

Police and Crime Commissioner's Horizon Scanning Briefing

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1. POLICY AND PRACTICE

[Further National Coronavirus Restrictions introduced](#) - 5 November 2020

Second national lockdown comes into force following announcements made by the Prime Minister on 31 October 2020. People are asked to stay at home, with the exception of education and work where work from home is not possible; exercise and outdoor recreation outdoors with your household, support bubble or with one person from another household; for all medical reasons, appointments and to escape injury or harm; to shop for food and essentials; and to provide care for vulnerable people, or as a volunteer. Public services, including courts, will remain open and the furlough scheme will be extended until 2 December.

[UK Terrorism Threat Level raised to Severe](#) – 4 November 2020

The Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre (JTAC) raises the UK terrorism threat level from substantial to severe – meaning that an attack is highly likely. JTAC's decision to change the threat level has been driven by a number of factors, including the recent attacks in France and Vienna. JTAC's assessments are made independently of Ministers and are based on the latest intelligence. The threat level is kept under constant review.

[IOPC Roundup – August and September 2020](#) – Published 6 November 2020

[College of Policing's Police Barred List 2019/20](#) – Published 4 November 2020

[Updated Home Office guidance: Channel Duty – Prevent Strategy](#) – 2 November 2020

[Updated NSPCC guidance: Protecting children from county lines](#) – 28 October 2020

[Draft homelessness code of guidance: Domestic Abuse Bill](#) – 29 October 2020

Recent Parliamentary briefings: [Undercover policing in England and Wales](#) (5 Nov), [Coronavirus: enforcing restrictions](#) (5 Nov), [Police powers: stop and search](#) (4 Nov), [Sexual abuse and exploitation](#) (29 Oct), [Protections for emergency service workers](#) (29 Oct), [Coronavirus: the lockdown laws](#) (27 Oct), [Drug crime: Statistics for England and Wales](#) (26 Oct)

Recent Parliamentary debates: [Hate Crime Sentences](#) (5 Nov), [Serious Fraud Office: Proceeds of Crime](#) (5 Nov), [Protections for Emergency Service Workers](#) (4 Nov), [UK Terrorism Threat Level](#) (4 Nov), [Covid-19: Christmas Breaches of Restrictions](#) (3 Nov), [Court Delays: Covid-19](#) (3 Nov), [Online Harms: Intimate Images](#) (28 Oct), [Domestic Abuse: Protection of Victims](#) (27 Oct)

2. RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND STATISTICS

Crime in England and Wales: year ending June 2020 – Published 28 October 2020

Findings based on the new Telephone-operated Crime Survey for England and Wales (TCSEW) indicate that the level of crime experienced by residents across England and Wales has remained broadly stable over recent years. Police recorded crime, however, fell by 4% in the year to June 2020, largely driven by a reduction during the April to June 2020 'lockdown' period which saw fewer opportunities for crime in public spaces and the night-time economy. The TCSEW estimates that theft offences, in particular, fell by 30% in April to June 2020 compared with January to March 2020. Police recorded firearms (-9%) and knives or sharp instruments (-1%) offences also fell, whilst overall violence against the person saw the smallest annual increase (+3%) since improvements in crime recording practices began (2014). The TCSEW has been introduced while normal face-to-face interviewing is suspended and is not directly comparable with the Crime Survey for England and Wales. [Data available at police force level](#). Latest data on [FPNs issued under Coronavirus Regulations](#) also published.

