



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

[Justice and Security Bill](#)

A bill to provide for oversight of the Security Service, the Secret Intelligence Service, the Government Communications Headquarters and other activities relating to intelligence or security matters; to provide for closed material procedure in relation to certain civil proceedings; to prevent the making of certain court orders for the disclosure of sensitive information; and for connected purposes.

[New Law for Missing Persons gets Royal Assent](#)

On 26 March 2013 The Presumption of Death Bill received Royal Assent in Parliament which means that a legal framework now exists for the creation of a presumption of death certificate scheme in England and Wales. The presumption of death certificate will be equivalent to a death certificate, and will assist families in dealing with the affairs of the missing person, such as stopping existing direct debits and gaining access to bank accounts.

[SI 2013/668 The Children, Schools and Families Act 2010 \(Commencement No. 3\)](#)

[Order 2013](#) This Order is the third Commencement Order and brought into force section 8 of the Act on 15 April 2013. Section 14B gives Local Safeguarding Children Boards in England the power to request any person or body to supply such information as is specified in the request either to the Local Safeguarding Children Board or to another person or body.

[SI 2013/705 Coroners and Justice Act 2009 \(Commencement No. 12\) Order 2013](#)

Sections 117(4),(5),(6),(7) and (8) in force on 22 April 2013. These provisions amend section 51 of the Police Reform Act 2002 so that local policing bodies must ensure that particular arrangements in relation to the visiting of terrorist detainees by independent custody visitors are in place.

[SI 2013/862 The Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 \(Consequential Amendments\) Order](#)

[2013](#) In force on 13 May 2013. This Order makes amendments to specified Orders and Regulations consequential upon the amendment of offences relating to the trafficking of people for sexual exploitation set out in the Sexual Offences Act 2003.

[SI 2013/903 Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 \(Consequential Amendments\) Regulations 2013](#) In force on 20 May 2013. These Regulations are made under section 149(1) and (2) of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 (“the Act”).

Background briefing on domestic violence policy

This briefing, prepared by the House of Commons Library, explains the latest policy developments in relation to domestic violence. On 31 March 2013 the [definition of domestic violence](#) was expanded to include 16 and 17 year olds and coercive control. Prior to this on 18 March 2013 the Home Office produced an [information guide](#) for local areas on the definition of domestic violence and abuse to help them prepare for the change in definition. On 8 March 2013 the Home Office published a “further refreshed version” of the [Ending violence against women and girls: action plan 2013](#) including developments since the last update was published in March 2012. Domestic violence accounted for 15% of all violent incidents in 2011/12. Nearly one third of women and nearly one fifth of men say they have experienced domestic abuse since the age of 16.

[Background briefing on changes to the Public Service Pensions Bill](#)

Following the passing into law of the Public Service Pensions Bill, the House of Commons Library has produced a briefing paper providing an overview of the main issues of debate in the final stages of the House of Lords debate. The Public Service Pensions Act establishes a framework enabling the Government to introduce new public service pension schemes.

2. Policing and crime key developments

[Police are doing less with less, says Yvette Cooper](#)

Yvette Cooper MP, Labour’s Shadow Home Secretary, commenting on FOIs which show a steep increase in serious offences being dealt with by community resolutions. The shadow home secretary, says that FOI requests show a steep rise in the number of serious crimes being dealt with by community resolution methods, such as restorative justice, since a 20% cut in Whitehall grants to the police began to bite in 2010.

[Ten thousand violent crime cases dealt with by 'community resolution' methods](#)

Labour says schemes like apologising to victims should not be used in serious cases like domestic violence or assault. The police are dealing with as many as one in eight violent offences, including knife crimes and domestic violence, by getting the offender to apologise to the victim rather than prosecuting them in court, according to House of Commons research.

[All time high for conviction rate in rape and domestic violence cases](#)

The Crown Prosecution Service has published new figures that conviction rates have increased once again last year. The statistics show that the conviction rate for rape prosecutions has continued to rise to the highest on record, from 58% in 2007/08 to 63% in 2012/13. CPS recorded data on rape prosecutions includes all cases initially charged and flagged as rape, including those cases where a conviction was obtained for alternative sexual offences or serious offences of homicide or offences against the person. The conviction rate for domestic violence has also increased by 1% this year and now stands at 74%, compared to 60% in 2005/06.

