



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

[Counter Terrorism and Security Bill unveiled](#)

Urgently-needed legislation which will give the UK some of the toughest powers in the world to tackle the increasing threat from international terrorism has been introduced.

[New powers to tackle sham marriage announced](#)

New powers to enable the Home Office to tackle sham marriages have been announced by Immigration and Security Minister James Brokenshire.

Criminal Justice and Courts Bill

On 10 November the Government accepted an amendment at the Lords Third Reading of the Criminal Justice and Courts Bill to give 17 year olds detained in police custody the same rights as children aged 10-16. The Bill is expected to gain Royal Assent in the Spring of 2015.

[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.

[Serious Crime Bill](#)

[The Modern Slavery Bill](#)

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](#)

[Lords invited to endorse Government application to re-join EU justice and home affairs measure](#)

On Monday 17 November, the House of Lords will be invited to endorse the Government's decision to apply to re-join 35 EU justice and home affairs measures, including the European Arrest Warrant, which, along with some 95 other measures, the Government has opted out of with effect from 1 December 2014.

2. Strategic policing and crime news

[Written statement on the State of Policing: The Annual Assessment of Policing in England and Wales 2013/14](#)

This report forms a part of HMIC's first Police Efficiency, Effectiveness and Legitimacy (PEEL) assessment. The PEEL assessment represents a radical shift in how police forces are held to account by enabling the public to see for the first time how well their force is performing when it comes to cutting crime, providing a service that is fair and providing value for money. The individual force assessments are also available today at www.hmic.gov.uk.

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

PEEL 2014 - we asked, you said, we did.

[HMIC: State of policing: the annual assessment of policing in England and Wales 2013/14](#)

"Although performing well in many respects, the police are falling behind the curve of rapidly changing criminality, policing the crimes of today with the methods of yesterday and insufficiently prepared for the crimes of the future", Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary (HMCIC) said as he published his annual assessment on the state of policing.

[Sports: West Midlands Police](#)

West Midlands Police has a three year sporting programme running across the force area. 'Sport WMP' is funded by the National Lottery Sport England's Community Sport Activation Fund, an initiative that supports grass roots sport activity across the country.

[Home Secretary Theresa May on counter-terrorism](#)

We are engaged in a struggle fought on many fronts and in many forms.

[£45,000 funding for victims to use restorative justice](#)

The Ministry of Justice has allocated funding to three organisations to help victims of crime to repair the harm caused by their experiences.

[£24million grant to support witnesses at court](#)

Citizens Advice has been awarded £24m by the Ministry of Justice to provide the court based Witness Service for those giving evidence in criminal cases.

[College of Policing](#)

Five Year Strategy.

[Police chief asks people to look out for the warning signs of radicalisation](#)

As more vulnerable people are being brainwashed through social media, police call for parents, carers, friends and colleagues to be alert to the signs of extremism. As police continue their drive this week to raise awareness about how ordinary people can help keep the UK safe from terrorism, National Policing Lead for the Prevent Programme Chief Constable Sir Peter Fahy said.

[Oral statement by Prime Minister David Cameron on the murder of Lee Rigby](#)

[Crime news: 2015 Duty Provider Crime Contracts - invitation to tender](#)

Further to the government's response to the 'Transforming legal aid: crime duty contracts' consultation, it has now published the following information for those eligible to tender for a 2015 Duty Provider Crime Contract:

- invitation to tender for 2015 duty provider crime contract
- 2015 Duty Provider Crime Contract documentation
- indicative (example only) duty rotas for new contracts

3. Developments and reports

[Home Office customer service lines report 2014](#)

This report shows the Home Office's progress towards implementing guidance on customer service telephone numbers.

[Police step up activity to restrict access to terrorist tools](#)

More action than ever before is being taken to restrict the availability of tools like guns, ammunition and explosive that are used in terrorist attacks.

[Labour's Zero-Based Review:](#)

Labour identifies £250 million of savings to better protect frontline policing.

[NSPCC Research into Social Workers Knowledge of Child Sexual Abuse](#)

As part of the research, a series of interviews and small group discussions were conducted with social workers, managers, and LSCB chairs. The interviews and discussions considered the extent to which social workers are confident in working with cases of child sexual abuse, along with the issues and challenges of this work. The research found that social workers are facing increasing caseloads and often need to work without support, time, knowledge, training, and sometimes front line experience to identify sexual abuse. They are

often more confident in dealing with intra-familial sexual abuse than cases involving internet grooming, trafficking, sexting, or peer abuse.