Crime outcomes in England and Wales to June 2020 – Published 28 October 2020

Excl. GMP

The proportion of crimes resulting in a charge or summons in across England and Wales has increased for the first time in over 5 years in the latest quarter, from 7.0% to 7.4%. This follows a significant and sustained long term decline since March 2015 (15%). The number and proportion of offences resolved via out of court disposal (4.0%) also reached the highest level since September 2018 (4.1%), but remains significantly lower than the proportion recorded in March 2015 (9.1%). The proportion of offences that were closed as a result of 'evidential difficulties' (36.7%), meanwhile, has continued to increase since March 2015 (16.6%), while the proportion of investigations completed with no suspect identified has fallen from 48.9% to 41.1% over the same period. Caution should be exercised in the interpretation police recorded outcome data due to the potential impact of improvements in crime recording and changes in crime caseloads. [Data available at police force level](#)

Police powers and procedures, England and Wales, 2019/20 – Published 27 October 2020

Home Office statistics detailing police use of PACE powers during 2019/20 at national and police force level. The latest statistics highlight a 53% increase in the number of section 1 stop and searches (558,973) in 2019/20, continuing the upturn first reported in 2018/19. Still, use of the power has more than halved since 2010/11 (1,179,746). A further 18,081 stops and searches were made under section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act (in anticipation of violence) in 2019/20, marking a 35% increase on the previous year. Arrests rates following stop and search fell from 16% to 13% during the year, however, the volume of arrests made increased by 28%. Individuals from a Black, Asian and minority ethnic background were stopped at a rate 4.1 times higher than those who were from a White ethnic group. This was similar to the previous year (4.3). Suspected drug possession remains the most common reason for stop and search (63%), while the proportion of searches on suspicion of carrying offensive weapons remained stable at 16%. 76% of all stop and searches, resulted in no further action – which can include cases where an officer finds what they were looking for but decides not to arrest, caution or issue an informal outcome. The report also shows that the number of motoring offences resulting in a Fixed Penalty Notice or another outcome increased by 7.2% in 2019/20, continuing the trend seen since 2017. The number of breath tests carried out by police meanwhile fell by a further 11%, continuing the downward trend seen since 2009. The proportion of tests that were positive or refused, reached the highest level (16%) since 2007. Data available at police force level.

Police officer uplift, quarterly update to September 2020 – 29 October 2020

[Press release](#)

Home Office publish latest quarterly update on progress in achieving the Government's target of 20,000 additional police officers by March 2023. The service remains well on track to achieve the target of 6,000 new recruits by March 2021, with 5,824 having been recruited as part of Operation Uplift since November 2019. This is in addition to 589 new officers joining the service during this period as part of other planned recruitment. The total officer workforce (headcount) has increased by 5% over the last year to 134,885. Since April 2020, 39% of new recruits have been female and 10.7% of new recruits that stated their ethnicity were identified as Black, Asian or other minority ethnic group. [Data available at police force level](#)

Modern Slavery: National Referral Mechanism statistics: July-Sep 2020 – Published 5 November 2020

Home Office statistics showing an 11% reduction in potential victims of modern slavery were referred into the NRM during the latest quarter 2,506, when compared to the same quarter last year (2,807) but a 14% increase on the previous quarter (2,207). Referral rates remain high compared to levels recorded in previous years. Of the 2,506 potential victims referred during the latest quarter, 65% (1,623) claimed exploitation in the UK only, whilst 24% (603) claimed the exploitation took place overseas only. Just under half (49%) of the referrals were for individuals claiming exploitation as adults, with the remainder claiming exploitation as children (46%). For adult potential victims, labour exploitation was the most common exploitation type, whilst criminal exploitation was most commonly reported for child potential victims. Potential victims from the UK, Albania and Vietnam remain the three most common nationalities referred to the NRM. During this quarter, 485 adults were referred to the Home Office via the Duty to Notify process. [Data available at first responder level.](#)

Evaluation of the modern slavery Local Authority Pathway pilots – 29 October 2020

Home Office evaluation of the modern slavery Local Authority Pathway Pilots which took place across Birmingham, Derby, Croydon, Leeds, Nottingham and Redbridge between April 2018 and March 2020. The report highlights best practice in: locating accommodation near existing NRM safehouses; enabling joint working between NRM support providers and post-NRM service providers; ensuring a sufficient supply of interpreters; taking a needs based approach to the scope and length of post-NRM support and; raising awareness of the needs of modern slavery victims with relevant services and support agencies. The report highlights a number of key recommendations to improve the transition of victims into local services which include early engagement with NRM support providers, greater sharing of information between NRM and post-NRM providers and improved location and availability of housing stock.

