



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, reviews, inspections and audits across policing and crime)
4. **Consultations** (police and crime bulletins, research, consultations and press releases)

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1. Legislation

[Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill - Commons Library Research Paper](#)

The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill will receive its second reading in House of Commons on 10 June 2013.

[Damian Green announces proposals for new legislation for undercover policing operations](#)

All long-term undercover policing operations will be independently authorised under government plans has been announced. Minister for Policing Damian Green unveiled the proposals for new secondary legislation at the Home Affairs Select Committee. It means the [Office for Surveillance Commissioners \(OSC\)](#) will be notified at the start of all undercover police deployments – and must approve any lasting beyond 12 months.

[The Public Accounts Select Committee has published its report *Public engagement in policy making*](#)

In a report, the Commons Public Administration Select Committee (PASC) calls for a “wiki” approach to policy-making, where public opinion, ideas and contributions are sought and welcome at any and all stages of the policy cycle. PASC says that Government should be able to demonstrate that it has adopted this approach alongside ministerial leadership and responsibility for policy and its outcomes.

[Second reading \(Commons\) of the Pensions Bill](#)

The **Pensions Bill** was given an unopposed second reading in the Commons and now goes to a Public Bill committee for further scrutiny.

[Committee stage \(Lords\) \(Day 1\) of the Local Audit and Accountability Bill](#)

The Local Audit and Accountability Bill was presented to the Grand Committee in the Lords and will be again on June 19.

[Implementation of a tax exemption for employer expenditure on health-related interventions recommended by the new health and work assessment and advisory service](#)

On 20 March 2013 the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced that employers that help their employees to return to work after periods of sickness will get new support through the tax system. This announcement followed the DWP and BIS commissioned report "[Health at work – an independent review of sickness absence](#)" by Dame Carol Black and David Frost CBE, which was published in November 2011. The report's headline recommendation was the creation of a health and work assessment and advisory service that will conduct a health assessment when an individual has been on sick leave for four weeks, and provide advice on how they can return to work. The government has accepted this recommendation and the new service will commence during 2014.

2. Policing and crime key developments

[Criminal use of police cells? Section 136 joint report](#)

Police custody is regularly being used to detain people whose only 'crime' is that they are suffering from a mental disorder, a joint inspection has found. HM Inspectorates of Constabulary and Prisons, the Care Quality Commission, and the Healthcare Inspectorate Wales call for changes to ensure fewer people with mental disorders are detained in police custody.

The Home Affairs Select Committee has announced that its inquiry into [Police and Crime Commissioners](#) will begin in November.

[Provision of appropriate adults to 17 year olds](#)

Revised guidance for the provision of appropriate adults to 17 year olds following a Judicial Review ruling.

[Landscape review of police accountability](#)

The National Audit Office has announced it will be undertaking a review of recent changes to financial accountability for police forces in England and Wales. It will address the roles and responsibilities of central and local bodies and explore local practices in terms of reforms.

The Home Affairs Select Committee has published its report [Child Exploitation and the response to localised grooming](#).

[Figures reveal Kent 'institutional bias'](#)

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary has issued a report highlighting flaws in the collation of Kent Police's crime and resolution figures after an investigation commissioned by PCC Ann Barnes.

[Chief's operational independence essential, says Sir Hugh](#)

ACPO President Sir Hugh Orde has commented on Service governance following recent reported tensions between Chief Constables and Police and Crime Commissioners.

[Met criticised for 'failing' FGM victims](#)

Metropolitan Police officers have been criticised by MPs for failing to put girls in the capital at danger of female genital mutilation on the child protection register.

[Finding the middle ground: keeping the public safe, while respecting their privacy](#)

Yuval Ben-Moshe, senior forensics technical director at Cellebrite, looks at the new lines drawn in the 'privacy versus security' debate.

[IPCC issues national firearms recommendations](#)

The IPCC has published national recommendations, following an investigation into firearms licensing issues at Durham Constabulary.

