



## 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 Act** - The Bill received Royal Assent on 13 March. It contains a variety of provisions of significant note to Police and Crime Commissioners, including:

The Legislation slims down the existing 19 powers to tackle ASB to six new powers.

- Of these new powers, the Injunction to Prevent Nuisance and Annoyance (IPNA), is intended to nip emerging Anti-Social Behaviour in the bud and therefore uses the lower civil law standard of proof on the balance of probabilities – a feature which was the focus of some debate during the Bill's progress through Parliament.
- The IPNA also uses a different evidential test – *conduct capable of causing nuisance and annoyance* – from that in the other five powers where the test relates to *behaviour that has caused or is likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress*.

In addition to the six new powers, the Act introduces two new measures to tackle ASB: the Community Remedy; and, the Community Trigger.

- The Community Trigger gives victims and communities a right to request a review of a case and bring agencies together to provide a joined-up response. A summary report of the initial pilots can be found [here](#) with further assessment of each use of a trigger [here](#) The PCC must be consulted in establishing the Trigger procedure and any time the procedure is reviewed. PCCs may also wish to consider an ongoing oversight role.
- The Community Remedy gives victims a say in out of court punishment for offenders in incidents involving low-level crime and Anti-Social Behaviour. There is a duty on the PCC to consult the public and community representatives in establishing the content of the Community Remedy document which must also be published. It is anticipated

that a Community Remedy process will be established by Autumn 2014 in every area, with consultation and publication complete.

Police and Crime Commissioners will play a key role in convening agencies to build these measures locally, and in designing what they may include.

This is also the Act which widens the commissioning powers available to PCCs, including those that PCCs will be able to use in their victims' commissioning from October 2014 and further defines the role of the College of Policing.

The Act additionally includes provisions on extradition, forced marriage, firearms and dangerous dogs.

## **Offender Rehabilitation Bill** – Received Royal Assent.

The Offender Rehabilitation Bill today received Royal Assent. It provides many of the measures which underpin the Transforming Rehabilitation programme, including:

- provisions to provide rehabilitative services to offenders sentenced to short term sentences
- new drug requirements expanding post-release or community based drug testing
- a new Rehabilitation Activity Requirement providing greater flexibility to new rehabilitative service providers to develop innovative rehabilitative approaches, and,
- requiring specific provision to be in place to meet the needs of female offenders.

## **Immigration Bill - amendments to be considered at remaining stages**

## **Children and Families Act 2014 receives Royal Assent**

The new Children and Families Act - given royal assent today - will mean changes to the law to give greater protection to vulnerable children, better support for children whose parents are separating, a new system to help children with special educational needs and disabilities, and help for parents to balance work and family life.

## **International Development (Gender Equality) Act**

Received Royal Assent to promote gender equality in the provision by the Government of development assistance and humanitarian assistance to countries outside the United Kingdom; and for connected purposes.

**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 24<sup>th</sup> February.

## **Pensions Bill: Amendments to be moved on Report**

## **SI 2014 No. 239 The Police Act 1997 (Criminal records) (Amendment) Regulations 2014**

This statutory instrument was laid before Parliament on 13 February and comes into force on 10 March. It concerns fees for criminal conviction certificates.

## MEPs tighten up rules to protect personal data in the digital era

MEPs inserted stronger safeguards for EU citizens' personal data that gets transferred to non-EU countries in a major overhaul of the EU's data protection laws voted on Wednesday. The new rules aim both to give people more control over their personal data and to make it easier for firms to work across borders, by ensuring that the same rules apply in all EU member states. MEPs also increased the fines to be imposed on firms that break the rules, to up to €100 million or 5% of global turnover.

## 2. Policing and crime key developments

### **Budget 2014**

The Chancellor's full statement is [here](#).

Budget Statement documents are [here](#).

