



## 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**

**Counter-terrorism Bill Committee Stage Report** - This paper has been published for the Report Stage debate on the Counter-Terrorism Bill. The bill is wide-ranging but the most contentious provisions relate to pre-charge detention, post charge questioning and inquests and inquiries.

**Criminal Justice and Courts Bill** - The Criminal Justice and Courts Bill second reading is on the 24<sup>th</sup> February.

**Pensions Bill: Amendments to be moved on Report**

**SI 2014 No. 239 The Police Act 1997 (Criminal records) (Amendment) Regulations 2014**  
This statutory instrument was laid before Parliament on 13 February and comes into force on 10 March. It concerns fees for criminal conviction certificates.

## 2. Policing and crime key developments

**Ten minute rule motion on Domestic Violence**

That leave be given to bring in a Bill to make provision for the investigation of allegations of domestic violence, for duties on the police in respect of domestic violence, for risk assessment and training in connection with related criminal proceedings in England and Wales; and for connected purposes.

### **Domestic violence and abuse: how health services, social care and the organisations they work with can respond effectively**

Domestic violence and abuse is a complex issue that needs sensitive handling by a range of health and social care professionals. The cost, in both human and economic terms, is so significant that even marginally effective interventions are cost effective. Women and men can experience this type of violence in heterosexual and same-sex relationships.

The recommendations cover the broad spectrum of domestic violence and abuse, including violence perpetrated on men, on those in same-sex relationships and on young people. Working in a multi-agency partnership is the most effective way to approach the issue at both an operational and strategic level. Initial and ongoing training and organisational support is also needed.

The guidance is for health and social care commissioners, specialist domestic violence and abuse staff and others whose work may bring them into contact with people who experience or perpetrate domestic violence and abuse. In addition it may be of interest to members of the public.

Please see the link to the Pathway for this guidance here:

<http://pathways.nice.org.uk/pathways/domestic-violence-and-abuse>

### **MEPs step up effort to fight forced prostitution and trafficking of women**

The European Parliament today urged EU governments to step up efforts to fight forced prostitution and trafficking of women, in a resolution drafted by S&D Euro MP Mary Honeyball. At least 62% of trafficked women become victims of sexual exploitation according to official data published in April 2013 by the European Commission. Many of those victims are from EU countries and many are very young.

### **Force steps up modern slavery fight**

The Home Office has announced the establishment of new port-based specialist teams to help stop those involved in modern slavery from operating in the UK.

### **Child abuse response has improved since Savile, say Chiefs**

ACPO has responded to this week's NSPCC report highlighting the historical culture of fear that prevented Jimmy Savile's victims from speaking out following his crimes against them.

### **Spain-UK cooperation in fighting organised crime**

Organised Crime Minister meets Spanish counterpart

### **Re-balancing the scales**

Canterbury Christchurch University's Emma Williams argues that restorative justice should be as much about the victim as the offender.

### **A new agreement between police and the NHS seeks to improve mental health crisis care**

This agreement called the Crisis Care Concordat has been signed by more than 20 national organisations in a bid to drive up standards of care for people experiencing crisis such as suicidal thoughts or significant anxiety. The Concordat will reduce the numbers of people

detained inappropriately in police cells and drive out the variation in standards across the country.

## Theft from person guidance

On 19 February, new guidance was issued on theft from the person. It is aimed at partners and businesses in the night-time economy.

## Review of the operation of injunctions to prevent gang related violence

This memorandum published on 11 February sets out a review of part 4 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009 on injunctions to prevent gang-related violence.

## **Home Affairs Committee announces new inquiry into Reform of the Police Federation**

The Home Affairs Committee announces new inquiry into Reform of the Police Federation  
The inquiry will consider:

- the extent to which the current structure of the Federation enables it to represent the interests of its members effectively;
- whether its financial governance arrangements provide sufficient assurance to members and stakeholders that the Federation's expenditure represents value for money; and
- how the Federation might adapt to better meet current challenges, including the introduction of the new landscape of policing and the impact of changes to members' pay, pension and terms and conditions of employment.

## 3. Reports

### Social networks urged to warn against Nekominate

UK councils want social networking sites to introduce warning over the drinking game Nekominate/

### Offenders with learning disabilities not getting the help they need

A recent joint inspection of the treatment of offenders with learning disabilities in the criminal justice system (from arrest to sentence) found that many of their needs were going unnoticed when they were arrested by police, go to court and were sentenced. The inspection was undertaken by HMIC, HMI Probation, HMI for the Crown Prosecution Service and the Care Quality Commission.

