



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

[Finance Bill 2013 published](#)

The Government has published the Finance Bill, which will enact tax measures announced since the March 2012 Budget.

[Consideration in the Lords of Commons amendments to the Crime and Courts Bill](#)

The Lords were considering amendments made to the Crime and Courts Bill in the Commons.

[Update on Court and Tribunal Reform](#)

The Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (Chris Grayling): I have previously set out my plans for reform of rehabilitation services and youth custody, and will shortly be setting out proposals for further reforms to legal aid. I am today announcing that I have asked my Department to explore proposals for the reform of the resourcing and administration of our Courts and Tribunals. The Courts and Tribunals are at the centre of our justice system, relied on by the public to enforce their rights and uphold the rule of law. As in other areas, we need to look at the way we deliver our services to provide a more efficient service that delivers access to justice quickly and effectively, while delivering value for money for the taxpayer. At the same time, we must preserve the independence of the judiciary which lies at the heart of our constitutional arrangements.

[Lords consideration of Commons amendments made to the Justice and Security Bill](#)

The Justice and Security Bill has now been agreed by both Houses and is awaiting royal assent.

[Government to overhaul young driver rules in bid to improve safety and cut insurance costs](#)

Young drivers could benefit from improved training and lower insurance premiums as the Government confirmed its intention to launch a Green Paper on improving the safety and reducing risks to young drivers. The proposals were unveiled at a summit for the motor insurance industry, hosted by the Department for Transport. Representatives from the Ministry of Justice, Department for Health and consumer organisation uSwitch were also

present. The Government is expecting the changes to result in a reduction in the high cost of vehicle insurance currently facing motorists – especially young drivers.

The Home Office website has been replaced by GOV.UK

On 27th March 2013 the Home Office website was replaced by www.gov.uk/home-office. GOV.UK is now the best place to find essential government services and information.

2. Policing and crime key developments

[Minister announces targeted support for women offenders](#)

Female offenders should receive more targeted support to break the cycle of crime and abuse many of them face, Justice Minister Helen Grant has announced. It costs £45,000 to keep a woman in prison for one year – while almost 45 per cent of all women released from custody in 2010 re-offended within 12 months. Many female offenders have a background of abuse and up to 56 per cent have been in care. Setting out her priorities, Helen Grant outlined the need for proper punishment, coupled with effective rehabilitation, to turn women away from crime. A powerful new Advisory Board will bring together key experts to help shape future policy in tackling female offending and drive through reforms.

[Report highlights differences in ill-health retirement rates across forces](#)

The Institute for Fiscal Studies has published a report entitled "Reform of ill-health retirement of police in England and Wales: impact on pension liabilities and the role of local finance." The study examines ill-health retirement of police officers in England and Wales between 2002-3 and 2009-10.

Differences in ill-health retirement rates across forces are statistically related to area-specific stresses of policing and force-specific differences in human resources policies. Reforms to police pensions plans - in particular a shift in the incidence of financing ill-health retirement from central government to local police authorities - impacted on the level of ill-health retirement, especially among forces with above-average rates of retirement.

The study finds that residual differences in post-2006 ill-health retirement rates across forces are related to their differential capacities to raise revenue from local property taxes. It quantifies the impact of these reforms on overall pension plan liabilities.

[Cleveland Police Deputy Chief Constable dismissed following IPCC managed investigation](#)

The Deputy Chief Constable of Cleveland Police has been dismissed after being found to have committed gross misconduct. Derek Bonnard was dismissed after the findings of an investigation managed by the Independent Police Complaints Commission resulted in him facing seven counts of gross misconduct at a disciplinary hearing. The IPCC managed an investigation into allegations that Mr Bonnard had misused public funds, received inappropriate hospitality and obstructed a criminal investigation, Operation Sacristy, into individuals with links to the former Cleveland Police Authority. The disciplinary hearing found the case was proven against Mr Bonnard on six of the seven counts.

[Questions for answer on or after Monday, 15 April 2013](#)

Sir Bob Russell (Colchester): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will publish the names, job titles and salaries of all deputies, assistants and advisers appointed by police and crime commissioners in each police authority area.

[Europe needs common definitions road injuries, says Commissioner](#)

Speech by [Siim Kallas](#), Vice-President and Commissioner for Transport on reducing serious injuries: the way forward to make Europe's roads safer

[National Audit Office report on Police procurement](#)

Although the 43 police forces in England and Wales and the Home Office are making savings in the procurement of goods and services for the forces and are implementing initiatives to improve value for money, many opportunities remain unexploited. Police forces procure a wide range of goods and services, from uniforms and police vehicles to estate and facilities management services such as cleaning, spending some £1.7 billion in 2010-11.

