



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

[Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill](#)

The **Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill** completed the commons committee stage on 16 July 2013.

[New powers proposed against sexual exploitation](#)

Police should have greater powers to restrict the movements of sex offence suspects, a coalition of charities and campaigners has suggested. Nicola Blackwood MP is tabling an amendment to a bill to create Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Orders, to "simplify" the current system. Sexual Offences Prevention Orders (Sopo) can restrict a convicted offender's movements but are difficult to impose if the conditions are not immediately sought during sentencing. The proposals include police being able to seek an order using hearsay evidence and other intelligence about a suspected offender, who could then be banned from activity linked to abuse, such as having children in cars. The charities also want each area to have a dedicated child sexual exploitation centre to identify and protect victims of abuse.

[Motion supports call for Ambassador for Religious Freedom](#) - EDM 455 - **ARTICLE 18: AN ORPHANED RIGHT? REPORT.**

The publication of the new report Article 18: An Orphaned Right? by the All Party Parliamentary Group on International Religious Freedom; notes that this report examines abuses of religious freedom using the framework of Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which guarantees freedom of religion or belief; congratulates the authors of the report for producing a concise and clear survey of abuses of freedom of religion or belief throughout the world, affecting people of all religions and none; endorses the Report's policy recommendations including the appointment of an Ambassador for Religious Freedom and the establishment of a Foreign and Commonwealth Office advisory committee on freedom of religion or belief; and calls on the Government to accept these recommendations as soon as possible.

2. Policing and crime key developments

HMIC

Performance reporting. The Police Act 1996 Section 44 (2 and 3) states that the Home Secretary can require Chief Constables of forces in England and Wales to provide statistical data, and that he or she can specify the form in which these data are provided. The Home Secretary uses these powers to require Chief Constables to provide regular data on the number of crimes they record. These data must be recorded in accordance with the Home Office Counting Rules (HOCR), which seek to bring more consistency to the process of creating and maintaining crime records at force level.

More forces to trial 'street triage' mental health scheme

Five more police forces are to pilot the scheme whereby mental health nurses accompany officers on call outs. The new pilot areas are British Transport Police, Metropolitan, Thames Valley, West Midlands and West Yorkshire.

Decades of poor IT spending at the Met Police means crime is higher than it could be, Assembly warns

Crime in the capital is higher than it could be due to decades of poorly planned technology investment which has left the Met with out-of-date, ineffective and overly-expensive systems, a new report (attached) from the London Assembly says.

How 10 speed cameras raked in £12million in just three years by catching 200,000 motorists

- Camera on the M60 near Stockport is UK's most lucrative capturing 32,000
- List of busiest speed cameras includes motorways, urban and rural roads
- Campaigners call for cameras to focus on road safety not raising revenue

The top 10 permanent speed cameras in England and Wales were revealed by a Freedom of Information request. Each of the cameras - which include motorways, city centre roads and more rural routes - caught more than 10,000 people breaking the speed limit over the past three years.

Scope

Getting away with murder - Disabled people's experience of hate crime in the UK.

Racial bias in drugs stops and charges

Black people are twice as likely to be charged for possession of drugs, a new [study](#) from the drug charity Release and the London School of Economics (LSE) highlights. Police are significantly more likely to stop and search black people for drugs, who are also more likely to face charges and even prison. Analysis of Home Office data and Freedom of Information requests from police forces in England and Wales found evidence of clear racial bias throughout the judicial system.

3. Reports

Immigration continues to fall

Latest figures from the Office for National Statistics show that net migration continues to fall, down by a third since its peak in 2010. Figures show that reforms are having the desired effect – tightening the immigration routes where abuse was rife, but still encouraging the

brightest and best to come here to study and work. Immigration has fallen significantly, falling to 497,000 in 2012 from 566,000 in 2011. And immigration from outside the EU is now at its lowest level for 14 years. At the same time, there has been a 4% increase in the number of sponsored student visa applications for our world-class universities and a 7% increase in the number of sponsored visas applications for skilled workers.

[Seaside towns to be given £29million to boost growth](#)

The Coastal Communities Fund has been increased by 5% and is extended until 2016. The Coastal Communities Fund was launched in 2012 to invest in seaside towns and villages, helping them achieve their economic potential, reduce unemployment and create new opportunities for young people in their local area. The projects approved in the first year of the fund are forecast to deliver over 5,000 jobs and create 500 apprenticeships in the coming years.

