



## 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](#)

The **Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill** completed the commons committee stage on 16 July 2013.

### [Motoring offenders face increase in financial deposits](#)

The government has published the Road Safety (Financial Penalty Deposit) (Appropriate Amount) (Amendment) Order 2013.

## 2. Policing and crime key developments

### [Police Commissioners should be allowed to fire prison governors, says new report](#)

A Policy Exchange report says that PCCs are operating with one arm tied behind their backs. They need to be given more responsibility over the performance of local criminal justice agencies in order to make a real difference.

### [European committee publishes working document on Combating Violence Against Women](#)

This working document is intended to list existing legislation in the area of combating violence against women (or related areas), to identify possible legal bases for a directive (or a set of directives) and finally to suggest some other ideas for actions at EU level on this key issue. It is therefore a tool for gathering ideas and raise the debate among FEMM shadow rapporteurs and MEP in view of drafting (and presenting in October 2013) a legislative initiative report on combating violence against women (VAW) that would contain both a resolution and a proposal for a EU directive

### [HMIC notes Nottinghamshire custody improvement](#)

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary has published a report commending Nottinghamshire Police on the 'significant improvement' of its custody provision.

## [Digital fingerprint first for East Midlands forces](#)

Three forces - Derbyshire, Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire - are collaborating to become the first in England and Wales to digitise their entire fingerprint records.

## [Policing Minister praises digital innovators in Hampshire](#)

Policing Minister Damian Green has praised Hampshire Police's "effective and ambitious" use of digital technology.

## [Police forces: handling of DBS check applications](#)

Since mid-June there has been a number of legislative changes introduced which affect the way Police forces review DBS check applications, if these are sent to the Police for consideration. These changes, along with a seasonal increase in application volumes, are having an impact on turnaround times at some forces.

## [Criminal cautions to be checked by magistrates](#)

Magistrates could be given a range of new powers, including oversight of police officers' use of cautions rather than prosecution. Over 200,000 people in England and Wales last year were given cautions, including some for violent and sexual offences. Under the new proposals, victims would be given a right of appeal if their perpetrator is only cautioned. Magistrates would also be able to scrutinise on-the-spot fines, warnings for cannabis possession and would sentence more criminals themselves rather than send them to Crown Court.

## [Predicting crime 'cut Medway street violence by 6%'](#)

A four month trial of predictive policing pioneered in Medway. The system uses computer analysis of human behaviour and historic crime data to predict crime 'hotspots' to deploy police officers.

## [Young people and domestic violence](#)

Women's Aid is inviting young people to put their questions and suggestions about domestic violence to government, schools, police and social services.

## [Criminal Justice Alliance](#)

Prosecuting Young Adults. Within Criminal Justice policy there has been an increasing recognition of the role of maturity as a factor in the commission of crimes, particularly for the young adult group, and there is a new interest in how a more rigorous and effective approach for young adults in the transition to adulthood (aged between 16 and 24) can be delivered.

**The Government has announced plans for five more police forces to pilot the 'street triage' mental health scheme, in which mental health nurses accompany police officers on call-outs.** The scheme, currently on trial in two police forces, aims to improve the way people with mental health problems are treated during emergencies ([BBC Online](#)).

## [New generation tagging contract boosts British economy](#)

New satellite technology that will help track the movement of offenders in the community is set to be delivered by two British businesses.

## [Horizon Scanning](#)

Horizon scanning is regarded as a useful tool for strategic decision making. Its findings can be used to inform policy, improve operational preparedness or resilience, develop robust

strategies and decrease risk exposure. In January 2013, the [Cabinet Office published a review of cross-government horizon scanning](#), led by the Chairman of the Joint Intelligence Committee, Jon Day. The Day Review concluded that “the UK does not lack the resources to conduct horizon scanning, but needs to improve upon and formalise the structures for directing work and making use of the end product”. The Science and Technology Committee has agreed to hold an inquiry into horizon scanning in Government, and seeks written submissions on the following matters:

- How do Government departments make use of horizon scanning?
- How effective is horizon scanning in Government? Do Ministers and senior officials consider horizon scanning outputs appropriately?
- What changes could be made to improve existing horizon scanning activity? Will the recommendations made in Jon Day’s review of cross-government horizon scanning capability address current shortcomings? What progress has been made implementing these?
- How effective is the Government at responding to policy or regulatory challenges presented by new technologies?

### [Day of international cooperation pays dividends in Kent](#)

An international day of action mounted last week to showcase predictive policing in Kent has led to at least 16 arrests for a range of offences.

### [Using MASH Data for Effective Policing in Devon & Cornwall](#)

Data analyst Fiona Bohan talks about how Devon & Cornwall Police use reports from their multi-agency safeguarding hub to support operational & strategic objectives of improving child protection.