[Judgement to change PACE so 17 year olds are not treated as adults](#)

The High Court has determined that 17 year olds must not be treated as adults in custody and the Home Secretary has acted unlawfully in not amending Code C of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1998. The Home Office will not appeal the decision.

[Disability hate crime film](#)

Manchester MENCAP has produced a video about disability hate crime.

[Cycle thieves: We are watching you](#)

Newcastle University has published its study into the use of simple signage intervention against cycle theft. Bicycle theft is a serious problem in many countries, and there is a lack of evidence concerning effective prevention strategies. Displaying images of 'watching eyes' has been shown to make people behave in more socially desirable ways in a number of settings, but it is not yet clear if this effect can be exploited for purposes of crime prevention.

[How offenders are sentenced in England and Wales](#)

The Sentencing Council has produced a film showing house decisions about sentencing are made.

Chris Grayling MP, the Secretary of State for Justice, announced plans to implement changes to the Incentives and Earned Privileges schemes in prisons in England and Wales. Under the reforms, prisoners will have a longer working day, as well as having to work harder to earn privileges such as TVs in cells and extra gym time, and the Ministry of Justice will be given more power "to recover money from prisoners to pay for damage to prison property" ([FT](#); [Telegraph](#); [Independent](#); [Guardian](#); [Mail](#); [BBC Online](#)).

Newark Northgate, as well as other stations along the East Coast line have been looked at for potential development by the same company who developed St Pancras.

3. Reports

['Preventing crime more important than catching criminals'](#)

The police should focus more on preventing crime in the first place than catching criminals afterwards, the chief inspector of the constabulary has suggested. Tom Winsor, who has spent his first six months in his new role listening to frontline and senior officers, gave a speech to the Royal United Services Institute calling for a return to the basic mission of police; to prevent crime and disorder.

[Independent Police Complaints Commission publishes 'Near Miss' Learning Report](#)

The Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) has published an Independent Investigation Learning Report relating to police custody. The report followed a case in which a man was arrested on suspicion of burglary and was taken into police custody.

[Government Publishes Annual Report on Work to Protect the UK from Terrorism](#)

The Government has published an annual report on CONTEST, the government's strategy for countering terrorism. The Annual report titled 'CONTEST The United Kingdom's Strategy for Countering Terrorism' outlines the current threat from Terrorism and key achievements between July 2011 and December 2012.

The report states that in the twelve months to 30 September 2012:

- 245 people were arrested for Terrorism-related offences in Great Britain;

- 45 people were charged with Terrorism-related offences;
- 18 people were convicted of Terrorism-related offences;
- 25 people are awaiting trial (as of 18 January 2013).

[Centre for Social Justice releases Report on the Fight against Modern Slavery](#)

The Centre for Social Justice (CSJ) has released a policy report called 'It Happens Here- Equipping the United Kingdom to fight modern slavery.'

[Home Office Publishes Quarterly Update on the Operation of Police Powers under the Terrorism Act 2000 and subsequent legislation](#)

The Home Office has released updated statistics relating to the Terrorism Act 2000, including arrests and outcomes as well as stop and searches made under the powers of the Act. The figures date to 30 September 2012.

[Home Office Publishes Practical Guidance on Human Trafficking](#)

On 4 April 2013 the Home Office published Practical Guidance on Human Trafficking. The guidance is aimed at organisations, recruitment managers, managers, front-line workers and inspectors, and defines what human trafficking is and provides examples of indicators of human trafficking.

[ACPO's UK Police Directory 2013](#)

Now in its tenth year, the ACPO UK Police Directory is the number one source of contact data within the police service and the many hundreds of organisations that work closely with the police at all levels.

[Policy Exchange](#)

Rebooting the PC: Using innovation to drive smart policing. This report is all about how to hardwire innovation into the structures and cultures of policing. It examines why policing can be culturally and institutionally resistant to innovation, identifies the 'engines of innovation' which can sometimes break through this inertia, demonstrates why embedding processes of innovation should be a deliberate goal of policy, and calls for the creation of new collaborative networks specifically designed to foster innovation.

