



## 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. **Strategic policing and crime news** (relevant crime and criminal justice information and partners' policy/reports/campaigns)
3. **Developments and 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

### **Criminal Justice and Courts Bill**

On 10 November the Government accepted an amendment at the Lords Third Reading of the Criminal Justice and Courts Bill to give 17 year olds detained in police custody the same rights as children aged 10-16. The Bill is expected to gain Royal Assent in the Spring of 2015.

### **[Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014](#)**

New tools and powers, with the exception of Civil Injunction, come into effect.

### **[Dangerous dogs: tough new law to prevent attacks](#)**

Police and local authorities are to be given new legal powers to tackle irresponsible dog ownership.

### **[Home Office](#)**

Serious Crime Bill overview.

### **[Home Office](#)**

Statutory instruments plan.

### **[Consumers given new weapon in fight against rogue traders](#)**

Consumers will have greater powers to challenge unscrupulous rogue traders and get their money back under new rights.

### **[Fraud, bribery and money laundering offences guideline comes into effect](#)**

Following a period of training and implementation the definitive guideline on fraud, bribery and money laundering offences came into effect from 1st October 2014.

### **[Serious Crime Bill](#)**

## [The Modern Slavery Bill](#)

### **Social Action, Responsibility and Heroism Bill**

The Public Bill Committee is expected to report to the House by **14 October 2014**.

## [Upcoming secondary legislation published](#)

### [Lords invited to endorse Government application to re-join EU justice and home affairs measure](#)

On Monday 17 November, the House of Lords will be invited to endorse the Government's decision to apply to re-join 35 EU justice and home affairs measures, including the European Arrest Warrant, which, along with some 95 other measures, the Government has opted out of with effect from 1 December 2014.

## 2. Strategic policing and crime news

### [HMIC: Crime-recording: making the victim count](#)

The national average rate of under-recording of crime is almost one in five, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) has found in its report, 'Crime-recording: making the victim count'.

### [ACPO and Labour comment on HMIC crime recording](#)

Police record over three million crimes against victims every year. It is important that those crimes are recorded accurately so that the police can take the right action for each victim of crime.

### [PEEL 2014 consultation response](#)

HMIC has published the response to points raised about the PEEL (police effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy) 2014 assessments during our consultation.

### [Ministry of Justice announces crackdown on violence in prisons](#)

The new joint protocol produced by the Prison Service, Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) will set out that when there are serious assaults on prison staff, the perpetrators will be prosecuted unless there is a good reason why not.

### [Five year strategy for College of Policing](#)

The College of Policing published its five year strategy.

### [Review of police leadership](#)

The College of Policing have announced that the review of police leadership is now underway. The review will examine the leadership needed for the next five to 10 years and it will also consider challenges beyond 2025. It will include all ranks and staff levels and will be evidence based, drawing on practice from the private, public and third sectors.

### [Theresa May makes written statement to Parliament on police reform](#)

## 3. Developments and reports

### [Date announced for dissolution of Parliament in 2015](#)

The Leader of the House has announced that, subject to the progress of business, the last sitting day of Parliament before the dissolution prior to the General Election will be on Thursday March 26th 2015. The General Election will be on Thursday, May 7th 2015.

## **Home Office plans next stage of engagement with suppliers on ESN**

The Home Office today announced it would be engaging with suppliers on detailed requirements for the new Emergency Services Network (ESN).

## **Police chief: We need the help of ordinary citizens to protect the UK from terrorists**

Countering terrorism has for too long been thought of as the preserve of the police, security agencies and government, says National Policing Lead for Counter-Terrorism, Assistant Commissioner Mark Rowley.

## **European Scrutiny committee report on The European Police College**

The European Police College — CEPOL — is an EU Agency based in Budapest responsible for providing training and learning opportunities for senior police officers on the European dimension of policing. A Commission proposal to merge the operational police cooperation know-how of Europol (the Hague-based European Police Office) with the training expertise of CEPOL through the creation of a single EU Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation and Training was abandoned earlier this year, as a result of opposition by the Council and the European Parliament. Europol and CEPOL will continue to operate as independent EU Agencies.