An assessment of Independent Child Trafficking Guardians – 29 October 2020

Joint Home Office and Ipsos MORI paper assessing the role of Regional Practice Co-ordinators (RPCs) within the Independent Child Trafficking Guardians (ICTG) service. RPCs were introduced across 6 early adopter sites (Greater Manchester, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, Wales, East Midlands, West Midlands and Croydon) between October 2018 and December 2019 to support potential child victims of trafficking who have a figure of parental responsibility for them in the UK. The assessment found that stakeholders were generally very positive about the RPCs role, with youth offending, social service and police teams being more aware about indicators of child trafficking and exploitation and more confident and able to submit NRM referrals. Positive outcomes for children were also highlighted, with examples of more holistic and needs-based support packages and improved multi-agency working. The paper highlights findings that may be relevant for a future roll-out of the RPC role nationally.

Evaluation of the Child Trafficking Protection Fund – 29 October 2020

Home Office analysis of monitoring and research from projects supported by the £2.2m Child Trafficking Protection Fund since 2017. Whilst all projects delivered positive outcomes, the paper notes that the limited two-year funding stream was challenging, particularly where projects were larger in scale and took longer than planned to set-up. The challenges faced by the projects demonstrated that effective innovation, especially within such complex territories of practice, requires a commitment to longer term funding and support.

Prevent: Public knowledge and interactions – 28 October 2020

Home Office publish findings from an Office for Security and Counter-Terrorism commissioned survey exploring knowledge and attitudes towards Prevent, extremism and signs of radicalisation. The survey found that around 58% of the general public viewed Prevent favourably compared to 8% who viewed it unfavourably. More specifically, 74% of the general public viewed Channel early intervention support favourably, compared to 6% who viewed it unfavourably. 'Professional' respondents appeared to benefit significantly from training when undertaken, particularly in terms of confidence in spotting the signs of radicalisation and in making a referrals.

[Childhood vulnerability to victimisation in England and Wales](#) – 5 November 2020

ONS report on victimisation and negative behaviours of children aged 10 to 15 years living with adult domestic abuse, substance abuse and mental ill-health (the toxic trio) based on findings from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW). An estimated 751,000 (19.3%) of children aged 10 to 15 years are estimated to have been living in households with an adult experiencing one or more of the 'toxic trio' over the previous 12 months. These children were more likely to have been a victim of crime over the previous year than children living in households where the adult did not report mental ill-health (16.7% compared with 10.8%) or domestic abuse (16.1% compared with 10.7%). Violent crime was approximately twice as likely to be experienced by children aged 10 to 15 years living in households with mental ill-health (11.6% compared with 5.4%) or domestic abuse (9.6% compared with 5.4%) than children that did not. Experience of bullying in the last year was also more common among children aged 10 to 15 years living in households with mental ill-health (32.4% compared to 18.1%) or domestic abuse (29.5% compared to 18.1%) than children that did not.

[The impact of the coronavirus pandemic on child welfare: online abuse](#) – October 2020

NSPCC briefing based on insight from NSPCC helpline contacts and Childline counselling sessions

[Safety in custody: year to June 2020](#) – Published 29 October 2020

The number of deaths in prison custody have fallen by 8% in the latest year to 282, of which self-inflicted deaths (70) have fallen by 23%. There were 61,153 self-harm incidents in the year to June 2020, marking no significant change on the previous year. Self-harm incidents recorded in female establishments, however saw a 6% increase. The total number of individuals self-harming remained steady at 12,736. Assault incidents (27,742) have fallen by 19% over the last year, with assaults (9,056) and serious assaults (849) on staff falling by 13% and 16% respectively. Serious prisoner on prisoner assaults (2,370) fell by 21%.

