



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

[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.

[The Modern Slavery Bill](#)

This Bill has now been committed to a Public Bill Committee. The Public Bill Committee is expected to report to the House by 14 October 2014.

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](#)

Human Rights Joint Committee

Second Report - Legislative Scrutiny - (1) Serious Crime Bill (2) Crime Justice Courts Bill.

New powers to evict 'nightmare tenants' come into force

Landlords have been handed new powers to speed up the eviction of antisocial tenants. Private and social landlords will now be able to use a person's previous convictions for serious antisocial behaviour to trigger proceedings.

2. Strategic policing and crime news

Vulnerable girls to be protected from FGM

New laws on female genital mutilation (FGM) to protect vulnerable girls announced. Vulnerable girls will be helped by new laws to tackle the scourge of female genital mutilation (FGM) which have been put forward today (20 October 2014), Justice Minister Mike Penning has announced.

Child sexual abuse (Global Alliance commitment)

This written ministerial statement was laid on 20 October 2014 in the House of Commons by Mike Penning and in the House of Lords by Lord Bates. The Global Alliance consists of 54 countries around the world who have committed themselves to:

- enhance efforts to identify victims and ensuring that they receive the necessary assistance, support and protection
- enhance efforts to investigate cases of child sexual abuse online and to identify and prosecute offenders
- increase children's awareness of online risks
- reduce the availability of child sexual abuse images online and the re-victimisation of children

MPs criticise Police inept handling of alleged child abuse investigations

The Home Affairs Committee of the House of Commons has published its report, Police, the media, and high-profile criminal investigations (HC629, 2014–15). The Report considers the events surrounding the police raid on 14 August of the home of Sir Cliff Richard OBE in Berkshire, and the circumstances under which the BBC came to have advance information about the raid.

Urgent question on Foreign National Offenders

National Audit Office: Managing and removing foreign national offenders

Despite increased resources and tougher powers, the Home Office has made slower progress than expected in managing foreign national offenders (FNOs) in the UK and in removing them to their home countries. Today's report by the National Audit Office highlights the fact that the number of FNOs in prison and the number deported from the UK have remained broadly unchanged since 2006.

Statement on Child Sexual Abuse

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Theresa May): "Further to my statement to the House on 7 July and my written ministerial statements of 9 July and 5 September 2014, I am pleased to announce that I have appointed the panel members to the independent inquiry panel of experts, which will consider whether public bodies – and other, non-state, institutions – have taken seriously their duty of care to protect children from sexual abuse."

Police Staff to be balloted for industrial action

Police Staff Council Trade Union Side announcing their plans to ballot police staff for industrial action in line with their trade dispute over pay.

APCC welcomes debate on commissioner recall

The Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC) has welcomed more public debate about creating a mechanism to “recall” an elected commissioner in the event that they are unable to carry out their duties, or where there is a significant breakdown in public trust. This issue came to the fore following the publication of the Jay Report into historical child sexual exploitation in Rotherham, and the subsequent Home Affairs Select Committee enquiry.

Justice Committee announces new inquiry on Criminal Cases Review Commission

The Committee took oral evidence from the Criminal Cases Review Commission on its work on 14 January 2014 . Following that it sought comments on the work of the CCRC from certain academics and lawyers, and then offered the CCRC a chance to respond to those comments. These written submissions are published here.

3. Developments and reports

Home Secretary at the Policing and Mental Health Summit

Theresa May: The police must treat people with mental health problems with respect and compassion.

Fiona Woolf and Theresa May should meet survivors groups immediately to address their concerns - Diana Johnson

Clegg announces new support for public sector workers

The Deputy Prime Minister gave a speech to an audience of public sector workers, including teachers, social workers, local government and NHS staff, civil service apprentices & Fast Streamers. He thanked public sector workers for their hard work and dedication through difficult financial times, and announced a number of measures to support them in their jobs.

