



Welcome to the Commissioner's weekly horizon scanning brief:

1. **Legislation** (Legislation, Home Office, APCC, press comments, reports and campaigns relating to strategy, policy and programmes)
2. **Policing and crime key developments** (relevant crime and criminal justice information and partners' policy/reports/campaigns)
3. **Reports** (covering research across political, economic, social, technological, environmental and organisations)
4. **Consultations** (police and crime bulletins, research, consultations and press releases)
5. **Reviews and Inspections** (covering various reviews, inspections and audits across policing)

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1. Legislation

Modern slavery white paper published - A flagship Bill to tackle modern slavery, the first of its kind in Europe, has been published by the Home Secretary Theresa May.

Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill - Government response. Delegated Powers and Regulatory Reform Committee.

Offender Rehabilitation Bill - Report, together with formal minutes.

Immigration Bill - amendments to be considered at remaining stages

Counter-terrorism Bill Committee Stage Report - This paper has been published for the Report Stage debate on the Counter-Terrorism Bill. The bill is wide-ranging but the most contentious provisions relate to pre-charge detention, post charge questioning and inquests and inquiries.

Criminal Justice and Courts Bill - The Criminal Justice and Courts Bill second reading is on the 24th February.

Pensions Bill: Amendments to be moved on Report

2. Policing and crime key developments

Home Office publishes Police Arbitration Tribunal decision

The Home Office has published the Police Arbitration Tribunal decision: Winsor report, part 2, 2013. The report covers recommendations from the final report of the Winsor review relating to compulsory severance and the management of officers on restricted duties.

[Police.uk interactive film reveals how a burglary is investigated](#)

A new film showing how crime is processed through the criminal justice system has been launched on police.uk.

[Airwave launches 4GMax – high-speed data on demand](#)

Airwave, the leading mission critical voice and data communications provider, has launched 4GMax – secure and resilient high speed data on demand for the emergency services.

MEPs back Budapest as next European Police College seat

Budapest should temporarily host the European Police College (CEPOL), said the Civil Liberties Committee in a vote today. MEPs backed to move the seat of the EU police training body from its current location in Bramshill (UK) to the Hungarian capital, but they urged the European Commission to review this decision by 2019 and put forward a cost-benefit analysis of all possible options.

[Ministers welcome better care for mental health crisis](#)

Emergency support for people in mental health crisis is set to see dramatic improvements across the country as part of a far-reaching new agreement between police, mental health trusts and paramedics.

[Crisis care concordat brings mental health closer to parity of esteem](#)

Dr Geraldine Strathee, NHS England's National Clinical Director for Mental Health, explains why it is so crucial we get emergency mental health care right. It has been created in partnership with committed leaders from across health and social care, police and justice, local government and housing. It is a call to action and driven by the needs and views of people using mental health services, and their families and carers.

[ACPO signs mental health concordat](#)

The Association of Chief Police Officers has signed up to the Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat, the new document setting out best practice in regard to the treatment of offenders with mental health issues.

[New director for College](#)

The College of Policing has appointed current Head of Research, Analysis and Information Rachel Tuffin as Director of Knowledge, Research and Education.

[Labour calls for reform of stop-and-search powers](#)

[Yvette Cooper](#) is writing to [Theresa May](#) today to call for much needed reform of the stop-and-search powers used by the police. She is offering cross-party co-operation to make sure this issue is not kicked into the long grass and this much needed reform is enacted.

3. Reports

[Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Gangs and Groups \(CSEGG\)](#)

The Office of the Children's Commissioner has now completed its two year inquiry and have published a number of reports.

[Local Alcohol Action Areas announced](#)

This project has been launched to combat drink-fuelled crime and disorder and health

harms. Twenty areas across England and Wales are being set up and work will also be focused on promoting diverse night time economies.

£500,000 to help break the silence for male rape victims

The Government has committed £500,000 over the next financial year to provide services, like advice and counselling, to help male victims who previously have not been able to receive such support and encourage them to come forward after experiencing such a crime.

Definition of Business Crime agreed

The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and the National Business Crime Forum have agreed a definition of business crime.