The Department oversees the police service, and central government provides most of its funding, but individual forces have traditionally bought many goods and services independently. With central government funding being reduced by some £2 billion in real terms over the spending review period, however, the Home Office has taken a role in providing leadership and support to help forces improve their procurement and make savings. Many forces are now working with others to improve their buying power and make administrative savings, but most collaborations involve few forces and nearly half of all forces still have independent procurement teams.

Some forces have set up regional or national approaches to purchase common goods and services which many other forces take advantage of. However, common specifications for many types of goods and services do not exist, which reduces scope for collaborative buying. The NAO found at least nine separate specifications for each of five common types of equipment used by police officers, such as boots, body armour and high-visibility jackets. The NAO estimates forces could save up to a third of their costs in such areas, for example by agreeing a common specification for a uniform, such as that agreed by the Prison Service.

[CBI responds to NAO report on police procurement](#)

The CBI responded to a report by the National Audit Office on police procurement. Matthew Fell, CBI Director for Competitive Markets, said: "More needs to be done to improve how police forces procure their goods and services, like purchasing regionally or centrally. Adopting a common specification for uniforms, for example, is a simple but effective way to achieve this. At the same time, police forces must go even further and open up their administrative and operational support functions to competition from independent providers, which will save money and free up officers for the frontline."

[Triennial Review of the British Transport Police Authority to start shortly says Minister](#)

The Minister of State for Transport (Simon Burns): We will shortly commence a Triennial Review of the British Transport Police Authority (BTPA). The BTPA oversees the operation of the British Transport Police, set its targets, and allocates funding for its budget. Reducing the number and cost of public bodies is a Coalition priority. The Triennial Review process has been established to continue the Government's work ensuring accountability in public life by examining all NDPB's at least once every three years.

[UK Border Agency to split into two new groups](#)

The UK Border Agency is to be split into two separate entities – an immigration and visa service and an immigration law enforcement organisation - as part of a package of changes which have been announced. Further changes include removing its agency status and

bringing the new organisations into the Home Office, reporting to ministers. Additionally there will be improvements to the IT systems across the whole immigration system and clarification of the policy and legal framework within which the system operates through an Immigration Bill in the next session of Parliament.

[LGA response on the role of local authorities in health issues](#)

Commenting on the Communities and Local Government Select Committee's concerns about responsibility for dealing with health emergencies, Cllr David Rogers, Chair of the Local Government Association's Community Wellbeing Board, said: "Protecting the public from harm in crisis situations is bread and butter for councils. We already work with the emergency services and government to respond to everything from flooding and snow to water shortages and bomb blasts so residents can trust us to work with colleagues in the NHS to help keep them safe in the event of a health emergency.

"The various roles and responsibilities for dealing with health emergencies are clearly specified in the regulations of the Health and Social Care Act and the LGA has been working with the newly formed Public Health England to develop guidance and run regional scenarios to help councils understand their role in dealing with anything from an outbreak of SARS to a nuclear meltdown. Councils will continue to work with PHE to ensure a joined up response to emergencies when they occur."

[Community budget pilots are to be rolled out to more areas](#)

Community budget pilots are to be rolled out to more areas although there is uncertainty about how many councils will be able to take part in this second stage. The Department for Communities and Local Government invited expressions of interest from councils who want to work "intensively" with the current pilots in order to implement a similar approach in their local area.

Councils have until 15 April to indicate their interest in following in the footsteps of the four community budgets in Essex, Cheshire West & Chester Council, Greater Manchester councils and three west London councils known as the 'Tri-borough'. According to Ernst & Young estimates, the community budget approach to pooling budgets in a local area and working across public agencies could save up to £20.6bn over the next five years.

[Budget 2013](#)

The Chancellor of the Exchequer delivered his Budget to Parliament on 20 March 2013, alongside the publication of the [Office for Budget Responsibility's updated forecasts for growth and borrowing \(opens in new window\)](#)

[Department cuts LGA funding](#): central government funding for the LGA is to be cut by 7% next year

Britain's current account deficit in 2012 (the gap between imports and exports) grew to its worst level for more than 20 years, according to the Office for National Statistics. Due to a collapse in overseas income, the current account deficit nearly tripled to £57.7 billion or 3.7 per cent of GDP, the biggest shortfall as a proportion of national income since 1989 ([FT](#); [Telegraph](#); [Times](#); [Guardian](#)).