## **Home Secretary speaks at APCC Partnership Summit**

Theresa May speaks at Association of Police and Crime Commissioners' event in Harrogate.

## **Policing Minister visits Police Treatment Centre**

Policing Minister [Mike Penning](#) visited the Police Treatment Centre in Harrogate, where he toured the facilities and met officers whose lives have been rebuilt by the work of the centre.

## **Opposition Day debate on EU Justice and Home Affairs Measures**

The motion to rejoin 35 European Union Justice and Home Affairs measures, including the European Arrest Warrant was carried by a majority of 392 after a vote on an opposition motion.

## **UPSi**

Changing The Beat? The Impact of Austerity on the Neighbourhood Policing Workforce

## **Police Innovation Fund for 2015/16 bid forms published**

Following an event the previous day, the Police Innovation Fund bidding form and assessment criteria for 2015/16 were published on 7 November. The four criteria: are transforming policing through innovation; enhancing collaboration; delivering efficiencies; and being locally owned and monitored. The deadline is 5pm on Friday 2 January.

## **'Policing online as important as policing on the streets' says ACPO's deputy child abuse lead**

The Marie Collins Foundation has teamed up with BT to launch a ground-breaking partnership aimed at training all frontline professionals helping to provide the appropriate support for children and families who have suffered abuse or exploitation online.

## **Preferred bidders of prison services competition announced**

The Ministry of Justice has today (18 November 2014) revealed the preferred bidders for the management of a range of works, maintenance and facilities management services across public sector prisons.

## **Cautions at lowest level for 30 years as sentences increase**

The use of cautions has dropped by more than a third from 260,513 in the 12 months to June 2010, to 169,094 in the 12 months to June 2014. This included a drop of 11% from year ending June 2013, when there were 190,051 issued.

## **Bluelight integration projects highlighted in new national report**

The Emergency Services Collaboration Working Group has published its most comprehensive overview report of the current collaborative projects between bluelight services in England and Wales.

## **Use of police cells as Places of Safety must end, says Minister**

The use of police cells for people awaiting treatment for mental illness must become a thing of the past if we are to achieve true equality for mental health, according to Care and Support Minister Norman Lamb.

## **999 mobile calls now 4,000 times more easy to pinpoint**

A new service developed by BT, EE and HTC can pinpoint the source of 999 calls from mobile phones 4,000 times more accurately than the current system - to a radius of 30 metres or less - crucially cutting the handling time for the emergency services. About 60% of 999 and 112 calls in the UK are now made from a mobile - 22 million calls a year or 60,000 a day - all of which are handled by BT call centres. Currently, emergency services are only able to identify approximate locations of callers to within a few square kilometres.

## **Call for volunteers proves a success**

Local residents in Cleveland were given the chance to get involved in helping the criminal justice system earlier this week, during the region's annual Criminal Justice Volunteer Fair.

## **Officers attacked during massive London protest**

Ten people have been arrested following the 'Million Mask March', the anti-capitalist protest which took place in London earlier this month.

## **Rotherham - Jay Report exposes a litany of local government and Ofsted failure, says CLG Committee**

The Jay Report into child sexual exploitation in Rotherham reveals systemic failures in local council scrutiny, governance, and leadership that has lessons for local government in England. The Report also highlights serious flaws in the Ofsted inspection regime, says the Communities and Local Government (CLG) Committee.

## **Councils must learn from Rotherham exploitation scandal, say MPs**

Local authorities across England have been urged to review their procedures in light of 'systemic failures' at Rotherham Council exposed by the [town's child sex abuse scandal](#).

## **Local government too slow to tackle child exploitation warns Ofsted**

Too many councils are ill equipped to prevent child sexual exploitation, they lack leadership on the issue and efforts to work in partnership are 'disjointed'.