[Prison performance statistics 2019 to 2020](#) - Published 29 October 2020

[Exploring substance use in prisons: a case study approach](#) – Published 28 October 2020

Ministry of Justice paper exploring the wider cultural features of prisons which may have an impact on levels of drug use based on research carried out across 5 closed male prisons.

[Tools for transforming lives: using technology to reduce reoffending](#) – 30 October 2020

Reform report assessing how prisons could use technology to promote desistance and improve resettlement outcomes. It considers why technology is not yet being used to full effect areas for policymakers to consider.

[Proven reoffending statistics: October to December 2018](#) – Published 29 October 2020

Ministry of Justice statistics showing reductions in reoffending rates (28.1%, -0.7% pts) for offenders released from custody, receiving a non-custodial conviction, or a caution in October to December 2018, when compared to the same period in 2017. This includes reductions in reoffending among adults (27.5%, -0.6% pts), juveniles (37.3%, -0.7% pts) and adults released from custodial sentences of less than 12 months (61.0%, -2.1% pts). Theft (51.5%) and public order (36.7%) remain the index offence categories with the highest reoffending rates.

[Offender management statistics quarterly: April to June 2020](#) – Published 29 October 2020

[Payment by Results statistics: October 2015 to December 2019](#) – Published 29 October 2020

Upcoming statistical publications

- Fire and rescue incident statistics to June 2020 – 12 November 2020
- Guilty pleas, Sentencing children and young people – 17 November 2020
- Domestic abuse in England and Wales (ONS) – 25 November 2020
- Individuals referred to and supported through the Prevent Programme 2019/21 – 26 November 2020
- Drug Misuse in England and Wales: year ending March 2020 – 9 December 2020

3. AUDITS AND INSPECTIONS

[Minority ethnic prisoners' experiences of rehabilitation and release planning](#) – 28 October 2020

HMI Prisons thematic report concludes that prison staff had insufficient understanding of BME prisoners' distinct experiences of prison life and how ethnicity might influence their engagement with rehabilitative work. In the inspectorate's interviews, almost no staff considered that ethnicity had an impact on BME prisoners' RRP experiences. Attempts to understand the distinct perspectives of BME prisoners were largely unimaginative and ineffective. There was little evidence that staff understood how experiences of prejudice and discrimination affected the promise of rehabilitative culture for BME prisoners. BME prisoners were not actively involved in defining and refining the concept of rehabilitative culture in their establishments. Male BME prisoners valued the practical help given by key workers but there was too little support with sentence planning and rehabilitation. BME and GRT prisoners had low expectations of rehabilitation and release support, but their perceptions about the support they were receiving were still better than the RRP support actually provided. BME prisoners appeared to be taking advantage of opportunities for education, work and vocational training, but did not feel as encouraged or supported to do so. BME prisoners were also more likely to report completing offending behaviour programmes and most who had completed the programmes said they been helpful. The inspectorate also found insufficient use of data to understand access to activities and rehabilitative interventions, partly due to data rarely being collected or collated, or being held in a variety of locations. Some promising support and programmes were, however, identified including: 'Changing the Game', the 'Traveller Resettlement Project', 'Muslim Women in Prison' and 'Hibiscus Initiatives'.

[Contextual Safeguarding](#) – 5 November 2020

HMI Probation Academic Insights paper concludes that Contextual Safeguarding was designed to change how child protection systems responded to children at risk of significant harm in extra-familial settings. Given the overlap in victimisation and perpetration for many children affected by this issue, the implications for youth justice services is particularly important. In the coming years national policy frameworks will further reflect the practices being tested in local areas and the recommendations for contextual approaches made from inquiries and case reviews. The Contextual Safeguarding framework has been used to provide a language, develop knowledge about common practices, and convert many of those practices into resources, to facilitate system-change. Further work is required to consistently capture and disseminate learning of local innovation and practice in this area – through local area audits, inspections, case reviews and research, for us to have sufficient knowledge of the process for, and impact of, building a contextual response to extra-familial harm.