Child sexual exploitation inquiry prompts renewed commitment from Birmingham

Birmingham has emphasised its commitment to tackling child sexual exploitation after an inquiry found 132 young people were vulnerable to or experiencing abuse.

Children's services in Somerset 'inadequate' finds watchdog

Somerset County Council has come under fire for 'inadequate' children's services following an Ofsted inspection.

Council uses civil injunction to protect children from sexual exploitation

Seven men have been ordered by the High Court to stay away from young girls after Birmingham City Council became the first local authority to use a civil injunction to protect vulnerable children from sexual exploitation.

Record numbers of children in care, finds watchdog

Numbers of children in care have reached a 20-year high, with the Coalition making 'no progress' on improving the system – auditors have warned.

Councils failing to prepare for Care Act research suggests

The majority of older people in need are more likely to receive disability benefits than help from their local authority, shows new research. The report from Independent Age and the Strategic Society Centre also reveals that 70,000 of the most disabled pensioners do not get any form of paid or unpaid care at home. Of those caring for a loved one, 80% do not receive any council services.

DCLG fails to understand impact of council cuts, says watchdog

The Government department responsible for local authorities has 'limited understanding' of the pressure cutbacks are having on councils, the spending watchdog has warned

Local government too slow to tackle child exploitation warns Ofsted

Too many councils are ill equipped to prevent child sexual exploitation, they lack leadership on the issue and efforts to work in partnership are 'disjointed'.

UK 'sleepwalking' towards crisis in children's mental health, warns charity

Children's mental health has got worse over the last year or 'remained persistently bleak', according to 90% of frontline professionals.

Domestic abuse and learning disabilities: addressing intimate partner abuse

The report published today into care facilities for learning disabled people has again raised serious questions about the kind of support offered to these service users. Other concerns have been raised previously about learning disabled victims of hate crime and the frequent failure to follow up such cases adequately.

Refuges 'turning away' domestic abuse victims due to lack of space

Specialist refuges are turning away nearly a third of domestic abuse referrals due to a lack of space, according to the latest research by Women's Aid.

Council uses 'innovative legal approach' to protect vulnerable woman

Birmingham City Council has secured injunctions against a number of men in what it described as a 'ground-breaking approach' to protect vulnerable people. They were obtained in relation to a young woman known to social services for a number of years and who has gone missing more than 100 times in the last four years.

Government failing people with learning disabilities finds review

People with learning disabilities are being kept in 'inappropriate' institutions, according to a damning report in the [wake of the Winterbourne scandal](#).

So-called 'legal' highs linked to deaths to be banned in UK

Ministers have accepted advice from the Advisory Council for the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) to control the new psychoactive substances (NPS) 4,4'-DMAR and MT-45 as Class A substances under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.

The Smith Commission has reported – what's next?

An extensive package of new powers for the Scottish Parliament have been agreed. Read about the next steps here.

Boroughs win big at Police awards ceremony

Haringey and Havering LBCs have scooped top prizes for their work to improve community safety at this year's Problem Oriented Partnerships (POP) awards.

New Economic Foundation

Hands-on Communities - The community and wellbeing benefits of learning and sharing practical skills.

Public Health England

New psychoactive substances - A toolkit for substance misuse commissioners.

University of Oxford

Making and Breaking Barriers: Assessing the value of mounted police units in the UK.

Welfare reforms fail to deliver expected savings finds report

The Government's programme of welfare reforms has fallen way short of its target to reduce spending by £19bn this year – opening the door to further benefit cuts. Analysis by the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) shows spending on pensioner benefits and housing benefit are far higher than Government anticipated. Overall, it has delivered just £2.5bn of savings on social security spending since 2010.

Universal Credit rolled out to families

The government's flagship welfare reform programme, Universal Credit is being extended to parents for the first time.

LGA calls for government to simplify distribution of flood funds

Councils say the government must simplify its emergency funds for flood-ravaged areas to ensure this year is better than last. The extension will begin with families in the North West, who will be able to claim up to 70% of childcare costs regardless of how many hours have been worked.