[Alcohol Concern](#)

Alcohol brands consumed by under-18s in contact with young people's drug and alcohol services. A survey of alcohol brands consumed by vulnerable young people under 18 years old in contact with drug and alcohol services suggests that their decisions may be shaped by a combination of price and awareness of product marketing.

[Home Office](#)

Police recorded crime.

[Ministry of Justice](#)

Offender management statistics quarterly.

[Ministry of Justice](#)

Proven reoffending July 2010-June 2011.

[Ministry of Justice](#)

Safety in custody statistics.

Peabody

Supporting Peabody communities – a fresh approach to ASB. The [community safety team](#) asked the University of Birmingham to evaluate its current approach to antisocial behaviour (ASB) and community safety. It wanted to understand the views of residents and staff about ASB and crime on its estates. It also hoped to identify best practice to improve intervention and develop better preventative measures. The research took place between April and July 2012 and included three focus groups with Peabody residents, meetings with frontline staff, and a roundtable event with other housing providers.

£2 million grant scheme to boost childcare opens its doors

From today (1 May 2013) people who want to set up a new nursery or a childminding business can get grants of up to £500 to help cover things like legal and insurance costs, training, equipment, and adaptations to premises. They will also be encouraged to join up with a free business mentor and access specially-tailored business start-up advice. The scheme will help launch up to 6,000 new childcare businesses.

Caldicott review: information governance in the health and care system

Following a request from the Secretary of State for Health, Dame Fiona Caldicott carried out this independent review of information sharing to ensure that there is an appropriate balance between the protection of patient information and the use and sharing of information to improve patient care.

DPP to step down

Director of Public Prosecutions, Keir Starmer QC is to step down at the end of his five year term in October this year.

Voters reject building more prisons to lower crime

A poll undertaken on behalf of the Criminal Justice Alliance shows that voters are not confident that putting even greater numbers of people in prison is effective at tackling crime and favour investment in other methods.

Office of the Children's Commissioner: Always someone else's problem – report on illegal exclusions.

Clinks Findings from a consultation with Probation Trusts on commissioning and the Voluntary and Community Sector.

Housemark Social hearts, business heads: new thinking on VFM.

Local Government Association

The reports outlines the second set of results in a series of quarterly LGA public polls on resident satisfaction with local councils, including a regional analysis of results. The polling was conducted by telephone between 18 and 21 January 2013.

Ofsted

Keeping out of trouble. Children's views reported by the Children's Rights Director for England. For this report, children and young people were asked for their views and experience about what can keep a child or young person from getting into trouble with the law. The consultation asked both children and young people who had been in trouble with the law and those that had not.

Policy Exchange

The report, *Better Public Services: A Roadmap for Revolution*, calls for a number of changes in the way services are delivered which puts power firmly in the hands of the public. It argues that the state's right to monopoly provision of public services should be swept aside. Private companies and voluntary groups should be able to compete in an open and transparent process to provide services to the public. A new legal right would be established giving people the right to exercise choice in the public services they consumer.

Policy Exchange

Housing and intergenerational Fairness: calls on policymakers to reform the planning system to encourage the construction of new good quality homes that will not antagonise local people. Current rules make it almost impossible for developers to build houses with extra floors which has led to a situation where only 2% of UK housing stock consists of bungalows. In 2009, only 300 bungalows were built. The report says that building more bungalows will allow older people to downsize, freeing up family sized homes for younger families.

Public Health England

Priorities for 2013-2014. The mission is to protect and improve the nation's health and to address inequalities, working with national and local government, the NHS, industry, academia, the public and the voluntary and community sector. Over the next six months they will work with everyone to refine the thinking and set ambitions for the next three years, and will engage on this in the autumn.

Reform

Fire and Rescue Services in London. There is a clear opportunity to reform London fire services. Demand for fire services has fallen sharply but budgets have risen:

- The number of fires in London has fallen by over 40 per cent since 2002-03. Fire deaths have fallen by nearly 40 per cent. The number of pump mobilisations has fallen by over 33 per cent. The London fire services budget has risen by 1.6 per cent in real terms since 2002-03.

London is lagging behind the other metropolitan fire services:

- For the period 2001-02 to 2014-15, the six other metropolitan fire services will see reductions in numbers of firefighters of between 23.5 per cent and 40.4 per cent. The number of London firefighters will fall by only 4.8 per cent.