Brake releases new version of support pack for bereaved road crash victims

The charity Brake has released an updated version of its acclaimed support pack for families left devastated by a death on the road in England and Wales. With funding from the Ministry of Justice, the pack has been updated so it's in line with the government's new [Victims' Code](#), which aims to ensure bereaved crime victims get the right support and are treated with respect by criminal justice agencies.

£11 million funding to boost opportunities for young people

41 voluntary and community sector organisations will be granted a total of £11 million to encourage young people to help others through social action.

Home Office announces new surveillance camera commissioner

Tony Porter will take on this role for a three year term from 10th March 2014.

National Crime Agency launches new advice for gay and lesbian teenagers

A re-launch of CEOP's Thinkuknow educational programme includes online safety advice for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) under 18s as well as those using the internet to explore their sexuality further.

Project to train investigators in cyber crime

The College of Policing is investing £2.7m to train 2,000 investigators to help tackle cyber crime between now and April 2015.

Reforms to help reduce reoffending come into force

Reforms will come into force next month that reduce the amount of time some offenders need to disclose details of any low level convictions.

Special Focus: Callsafe Services

Accident statistics from the HSE indicate that significant improvements have been made in health and safety management and standards applied in the workplace over the years. These improvements are in part thanks to effective advice and training for all levels of management, supervision and staff.

Office of National Statistics

Crime Statistics - Focus on Violent Crime and Sexual Offences, 2012/13.

[Alcohol Research UK](#)

Alcohol Misuse and Cognitive Impairment in Older People: An exploratory study.

[Chartered Institute of Waste Management/Street Link](#)

Research into the issues, risks and prevention of people sleeping in waste containers.

[Department for Communities and Local Government](#)

Promoting mobility through mutual exchange: learning lessons from the housing mobility demonstration projects.

[Department for Communities and Local Government](#)

Review of property conditions in the private rented sector.

[Drugscope](#)

State of the Sector 2013.

[Early Intervention Foundation](#)

Domestic Violence and Abuse Review.

[Home Office](#)

Ending gang and youth violence: annual report 2013.

[Home Office](#)

Review of the operation of injunctions to prevent gang-related violence.

[Institute of Public Policy Research](#)

Many to many: How the relational state will transform public services.

[Local Government Association/Public Health England](#)

Public health transformation nine months on - bedding in and reaching out.

[Ministry of Justice](#)

Gender differences in substance misuse and mental health amongst prisoners.

[Ministry of Justice](#)

Prisoners' childhood and family backgrounds.

[Local Government Information Unit](#)

Councils in the Driving Seat? Local authorities and traffic enforcement.

[National Housing Federation](#)

Impact of welfare reforms on housing associations.

[Public Health England](#)

Directors of Public Health in England.

[Royal Society for Public Health](#)

The views of public health teams working in local authorities Year 1.

[Capita to create Scottish IT public services network](#)

A framework contract for the Scottish Wide Area Network (SWAN) has been awarded to Capita, worth up to £325m over nine years for a single public services network. The platform will support the collaboration of schools, hospitals and local council offices to reduce costs, improve services and share data across organisations. NHS Scotland, Education Scotland, Pathfinder North (five local authorities) and Pathfinder South (two local authorities) are the first to commit to the network.

Local digital funding goes to Newcastle and Buckinghamshire

Newcastle and Buckinghamshire councils have won the latest funding from O2's Local Government Digital Fund, to help them tackle social challenges with technology. Newcastle City Council will share £200,000 worth of digital expertise and technology to help young people with special educational needs and adults with learning disabilities become independent travellers; and Buckinghamshire County Council will develop a universal benefit calculator app to help citizens understand the impact of welfare reforms. Over 120 local authorities applied for the funding, with six going through to a Dragons' Den-style pitch. Of these, two winners were chosen to receive support.

Rehabilitation reforms to launch next month

New reforms will cut the amount of time some offenders need to disclose details of any low level convictions, to help cut reoffending. From 10 March, there will also be changes to the way some rehabilitation periods are set. Rehabilitation for community orders and custodial sentences will now comprise the period of the sentence plus an additional specified period rather than all rehabilitation periods starting from the date of conviction.

PM announces details of flood support packages

Details of new funding schemes for homeowners and businesses in floods hit areas have been announced today by the Prime Minister David Cameron.

LGA - Let licensing help reduce £3.5 billion alcohol-related NHS bill

Local areas should be able to limit the opening of late-night pubs, clubs and off licences in areas where alcohol-related health problems are rife.