Flood funding for councils cut by a third

Funding for councils to deal with flooding has been cut by a third, despite warnings from the National Audit Office earlier this month that half of Britain's flood defence systems are being maintained at a "minimal level" and are like to "deteriorate faster" due to government budget cuts.

Supreme Court case could address 'injustice' of council homeless assessments – charities

A Supreme Court challenge on how councils decide which homeless people are judged 'vulnerable' enough for rehousing could address a 'longstanding injustice' that has seen many turned away in the past, according to Crisis and Shelter.

Home support is key to cutting hospital readmissions, says report

Older people who leave hospital without enough support at home are more than twice as likely to be readmitted within three months, research has found.

Study raises questions over data security in public sector

Over three-quarters of IT decision makers in the public sector believe their chief executive does not take security seriously enough, a new study reveals.

Black Friday Data Breaches: Consumers Are Still Vulnerable

The one-year anniversary of Target's 2013 Black Friday data breach, it doesn't appear that shoppers are shying away from shopping via credit or debit cards to avoid a similar predicament this year. In fact, a new study by Deloitte found that 56 percent of consumers will shop at retailers that have experienced a data breach this past year, including Target, Home Depot, Kmart and Michaels, even though 42 percent said they are concerned about their personal data.

Councils push gum giants to help cover £60m clean-up costs

Chewing gum manufacturers have been urged to help councils cover the multi-million pound cost of cleaning gum from England's streets.

Review to put council admin costs in the spotlight

Public services minister, Leighton Andrews, has commissioned a review of administrative costs across all local authorities in Wales.

Space for over one million homes on brownfield land says report

Over one million homes could be built on England's brownfield land, research from the [Campaign to Protect Rural England \(CPRE\)](#) suggests.

Funding awarded to improve local services and save over £900 million

Projects which will improve the public services people receive and reduce the cost to taxpayers have been awarded, £89.4 million investment.

Serco re-appointed to manage Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre

Serco Ltd has been re-appointed by the Home Office to operate, maintain and manage Yarl's Wood IRC for a further eight years.

Channel Shift could save local government £670m in 2015

Local government expects to save more than £670m by embracing the Digital by Default agenda, according to a new survey of senior executives. The Public Sector Channel Shift Strategies Survey Report 2015 by GOSS Interactive reveals that moving to online channels

such as web and social media is expected to councils around £1.55m each next year, an increase of 345% in 2014.

Council mergers could cost £269m says report (Welsh Local Government Association)

Local government mergers in Wales could cost £269m, according to a study on the financial implications of reform. The report by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) shows that cutting the number of councils from 22 to 12 would cost up to £158m in redundancy and staff costs, up to £54m for the rationalisation of property and systems. Local government could also lose £57m in income due to council tax harmonisation.

Parking rules confuse 24.7m drivers, poll finds

Almost 24.7 million UK motorists find parking rules and regulations confusing, according to a survey that has prompted questions around signage.

Winter weather: UK government response

The United Kingdom has one of the most capable forecasting and warning systems in the world but extreme weather events can still cause disruption over winter.

A day in the life of local government

Councillors and council staff took part in a 24-hour social media marathon on Wednesday, showcasing their daily experiences in local government.

DCLG demands return of funding from social enterprise

A demand notice for £1.4m has been issued against Social Enterprise North West (SENW) following 'serious irregularities' in its accounts were uncovered.

New Essex partnership to tackle council tax fraud

A new council collection sharing agreement has been arranged in Essex to help reduce fraud across the county.

Addressing fuel poverty in the UK

In 2014 there are estimated to be 2.3 million households living in fuel poverty in the UK ¹ – and more than 3 million families ² are likely to cut back on food this winter to pay their fuel bills.

Investing in greener neighbourhoods

Historically low energy prices have meant the UK has little perceived need to invest in energy efficiency. Compared to our European cousins, our housing stock, which accounts for nearly 30% of the country's energy use, is highly inefficient.

Councils failed to collect £4.5bn in council tax and business rates

Councils failed to collect £4.5bn in council tax and business rates in 2013/14, even though the amount collected rose this year, according to **new figures published by the Audit Commission**.

Councils told to use 'idle' money to stamp out fraud

Councils have been urged to use 'idle' money to crack down on fraud, such as revenue raised from the sale of empty buildings or brownfield land.