[Inspectorate commends Essex domestic abuse improvements](#)

HMIC has found positive changes in the way Essex Police handles domestic abuse cases, following an investigation prompted by a number of tragic murders of women in the county.

[Government restores 'privacy in pubs' by ending blanket CCTV snooping demands](#)

Blanket use of surveillance in pubs has ended Community Pubs Minister Brandon Lewis has announced. Councils imposing the use of surveillance cameras in pubs will now be subject to a new stricter code of practice that will strike a proper balance between privacy and security. The change comes following concerns from pub landlords and the public that licensing authorities are making CCTV a legal condition of every pub licence as a matter of course. The Information Commissioner's office, the UK's privacy watchdog, has said it was seriously concerned by the development.

[The Home Secretary has praised the work of the Ahmadiyya Muslim community in fighting extremism across the UK](#)

Speaking in the House of Commons on Tuesday (11 June), the Home Secretary said the organisation's philosophy of 'Love for All and Hatred for None' was exemplified by its condemnation of the horrific murder of Drummer Lee Rigby in Woolwich.

[Crime fighters rewarded in Neighbourhood and Home Watch celebration](#)

Local crime fighting volunteers from across England and Wales have been recognised in the National Neighbourhood and Home Watch Awards. Lord Taylor of Holbeach congratulated the winners. Winners include OSCAR Neighbourhood Watch in Derby which was recognised for vastly improving the relationships between residents and the police. Sussex Neighbourhood Watch search team was also selected for the 'innovation award' for a team of 380 volunteers who carried out a 436-day search for missing vulnerable persons and property in the area, helping bolster the police enquiry.

[European Arrest Warrant data](#)

This written ministerial statement was laid in the House of Commons on 20 June 2013.

[New rights for journalists and bloggers to film council meetings](#)

The Government has published a new guide for local people explaining how they can attend and report their local council meetings.

Siim Kallas (Vice-President of the European Commission) speech: [Making Europe's roads safer: the way ahead](#)

[Deleted Snapchat Photo Recovered 'Within days' By Forensic Company](#)

Snapchat claims photos shared between users are permanently deleted, but Utah-based company Decipher have discovered that they are able to recover deleted files from the popular mobile photo-sharing application.

3. Reports

[Victims to be spared from harrowing court cases](#)

The most vulnerable victims are to be protected from the trauma of appearing in court, Justice Secretary Chris Grayling has announced.

[CAADA](#)

IDVAs working in a hospital setting. Building on findings made in the Safety in Numbers report, Themis was launched in November 2012 to explore the impact of co-locating IDVA services in hospitals, and to evidence stronger links between health and domestic abuse services.¹ Early findings indicate that victims identified by hospital-based services are typically younger, are experiencing a higher severity of physical and/or sexual abuse and are significantly more likely to be pregnant. They are also likely to present with more complex needs than victims accessing help from IDVAs elsewhere. In addition, research from Themis indicates that victims are being reached at an earlier point in the abusive relationship.

[World Health Organisation](#)

Status report on alcohol and health in 35 European countries 2013

The publication covers 35 Member States and includes all European Union (EU) member states, Croatia (which will join the EU on 1 July 2013), EU candidate countries (Iceland, Montenegro, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey), Norway and Switzerland.

In the EU in 2004, alcohol was responsible for 1 in 7 male deaths and 1 in 13 female deaths in the group aged 15–64 years, resulting in approximately 120 000 premature deaths (1). The most recent data collected from Member States, based on recorded consumption in 2010 and presented in this report, show that adults (age 15+ years) in the EU (including in Croatia) drink 10.2 litres of pure alcohol per year (recorded consumption only). When Norway, Switzerland and the candidate countries are included, the figure is 9.4 litres of pure alcohol per capita.