[Upper age limit for jury service to be raised](#)

The Government has announced that people up to the age of 75 will be able to sit as jurors in England and Wales. The changes will require primary legislation which will be brought forward early next year.

[Department for Communities and Local Government](#)

Live tables on social housing sales. The tables below provide statistics on the sales of social housing stock – whether owned by local authorities or private registered providers. The most common of these sales are by the Right to Buy (and preserved Right to Buy) scheme and there are separate tables for sales under that scheme.

[Ministry of Justice](#)

This report presents the key trends on the latest twelve months (to March 2013) of activity in the Criminal Justice System.

[Ministry of Justice](#)

National Statistics on the reoffending of adults released from custody or starting a community sentence in England and Wales.

[Sensitive details of 2,000 residents released by Islington Council](#)

Islington Council has been charged with a £70,000 penalty after personal details of over 2,000 residents were released online. The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) charged the council and called for measures to be put in place to avoid a repeat of their mistakes. Information relating to residents' housing needs, including details of history of mental illness or if they had been victims of domestic abuse, were inadvertently released in response to a FoI request.

[TB badger culls start in Somerset](#)

Badger culls to try and control bovine TB have begun in Somerset, the National Farmers' Union has stated. Around 5,000 badgers will be killed in controlled shootings over six weeks to control the disease, which can pass from infected badgers to cattle. A cull in Gloucestershire will also begin. Defra has estimated that the culls could reduce the number of new cases of TB in herds by 12% to 16% over nine years.

[Centre for Crime and Justice Studies](#)

Housing needs of women from minority ethnic groups leaving HMP Holloway. The research

tried to find out what the needs were and how best St Mungo's could link women to services and prevent them from becoming homeless. It found that:

- Housing needs are very prevalent among women in Holloway prison.
- Finding accommodation for women leaving prison is very challenging. There are cuts in available accommodation which varies across London Boroughs. Residence rules disqualify women from access to local accommodation unless they have a local connection.
- Women have multiple needs (particularly drugs, education and employment) and the worker tries to provide support to them after leaving prison, linking them with other services or making referrals.

Women interviewed placed a lot of importance on their family needs, such as being reunited with their children or finding accommodation where they could look after newborns. Women valued a respectful, supportive and diligent service that advocated for them. They spoke about how their own cooperation with the worker could help to secure good outcomes.

[Centre for Mental Health](#)

Making recovery a reality in your community: A briefing for commissioners of mental health, drug and alcohol services.

[Policy Exchange](#)

Power Down: A plan for a cheaper, more effective justice system. It aims to offer a vision of a reformed landscape at the local level with stronger leadership and ownership, greater flexibility and innovation, and justice that is more efficient, effective and joined-up. It outlines a belief that the election of Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to change the balance of power in a system currently almost bereft of local control, financial responsibility or democratic accountability – and in doing so, reduce the costs of doing justice and deliver a better service too.

[Probation Chiefs Association](#)

Youth Transitions, Young Adult Offenders and Transforming Rehabilitation.

[Release](#)

The number of black and white: Ethnic disparities in the policing and prosecution of drug offences in England and Wales.

[Runnymede](#)

The New Muslims. This publication is part of the Runnymede Perspectives series, the aim of which is to foment free and exploratory thinking on race, ethnicity and equality. The facts presented and views expressed in this publication are, however, those of the individual authors and not necessarily those of the Runnymede Trust.

[Third Sector Research Council](#)

The third sector in unsettled times: A field guide.

According to the latest CBI quarterly poll, the services sector is growing at its fastest rate since November 2007. 31 per cent of the companies surveyed reported a rise in trade over the last 3 months, whilst 11 per cent reported a fall, giving a positive net balance of 20 per cent ([Telegraph](#); [Times](#); [Guardian](#); [Independent](#), [Mail](#); [Express](#); [BBC Online](#)).

Britain is the best European country in which to start a business, according to a report by Ernst and Young. In a survey of 1,500 entrepreneurs, Britain was found to have a

business friendly tax and regulatory burden, strong funding opportunities, as well as a culture of enterprise ([Telegraph](#); [City A.M.](#)).

