



## 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.

## 2. Policing and crime key developments

[Public Accounts Select Committee](#) - The evidence on crime statistics can be read.

### [HMIC: Programme Plan Consultation](#)

HMIC's inspection programme for 2014/15 was published today for consultation. It includes the principles for the new annual inspections of forces. From the summer, inspection teams will be visiting forces three or four times per year to gather fieldwork evidence for the new assessment, but in the first transition year they will mainly use data gathered from their national thematic inspections to which they are already committed. HMIC will be consulting widely with the public on the best format and level of detail in the annual assessment. The consultation closes on 17 February.

## **HMIC: Rape Monitoring Group – Adult and child rape data for 2012/13**

Up to one in three rape claims are written off by police: four a day are reclassified as 'no crime' with huge variations between different forces. Last year, 10,018 rapes were reported to police in England and Wales, with a total of 1,423 marked as 'no crime'.

**Northamptonshire: child protection arrangements** - A revisit inspection by HMIC found that Northamptonshire Police has made significant progress in child protection arrangements by developing a joint approach with other agencies (for example children's social care, health, education and probation), using additional specialist resources, and providing training for specialist and frontline officers.

## **Police BlackBerry scheme makes only 'woeful' savings**

A scheme to give police officers smartphones and streamline bureaucracy has failed to achieve its expected £125m savings, the Commons Public Accounts Committee has reported, instead making just £600,000 – less than 1% of the money spent on the project.

## **Police workforce, England and Wales, 30 September 2013**

This release contains statistics on the numbers of police officers, police staff, police community support officers (PCSOs), designated officers, traffic wardens and special constables in post on 30 September 2013 in the 43 police forces of England and Wales and the British Transport Police.

**Sex trafficking gang dismantled** - An international investigation dismantles a human trafficking gang responsible for transporting young Nigerian women in prostitution.

**Raising officers' awareness on responding to missing people** - A report by the University of Portsmouth says that more than half of police officers responsible for dealing with risk in missing people cases have never read national guidance on how to handle such cases. It also says that just under half have not read their own force's guidance.

**Police and mental health: How to get it right locally** – Dealing with people with mental health problems. The *Police and mental health* guide was first launched in 2010. This revised and enhanced guide highlights new research (*At risk, yet dismissed*) as well as practical guidance that will enrich officers' knowledge and understanding, enabling them to be much more effective in their interactions with people with mental health problems. It contains examples of excellent good practice covering local initiatives, liaison and diversion, training and support schemes which can be emulated to ensure good practice towards mental health is rooted and routine in all areas of policing.

**R v Nimmo & Sorley** – Sentencing remarks of Chief Magistrate Howard Riddle at Westminster Magistrates' Court. Improper use of a public electronic communications network contrary to s.127 of the Communications Act 2003.

**In the matter of Ian Brady** – Mental Health Tribunal decision.

## **Essex Police dog unit death to be investigated.**

An Essex police dog died while on a training exercise, prompting an investigation. Five-year-old German shepherd Gunner died on Saturday during an evening shift.

The death comes two months after his fellow Essex police dog Baron died after falling from a roof while on duty.

## **Hundreds of children ‘detained in police cells’.**

Hundreds of children in England and Wales have been held under the Mental Health Act and locked in police cells because officers did not have anywhere else to take them, the BBC has learned.

## **Police Federation must reform or face abolition.**

The decisions we make moving forward are our opportunity to start to build a federation of the future, a federation that we can all be justly proud of, that has clear purpose and direction, is accountable and transparent.

## **Police officer sacked for leaking secrets to drug dealer.**

A police officer has been sacked and another has resigned after information was leaked to a drug dealer in Greater Manchester Police.

## **Ryan Fleming wins £24,000 payout from Essex Police.**

Ryan Fleming, 33, was charged with an alleged public order offence and harassment after a neighbour dispute with an Essex Police officer in 2009.

## **Met denies stop and search targets.**

The Metropolitan Police Service has denied setting individual targets for arrests or stop and search. The force issued a statement following reports in the Mirror that officers are so focused on hitting these targets that they let others matters slide. It claims officers face disciplinary action unless they stop and search at least 15 people a month, and arrest eight.

**Drinking in the street** - There is no general prohibition on drinking in the street but certain offences relating to alcohol may be committed in public places.

## **Intention to publish updated statistics on first time entrants to the Criminal Justice System in England and Wales**

- In January 2014, updated statistics on first time entrants to the Criminal Justice System in England and Wales will be published following a change in the methodology used to calculate the number of offenders resident in England and Wales at the point of receiving their first caution or conviction.

**College reminds officers of changes to Public Order Act** - The College of Policing is reminding police officers and staff this week that from Saturday 1st February, the Public Order Act (1986) will change.

**Merseyside Police must improve safety training for its officers** - Following an independent IPCC investigation into the death of a man who died in hospital after being arrested in 2012, the IPCC has told Merseyside Police it should review its training so that officers are better equipped to spot the signs of what national police guidance describes as Acute Behavioural Disorder and is sometimes referred to as ‘excited delirium’.