[Alcohol Research UK](#)

Investigating Parental Monitoring, School and Family Influences on Adolescent Alcohol Use:

- Children whose parents exert greater control over their free time activities tend to drink less frequently. Early control has a lasting influence on alcohol use.
- Higher rates of drinking in early adolescence leads to reduced levels of parent-controlled boundaries and limits at home.
- Being in a school with a higher proportion of frequent drinkers is a risk factor for frequent drinking.
- Girls who attend single-sex post-primary schools tend to drink more than pupils attending co-educational schools or male only schools.

[Centre for Mental Health](#)

Recovery: a carer's perspective. An estimated 1.5 million people in the UK care for or support a relative or friend who experiences mental health problems.

[Centre for Social Justice](#)

Fractured Families: Why stability matters. The report finds that this problem has continued to worsen, with over 20,000 new lone-parent families forming every year. By the age of 15, almost half of all children in the UK are no longer living with both their parents. A million

children have no meaningful contact with their fathers. The report details the appalling toll family breakdown can take on children, families, and society at large – in economic cost, but also in human cost. Family instability and breakdown, this report demonstrates, is not just an emotional tragedy for children and families involved; it is also a driver of disadvantage and social exclusion. Strengthening and supporting families is therefore a matter of social justice.

[More help for families of missing people](#)

Families will be given extra help to cope when a loved one goes missing under new plans announced by Justice Minister Helen Grant.

[Mentoring Scheme reduces reoffending](#)

The pilot, being run at Peterborough prison by Social Finance with support from a number of voluntary organisations, has helped prisoners who would previously have had no support. It provides them with help as they prepare for release and then to access the services they need, including housing, employment, financial services and substance abuse services once they are out of prison.

[Offender mentor hub launched](#)

A dedicated mentoring website linking offenders to high-quality support to get their lives back on track is being launched.

[Scrutiny of out of court disposals](#)

Guidance for Magistrates' involved in scrutiny of out of court disposals. Out of court disposals are often criticised for a lack of consistency and transparency, and because there is a perception that they are used in cases that should have gone to court. To help to address these concerns, police forces in many areas have established arrangements to scrutinise their use of out of court disposals.

[Government must match rhetoric on workplace equality with action, says Committee](#)

In a Report published today (Thursday 20 June), the Business, Innovation and Skills Committee calls on the Government to do more to tackle female under-representation in certain sectors of the economy.

[Information economy strategy](#)

Strategy from government and industry for the future of the information economy.

[Government's vision for effective, efficient communications](#)

The government has published its communications plan for 2013 to 2014, prioritising professional development and innovative partnerships.

[Open Data Charter](#)

Charter on open data signed by G8 leaders to promote transparency, innovation and accountability.

[Homes and Communities Agency](#)

Housing Statistics June 2013.

[Ministry of Justice](#)

Interim re-conviction rates for the Peterborough and Doncaster Payments by Results pilot.

[Police, web firms & ministers work together to tackle online child abuse](#)

Internet firms are meeting ministers amid calls for more to be done to block images of child sex abuse and to stop children viewing pornography.

[Department for Communities and Local Government](#)

Departmental Improvement Plan.

[Prison Reform Trust](#)

Prison: the facts – Bromley Briefings Summer 2013. **On 10 May 2013, the prison population in England and Wales was 83,151.1** Between June 1993 and June 2012 the prison population in England and Wales increased by 41,800 prisoners to over 86,000.

The NHS needs to provide a more coordinated and simplified system of urgent and emergency care, according to an official review of emergency services.

The review led by NHS Medical Director, Sir Bruce Keogh, highlighted a shortage of emergency doctors and found that a lack of clarity surrounding out-of-hours services was causing confusion among patients, and increasing the burden on A&E units ([Telegraph](#); [Mail](#); [BBC Online](#)).

The Care Quality Commission will issue a charter of eight “commandments of care” to doctors and nurses in a bid put patient’s rights at the forefront of care.

If reported by patients as breaching these guidelines, hospitals will face being taken over by outside experts, bosses sacked and units closed down until rectified ([Telegraph](#); [Times](#)).