## 3. Reports

### [Private prisons denying justice to mistreated children, says Howard League](#)

The Howard League for Penal Reform is to challenge the government over its failure to implement an effective and independent complaints procedure for children detained in privately run Secure Training Centres (STCs).

### [Centre for Economic and Social Inclusion](#)

The local impacts of welfare reform: An assessment of cumulative impacts and mitigations.

### [Home Office](#)

Guide on Firearms Licensing Law, 2012.

### [Joseph Rowntree Foundation](#)

What makes effective place-based working? Lessons from JRF's Bradford Programme.

### [New Economics Foundation](#)

Surviving Austerity - What is the real impact of current welfare reform? Local voices and local action in England's poorest neighbourhoods.

### [Youth Justice Board](#)

What happens to Persistent and Serious Young Offenders When They Grow Up?

## [Employment advice service proving popular](#)

Acas' new online advice service has been used over 50,000 times since June, helping employees and employers navigate work issues and employment law. The helpline answers the most frequently asked questions around maternity and family rights, absence, and bullying and harassment. The top questions concerned raising grievances and different types of dismissal.

## [Guardian](#)

Interactive map of clinical commissioning groups.

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

Homelessness prevention and relief.

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

Live table on homelessness.

## [Ministry of Justice](#)

Changes to the Ministry of Justice official statistics publication schedule September 2013 - July 2014.

**The Local Government association (LGA) has released research warning that youth unemployment schemes are not operating effectively.** The LGA claims that the current schemes are over complicated and that the number of young people who started on a scheme has dropped by 8 per cent compared to three years ago ([BBC Online](#)).

**The Justice Secretary, Chris Grayling MP, has warned that G4S and Serco will have to undergo a process of "corporate renewal" if they are to be considered for government contracts in the future.** Mr Grayling told the *Financial Times* "I want to see both companies able to demonstrate that they have addressed the internal cultural issues that could enable this [overcharging] to happen in order for me personally to have confidence in future that we can work with them" ([FT](#)).

## [New guidance to tackle unsightly bin clutter and ugly wheelie bins](#)

The Government is planning to publish suggested new guidance which will require suitable provision to be made for proper waste storage in new homes.

## [New guide for communities to design their own flags](#)

Local Government Secretary Eric Pickles has praised the Flag Institute for their new guide for communities to design their own flags and the Department for Communities and Local Government is now flying the nation's newest flags in Whitehall. The new guide from the Flag Institute, with a foreword from the Secretary of State, outlines how community groups, councils, sports clubs and other organisations can design and register an official flag.

## 4. Consultations

### [Codes of practice issued under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002](#)

The aim of the consultation is to seek comments and representations on the guidance provided in four draft codes of practice. The consultation runs until 30 August 2013.

## **[Dangerous dogs: maximum prison sentences for dog attacks](#)**

Consultation on whether the punishment for an owner whose dog kills or severely injures a person, or their assistance dog should be increased. This consultation closes on 1 September.

## **[Child Sexual Exploitation guidance](#)**

The College of Policing is consulting on a review of guidance covering all aspects of violence and public protection, starting with Child Abuse and Child Exploitation. The consultation runs until 3<sup>rd</sup> September.

## **[Home Office Launches Consultation on Updating Special Constable Expenses and Allowance Rates and Criteria](#)**

The Home Office has launched a consultation in relation to special constable expenses and allowances rates and criteria. The consultation contains proposals to update these, in addition to removing the requirement for the Secretary of State to approve local allowance schemes under the Special Constable Regulations 1965. The consultation is seeking views on whether the proposals are clear, fair and reasonable and aims to understand the potential impact of the proposals on all affected parties. The Consultation closes on 5 September 2013.

## **[Consultation on the general consents issued under section 25 of the Local Government Act 1988](#)**

This consultation is on a revised version of the [general consents](#) issued under [section 25 of the Local Government Act 1988](#). The revised consents remove the requirement on local authorities to seek the specific consent of the Secretary of State to dispose at less than market value for the provision of privately-let housing accommodation of (a) vacant housing land, and (b) vacant dwellings to other registered providers. The deadline for responses is 13 September.

## **[Drug Driving : proposed regulations](#)**

The consultation seeks views on the government's preferred policy option of making it an offence to drive if any of 17 controlled drugs are found in blood over a specified limit. The consultation closes on the 17 September.

## **[Statutory guidance on children who run away or go missing from home or care](#)**

The current statutory guidance on children who run away and go missing from home or care was published in July 2009. The closing date for consultation responses is 17 September.

## **[Improving safeguarding for looked-after children: changes to the Care Planning, Placement and Case Review \(England\) Regulations 2010](#)**

This consultation seeks views on proposals to amend the [Care Planning, Placement and Case Review \(England\) Regulations 2010](#). The closing date for consultation responses is 17 September.