Upcoming reports and inspection activity

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| • HMIP: Minority ethnic prisoners' experiences of rehabilitation & release planning | 28 October 2020 |
| • Fire and rescue service response to COVID-19 | January 2021 |
| • Policing response to COVID-19 | 2020 – early 2021 |
| • Policing of protests | Underway |
| • HMIC: Crime data integrity (individual force reports) | Ongoing |
| • HMI Prisons: Joint inspection of Police Custody Arrangements | Ongoing |
| • HMICFRS: Police Effectiveness - Child Protection (x6) | Ongoing |
| • HMI Probation: Joint inspection of Youth Offending Teams | Ongoing |

4. REVIEWS AND INQUIRIES

[Multi-agency public protection arrangements annual report: 2019/20](#) – Published 29 October 2020

Annual MAPPA report showing a 3% increase in the number of offenders being managed under MAPPA in the community (85,709) covering in 2019/20, and a 75% increase on levels in 2010. Of these, 62,435 (72.8%) were Category 1 offenders (Registered Sexual Offenders), 22,943 (26.8%) were Category 2 offenders (mainly violent offenders) and 331 (0.4%) were Category 3 offenders (other dangerous offenders). The number of offenders (Level 2 and 3) returned to custody in-year for breaching licence conditions has been increasing over the last two years following decreases between 2006/07 and 2017/18. The number of Serious Further Offence (SFO) charges against MAPPA offenders, meanwhile also increased in 2019/20, but remains lower than levels recorded prior to 2017/18. [Data](#) and [annual reports](#) available at police force level.

[Review of corporate criminal liability laws launched](#) – 3 November 2020

The Government has commissioned an expert review by the Law Commission to consider whether any new offences are required to make it easier for enforcement agencies to prosecute crimes such as fraud, money laundering and false accounting. The Law Commission is expected to present recommendations for reform next year. The review follows a Ministry of Justice [consultation](#) earlier in the year in which the evidence submitted to inform the case for reform of the law on corporate liability for economic crime was inconclusive.

[Undercover Policing Inquiry hearings commence](#) – 2 November 2020

Undercover Policing Inquiry begins hearings with seven days of opening statements, followed by seven days of evidence hearings. Oral statements will be streamed on the Inquiry website and the Inquiry will endeavour to publish the accompanying written statement shortly before the oral statement begins. Recordings of the opening statements will remain available on the Inquiry website. [NPCC comment and opening statement](#)

[The State of the State 2020/21](#) – 3 November 2020

Ninth annual Deloitte and Reform report on the issues facing government and public services across the UK focuses primarily on the impact of the coronavirus pandemic. The Citizen Survey undertaken by Ipsos Mori as part of the report finds that around 58% of the public believe opportunities for young people will worsen as a result of coronavirus. Health, social care and crime were identified as the top three public priorities for investment across public services. Public sector leaders interviewed for the report backed 'levelling up' but felt that definition and devolution are needed to make this happen. Diversity and legitimacy were central concerns for the police leaders interviewed, particularly in the context of the Black Lives Matter movement. Police interviewees also anticipated financial limitations in the years ahead, with one citing the need to deploy officers in roles previously held by civilians on account of the government's prioritisation of increasing officer numbers. Another force highlighted the challenge of retaining skilled cyber security professionals. Policing leaders also expressed concern that cuts in local government may increase policing demand. Attitudes towards the public sector's use of personal data vary by data type, with the public increasingly trusting the NHS with data more than any other part of the public sector. The report concludes that government needs to continue building its data capabilities and skills, pursuing a more data driven approach to policy making while simultaneously building consent with the public and across the public sector.