[Whitehall reform blueprint urges more political control of civil service](#)

The Prime Minister should appoint departmental permanent secretaries, not just have the power of veto over their hiring, a new report by the IPPR recommends. They could be chosen from a list prepared by the Civil Service Commission, which regulates recruitment and promotes the values of the civil service, it suggests, while it also recommends fixed terms for permanent secretaries, renewable based on performance. The report, commissioned by Cabinet Office minister Francis Maude, suggests that ministers could get larger ‘extended offices’ made up of a mix of political advisors and non-partisan outside experts as well as career civil servants.

[£1m grand innovation challenge launched](#)

The Technology Strategy Board (TSB) will provide the £1m prize money for a new ‘grand innovation challenge’ announced by Prime Minister David Cameron at the G8 Innovation Conference. Cameron said: “More than any time in history our world is being shaped by innovation, new ideas, new technologies and new companies.”

[Social Value Ambassador appointed](#)

Chris White MP has been appointed as Social Value Ambassador, minister for civil society Nick Hurd announced. The Social Value Act, introduced as a Private Members Bill by White in 2010, aims to open up opportunities for social enterprises to deliver public services and encourage local authorities to procure services with more social benefit for their community.

[Council leaders fear bankruptcy and service failures](#)

Nine out of ten council leaders expect some local authorities to face bankruptcy, or to fail to deliver vital services over the next three years, new research demonstrates. A PwC report found that councils were struggling as they adjust to reduced levels of funding, with the

possibility of greater cuts in the upcoming public spending review. The survey highlighted that just 58% were confident that the necessary savings could be achieved without affecting the quality of services, down from 98% last year.

[6% pay cuts for British workers](#)

British workers have had their wages hit hard to keep their jobs, new research from the Institute of Fiscal Studies (IFS) shows. Over the last five years, workers saw pay cuts of 6% in real terms. Historically wages rise by about 2% a year, meaning people are around 15% worse off than they would have been if wage trends before the economic crisis had continued.

Up to 5,300 soldiers will be made redundant today, in the third round of job cuts to the Army following the 2010 defence review.

The Ministry of Defence has set a target to reduce the number of regular soldiers from 102,000 to 82,000 by 2017, following cuts to the defence budget announced in 2010 ([Telegraph](#); [Independent](#); [BBC Online](#)).

Waste, Recycling and Energy

Leeds City Council explains how RE:FIT is cutting emissions, and the Energy Saving Trust's Stephen Passmore urges councils to install smart meters.

The think-tank Resolution Foundation, has warned the next government must increase the pace of spending cuts by 50 per cent if it is to meet the current deficit target.

They warn that the implications for department cuts are implausible if the current deficit reduction path and ring fencing strategy is pursued ([Guardian](#)).

[NHS 'cover-up' names revealed by CQC](#)

Officials alleged to have been involved in an NHS regulator's cover-up of failures over deaths of babies at a Cumbria hospital have been identified.

[Owen Paterson backs UK-grown genetically modified food](#)

Environment Secretary Owen Paterson has backed introducing genetically modified (GM) food production in the UK. He said there were "real environmental benefits" to the technology and dismissed concerns about its impact on human health as "complete nonsense". It comes amid speculation that ministers are ready to relax control on the cultivation of GM crops.

The National Audit Office is expected to express concerns around the implementation of the Universal Credit scheme in its upcoming report.

The report is expected to highlight problems with the technology underpinning the scheme, which means that the timetable for its October launch may not be met ([FT](#)).

4. Consultations

[Cutting Agents](#)

This consultation seeks views on the proposal to introduce new powers to allow law enforcement agencies to seize and detain chemical substances suspected of being used as drug cutting agents. The consultation will run for 6 weeks from 28 May 2013 until 7 July 2013.

Nottinghamshire County Council is currently consulting on proposed new models of delivery for substance misuse services across Nottinghamshire

The Council wants as many people as possible to take part.

<http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/caring/yourhealth/developing-health-services/substance-misuse-services-changes/>.

The consultation will run from 20th June – 20th September 2013.