### More than £16 Million to help victims rebuild their lives

Victims of the most serious crimes will get access to vital support thanks to a new £12 million fund, announced by the Victims' Minister [Damian Green](#). This will sit alongside £4.4 million dedicated to provide 78 female rape support centres across England and Wales with financial support through to 2016 so they can offer specialist services for victims such as counselling, advice and helplines. The Ministry of Justice will also be establishing two new rape support centres in the coming year, on top of the 13 set up since 2010, meeting the Coalition commitment to open 15 new centres.

### Delivering Differently bidders morning

A write up of the Delivering Differently bidder's morning was published on DCLG's website on 24 February. The Delivering Differently programme is all about transforming services via

alternative delivery models, such as mutuals and voluntary organisations. The fund is £1m which will be shared between ten local authorities.

## [Fire and rescue bulletin](#)

The latest fire and rescue bulletin was published in February with details of the Fire Kills 1st of the month campaign and operational guidance on breathing apparatus.

## [Impact assessments on the Criminal Justice and Courts Bill](#)

A number of impact assessments on the Criminal Justice and Courts Bill were published on 24 February.

## [Rehabilitation Social Action fund announced](#)

To help recognise the role social action has to play in reducing reoffending, a £2.4m fund was announced on 6 February. It will be shared between 12 organisations and will provide them with resources to demonstrate what works and deliver social action programmes on a greater scale. The organisations will help offenders stop reoffending and transform their lives by helping them to tackle drug or alcohol abuse and homelessness.

## **Government requires providers to disclose all hidden pension charges**

The government has tabled an amendment to the Pensions Bill to require pension providers to disclose all transaction costs in defined contribution workplace pensions.

## **New 'business banking' service for child maintenance to benefit 40,000 employers**

A new service launched this month making it easier for businesses to meet their legal obligation to deduct child maintenance from employees' wages. The service is set to benefit around 40,000 employers.

## **House of Commons Library**

Building Prisons: the bigger, the better.

## [Scheme to help homeless people extended](#)

A successful scheme which helps single homeless people get into rented accommodation is being extended.

## [LGA urge rethink on scrapping emergency welfare fund](#)

Councils are urging the government to rethink scrapping £347m emergency welfare fund

## [Feature: The digital transformation](#)

Maia Beresford, Researcher at the New Local Government Network (NLGN) discusses the government's 'Digital Strategy' and how local authorities should benefit

## [High central costs in some councils need greater scrutiny says Audit Commission](#)

The Audit Commission has published new analysis of data on English councils' central management costs in its briefing, *Councils' Centrally Managed Spending: Using Data From the Value for Money Profiles*. Overall spending on corporate and democratic management<sup>(1)</sup> reduced by 13 per cent from 2003/04 to 2012/13, while spending on central management support to services<sup>(2)</sup> increased by 10 per cent. However, gaps and inconsistencies in councils' recorded spending in these areas will, the Commission says, hinder councils' attempts to identify savings and undermines accountability to taxpayers. As a result, the Commission is calling for greater local scrutiny and more consistent reporting by

councils of their central management spending.

## [Whitehall releases its grip on unused public land](#)

Whitehall departments have sold enough brownfield land to build 68,000 homes, the same number as in the whole of Blackpool, Housing Minister Kris Hopkins.

## [Cuts to Liverpool's fire stations would spell job losses](#)

Despite union calls for a rethink, fire service bosses are planning to vote for four Liverpool fire stations to be lost in the region.

## [Demos](#)

Introducing Generation Citizen: Today's teenagers are more engaged with social issues than ever.

## [Home Office](#)

Theft from the person: an information pack for partners.

## [Home Office](#)

User guide to the Home Office migrant journey.

## [Policy Exchange](#)

Future Courts: A new vision for summary justice

## [New £1.5m fund for opening up public data](#)

The government is awarding £1.5m to encourage the opening up of public sector data. The Open Data User Group (ODUG) is released 50 case studies on open-data-led business and applications on data.gov.uk, the government's flagship data portal.

## [A roundtable discussion on the future of the water market](#)

Anglian Water Business and Public Sector Executive brought together leaders from the water industry, regulators and customers to discuss the future of the water market once retail competition is brought in, the expectations of public sector customers, and the lessons from other markets and the water market in Scotland.

## [Flooding damage 'could have been prevented'](#)

Some of the damage caused by recent flooding could have been prevented, a group of leading environmental experts have stated. Writing in the Telegraph, they suggested a range of water management techniques which should be used in future and called for the Prime Minister to adopt a clear strategy for flood prevention.

## [House building up by 23%](#)

There were 122,590 starts on new homes in 2013, up by 23% on the previous year, new statistics show. The government welcomed the figures as evidence of "fixing a broken housing market".

## [4Children calls for integrated healthcare for families](#)

Public services must be more integrated to become family friendly, charity 4Children has urged.

