



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

European Council adopts financing programmes in the area of justice and fundamental rights. The European Council, meeting in Brussels today, adopted without discussion two regulations establishing the financing programmes in the area of justice and fundamental rights within the framework of the Multiannual Financial Framework for the period 2014-2020.

Child protection: Duties to report concerns - Provides information on the duties on those who come into contact with children as part of their professional lives to report suspected abuse or neglect of children. It also highlights recent calls for a mandatory duty to report suspected abuse or neglect.

2. Policing and crime key developments

PCCs are vital in driving police reform

Speech given by Damian Green on the 21 January 2014 to the APCC.

Police Accountability: Landscape review – National Audit Office

The National Audit Office has identified a number of gaps in the Home Office's policing oversight framework, which could limit the public's ability to hold elected police and crime

commissioners to account. However, even though it has been in place for only a year, the new framework has the potential to be an improvement on the system it has replaced.

Police Recorded Crime Open Data tables

This document contains information on the content and use of the Home Office Police Recorded Crime (PRC) Open Data tables. These tables contain recorded crime figures broken down by offence type, geography and time period.

Police forces fail to probe millions of offences fully.

Almost 500,000 were “screened out” by 16 forces last year alone. New crime figures are published today following a warning they cannot be trusted. The UK Statistics Authority claims they will soar once an audit of the way police record offences is completed.

Crime reduction policies: a co-ordinated approach?

Interim report on the Government’s Transforming Rehabilitation programme. The Justice Committee spells out concerns raised in evidence to it about gaps in information and in implementation plans for the Government’s proposed reform of probation services.

Independent Review of the Police Federation of England and Wales

The final report of the RSA Independent Review of the Police Federation of England and Wales is published today. Based on the evidence it received, the Review Panel sets out the case for fundamental reform of the Federation’s culture, behaviours, structures and organisation. The aim is to make the Police Federation once again ‘the trusted voice of frontline officers’.

ACPO comment on the Police Federation review

Royal Society of Arts (RSA) published its Independent Review of the Police Federation of England and Wales (PFEW).

Defence of marital coercion to be abolished.

At present, English law provides a complete defence for a woman charged with a criminal offence other than treason or murder who can show that the offence was committed in the presence, and under the coercion of her husband.

Met Police admits failing to review Duggan stop tactic.

The Metropolitan Police says it was wrong not to formally review the “hard stop” tactic six years before it was used in the Mark Duggan shooting.

Criminal gangs ‘hotwire power supply’ to help cut bills.

Criminal gangs are helping homeowners and landlords avoid paying for power by “hotwiring” supplies for as little as £10, BBC Inside Out has learned.

‘Police corruption cannot be eliminated’ admits head of special Met unit.

Detective Chief Superintendent Alaric Bonthron, head of the Metropolitan Police’s Professional Standards Unit, told The Independent the threat from organised crime groups infiltrating the force is “very challenging”.

Police chiefs call for end to three day delay in sex crime reporting.

A rule giving police 72 hours to record crimes is under fire from police chiefs who say allegations of sexual attacks should be taken at face value and recorded immediately as offences.

[Sheppey crossing crash drivers offered alertness course.](#)

Drivers who could have been prosecuted over a crash that injured more than 200 people are being offered a course instead, police have said. Kent Police said 32 people had been offered driver alertness sessions after the 150-vehicle pile-up on the Sheppey Crossing in September.

[Will the police see sense over cycling on the pavements?](#)

The minister with responsibility for [cycling](#), Robert Goodwill, has reiterated guidance on pavement cycling. It is against the law to cycle on the pavement and back in 1999 this was made a fixed penalty offence.

[‘Innovation doesn’t stop here’ pledges prison director as HMP & YOI Parc receives official praise](#)

The director of HMP & YOI Parc in Bridgend today pledged to continue the good work of her staff as the privately-operated prison was hailed by inspectors as a ‘well-run and innovative prison’.

[Police stop and search powers](#) - Looks at some of the issues raised by police powers of stop and search.

[Schedule 7 of the Terrorism Act 2000](#) - Describes the background to Schedule 7 of the Terrorism Act 2000 and considers its operation in the context of recent controversy and proposed changes under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill.

[Crime and Policing Comparator updates](#) - The most recent crime and victim satisfaction data were published today on HMIC’s Crime and Policing Comparator. These data cover the 12 months to September 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013.

[Foreign criminal danger ‘is increasing’ warns police minister.](#)

The number of crimes committed by foreign criminals is ‘sizeable and increasing’, a minister warned. Police Minister Damian Green made the warning as he promised new action to clamp down on offenders from overseas.