## **Council uses 'innovative legal approach' to protect vulnerable woman**

Birmingham City Council has secured injunctions against a number of men in what it described as a 'ground-breaking approach' to protect vulnerable people.

## **Report: safeguarding services key to protecting children visiting prisons**

A greater focus on providing specialist support for children with parents in prison is needed to ensure they are kept safe, a report has found.

## **Commissioner for Transport Violeta Bulc makes road safety a priority in EU transport policy**

On the 16<sup>th</sup> November - the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims, Violeta Bulc, the EU's Transport Commissioner made a statement. "Road safety has been one of the great European success stories and our roads are much safer today than they were some twenty years ago. But our work cannot stop here! More than 26, 000 people still die on our roads every year, and many more suffer horrific road traffic injuries".

## **Academic research reveals Dry January leads to less drinking all year round**

Research shows that Alcohol Concern's annual campaign leads to a reduction in drinking all year round.

## **Legal Aid for defendants in civil injunction cases**

The Ministry of Justice is consulting with legal professionals on changes to legal aid that will allow them to be paid for defending these cases.

## **Support for victims**

Victims' Commissioner, Baroness Newlove is conducting a series of reviews into services that criminal justice agencies provide to victims.

## **DCLG fails to understand impact of council cuts, says watchdog**

The Government department responsible for local authorities has 'limited understanding' of the pressure cutbacks are having on councils, the spending watchdog has warned.

## **Councils face challenge over 'longstanding injustice' in homeless services**

A Supreme Court case could change the way councils decide if someone is 'vulnerable' enough to be re-housed, homeless charities are warning.

## **National Audit Office report on financial sustainability in local authorities 2014**

The NAO finds that although local authorities have coped well with funding reductions, there are signs of financial stress, with over a quarter of single tier local authorities and counties making unplanned spending reductions to deliver their 2013/14 budgets. There are significant differences in the scale of reductions faced by local authorities (depending of course on their reliance on government grant). Local authorities have tried to protect spending on social care, but other services (housing, culture and leisure services) have seen much greater reductions

## **National Audit Office report on financial sustainability of the NHS**

This report is not directly about police finance but has been released at a time when the National Audit Office (NAO) is also looking at financial sustainability of the police service so may be of interest.

## [Alcohol Research UK/The Alcohol Academy](#)

One too many? Sales to drunk customers, Policy, Enforcement and Responsibility.

## [Home Office](#)

Serious and organised crime local profiles: a guide

## [Time limit for treatment](#)

A report by the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD). It found that imposing a time limit on drug users' access to heroin substitute treatment would increase the possibility of relapse and could drive up crime.

## [Department of Communities and Local Government](#)

Net supply of housing in England: 2013 to 2014.

## [Financial framework for Troubled Families programme published](#)

The financial framework to cover the expanded Troubled Families programme payment-by-results scheme was published on 14 November.

## [Fire and Rescue bulletins published](#)

On 4 November, the latest issue of the fire and rescue bulletin was published. It covers bonfire night, generic risk assessment 3.6 and the future control rooms services scheme.

## [£24 million to support witnesses in court](#)

It was announced by MoJ that Citizens Advice has secured £24 million of MOJ funding to provide the court-based Witness Service.

## [Home Office](#)

Surveillance camera code of practice: self assessment tool

## [Policy Exchange](#)

Freeing Housing Associations: Better financing, more homes

## [House of Commons Political and Constitutional Reform Committee](#)

Voter engagement in the UK.

## [Sharp fall in number of young people not in education, employment or training \(NEET\)](#)

The number of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) in England has fallen to its lowest level for the July to September period since 2007, according to official figures published today.

## [Welfare reforms fail to deliver expected savings finds report](#)

The Government's programme of welfare reforms has fallen way short of its target to reduce spending by £19bn this year – opening the door to further benefit cuts.

## [Council workers accept improved pay offer from LGA](#)

Council workers have voted to accept a pay offer put forward by the Local Government Association, heading off the possibility of further strikes. Members of Unison, Unite and the GMB agreed to a two-year deal worth an average of 2.35%, having rejected an earlier 1% offer.



