 50% since 2014/15. Key recommendations of the report include:-

- Immediate enhanced funding and 10 year funding projections for the 18 established Violence Reduction Units (VRUs) in order to enable a more strategic long-term and evidence-informed approach
- VRUs should have a threefold purpose:- lead on the development, implementation and commissioning of local level initiatives to reduce violence; feed learning into relevant evidence bases and; operate as a network to identify and promote the national level policy changes
- VRUs should actively seek to engage all relevant stakeholders to feed into their short-term priorities and long-term planning and provide regular feedback to these same stakeholders
- Planned increases in police recruitment should be used to underpin significant reinvestment in local neighbourhood policing, include long-term problem-solving approaches to reducing serious youth violence
- Central Government should provide significant and immediate increased funding to enable schools to put in place the enhanced support necessary to avoid off-rolling and pursue an aspiration of zero exclusions
- Central Government should provide Local Authorities with statutory funding and a clear statutory duty for providing youth services, with levels being determined by the number of young people living in each area
- A collaboration of funders should invest in programmes that help to prepare parents for parenthood and provide support in the early years of parenting
- Central Government should commit to providing enhanced funding to support the full range of the Commission's recommendations that cross multiple policy areas

[Policing the Pandemic](#) – 15 July 2020

Leaders Unlocked publish findings from a youth-led study of young people's views and experiences of policing during the COVID-19 lockdown based on feedback from 3,491 young people across England and Wales. Findings highlight concerns among young people about racial disproportionality in policing and enforcement activity and a lack of information provided when stopped or dispersed. Despite reductions in police recorded crime during the pandemic, more than one in ten young people reported feeling less safe during lockdown.

[Five-year report on Direct Entry published](#) – 20 July 2020

College of Policing publishes findings from evaluations of Direct Entry schemes at Superintendent and Inspector level and Fast Track for serving constables. The evaluation of direct entry at Superintendent level found that officers were often not constrained by hierarchy and willing to challenge upwards. Chief officers interviewed said that the officers had challenged norms, offered different perspectives, problem solved and encouraged others to do the same.

Firearm certificates in England and Wales 2019/20 – 23 July 2020

Home Office statistical bulletin showing a small reduction (-0.2%) in the number of firearm certificates on issue across England and Wales (159,483), marking the first annual reduction in three years. A further 567,358 shotgun certificates were on issue as at 31 March 2020. Around 3% of all firearm and shotgun applications are refused each year. 371 firearms certificates and 1,141 shotgun certificates were revoked in 2019/20.

Crime in England and Wales: year ending March 2020 – 17 July 2020

The level of crime experienced by residents across England and Wales has remained broadly stable over recent years, however the latest figures from the Crime Survey for estimate indicate a 9% reduction in the year ending March 2020, largely driven by reductions in theft offences (-12%) and criminal damage (-13%). The other main crime types measured by the CSEW showed no significant change, including overall fraud and lower-harm violent offences. Police data, which provides a more reliable indication of trends in lower-volume but higher-harm violence, shows a 4% decrease in offences involving firearms and a 6% increase in the number of offences involving knives. While levels of homicide increased by 10% during the year, this was significantly skewed by the 39 bodies of migrants found in a lorry in Grays, Essex in October 2019. Overall police recorded crime to March 2020 increased by 3%, impacted in part by rises in recorded fraud and computer misuse (+12%), violence without injury (+9%) and stalking and harassment (+12%). This report has been largely unaffected by the pause to the Crime Survey and the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Crime outcomes in England and Wales to March 2020 – Published 17 July 2020