## **[Open Government Partnership: UK draft National Action Plan 2013](#)**

This draft of the UK's second National Action Plan is a result of the UK's membership of the [Open Government Partnership](#) (OGP) - a multilateral initiative that aims to secure concrete

commitments from governments to promote transparency, empower citizens, fight corruption, and harness new technologies to strengthen governance. The closing date for consultation responses is 19 September.

## **[Serious Fraud Office and DPP Launch Consultation on Deferred Prosecution Agreements Draft Code of Practice](#)**

The Director of the Serious Fraud Office and the Director of Public Prosecutions have published a draft code of practice on Deferred Prosecution Agreements (DPAs) for consultation. The consultation is open to interested individuals and organisations and closes on 20 September 2013.

## **[New consultation: Stop and search](#)**

This consultation seeks views on the police powers of stop and search. The consultation runs up to 24 September 2013.

## **[Proposals for the use of capital receipts from asset sales to invest in reforming services](#)**

In the Spending Review document [Investing in Britain's future](#), the government announced that it would consult on allowing local authorities some flexibility to use their receipts from asset sales to pay for the one-off revenue costs of service reforms. This consultation closes on the 24 September.

## **[Proposed changes to Codes of Practice C \(Detention\) and H \(Detention – Terrorism\)](#)**

This consultation runs until Wednesday 25 September 2013.

## **[Hate Crime-The Case for Extending the Existing Offences](#)**

This project came to the Law Commission by a reference from the Ministry of Justice, following the Government's publication of its three-year hate crime action plan in 2012. The consultation closes on the 27 September.

## **[Views sought on changes to the alcohol and drugs reporting framework](#)**

Public Health England (PHE) is keen to ensure that the alcohol and drug reporting framework is fit for purpose, and so is consulting with the alcohol and drugs sector on a number of proposed changes to the reporting framework. The consultation runs until September.

## **[Corporate responsibility: call for views](#)**

Corporate responsibility is sometimes known as corporate social responsibility. It is defined as the responsibility of an organisation for the impacts of its decisions on society and the environment above and beyond its legal obligations, through transparent and ethical behaviour. The closing date for consultation responses is 27 September.

## **[Domestic violence and abuse – identification and prevention](#)**

NICE is developing public health programme guidance on 'Domestic violence and abuse: how social care, health services and those they work with can identify, prevent and reduce domestic violence and abuse'. The consultation period runs from 2<sup>nd</sup> August – 27<sup>th</sup> September.

## **[Forensic Science Codes of Practice: Guidance on validation consultation](#)**

The Forensic Science Regulator published Codes of Practice and Conduct (Codes) for forensic science providers and practitioners in the criminal justice system in 2011. The

Codes are being supplemented with appendices covering evidence specific requirements, guidance, information and protocols. In order to finalise each appendix, each one is being consulted on and feedback sought. This draft guidance is issued to allow comments from interested parties. Comments should be sent on the feedback form provided to [FSRConsultation5@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:FSRConsultation5@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk) and should be submitted by 27 September 2013.

## **Assisted Areas Map 2014 to 2020**

Updating the UK's Assisted Areas Map for 2014-20 delivers an opportunity to help drive sustainable strong growth, which will help to rebalance the UK economy. Assisted Area status permits the granting of additional financial support to small businesses and large enterprise in economically disadvantaged locations. This support is to encourage business in these communities to grow, innovate and thrive, which can positively affect these locations and the whole UK economy. This consultation closes on the 30 September.

## **Local Government Finance Settlement 2014-15 and 2015-16: technical consultation**

This consultation seeks views on a range of detailed and technical issues concerning the 2014-15 and 2015-16 Local Government Finance Settlements. It will be of particular interest to local authority finance departments. The closing date for consultation responses is 2 October.

## **Sentencing Council Launches Public Consultation on the Sentencing of Fraud, Bribery and Money Laundering Offences**

The Sentencing Council has launched a public consultation on the sentencing of fraud, bribery and money laundering offences. The Consultation document states that it does not concern the legislation that relates to these offences, but is only consulting on the sentencing. The consultation is open to all members of the public, including members of the judiciary, legal practitioners and individuals that work in or have an interest in criminal justice. The consultation closes on 4 October 2013.

## **Consultation on prescription drug tramadol**

The government wants to make tramadol a Class C drug but ensure it is available to those who need it as a prescription medicine. The number of deaths involving tramadol has risen from 83 in 2008 to 154 in 2011. The deadline for responses is 11 October 2013.

## **Greater flexibility for change of use**

In order to support the Government's priorities for making better use of existing buildings a consultation on proposed changes to planning regulations has been launched and will run until 15 October.

## **Conducting Privacy Impact Assessments Code of Practice consultation**

The ICO is consulting on its draft '[Conducting privacy impact assessments code of practice](#)' and would like to hear views. The deadline for responses is 5 November.