Police related headlines:

- The Treasury have confirmed that police allocations that have been set out for 2014-15 will not be changed.
- Inheritance tax waived for members of emergency services who give their lives in job.
- The government will introduce new employer contribution rates for the Police Pension Scheme (E&W) applying from 1st April 2015.

### Policing Minister Damian Green addresses the APPC general meeting

Speech by Policing Minister Damian Green to the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners general meeting.

### Criminals are choosing jail instead of paying up to £490 million in confiscation orders say committee of MPs

The Rt Hon [Margaret Hodge](#) MP, Chair of the Committee of Public Accounts, said:

"Crime should not pay, but we found too many criminals who are subject to an order to confiscate the proceeds of crime choosing to spend extra time in prison rather than paying up. £490 million is owed by criminals who have served or are serving more time in prison for non-payment. This suggests these sentences provide little deterrence and that the sanctions are not working and need toughening up.

**Damian Green:** The College of Policing training package on stalking has been completed 48,897 times between October 2012 and 28 February 2014.

### Appointments to PNB and PABEW confirmed

Downing Street has confirmed that [John Randall](#) has been reappointed as chair of the Police Negotiating Board and Elizabeth France is the new chair of the Police Advisory Board for England and Wales.

IPCC investigating Greater Manchester Police whistleblower allegations

The Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) has launched three investigations into Greater Manchester Police (GMP) following allegations made by an officer serving in the force.

## 3. Reports

### [Government risks immigrant controls being sidestepped, says committee](#)

The House of Commons has published its report on the work of the Immigration Directorates, covering the period from April to September 2013. This report continues previous assessment of the performance of the UKBA. The Government did not commission an estimate of the number of Romanians and Bulgarians likely to come to the UK after 1 January 2014. The Committee has seen no evidence to suggest that there has been a discernible increase in migration from Romania and Bulgaria. For any future enlargements, the Migration Advisory Committee should be tasked by the Government to provide an estimate of the numbers arriving in our country

### [DV briefing informs officers' decision-making](#)

Learning document outlines implications of new legislation for information disclosure in public protection incidents. A briefing document outlining the details and implications of an information disclosure scheme relating to historic domestic violence has been released by the College of Policing.

### [Minister urges police and crime commissioners to sign up to controversial measure to bring in "fresh perspectives".](#)

Direct entry will transform police culture with "fresh perspectives from other walks of life" and stop the view that policing is a "closed shop", the policing minister Damian Green has said.

### [Chiefs 'worried by years of austerity'](#)

Senior officers must discuss the financial future of the Police Service with ministers because "you cannot keep cutting policing forever", a chief constable has been claimed. Chief Constable Nick Gargan (pictured) - the national lead for finance.

### [Analysts voice alarm at recent developments in policing - and highlight that structures are ripe for change.](#)

A "climate of fear" in the Police Service is preventing senior officers from speaking out about critical issues, according to senior professionals, and action is needed to deal with the issue. Senior law enforcement professionals have warned.

### [Out-of-court payout, following claims of excessive force, understood to be five figures.](#)

Merseyside Police has reached an out-of-court settlement with a man who claimed to have been assaulted by an officer while he was held in custody.

### **DCLG opts for LGA to manage the Audit Commission's £85 million audit contracts when it closes**

After the Audit Commission closes at the end of March 2015, contracts for audit services will be managed by an independent, private company to be created by the Local Government Association (LGA).

### [Successful bids announced for £10 million capital funding to support drug and alcohol recovery](#)

New government investment of £10 million has been awarded to services that are supporting drug and alcohol recovery across England. The capital funding is being distributed by Public

Health England (PHE) via local authorities to service providers that support projects which contribute towards helping their clients to overcome dependency from drugs and alcohol.

## Mayor welcomes landmark EU vote on lorry safety

The European Parliament's Transport Committee today (Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March) voted in favour of proposed changes to the vehicle Weights & Dimensions Directive. This would mean lorry cabs can be redesigned to reduce blind spots and thus improve the direct vision of the driver.