[Revealed: The 20 worst postcodes for burglary in Britain.](#)

[Police and fire merger bid gets £620,000 grant.](#)

The plan to merge Northamptonshire’s police and fire service has been awarded £620,000 to help make the project a reality. Police and Crime Commissioner Adam Simmonds announced proposals last year, and now the Home Office has given the grant to help pay for the first 12 months of a four-year project which could see the organisations share properties, services, training and fleet maintenance.

3. Reports

Domestic abuse survey - HMIC has commissioned BMG Research, an independent market research company, to survey people who have experienced domestic abuse within the last 12 months.

DNA early deletion guidance and application form - Guidance for chief police officers when considering applications for early deletion of DNA data and standard blank application form.

Alcohol related hospital admissions

A new, supplementary indicator has been announced by Public Health England to measure alcohol related hospital admissions.

National Statistics designation removed

However, the National Statistics designation has been removed from all crime data recorded by the police after the UK Statistics Authority said it could not be approved owing to claims of unreliability.

Crime statistics

This week recorded crime statistics have had the National Statistics designation removed. In response, the College of Policing has announced it is developing a national training and accreditation package for crime registrars.

Drugs policy: new psychoactive substances

The Government has announced its intention to opt out of the European Commission's proposals for a regulation and a directive on new psychoactive substances.

Important milestone for critical probation reforms

Notice has been given that probation trust contracts will be closed down by 31 May this year, as plans have been finalised for the transfer to new arrangements.

Pickpocketing

Crimestoppers has launched an innovative and imaginative campaign entitled '#putpockets' to highlight the dangers and raise awareness of pickpocketing across the UK.

Visits to place of worship linked to lower levels of criminality

People who regularly visit a place of worship are less likely to be involved in low level crime and delinquency, according to new research by a University of Manchester researcher.

BMJ

Does legislation to prevent alcohol sales to drunk individuals work? Measuring the propensity for night-time sales to drunks in a UK city.

Centre for Public Health

Population screening for early signs of alcohol-related liver disease in hazardous and harmful drinkers in Liverpool and Knowsley.

Department for Education

Listening to and involving children and young people.

[Department of Health](#)

Health Working Group Report on Child Sexual Exploitation.

[Department of Health](#)

Preventing suicide in England: one year on first annual report on the cross-government outcomes strategy to save lives.

[Drug and Alcohol Review](#)

Which alcohol control strategies do young people think are effective?

[Home and Communities Agency](#)

Additionality Guide.

[Home Office](#)

Cyber Streetwise: open for business.

[Ministry of Justice](#)

Transforming youth custody: putting education at the heart of detention - consultation outcome.

[Ministry of Justice](#)

Transforming management of young adults in custody - consultation outcome.

[Royal Colleges/UNITE/Equality Now](#)

Tackling FGM in the UK: Intercollegiate recommendations for identifying, recording and reporting.

[Survation - Surveying the Nation](#)

Police Perceptions Poll - prepared on behalf of Sky News.

Chris Grayling MP, Justice Secretary, has delayed the deadline for privatising probation services.

Mr Grayling has announced a two-month delay in the timetable for privatising 70 per cent of the probation service after senior officials advised there could be public safety issues ([Guardian](#); [BBC Online](#))

[Welsh public services need 'radical change' – and council mergers](#)

Commission has recommended. The commission has been investigating options to improve public services across Wales and make them more accountable. The Welsh Local Government Association has estimated that the reorganisation could cost 15,000 jobs, and WLGA-commissioned research by accountants Deloitte suggested the changes could cost over £200m.

[Local authorities affected by flooding will have the chance to bid for a further £6.7m of funding, the government has announced.](#)

Recent extreme weather has led to significant amounts of flood damage, with repairs needed to housing, businesses and transport infrastructure. The costs of repairing flood defences are currently being assessed by Defra.

Fortified school planned for young criminals

A new 'fortified school' will be built for young offenders, more than doubling the number of hours they currently spend in education each week. The £85m secure college would be located next to Glen Parva prison in Leicestershire and include 320 beds for 12-17 year olds. They will be required to spend at least 24 hours a week in classrooms.

CIWM publishes new health waste guidance

Waste auditing guidance is now available for large healthcare producers, developed by the Chartered Institute of Wastes Management (CIWM). The [guidance](#) covers pre-acceptance waste audits, as required by the Environmental Permitting Regulations. It will help producers to ensure that wastes are sent for the correct treatment and disposal, with robust auditing and reporting practices to ensure compliance. Following the guidance could bring significant cost savings, as well as a reduction of the NHS's carbon footprint.