5. LEGISLATION

Government Bills

[Covert Human Intelligence Sources \(Criminal Conduct\) Bill](#) - Lords Second reading - 11 November 2020

Government bill making provision for a limited number of public authorities to continue to authorise participation in criminality in carefully managed circumstances in the conduct of covert human intelligence. Aims to provide a clear and consistent statutory basis for this longstanding capability which is deemed critical for national security and to prevent and safeguard victims from the most serious crimes such as terrorism and child sexual abuse.

[Fire Safety Bill](#) – Lords Report Stage – 17 November 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](#)

[Counter-Terrorism and Sentencing Bill](#) – Lords Committee Stage – TBA

[Domestic Abuse Bill](#) – Lords Second reading - TBA

[Air Traffic Management and Unmanned Aircraft Bill](#) – Lords Report Stage - TBA

[Serious Violence Bill](#) – Second reading - TBA

[Police Powers and Protections Bill](#) – Second reading - TBA

Private Member's Bills: Recent and upcoming activity

[Prisons \(Substance Testing\) Bill](#) - Commons Committee Stage – TBA

Bill sponsored by Dame Cheryl Gillan to make provision about substance testing in prisons and similar institutions. Received second Reading in House of Commons – 16 October 2020

[Forensic Science Regulator and Biometrics Strategy Bill](#) - Commons Committee stage – 10 Nov 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

[Protest \(Abortion Clinics\) Bill](#) – Second reading in Commons – 8 January 2021

Bill sponsored by Sarah Olney to prohibit anti-abortion protests within 150 metres of abortion clinics; and for connected purposes. Second reading scheduled for 26 June 2020

[Death by Dangerous Driving \(Sentencing\) Bill](#) – Second reading in Commons – 8 January 2021

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

[Assaults on Retail Workers \(Offences\) Bill](#) - Second reading in Commons – 8 January 2021

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.

6. CONSULTATIONS

[Serious Violence Reduction Orders](#)

Home Office consultation on plans to introduce a new court order

Open date: 14/09/2020

Close date: 08/11/2020

[Funding allocation methods: new domestic abuse duty](#)

MHCLG consultation seeking views on the funding allocation methodology for a new duty on local authorities

Open date: 05/10/2020

Close date: 13/11/2020

[Call for evidence: Ethnic disparities and inequality in the UK](#) **NEW**

Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities is seeking views on a range of issues, including: what can be done to improve representation, retention and progression opportunities for people of different ethnic backgrounds in the public sector workforce; what could be done to enhance community relations and perceptions of the police and; the main causes of the disparities in crime between people in different racial and ethnic groups.

Open date: 26/10/2020

Close date: 30/11/2020

[Root and Branch review of the parole system](#)

Ministry of Justice public consultation inviting views on whether victims should be allowed to observe parole hearings and whether the media and wider public could have greater access to hearings.

Open date: 20/10/2020

Close date: 01/12/2020

[Youth Endowment Fund Priorities](#)

Seeking views from stakeholders on priorities for the £200 million ten year programme to prevent children becoming involved in violence. The consultation will help to determine focus funding on through to 2023.

Open date: 07/10/2020

Close date: 01/12/2020

[Reform of the communications offences](#)

Law Commission consultation on proposals to improve protection for victims of harmful online behaviour

Open date: 24/09/2020

Close date: 18/12/2020

[Post-conviction confiscation regime](#)

Law Commission consultation on proposals to improve the process by which confiscation orders are made

Open date: 17/09/2020

Close date: 18/12/2020

[Hate crime laws](#)

Law Commission consultation on reforms to make hate crime laws fairer

Open date: 23/09/2020

Close date: 24/12/2020

[Modern Slavery Offences](#)

Ministry of Justice consultation seeking views on a draft of the first dedicated MS sentencing guidelines under

Open date: 15/10/2020

Close date: 15/01/2021

[Expanding the offence of using a hand-held mobile phone while driving](#)

DfT consultation on proposals to broaden the offence 'using a hand-held mobile phone while driving'

Open date: 17/10/2020

Close date: 17/01/2021