## Five times more sanctions than jobs on government's work programme says PCS

The government's flagship scheme for the long-term unemployed is delivering five times more benefit sanctions than jobs, the Public and Commercial Services union says as the latest figures are published.

## Over a quarter of a million people escape long-term unemployment thanks to the Work Programme

The Work Programme, launched in June 2011, has overhauled how the very hardest-to-help people are supported off benefits and into work by providing tailored support for people who are at risk of becoming long-term unemployed.

## Labour Market statistics

Employment, unemployment, economic inactivity, claimant count, average earnings, labour productivity, vacancies and labour disputes statistics.

## Unemployment falls by 63,000

- The number of people in employment increased by 105,000 on the quarter and by 459,000 on the year to reach 30.19 million for November 2013 to January 2014.
- The number of unemployed people fell by 63,000 on the quarter and by 191,000 on the year to reach 2.33 million for November 2013 to January 2014.
- For November 2013 to January 2014 pay including bonuses was 1.4% higher than a year earlier.

**The Chancellor of the Exchequer, George Osborne MP, is set to make his Budget statement in the House of Commons at 12:30pm today.** In addition to raising the personal income tax allowance, Mr Osborne is expected to announce measures to encourage house building, and provide the stimulus for growth in his Budget statement today ( *FT*; *Telegraph*; [BBC Online](#); *City AM*).

**The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development has found that British workers have the shortest retirement in the EU despite increases in life expectancy.** Men in the UK spend on average 19.1 years while women spend on average 22.1 years in retirement ( *Telegraph*; *Mail*).

**The current one pound coin is to be replaced by a harder to forge, 12 sided alternative.** It is hoped that the new currency, which is expected to go into circulation in 2017, will ultimately save taxpayers money by cutting down on fraud ( *FT*; *Telegraph*; *Guardian*; *Independent*; [BBC Online](#); *City A.M.*).

## [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.

## [Community engagement](#)

NICE is developing public health guideline Community Engagement (update of PH9)

All registered stakeholders for the above public health guideline are invited to comment on the draft scope. Closing date 19/03/2014.

## [Wales Rural Development Programme 2014-2020: Final Proposals](#)

This consultation invites comments on the Welsh Government's strategy and priorities for the delivery of the Wales Rural Development Programme 2014-2020. Closing date 14/04/2014.

## [Interventions to reduce substance misuse among vulnerable young people](#)

NICE are undertaking a consultation to decide if this guidance needs to be updated. The consultation runs until 28 February 2014.

## [UK Commission for Employment and Skills \(UKCES\) triennial review 2014: call for evidence](#)

Open date: 24/02/2014

Close date: 14/03/2014

## [Proposal to Authorise Motor Sport Events on Public Roads](#)

Open date: 27/02/2014

Close date: 10/04/2014

## [Child poverty: a draft strategy](#)

Open date: 27/02/2014

Close date: 22/05/2014

## [Call for evidence: transport investment and economic performance](#)

Open date: 24/02/2014

Close date: 24/03/2014



## **Wildlife legislation in England: General and Class Licences**

Open date: 24/02/2014

Close date: 19/05/2014

## **Alcohol: preventing harmful alcohol use in the community**

Open date: 27/02/2014

Close date: 27/03/2014

## **World Cup licensing hours – consultation**

The government is consulting on whether to relax licensing hours nationally to mark England's participation in the FIFA World Cup 2014. The purpose of any national relaxation of licensing hours during the World Cup would be to enable all pubs and other on-trade premises to sell alcohol and late night refreshment to people watching England's World Cup matches live. The consultation is from 13-26 March 2014.

## **5. Reviews and Inspections**

### **Promising practice: HMIC 'to provide examples to College'**

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) is poised to work more closely with the College of Policing in future to ensure that examples of promising practice identified during its fieldwork are channelled into an online knowledge

**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.