Research has shown that the NHS is wasting billions of pounds every year on overpriced hospital supplies. A new barcode system launched this month by the Government aims to help managers track buying and make savings (*Times*).

The Privacy Impact Assessment conducted by NHS England has admitted that patient confidentiality could be breached under the introduction of the new central database. Households have been given the chance to opt out from sharing their data as part of the Care Data scheme (*Telegraph*; [BBC Online](#)).

Judges have backed whole-life sentences for "rare or exceptional cases".

The decision has come despite clashes between the UK and the European Court of Human Rights, which states that all sentences must be reviewed after 25 years (*FT*; *Telegraph*; *Times*; *Guardian*; *Independent*).

The Government has announced that from the beginning of March, European immigrants will have to prove they are working in order to claim UK social security benefits. In order to qualify for "worker" status, immigrants will have to retain a job paying at

least £150 a week for at least three months (*FT*; *Independent*).

One in six GPs were asked to refer a patient to a food bank last year, according to a survey by *Pulse*. Rising food poverty has been described by academics as a potential “public health emergency”, while hospital diagnosis of malnutrition has nearly doubled in five years (*Independent*).

There has been a rise in the number of under-18s with mental health problems being treated on adult psychiatric wards due to “inappropriate facilities”. Data from 51 of the 58 NHS mental health trusts in England showed that 350 children have been admitted to adult mental health wards so far in 2013-14, up from 242 two years earlier (*Guardian*; [BBC Online](#)).

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, George Osborne MP, has warned that the UK economy is “not yet secure” and that there are still “hard decisions” to be made. In a speech in Hong Kong, Mr Osborne will also urge Britain to invest and export more, encouraging a balanced growth of the economy not over-reliance on the City for growth (*FT*; *Telegraph*; *Guardian*; [BBC Online](#); *City A.M.*).

Britain’s economic recovery is becoming “more entrenched and broadly based”, according to the Bank of England’s Monetary Policy Committee. The Committee warned however that interest rates are likely to remain stable for the foreseeable future while spare capacity in the economy is absorbed (*Telegraph*).

4. Consultations

[College of Policing’s Strategic Intent](#)

Consultation on ideas and views on this important strategic intent.

[Climate Change - Enforcement and Sanctions Guidance](#)

This consultation explains a proposed approach to enforcement for the European Union Emissions Trading System, CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme and Climate Change Agreements. Closing date 21 March 2014.

[Government announces consultation into surveillance](#)

The Government has announced a consultation on covert surveillance and covert human intelligence sources codes of practice. The consultation runs until 27th March 2014.

[Written statement on Consultation on fees under the Licensing Act 2003](#)

The Minister of State for Crime Prevention (Norman Baker): Has informed Parliament of the publication of a public consultation on the move from centrally-set to locally-set fees under the Licensing Act 2003. The consultation will run for 8 weeks, from 13 February to 10 April.

[Prevention of Offending by Young People](#)

Open date: 05/02/2014

Close date: 30/04/2014

Fees under Licensing Act 2003

The Government is consulting on details of the move from centrally set to locally set fees under the Licensing Act 2003. The consultation is open until 10th April 2014.

5. Reviews and Inspections

HMIC announces new programme of annual inspections

Making best use of police time

Terms of reference for the investigation into the conduct of three Police Federation representatives.

HMIC: Crime Data Integrity. This inspection will examine the effectiveness of the police in dealing with reports of crime by members of the public. The scope is subject to development but is likely to build on the findings of HMIC's previous inspections in this area. Scoping work will include consultation with the Crime Statistics Advisory Committee.

HMIC: Domestic Violence: On 9 September, the Home Secretary commissioned HMIC to look at the effectiveness of the police response to cases of domestic violence and abuse. Started for Nottinghamshire on the 4 November. This is a Home Secretary commissioned Thematic due to be completed by April 2014.

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary

Police Custody: Good practice examples.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

The Home Affairs Committee has announced an inquiry into female genital mutilation (FGM).

Joint inspection of police custody facilities

On 7 January, HMIC announced that under the scrutiny requirements of the UN Optional Protocol against Torture, the UK is obliged to ensure regular and independent inspection of all places of detention.