European directive to include social factors in procurement

Contracting authorities may introduce social and environmental considerations throughout procurement, new public directives state. Now approved by the European Parliament, the directives allow the possibility of introducing a social clause, guaranteeing respect for labour law and collective agreements in the workplace. It could stop contracting authorities from using price as the only criteria when granting a contract.

Health and social care integration toolkit launched

Local councils should take action to improve the delivery of integrated health and social care, the LGA has urged. This week the association published a new toolkit to help commissioners and providers to achieve this. In partnership with the NHS, care organisations across the UK and Integrating Care, the LGA developed guidance for local authorities to create a value case for integration. The toolkit includes a modelling tool for the financial impact of integration, as well as an evidence review, summaries of localised integrated care programmes, signposting to useful resources, and a database of existing initiatives.

Unemployed EU migrants are to be denied Housing Benefit from April 2014.

Iain Duncan Smith MP, Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, and Theresa May MP, Home Secretary, stated that new EU migrants would not be eligible for Housing Benefit if they are claiming Jobseeker's Allowance ([Independent](#); [Mail](#); [BBC Online](#)).

The Government is preparing proposals to withdraw benefit application forms printed in languages other than English.

Eric Pickles MP, the Communities Secretary, said the policy was "in its early stages" ([Telegraph](#); [Times](#); [Mail](#)).

From March this year, medical data covering the entire population will be uploaded to a repository controlled by a new arms-length NHS information centre. This month NHS England is sending a leaflet entitled 'Better Information Means Better Care' to 26 million households in an attempt to ease a growing public concern about privacy ([Guardian](#)).

The European Union could block plans for an NHS database containing patient data.

Pamela Ford, Data Protection Officer for the Royal College of Physicians, said that the axing

of the database would have far-reaching consequences and impede scientific research ([Telegraph](#)).

Poor record-keeping and auditing in hospitals means thousands of staff are receiving over payments.

Researchers from the London School of Economics and the Policy Analysis Centre estimate that up to £63 million a year may be wasted in overpayments ([Telegraph](#)).

The International Monetary Fund is set to upgrade its UK growth forecasts as it claims that Britain's economy is bouncing back faster than any major trading nation.

The IMF is expected to raise its forecast for the UK economy for the second time in four months, from 1.9 per cent to 2.4 per cent ([Telegraph](#); [Times](#); [Guardian](#)).

4. Consultations

Local authority parking strategies

The Government has launched a consultation in which it invites views on local authority parking strategies and government options for parking enforcement. The consultation is open until 14th February 2014.

The Public Accounts Committee has revealed that up to £55 billion a year is being lost to the taxpayer due to fraud, error and unpaid taxes. The Committee called on the Treasury to develop a strategy for tackling fraud through the public sector ([Times](#); [Mirror](#); [BBC Online](#)).

Government approves low-level lights to boost cyclists' safety

More than 80% of cyclists favoured the use of low-level signals during the track-based trials of the system, which works by repeating the signal displayed on main traffic lights at the eye level of cyclists.

Future funding of the Housing Ombudsman

The Government has announced a consultation on the proposal to extend the Housing Ombudsman's existing fee charging model to local authority landlords from April 2014. This consultation closes on 30th January 2014.

Fingerprint comparison consultation document – Plus [appendix](#).

This is a consultation issued to allow comments from interested parties; all comments will be given consideration when finalising the fingerprint comparison Appendix FSR-C-128 prior to publication. Comments should be sent to FSRConsultation1@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk and should be submitted by 20 January 2014.

Plan for joint inspections by Criminal Justice inspectorates

On 15 January the four Criminal Justice Inspectorates published a consultation setting out the proposed joint inspection activity in the criminal justice system from 2014 to 2016. The consultation asks two specific questions, 'Do any work streams duplicate, overlap or clash with inspections or other work you have planned (or are otherwise aware of) for 2014/15 or 2015/16? Are there any other subject areas that warrant inclusion in our criminal justice joint inspection programme?'. The consultation closes on 31 January.

[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.

[The Transforming Rehabilitation programme and the LGPS](#)

This consultation paper relates to the draft statutory instrument that enacts the technical changes to the local government pension scheme (LGPS). The draft regulations allow the continued participation in the Local Government Pension Scheme by employees engaged in probation services (within the Secretary of State for Justice's Transforming Rehabilitation Reforms) when they are transferred to the National Probation Service or a Commercial Rehabilitation Company. The Regulations allow for the benefits of all probation services employees (past and present) to be administered by one administering authority and for the transfer of all past service liabilities in relation to those employees to that one authority. The consultation closes on 10 February and the regulations are planned to come into effect on 1 April.

[12th February 2014](#) - Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

[14th February 2014](#) - Community Life Survey

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.