Panel calls for £5bn transformation fund

The best performing councils should be allowed to strike a 'deal' with government for greater flexibility, according to a panel tasked with looking at the future of public services.

4. Consultations

A proposal to increase firearms licensing fees administered by the police

This consultation seeks views on whether firearms licensing fees administered by the police should be increased. The Home Office also welcomes comments on how the review process should be managed. Closes 29th December 2014.

Proceeds of Crime Act 2002: codes of practice consultation

The Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 provides for a statutory consultation on new codes of practice and on any amendments to existing codes. The codes will then be subject to parliamentary approval before coming into force. Responses by 14th December 2014.

Improving children and young people's mental health services

The Department of Health is seeking views about how mental health services for children and young people could be improved. The consultation is open until 5th December 2014.

Offences against the person

The Law Commission is consulting on 'Offences against the person'. The consultation runs until 11th February 2015.

Changes to the police disciplinary system

This consultation seeks views on proposals for changes to the police disciplinary system, and strengthening protections for police whistleblowers. Closes 2nd January 2-15.

23rd January 2015 - *Robbery sentencing guideline*

31st January 2015 - *Guidance for healthcare professionals on information sharing*

11th February 2015 - *Offences against the person*

English indices of deprivation

The Government is updating the indices of deprivation for publication in the summer of 2015. They are consulting on final proposals for updating the indices. The consultation closes on 19th December 2014.

Consultation on revisions to PACE Codes

Open date: 14/11/2014

Close date: 06/02/2015

Use of Expert Witnesses in Courts in NI

Open date: 13/11/2014

Close date: 20/02/2015

Judicial Pensions Regulations (NI) 2015 - Transitional and Consequential Amendments to PSPA

Open date: 12/11/2014
Close date: 12/01/2015

Proposals to amend regulations relating to the use of capital receipts

Seeking views on proposed amendments to the regulations governing the use of receipts arising from the disposal of council housing assets and use of the receipt arising from such disposals. The consultation proposes that the existing arrangements are retained for 2015 to 2016 and 2016 to 2017 with adaptations to take account of possible housing stock transfers and errors made in the calculations for previous years. Closes 19th December.

HM Inspectorate of Prisons – stakeholder survey

Each year HM Inspectorate of Prisons conducts a survey of its stakeholders, in order to gather feedback on its activities, and to inform future policy and practice. Our 2014 survey is now ready and we would very much welcome your views. Closing date 3 December.

UK Borders Act 2007: sanctions for non-compliance with the biometric registration regulations

This consultation seeks comments on amendments to the code of practice following the extension of the biometric immigration document scheme for overseas applicants. Consultation closes on the 23 December 2014.

Robbery guideline consultation

The Sentencing Council has launched a consultation on the draft guideline on robbery. The consultation closes 23rd January 2015.

Consultation on Victim Charter May 2014

Open date: 14/10/2014
Close date: 14/12/2014

Proposed merger of the local justice areas in North Yorkshire

This consultation was published on 1 October and closes on 31 December. Yorkshire.

Adult social work: knowledge and skills

Open date: 10/10/2014
Close date: 12/12/2014

Next steps to zero carbon homes: small sites exemption

Open date: 18/11/2014
Close date: 07/01/2015

Improving children and young people's mental health services

Open date: 19/11/2014
Close date: 05/12/2014

NHS Health Check programme: priorities for research

Open date: 20/11/2014
Close date: 19/12/2014

Localisation and social security

Open date: 18/11/2014

Close date: 12/12/2014

5. Reviews and Inspections

IPCC to investigate ten officers following Rotherham scandal

The Independent Police Complaints Commission is launching an investigation into the conduct of ten South Yorkshire officers in relation to their handling of reported child sexual exploitation.

IPPC: monthly update about the investigations into the Hillsborough disaster

HMIC: Crime recording thematic to be published

IPCC investigates force that gave killer back his guns

The Independent Police Complaints Commission is investigating Surrey Police's decision to return confiscated licensed guns to a man who went on to kill two women.

West Midlands Police inspected on child protection

HM Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) has today published an inspection report into the child protection work carried out by West Midlands Police, following an inspection in June 2014.

2014 Value for money profiles

HMIC has published the latest value for money profiles which provide comparative data on a wide range of policing activities.

HMIC Website

Published the first 2014 PEEL update.