Excluding GM police, the proportion of crimes resulting in a charge or summons in across England and Wales has fallen from around 7.9% to 7.0% over the last year, continuing the downward trend seen since March 2015 (16%). The proportion of offences resolved by out of court disposals has fallen from 3.9% to 3.7%. The proportion of offences that were closed as a result of 'evidential difficulties', meanwhile, has increased slightly from 32.7% to 34.8% over the last year and from 17% in March 2015. This is likely to reflect improvements in police crime recording processes and a more complex crime caseload. The proportion of investigations completed with no suspect identified has remained relatively stable over the last year at 43.1%. The publication also includes experimental statistics on outcomes assigned to fraud (-9%) and Computer Misuse Act (+62%) offences, which have been largely driven by changes in volume of crimes referred to forces by the National Fraud

Demands on police – Published 17 July 2020

NPCC briefing detailing demands on the police during the Covid-19 pandemic (four weeks to 5 July 2020) compared to the same period in 2019 shows a 14% reduction in 999 calls, a 15% reduction in 101 calls and a 27% reduction in missing person-related incidents. Reported domestic abuse related incidents (+6%) and mental health related incidents (+5%) both saw increases. Reductions were seen across most recorded crime types, with the notable exception of assaults on emergency workers, which rose by 19%.

Reform prisons pilot: research report on lessons learnt – 16 July 2020

Ministry of Justice research report on the 'Reform prisons pilot' which ran across six prisons in 2016 and 2017

Upcoming statistical publications

- Police officer uplift, quarterly update to June 2020 – 30 July 2020
- Police workforce, England and Wales: 31 March 2020 – 30 July 2020
- Police use of firearms statistics, England and Wales: 2019/20 – 6 August 2020
- Fire and rescue incident statistics 2019/20 – 13 August 2020

3. AUDITS AND INSPECTIONS

HMICFRS: Roads Policing: Not optional - An inspection of roads policing – 16 July 2020

HMICFRS thematic inspection of how effectively England and Wales' road network is policed finds evidence of some good roads policing initiatives, however, their effect is often unclear due to a lack of analysis and evaluation and good practice often not being shared across forces in an effective way. The report also notes that support provided to national road safety campaigns is often inconsistent, which can in turn adversely affect their effectiveness. HMICFRS also note that force police and crime plans generally make little or no reference to the agenda. Recommendations from the report include:

- DfT and Home Office should publish a national road safety strategy providing clear guidance to the police, local authorities, highways agencies and other strategic partners by 1 August 2021
- The Strategic Policing Requirement should be revised to include an explicit reference to roads policing
- The Home Office should issue guidance by 1 April 2021 on what should be included within future police and crime plans and use their statutory powers to require plans to reference to roads policing
- Chief constables should, with immediate effect, ensure roads policing is included in force's strategic assessments and that forces have the analytical capability to identify threats on the road network.
- Chief Constables should ensure information is shared and used to effectively to reduce risks and that partnership arrangements / intelligence sharing agreements are in place with relevant highways agencies.
- Chief constables should ensure compliance with the DfT Circular 1/2007 re. use of speed and red-light cameras and satisfy themselves that sufficient resources are allocated to policing the strategic road network
- The DfT Circular 1/2007 should include a requirement that forces, or local road safety partnerships publish details of the annual revenue received via driver offending-related training and how revenue has been spent
- NPCC should review the role and structure of national roads policing operations and intelligence
- The College of Policing should include a serious collision investigation module for completion along with the Professionalising Investigation Programme. This should include minimum national training standards and certification for all serious collision investigators
- Chief constables should make sure all serious collision investigators are then trained to those standards and that appropriate welfare support is provided to specialist investigators and family liaison officers.

PEEL spotlight report: The Hard Yards – Police to police collaboration – 21 July 2020

HMICFRS thematic inspection examining force collaboration to provide more efficient services finds that:-

- Too many collaborations do not have a clear purpose or objective that is understood by all involved;
- Some forces are not tracking the benefits of collaboration and fail to think beyond financial savings;
- Complicated and bureaucratic decision-making undermines the effectiveness of many collaborations; and
- Some forces fail to put people with the right skills in their collaborations or effectively share learning.

The inspectorate makes recommendations for the College of Policing and the Home Office to establish a central repository for police collaborations and identify a methodology that supports forces in tracking benefits for police collaborations by March 2021. Forces should ensure they have effective systems in place to track the benefits of their collaborations.