Council spending continues to fall across England

Local authority spending in England is estimated to continue to fall in 2013-14 compared to 2012-13. However, in a developing trend, the reduction is expected to be less than the previous year. The data, compiled by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA), shows that Total Service Expenditure (TSE) by local authorities in England has been budgeted to fall by 1 per cent this year to £93.8bn. This figure excludes public health spend which is a new responsibility this year. Last year, budgeted spending fell by 4.8% to £94.7bn, while in 2011-12 the fall was 5.7% to £99.5bn.

Local Authority Revenue Expenditure and Financing: 2012-13 Provisional Outturn

- Total revenue expenditure by local authorities in England was £94.4 billion in 2012-13, a decrease of 5.0% from £99.3 billion in 2011-12.
- 28.3% of revenue expenditure in 2012-13 was funded through council tax, 29.5% through formula grant and 44.7% through specific grants inside Aggregate External Finance and Local Services Support Grant. These percentages were 26.6%, 29.7% and 46.1% respectively in 2011-12.
- Education expenditure for 2012-13 is not comparable to previous years due to a number of schools changing their status to become academies, which are centrally funded rather than funded by local authorities.
- Local Authorities net current expenditure for education services was £37.1 billion in 2012-13. Social care services were £21.1 billion, mandatory housing benefits were £20.7 billion, and police services were £11.3 billion.
- In 2012-13 local authorities added £2.6 billion to their reserves, the same amount as in 2011-12. The 2012-13 figure includes Greater London Authority, who added £0.9 billion to their reserves.

4. Consultations

Codes of practice issued under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002

The aim of the consultation is to seek comments and representations on the guidance provided in four draft codes of practice. The consultation runs until 30 August 2013.

Dangerous dogs: maximum prison sentences for dog attacks

Consultation on whether the punishment for an owner whose dog kills or severely injures a person, or their assistance dog should be increased. This consultation closes on 1 September.

Child Sexual Exploitation guidance

The College of Policing is consulting on a review of guidance covering all aspects of violence and public protection, starting with Child Abuse and Child Exploitation. The consultation runs until 3rd September.

Home Office Launches Consultation on Updating Special Constable Expenses and Allowance Rates and Criteria

The Home Office has launched a consultation in relation to special constable expenses and allowances rates and criteria. The consultation contains proposals to update these, in addition to removing the requirement for the Secretary of State to approve local allowance schemes under the Special Constable Regulations 1965. The consultation is seeking views on whether the proposals are clear, fair and reasonable and aims to understand the potential impact of the proposals on all affected parties. The Consultation closes on 5 September 2013.

Consultation on the general consents issued under section 25 of the Local Government Act 1988

This consultation is on a revised version of the [general consents](#) issued under [section 25 of the Local Government Act 1988](#). The revised consents remove the requirement on local authorities to seek the specific consent of the Secretary of State to dispose at less than market value for the provision of privately-let housing accommodation of (a) vacant housing land, and (b) vacant dwellings to other registered providers. The deadline for responses is 13 September.

Drug Driving : proposed regulations

The consultation seeks views on the government's preferred policy option of making it an offence to drive if any of 17 controlled drugs are found in blood over a specified limit. The consultation closes on the 17 September.

Statutory guidance on children who run away or go missing from home or care

The current statutory guidance on children who run away and go missing from home or care was published in July 2009. The closing date for consultation responses is 17 September.

Improving safeguarding for looked-after children: changes to the Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010

This consultation seeks views on proposals to amend the [Care Planning, Placement and Case Review \(England\) Regulations 2010](#). The closing date for consultation responses is 17 September.

Open Government Partnership: UK draft National Action Plan 2013

This draft of the UK's second National Action Plan is a result of the UK's membership of the [Open Government Partnership](#) (OGP) - a multilateral initiative that aims to secure concrete commitments from governments to promote transparency, empower citizens, fight corruption, and harness new technologies to strengthen governance. The closing date for consultation responses is 19 September.

Serious Fraud Office and DPP Launch Consultation on Deferred Prosecution Agreements Draft Code of Practice

The Director of the Serious Fraud Office and the Director of Public Prosecutions have published a draft code of practice on Deferred Prosecution Agreements (DPAs) for consultation. The consultation is open to interested individuals and organisations and closes on 20 September 2013.