Internet trolls to face 2 years in prison

Internet trolls who target people with abusive or offensive material online will face up to two years in prison and the police will have more time to investigate cases as part of the government’s commitment to protecting victims of crime.

Yvette Cooper slams National Crime Agency policy of not pursuing people known to have accessed child abuse images

Yvette Cooper MP, Labour’s Shadow Home Secretary responding to news that the National Crime Agency is not pursuing tens of thousands of people known to have accessed child abuse images online.

College of Policing

The Essex Body Worn Video Trial - The impact of Body Worn Video on criminal justice

outcomes of domestic abuse incidents.

[Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs](#)

Dealing with irresponsible dog ownership - Practitioners' manual.

[Home Office](#)

Hate crimes, England and Wales 2013 to 2014.

[Home Office](#)

Police recorded crime data.

[MPs call for investigation into Rotherham child abuse cover-up](#)

MPs are calling for an “urgent” investigation into whether public officials sought to cover up the Rotherham child abuse scandal, after a researcher claimed files set to be passed to the Home Office were stolen from her office.

[Local Government Association](#)

Female genital mutilation (FGM) - a councillor's guide.

[Policy Press](#)

Preventing violence against women and girls - Educational work with children and young people.

[Restorative Justice Council](#)

Restorative justice and policing.

[Crime bill undermines ability to hold authorities to account, say lawyers](#)

Peers are being urged to amend legislation that could open the door to ‘dodgy decision-making by public authorities’. Elements of the Criminal Justice and Courts Bill – which is expected to reach the House of Lords report stage this week – are ‘an attack on judicial review’, according to The Bar Council, the Law Society and the Chartered Institute of Legal Executives (CILEX).

[Justice Committee](#)

Written evidence on Prisons: planning and policies.

[Working for the Prison Service: an inside view](#)

Adam Gould initially wanted to join the police but after not getting through the recruitment process due to lack of experience, he applied to work with G4S doing security at Lewes prison.

[HM Chief Inspector of Prisons publishes annual report - prisons less safe](#)

Financial, population and policy pressures contributed to a significant decline in safety and other outcomes in adult male prisons in the second half of 2013-14 but there were now some tentative signs of improvement, said Nick Hardwick, Chief Inspector of Prisons, publishing his annual report.

[Nine in ten people added to electoral register](#)

Nine in ten electors have been automatically added to the electoral register, due to a new IT system introduced by the Government. Individual Electoral Registration (IER), which

replaced the previous household registration system, matches an elector's name and address against existing records. The results are then passed to Electoral Services Teams to complete the application. A report out shows that so far, over 36 million people have been added.

We need a debate on B&B ban, say MPs

MPs have repeated calls for the Government to ban local authorities from using B&Bs to house vulnerable children. The education select committee recommended banning their use as emergency accommodation in a report published in July on care options for looked-after children over 16.

CIPFA launches new public sector anti-fraud code

A new code of practice designed to protect councils and others in the public sector from fraud has been launched. Drawn up by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) following consultation with organisations across the sector, it is based around five core principles.

Fraud and mistakes in housing benefit costs £1.4bn – NAO

Fraud and mistakes in housing benefit have led to overpayments costing £1.4bn, a jump of 40% in the last three years, according to the National Audit Office (NAO). In its [report](#) the NAO strongly criticises the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) for failing to tackle the problem earlier by cracking down on councils who process the payments.

Advisors probe Universal Credit changes

Government plans to take account of surplus earnings when people return to Universal Credit are to be reviewed by an advisory committee.

Report: bedroom tax widens north-south divide

The bedroom tax has hit council tenants in the north of England far harder than those in London, research has revealed.

A third of Scottish councils see rise in teacher assaults

A third of councils in Scotland have reported a rise in the number of teachers assaulted by children over the last three years.

Alcohol Harm Map

Alcohol Concern has produced a map depicting data either by local authority or Clinical Commissioning Group.