Inspection of the National Crime Agency's Criminal Intelligence Function – Published 14 July 2020

HMICFRS inspection report concludes that the organisation is meeting its statutory obligation to provide a criminal intelligence function and has resources and systems in place to effectively manage information. Steps are being taken to address issues with the flow of intelligence in and across the organisation. The inspectorate identifies some areas for concern and opportunities for improvement which include:-

- Monitoring of actions that follow the dissemination of intelligence related to county lines
- Ensuring that the service is sufficiently resourced, including premises, training and intel systems
- Delays in introducing full accreditation for digital forensic analysis
- Ensuring all regional strategic assessments are co-ordinated and inform the National Assessment

4. REVIEWS AND INQUIRIES

[Review of the role of Police and Crime Commissioners announced](#) – 22 July 2020

Home Secretary [announces](#) a review of the role of PCCs in line with the government's manifesto commitment to sharpen and expand the role and further improve public accountability. Measures to be considered include:

- raising the profile of the PCC model to help the public access information about their PCC;
- ensuring PCCs have sufficient resilience in the event that they cannot undertake their role,
- considering how to improve the current scrutiny model for PCCs and better share best practice
- the effectiveness of the current PCC and Chief Constable oversight dynamic, including the Policing Protocol
- Whether steps are needed to strengthen accountability or clarity of roles within the Mayoral PCC model
- How the long-term ambition on fire governance reform ahead of the May 2021 PCC elections.

The review will be held in two parts. The first will be undertaken over the summer and report in October 2020 to inform the Government's priorities for pre-May 2021 PCC model reform. The second stage will be undertaken following the PCC elections in May 2021 and will focus on longer-term reform, including the role PCCs play in tackling re-offending. Further plans to increase the number of mayors with responsibility for policing will be detailed in the Local Recovery and Devolution White Paper, which is due to be published in the autumn 2020.

[Police Remuneration Review Body report: 2020](#) – Published 21 July 2020

Police Remuneration Review Body on police officers' pay in England and Wales makes recommendations for a consolidated increase of 2.5% to all police officer pay points for all ranks from 1 September 2020. The review takes account of a range of factors including affordability, recruitment and retention. The government [accepted in full](#) the PRRB's recommendations.

[Fire and rescue national framework: 2020 progress report](#) – Published 21 July 2020

Home Secretary's report on fire and rescue authority compliance with the fire and rescue national framework for England concludes that every fire and rescue authority has acted in accordance with the requirements of the National Framework and no formal steps have been taken by the Secretary of State since the last assurance statement in 2018 to secure compliance.

[Annual Report of the Victims' Commissioner 2019/20](#) – 14 July 2020

Dame Vera Baird's first annual report as Victims' Commissioner calls for the Government to be bold in its ambition and make the most of the opportunities created by the Domestic Abuse Bill, the promised Victims' Law, the need to re-think how justice is delivered coming out of lockdown and the decline in rape prosecutions. The report also reflects on the impact of COVID-19 on the criminal justice system and provision of victim services and sets out the Commissioner's plans in 2020/21 to: work with stakeholders to deliver improvements to the delivery of offer of Victim Personal Statements; develop proportionate and reasonable processes for seeking digital download of victim personal data in response to reporting sexual offences; commission and publish a literature review on special measures available to vulnerable and intimidated victims and witnesses and; support the recovery of the courts after lockdown and work to clear the backlog of cases.