New consultation: Stop and search

This consultation seeks views on the police powers of stop and search. The consultation runs up to 24 September 2013.

Proposals for the use of capital receipts from asset sales to invest in reforming services

In the Spending Review document [Investing in Britain's future](#), the government announced that it would consult on allowing local authorities some flexibility to use their receipts from asset sales to pay for the one-off revenue costs of service reforms. This consultation closes on the 24 September.

Proposed changes to Codes of Practice C (Detention) and H (Detention – Terrorism)

This consultation runs until Wednesday 25 September 2013.

Hate Crime-The Case for Extending the Existing Offences

This project came to the Law Commission by a reference from the Ministry of Justice, following the Government's publication of its three-year hate crime action plan in 2012. The consultation closes on the 27 September.

Views sought on changes to the alcohol and drugs reporting framework

Public Health England (PHE) is keen to ensure that the alcohol and drug reporting framework is fit for purpose, and so is consulting with the alcohol and drugs sector on a number of proposed changes to the reporting framework. The consultation runs until September.

Corporate responsibility: call for views

Corporate responsibility is sometimes known as corporate social responsibility. It is defined as the responsibility of an organisation for the impacts of its decisions on society and the environment above and beyond its legal obligations, through transparent and ethical behaviour. The closing date for consultation responses is 27 September.

Domestic violence and abuse – identification and prevention

NICE is developing public health programme guidance on 'Domestic violence and abuse: how social care, health services and those they work with can identify, prevent and reduce domestic violence and abuse'. The consultation period runs from 2nd August – 27th September.

Forensic Science Codes of Practice: Guidance on validation consultation

The Forensic Science Regulator published Codes of Practice and Conduct (Codes) for forensic science providers and practitioners in the criminal justice system in 2011. The Codes are being supplemented with appendices covering evidence specific requirements, guidance, information and protocols. In order to finalise each appendix, each one is being consulted on and feedback sought. This draft guidance is issued to allow comments from interested parties. Comments should be sent on the feedback form provided to FSRConsultation5@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk and should be submitted by 27 September 2013.

Assisted Areas Map 2014 to 2020

Updating the UK's Assisted Areas Map for 2014-20 delivers an opportunity to help drive sustainable strong growth, which will help to rebalance the UK economy. Assisted Area status permits the granting of additional financial support to small businesses and large enterprise in economically disadvantaged locations. This support is to encourage business in these communities to grow, innovate and thrive, which can positively affect these locations and the whole UK economy. This consultation closes on the 30 September.

Local Government Finance Settlement 2014-15 and 2015-16: technical consultation

This consultation seeks views on a range of detailed and technical issues concerning the 2014-15 and 2015-16 Local Government Finance Settlements. It will be of particular interest to local authority finance departments. The closing date for consultation responses is 2 October.

Sentencing Council Launches Public Consultation on the Sentencing of Fraud, Bribery and Money Laundering Offences

The Sentencing Council has launched a public consultation on the sentencing of fraud, bribery and money laundering offences. The Consultation document states that it does not concern the legislation that relates to these offences, but is only consulting on the sentencing. The consultation is open to all members of the public, including members of the judiciary, legal practitioners and individuals that work in or have an interest in criminal justice. The consultation closes on 4 October 2013.

Consultation on prescription drug tramadol

The government wants to make tramadol a Class C drug but ensure it is available to those who need it as a prescription medicine. The number of deaths involving tramadol has risen from 83 in 2008 to 154 in 2011. The deadline for responses is 11 October 2013.

Greater flexibility for change of use

In order to support the Government's priorities for making better use of existing buildings a consultation on proposed changes to planning regulations has been launched and will run until 15 October.

Alcohol fraud: next steps

This consultation provides further details and seeks views on the next steps the Government plans to take to tackle existing and emerging threats to the UK alcohol duty regime. The consultation runs until 28 October.

Conducting Privacy Impact Assessments Code of Practice consultation

The ICO is consulting on its draft '[Conducting privacy impact assessments code of practice](#)' and would like to hear views. The deadline for responses is 5 November.

Do drug and alcohol workers need a Voluntary Professional Register?

Skills for Justice is carrying out a consultation and are seeking views of practitioners, employers, membership organisations, commissioners of services and policy makers.