Department for Communities and Local Government

Affordable housing supply in England: 2013-2014

Department for Communities and Local Government

Social housing sales in England: 2013-2014

Joseph Rowntree Foundation

Why ethnicity matters for local authority action on poverty?

Smarter buying could save fire service millions

Fire and rescue services across the country could save millions in taxpayer cash by improving the way it sources and purchases firefighting clothing and equipment says [research](#) published by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

[Office for National Statistics](#)

Crime In England and Wales, Year Ending March 2014

[City and Guilds](#)

Making Education Work: Preparing Young People for the Workplace.

[Unleash our cities with 'Devo Met', urges Commission](#)

The UK's major cities could become self-sufficient economic powerhouses through a 'Devo Met' deal that releases them from the suffocating grip of central government. The claim comes in the [final report from the RSA City Growth Commission](#), which said devolution of powers and responsibilities to the 15 largest urban areas could boost the economy by £79bn a year by 2030.

[Council liver disease statistics reveal wide variations](#)

Latest figures have revealed huge variations in liver disease across England with rates four times higher for men in some local authority areas compared with others.

[New joint CEO for Wychavon and Malvern Hills](#)

Two local authorities in Worcestershire have agreed to share a chief executive.

[LGA has 'insufficient contact' with councils on a daily basis](#)

The LGA has "insufficient contact" with councils on a daily basis, according to its chairman Cllr David Sparks.

[Commission intervenes in closure of Independent Living Fund](#)

The government's decision to [close the Independent Living Fund \(ILF\)](#) will result in the loss of dignity and independence for disabled people, a High Court will hear today.

[Climate change goals will be missed, warns charity](#)

The Government will fail to meet climate change targets unless it ramps up efforts to create warm, affordable low-carbon homes, campaigners have warned.

4. Consultations

[Consultation on Victim Charter May 2014](#)

Open date: 14/10/2014

Close date: 14/12/2014

[Plans for Secure College rules consultation](#)

The purpose of the rules will be to set out the core parameters within which Secure Colleges will be required to operate to ensure that young people are detained safely and securely, and that their educational and rehabilitative needs are addressed. 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. It consults on the merger of the four local justice areas in North Yorkshire into one local justice area. It seeks the views of people or organisations that may be affected including magistrates, other judicial office holders, court users, stakeholders and public authorities and charities in North Yorkshire.

[Local policing – accountability, leadership and ethics](#)

The independent Committee on Standards in Public Life has launched an inquiry into the accountability structures of the police. The current model as a whole, and individual elements of it, have been the subject of criticism. Much of this relates to standards issues, yet the relationship between standards and governance structures has been relatively underexplored. They intend to look at the structures in place for ensuring ethical standards in the conduct and performance of Police and Crime Panels, Police and Crime Commissioners, and Chief Constables. Then go on to consider how effective those structures are, what works well and, if there are shortcomings, identify what would be expected to see – in any model for police accountability. They will be seeking the necessary assurance that ethical standards in public life are, and are capable of being, upheld. Consultation closes 30 November 2014.

[Ketamine rescheduling consultation](#)

The Home Office is seeking views on the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) recommendation to reschedule ketamine to Schedule 2 of the Misuse of Drugs Regulation (as amended) (the 2001 Regulations). The consultation runs until 3rd November 2014.

[Data policy for a Public Data Corporation](#)

Views wanted on how to provide accessible public sector information. The consultation will close on 27 October 2014.

[HMRC Consultation: Tackling offshore tax evasion a new criminal offence](#)

The Government has announced its intention to introduce a new strict liability criminal offence. This consultation seeks views on the design of this offence. The consultation period runs to **31 October 2014**.

[Disclosure review: revision of the Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996 Code of Practice](#)

Open date: 10/10/2014

Close date: 07/11/2014

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

Open date: 10/10/2014

Close date: 12/12/2014

5. Reviews and Inspections

[HMIC Website](#)

Published the first 2014 PEEL update.

[Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary](#)

An inspection of undercover policing in England and Wales.