[Home Office annual report and accounts: 2019 to 2020](#) – Published 21 July 2020

[Independent Office for Police Conduct: Annual Report and Accounts](#) – Published 22 July 2020

[Sentencing Council Annual Report 2019 to 2020](#) – Published 14 July 2020

[National Crime Agency Annual Report and Accounts: 2019 to 2020](#) – Published 21 July 2020

[The Macpherson Report: twenty-one years on](#) – [Oral evidence session](#) held 22 July 2020

5. LEGISLATION

Progress of Government Bills

Sentencing Bill – Lords Committee Stage – scheduled for 29 July 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; require judges to explain in their sentencing remarks what the sentence means for an offender's release arrangements; strengthen community orders, so they also answer their mental health and alcohol or drug misuse needs or provide reparation for the benefit of the wider community

Counter-Terrorism and Sentencing Bill – Lords first reading - 22 July 2020

Government Bill to make provision about the sentencing of offenders convicted of terrorism offences. This 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.

Progress of Private Member's Bills

Death by Dangerous Driving (Sentencing) Bill – Introduced to Commons - 21 July 2020 NEW

Bill sponsored by Theresa May to increase the maximum sentence for causing death by dangerous driving to life imprisonment. Introduced under the Ten Minute Rule Motion. Second Reading in Commons – 16 Oct 2020

Police Stop and Search (Repeal) Bill – Second reading in Commons - scheduled 11 September 2020

Bill sponsored by Sir Edward Davey to repeal sections 60, 60AA and 60A of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994

Sexual Offences (Sports Coaches) Bill – Second reading in Commons scheduled 11 September 2020

Bill sponsored by Tracey Crouch to amend the Sexual Offences Act 2003 to make sports coach a position of trust for the purposes of child sex offences

Foreign Nationals (Offender/Prisoner Removal) – Second reading in Commons - 25 Sept 2020

Bill sponsored by Sir Christopher Chope to improve the justice system's response to foreign national offenders & increase maximum penalty for those who return to the UK in breach of a deportation order

Assaults on Retail Workers (Offences) Bill - Second reading in Commons - 25 September 2020

Bill sponsored by Alex Norris introduced under the Ten Minute Rule. Aims to make certain offences aggravated when perpetrated against a retail worker in the course of their employment.

Forensic Science Regulator & Biometrics Strategy Bill - Second reading Commons - 25 September 2020

Bill sponsored by Darren Jones to make provision for the appointment of the Forensic Science Regulator; regulation of forensic science and requiring the Secretary of State to publish an annual strategy

6. CONSULTATIONS

[HMICFRS's 2020/21 policing inspection programme and framework: revised consultation](#)

HMICFRS consultation on planned reforms to the 2020/21 in year inspection programme

Open date: 10/07/2020

Close date: 31/07/2020

[Independent review of drugs: call for evidence, part 2](#)

Call for evidence as part of Dame Carol Black's review of drugs

Open date: 02/07/2020

Close date: 06/08/2020

[Maximum sentence for assaults on emergency workers](#) **NEW**

Ministry of Justice consultation seeking views on increasing maximum penalty for assaulting an emergency services worker (Assaults on Emergency Workers (Offences) Act 2018) from 12 months to two years in prison.

Open date: 13/07/2020

Close date: 10/08/2020

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

Sentencing Council public consultation to determine its future direction

Open date: 10/03/2020

Close date: 09/09/2020

[Review of employment rights for survivors of domestic abuse](#)

Government call for evidence on current practice and further opportunities to better support survivors of domestic abuse at work.

Open date: 09/06/2020

Close date: 09/09/2020

[Code of Practice for Law Enforcement Data Service \(LEDS\)](#)

College of Policing public consultation seeking views on the Code of Practice for the new Law Enforcement Data Service (LEDS) which will begin an incremental national roll out from the end of 2020.

Open date: 18/06/2020

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

[Roads policing review: future methods to improve safety and reduce casualties](#) **NEW**

DfT consultation to identify which current methods are most effective and to how the capability and capacity of enforcement services can be enhanced to improve safety and reduce future casualties on roads.

Open date: 13/07/2020

Close date: 05/10/2020

[Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme Review 2020](#) **NEW**

Ministry of Justice consultation to inform a review of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme which compensates victims of violent crime, including physical and sexual assault and domestic terrorist attacks

Open date: 16/07/2020

Close date: 09/10/2020