## **Report: children's social care being pushed to the brink**

'An ever-shrinking envelope of resources' is putting children's services under pressure and councils will not be able to absorb more cuts without it affecting provision, a report has warned.

## **Council approves £100m regeneration scheme**

Approval has been given for a £100m regeneration programme to transform a former mining area in the Forest of Dean.

## **Toolkit launched to promote 20mph driving limit**

Road safety charity Brake has produced a free 'toolkit' to help local authorities encourage drivers to go 20mph or below in towns and villages.

## **Report urges improved integration in early years' services**

'Fragmented and complex' services for young children are leading to missed opportunities for families, according to a new report.

## **Serco's chair resigns, takes blame for crisis**

The chair of Serco has fallen on his sword, taking "ultimate responsibility" for the string of "operational mis-steps" that have hit the business, announcing he will step down.

## **800 MoD staff take part in four-day strike**

Eight hundred defence workers have started a four-day strike today, in a dispute over pay.

## **First two Welsh councils move closer to voluntary merger**

Conwy and Denbighshire are moving closer to becoming the first Welsh councils to merge as part of the Assembly's plan of voluntary mergers, with the deadline for expressions of interest in the scheme approaching fast.

## **Gloucester councils propose the sharing of senior staff**

Local authorities in Gloucester are looking to form a new partnership between city and county councils through senior staff, having shared roles between the two.

## **Spending on agency social workers increases by a third, costing £1.8m per council**

Local authority spending on agency social workers has increased by nearly a third in just one year, with it now costing £1.8m per council. FOI requests by Community Care found that the average UK council spent £1.2m on agency workers in children's services and £647,247 in adults' services in 2013-14.

## **DWP announces Universal Credit guidance for social landlords**

A package of guidance for social landlords to help them prepare themselves and their tenants for Universal Credit has gone live today, the Department for Work and Pensions has announced.

## **Manchester Skills Gateway aims to boost public sector business**

Greater Manchester has become the first region to use European funding to develop a new, free skills service for public service providers. The Greater Manchester Skills Gateway aims to build on the sector's success by giving companies complimentary access to a pool of over 250 training providers.

## **Voting shake up needed to reinvigorate democracy, say MPs**

Compulsory voting in elections, handing 16 year olds the vote and greater devolution have been proposed by MPs as ways to deal with the 'crisis' facing democracy in the UK.

## **Pickles told to respect Tower Hamlets democracy**

Supporters of embattled Tower Hamlets LBC mayor Lutfur Rahman have held a rally as the Government threatens to intervene in the running of the council.

## **Value of outsourcing deals increases in local government**

The value of outsourcing deals in local government increased by 164% during the third quarter of 2014 compared to the same period last year, new figures reveal.

## **Unions accept 2.2% pay offer**

Trade unions have accepted a salary increase of 2.2%, ending the **long-running pay dispute**.

## **Late payment penalties could cost councils millions warns MP**

Local authorities have been warned they could face millions of pounds in fines unless they prepare for changes in procurement legislation.

## **Lincoln could be first to ban legal highs in city**

Legal highs and drinking in public could be banned under proposals being considered by the City of Lincoln Council.

## **Home support is key to cutting hospital readmissions, says report**

Older people who leave hospital without enough support at home are more than twice as likely to be readmitted within three months, research has found.

## **Councils should prioritise healthy ageing or risk postcode lottery warns report**

Local authorities have been urged to shape health and wellbeing strategies around eight priority areas to ensure efforts to prepare for an ageing population are not sidelined by short-term targets and cutbacks.

## **UK 'sleepwalking' towards crisis in children's mental health, warns charity**

Children's mental health has got worse over the last year or 'remained persistently bleak', according to 90% of frontline professionals.

## **Report: Freedom, flexibility and long-term thinking key to closing north-south divide**

Councils would have a better chance of closing the north-south divide if Government gave growth initiatives enough time to prove themselves and allowed areas the freedom to adapt schemes to local circumstances.