## [Work experience key to meeting youth unemployment – UKCES](#)

More employers can and should offer young people work experience, the UK Commission for Employment and Skills (UKCES) has stated.

**Net migration rose by more than a third to 212,000 in the year to September, according to the Office for National Statistics.** The rise of 58,000 immigrants, mostly from the European Union, means that Government immigration targets of 100,000 are unlikely to be met (*FT*; *Telegraph*; *Times*; [BBC Online](#)).

**The Government has confirmed yesterday that it will move ahead with planned cuts to the criminal legal aid budget.** The Government is planning to cut the budget by £220 million with barristers and solicitors planning a walk out in March in protest ([FT](#)).

**The Low Pay Commission has recommended a 3 per cent increase in the minimum wage to £6.50 an hour.** The proposed rise would increase the number of jobs covered by the minimum wage by more than a third, to approximately 1.25 million (*FT*; [BBC Online](#)).

**Private groups have been invited to help the National Health Service buy services for the first time.** The NHS has asked for companies to compete for work advising NHS England on patient care reforms, negotiating hospital contracts, supporting organisational change and outsourcing services (*FT*).

**The Commons Health Select Committee raised concerns about the performance of Public Health England since its inception last year.** A report by the committee states that Public Health England “has not yet shown that it is able to be an effective champion of the nation’s public health interests” (*Guardian*).

**Labour will pledge to ‘de-clutter’ public services in a speech to be given by Chris Leslie MP.** In a speech to be given at the Social Market Foundation, Chris Leslie MP, Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury, will pledge to ‘de-clutter’ public service provision by streamlining bureaucracy and encouraging the merger of local bodies in order to save money (*FT*; *Times*; *Independent*; [BBC Online](#)).

**The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has cut the number of staff employed to look after the witnesses by 57 per cent in the past three years.** According to a research by the Bureau of Investigative Journalism, Witness Care staff numbers fell by 24 per cent last year, though the CPS claims that drop is the result of the consolidation of Care Units and greater responsibility being taken by the police (*Independent*).

**The National Audit Office (NAO) has reported that over three quarters of the Government Regional Growth Fund remains unspent.** The NAO reported that although the number of jobs created has almost doubled since 2012, the cost of creating these new jobs has also increased by 13 per cent (*Times*; [BBC Online](#)).

**The second largest chain of state-funded academies, E-Act, is to lose control of ten schools, according to the Department for Education.** The decision follows concerns raised by Ofsted inspectors about the schools’ performances, and the Department for Education is looking for new sponsors for the schools (*Telegraph*; [BBC Online](#)).

**The British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) has called on Chancellor George Osborne MP to include in the budget measures focusing on youth unemployment and**



**training.** Along with the proposed introduction of a £1,000 grants for business that employ young people, other measures suggested by the BCC include increasing the tax relief available on the Enterprise Investment Scheme ([FT](#); [BBC Online](#)).

**The Local Government Association (LGA) has called for ministers to rethink their decision to end the £345 million Local Welfare Assistance Fund.** According to the LGA, the abolition of the fund, which is typically spent on food, clothing and accommodation, could leave councils unable to support families who suddenly face emergencies ([Independent](#); [BBC Online](#)).

#### 4. Consultations

##### [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.

##### [Government announces consultation into surveillance](#)

The Government has announced a consultation on covert surveillance and covert human intelligence sources codes of practice. The consultation runs until 27th March 2014.

##### [Written statement on Consultation on fees under the Licensing Act 2003](#)

**The Minister of State for Crime Prevention (Norman Baker):** Has informed Parliament of the publication of a public consultation on the move from centrally-set to locally-set fees under the Licensing Act 2003. The consultation will run for 8 weeks, from 13 February to 10 April.

##### [Prevention of Offending by Young People](#)

Open date: 05/02/2014

Close date: 30/04/2014

##### [Fees under Licensing Act 2003](#)

The Government is consulting on details of the move from centrally set to locally set fees under the Licensing Act 2003. The consultation is open until 10th April 2014.

##### [Community engagement](#)

NICE is developing public health guideline Community Engagement (update of PH9) All registered stakeholders for the above public health guideline are invited to comment on the draft scope. Closing date 19/03/2014.

##### [Wales Rural Development Programme 2014-2020: Final Proposals](#)

This consultation invites comments on the Welsh Government's strategy and priorities for the delivery of the Wales Rural Development Programme 2014-2020. Closing date 14/04/2014.

## [Interventions to reduce substance misuse among vulnerable young people](#)

NICE are undertaking a consultation to decide if this guidance needs to be updated. The consultation runs until 28 February 2014.

## 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.