Senior welfare experts have urged the Government to reconsider benefit cuts coming in next week that will “disproportionately hit the poorest families and push a further 200,000 children into poverty”.

In an open letter to the Prime Minister, David Cameron, more than 50 social policy Professors warn that the welfare reforms will “result in the poorest tenth of households losing the equivalent of 38 per cent of their income” ([Guardian](#)).

3. Reports

[Prime Minister's immigration speech](#)

Prime Minister David Cameron has outlined plans for a cross-Government immigration system that seeks to favour those who work hard to get on in life. The Prime Minister said that immigration continues to have huge benefits to our nation and we can be proud of how open and diverse we are. He explained that he believes a sensible debate will help ensure that everyone who comes here pays their way and gives something back. The speech outlined Government plans to do this by:

- stopping our benefits system from being such a “soft touch”;
- making entitlement to our key public services something migrants earn – not an automatic right; and
- bringing the full force of government together to crack down on illegal working.

[New Life in the UK test goes live](#)

The new Life in the UK test goes live with British culture and history at the very heart of its revised curriculum. It follows the launch of the new guidebook in late February, which removed questions on topics that those living in the UK should already be aware of like public transport, credit cards and job interviews. Instead, the new test focuses on British culture, history and traditions as well as the events and people that have shaped Britain into the country it is today.

[The United Kingdom's strategy for countering terrorism: Annual report](#)

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Theresa May): Protecting the safety of the UK and our interests overseas is the primary duty of Government. Terrorism remains the greatest threat to the security of the United Kingdom. I have published the annual report for the Government's strategy for countering terrorism, CONTEST (Cm 8583). It covers the progress made towards implementing the strategy that we published in July 2011.

[Minister announces £5 million to support innovative flood defence schemes](#)

Thirteen communities across the country will benefit from a £5 million fund to come up with innovative projects that will better protect homes and businesses from the risk of flooding, Environment Minister [Richard Benyon](#) announced. The scheme is aimed at protecting communities where flooding is a major problem and the projects will be required to demonstrate that they can reduce the levels of flood risk in measurable ways. This will give residents evidence about flood risk that could be taken into account by insurers and result in lower premiums. The projects are funded by the Flood Resilience Community Pathfinder scheme launched by Defra in December 2012.

The Government announced plans for student nurses to spend up to a year as healthcare assistants, helping patients eat, wash and get dressed, before completing their degree training.

The Health Secretary, Jeremy Hunt MP, announced the plan as part of the Government's response to more than 290 recommendations contained in the Francis Report into the failings of care at Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust ([Times](#); [Guardian](#), [Independent](#); [Mail](#); [BBC Online](#)).

On [Thursday](#), Danny Alexander, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, told Ministers to draw up plans cut an additional 10 per cent of their budgets for 2015-16, with the exception of the health, schools and international aid budgets.

4. Consultations

[Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 - Consultation on draft statutory guidance for powers to extend retention of biometric data on national security grounds](#)

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Theresa May): has launched a public consultation inviting views on the draft guidance on the making or renewing of national security determinations as set out in the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012. A national security determination will enable the police and other law enforcement authorities to extend the length of time that they may retain an individual's biometric data where it is necessary for the purposes of national security. These determinations are subject to independent review by the Commissioner for the Retention and Use of Biometric Material.

"The use of DNA and fingerprints by our police and other law enforcement agencies is a vital tool in the fight against crime and combating threats to our national security. However, in discharging our duty to protect the public, we will not undermine the importance of our historic freedoms. The Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 changed the law to ensure the public is safeguarded while also protecting those innocent people whose DNA is taken and held by the police. The new framework provided by the Act for the retention, destruction and use of such material provides the necessary balance between public protection and individual freedoms.

The draft guidance on the making or renewing of national security determinations is intended to provide clear guidance to the police on the exercise of these important powers and sets out both the principles and procedures required for making a national security determination under the provisions of the Act. A copy of the draft guidance will be placed in the House Library and full consultation details can be found on the Home Office website. The consultation closes in May.

[Victims of crime will be guaranteed support](#)

Victims of crime will now be able to hold the criminal justice system to account for the support it provides and be backed by a clear set of entitlements thanks to a statutory new Victims Code, Victims' Minister [Helen Grant](#) announced. A simple new Code – written for victims rather than the 'System' for the first time - has been put out to consultation to ensure it gives victims what they need. It tells people what they can expect from the moment they report a crime to the end of a trial, and who to demand help from if it is not provided. The Code will also ensure extra support for victims of the most serious crimes and offer specialist help to young victims. [The consultation on the new Victims' Code](#) opened on 29 March and will close on 10 May.