## **Pickles to scrutinise Notts energy centre proposal**

Communities minister, Eric Pickles, has told Nottinghamshire County Council not to approve a new Energy Centre in Bilsthorpe while he considers calling in the application.

## **4. Consultations**



## Offences against the person

The Law Commission is consulting on 'Offences against the person'. The consultation runs until 11th February 2015.

## Changes to the police disciplinary system

This consultation seeks views on proposals for changes to the police disciplinary system, and strengthening protections for police whistleblowers. Closes 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2-15.

23rd January 2015 - *Robbery sentencing guideline*

31st January 2015 - *Guidance for healthcare professionals on information sharing*

11th February 2015 - *Offences against the person*

## English indices of deprivation

The Government is updating the indices of deprivation for publication in the summer of 2015. They are consulting on final proposals for updating the indices. The consultation closes on 19th December 2014.

## Consultation on revisions to PACE Codes

Open date: 14/11/2014

Close date: 06/02/2015

## Use of Expert Witnesses in Courts in NI

Open date: 13/11/2014

Close date: 20/02/2015

## Judicial Pensions Regulations (NI) 2015 - Transitional and Consequential Amendments to PSPA

Open date: 12/11/2014

Close date: 12/01/2015

## Proposals to amend regulations relating to the use of capital receipts

Seeking views on proposed amendments to the regulations governing the use of receipts arising from the disposal of council housing assets and use of the receipt arising from such disposals. The consultation proposes that the existing arrangements are retained for 2015 to 2016 and 2016 to 2017 with adaptations to take account of possible housing stock transfers and errors made in the calculations for previous years. Closes 19<sup>th</sup> December.

## College of Policing and HM Government

Out of court disposals: consultation outcome.

## HM Inspectorate of Prisons – stakeholder survey

Each year HM Inspectorate of Prisons conducts a survey of its stakeholders, in order to gather feedback on its activities, and to inform future policy and practice. Our 2014 survey is now ready and we would very much welcome your views. Closing date 3 December.

## UK Borders Act 2007: sanctions for non-compliance with the biometric registration regulations

This consultation seeks comments on amendments to the code of practice following the extension of the biometric immigration document scheme for overseas applicants. Consultation closes on the 23 December 2014.

## [Open consultation on local policing accountability, leadership and ethics](#)

The Committee on Standards in Public Life (the Committee) has commenced an open consultation on local policing – accountability, leadership and ethics. Closes 30 November 2014.

## [Robbery guideline consultation](#)

The Sentencing Council has launched a consultation on the draft guideline on robbery. The consultation closes 23rd January 2015.

## [Consultation on Victim Charter May 2014](#)

Open date: 14/10/2014

Close date: 14/12/2014

## [Plans for Secure College rules consultation](#)

Consultation closes on 27 November 2014.

## [Proposed merger of the local justice areas in North Yorkshire](#)

This consultation was published on 1 October and closes on 31 December. Yorkshire.

## [Adult social work: knowledge and skills](#)

Open date: 10/10/2014

Close date: 12/12/2014

## 5. Reviews and Inspections

### [IPCC to investigate ten officers following Rotherham scandal](#)

The Independent Police Complaints Commission is launching an investigation into the conduct of ten South Yorkshire officers in relation to their handling of reported child sexual exploitation.

### [IPPC: monthly update about the investigations into the Hillsborough disaster](#)

### [HMIC: Crime recording thematic to be published](#)

### [IPCC investigates force that gave killer back his guns](#)

The Independent Police Complaints Commission is investigating Surrey Police's decision to return confiscated licensed guns to a man who went on to kill two women.

### [West Midlands Police inspected on child protection](#)

HM Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) has today published an inspection report into the child protection work carried out by West Midlands Police, following an inspection in June 2014.

### [2014 Value for money profiles](#)

HMIC has published the latest value for money profiles which provide comparative data on a wide range of policing activities.

### [HMIC Website](#)

Published the first 2014 PEEL update.