Shelter

Little boxes, fewer homes: setting housing space standards will be get more homes built.

UCL Department of Security and Crime Science

Understanding the crime fall – examining changes in crime in the Core Cities since 2007.

Slight increases in public sector productivity

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) reported that public sector productivity rose by 0.3 per cent in 2009 and 2010.

Triple-dip recessions

The ONS reported 0.3 per cent growth in GDP in the first quarter of this year.

High crime

The ONS reported that crime had fallen by 5 per cent in the year to December 2012, according to the latest Crime Survey for England and Wales.

[Universal Credit](#)

The first stage of Universal Credit (UC) began on 29 April 2013 for new claimants in Ashton-under-Lyne in Greater Manchester. The switch should be complete by 2017, by when the whole system will be managed online. UC will be paid to households rather than individuals, and will be automatically adjusted dependent on earnings.

[1% national pay rise for council employees](#)

National Employers has offered a 1% pay increase to council employees from April 1. If agreed with unions, it would be the first national offer since 2009. The offer would affect over 1 million employees on salaries starting at £12,145 a year, 77% of whom earn less than the median local government salary, but not chief executives, senior officers, teachers or firefighters, who are covered by separate national pay arrangements. The total increase to the local government pay bill will be £150.35m.

[National Infrastructure Plan 'not credible' – PAC](#)

The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) has raised concerns about the Government's infrastructure strategy, particularly with doubts about the level of funding available. The Treasury has not properly prioritised 200 key projects, the [PAC report](#) warns, and urges ministers to be realistic about the amount of investment that can be raised. The National Infrastructure Plan, launched in 2010 and updated last December, identifies £310bn of infrastructure projects, around £200bn of which is to be wholly funded by the private sector.

[Almost 50% of young people enter higher education](#)

The number of students going into higher education is at the highest rate ever, statistics from BIS show. In 2011-12, 49.3% of young people in England entered higher education. This is just below the 50% mark governments have long pledged to reach.

[Government measures boost direct employee ownership](#)

Changes to over-burdensome share buy back rules aimed at boosting direct employee ownership and cutting red tape, were announced today by Employment Relations and Consumer Minister Jo Swinson. Under the new rules, companies with employee ownership that issue shares directly to their employees will find it easier to buy back these shares when an employee leaves. The company will then be able reissue these shares more easily when new employees join.

[Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2013/14](#)

This is the fourth edition of the Code to be prepared under International Financial Reporting Standards which have been adopted as the basis for public sector accounting in the UK. The Code has been developed by the CIPFA/LASAAC Local Authority Code Board and has effect for financial years commencing on or after 1 April 2013.

[An introductory Guide to Local Government Finance 2013](#)

This is a guide to local government finance for all with an interest in public services. The guide covers revenue and capital financing, accounting, governance and auditing as well as giving an overview of some of the key services provided by local councils.

[A Practical Guide for Local Authorities on Income Generation](#)

This guide is for local authorities seeking to effectively generate local income from fees and charges, following the tough 2012 spending review.

4. Consultations

[Improving the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime](#)

The Government have launched a consultation which sets out their plans to reform the Victims' Code to give them clearer entitlements from criminal justice agencies and better tailor the service to individual need. The consultation runs until 10th May 2013.

[Consultation on Revised PACE Codes of Practice](#)

The Home Office has published a consultation on revising the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE) Codes of Practice. The codes proposed to be amended are codes A, B, E and F which concern stop and search, searching premises, and audio and visual recording of interviews. These draft amendments have been circulated for consultation in accordance with section 67(4) and the consultation closes on 10 May 2013.

[Consultation on Draft Statutory Guidance on the Making or Renewing of National Security Determinations Allowing the Retention of Biometric Data](#)

The Home Office has published a consultation on draft statutory guidance relating to the retention of DNA profiles and fingerprints. The Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 came into force last year and reformed the system of retention destruction and the use of DNA and fingerprint data by the police and other law enforcement authorities, ensuring that only those convicted of a criminal offence will have their fingerprints and DNA retained indefinitely. The consultation closes on 20 May 2013. Responses to the consultation should be sent to: Counter-Terrorism Legislation Team 5th Floor Peel Building Office for Security and Counter-Terrorism.