## **Met Police custody healthcare a ‘major problem’.**

## **Devon and Cornwall Police face potential £30m cut.**

[London police officers' use of Taser increases by 88% in a year.](#)

[Learner driver caught by police accompanied only by a parrot.](#)

[PCC's suspension of chief constable was 'unnecessary'.](#)

[Row over £75,000 cost of police badge campaign.](#)

[New £7m buildings planned for Derbyshire police at its crumbling HQ.](#)

[On duty detective guilty of cocaine possession.](#)

[Major investigation teams could merge across Yorkshire and Humberside.](#)

[Specials' recruitment must not 'threaten regular officers'.](#)

[Human rights laws allowed 600 foreign criminals to dodge deportation last year.](#)

### 3. Reports

**Joint Inspection of the treatment of offenders with learning disabilities within the criminal justice system**

#### [FOI release - Amount of funding for police force disclosure units](#)

Request for the agreed funding for each disclosure unit in the country for 2013 to 2014 and 2014 to 2015. The financial amount agreed to fund each Police Force Disclosure Unit for the financial years 2013 to 2014 and 2014 to 2015, broken down into cost per check for each force.

#### [Justice Select Committee has published its report:](#)

Crime reduction policies: a co-ordinated approach? Interim report on the Government's Transforming Rehabilitation programme

#### [New pilot initiative launches in Hampshire](#)

A new initiative has been launched to make offenders think about the consequences of crime and reducing reoffending. The Victim Awareness Course is delivered by Victim Support and involves adult offenders of offences who may receive a conditional caution or Fixed Penalty Notice.

#### [Poverty and Homelessness Action Week](#)

This begins on 26th January and aims to raise awareness of the underlying factors of poverty and homelessness.

#### [WCVA to receive £7.2m for volunteering in Wales](#)

Volunteer groups across Wales will receive £7.2m funding, the Welsh Government has announced. The investment will go to the Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA), County Voluntary Councils and Volunteer Centres to fund a programme to promote youth volunteering and to help provide community services.

The Criminal Records Unit of WCVA will receive £400,000 to help safeguard adults and children through safer recruitment. Projects that work to reduce poverty will also be funded.

## [Young people facing homelessness](#)

Councils are reporting a lack of accommodation for young people in their area, a new [report](#) by Homeless Link warns. Of the young people approaching councils with homelessness applications, 44% said that their parents were no longer willing to house them. The government has proposed scrapping housing benefit for under-25s.

## [NSPA launched to improve suicide prevention](#)

A new alliance has been launched to reduce the number of suicides in England and to improve support for those affected. The National Suicide Prevention Alliance ([NSPA](#)) is formed of the Department of Health, Samaritans and Rethink Mental Illness. With a £120,000 government grant, the alliance will work together over two years to raise awareness, deliver a commitment to suicide prevention, share good practice and improve support for those at risk of suicide, those worried about a relative or friend and those bereaved by suicide.

## [Gagging clauses used to cover up failure](#)

The Public Accounts Committee is “deeply concerned” about the use of confidentiality clauses and special severance payments in the public sector, its new report shows. Evidence suggests they have been used to cover up failure, including compromised patient safety in the NHS. A lack of transparency, accountability and central oversight also means that the use of these arrangements cannot be effectively monitored or controlled.

## [Cities need more devolved powers to generate jobs](#)

London has been creating the most new jobs while other cities get left behind, the Centre for Cities annual Cities Outlook report suggests.

## [‘Lack of information’ on probation reforms – MPs](#)

MPs have raised concerns about the government’s implementation plans for probation reform, which will see services for low and high-risk offenders split between new private providers and the National Probation Service. The justice select committee has published its [report](#) on crime reduction policies, investigating the risks involved in the proposed new system.

## **City analysts have forecast growth of just under 2 per cent during 2013, the strongest performance since 2007.**

The official growth figures will be released this week by the Office for National Statistics ([Guardian](#)).

## [Findings of investigation into TVP response to Shaun Elliott missing persons report](#) -

Four Thames Valley Police (TVP) officers have been disciplined following an investigation by the IPCC into the force’s handling of a missing person report in July 2011.

[Findings from investigation into a fatal road traffic incident on M4](#) - An investigation by the IPCC has found that two Wiltshire Police officers acted appropriately before a fatal road traffic incident in March 2013.

## [Hillsborough investigation update for January.](#)

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

Crime and Policing Comparator.

## [Home Office](#)

Police recorded crime open data tables.

## [Centre for Mental Health](#)

The lifetime costs of childhood behavioural problems and the benefits of early intervention  
*Executive Summary*

## [Demos](#)

Ties that bind - The best public services work with the grain of people's social relationships... This report explores the potential for a further shift: from services that focus on the individual, to those that recognise the importance of people's relationships with others.

## [Department of Health](#)

Closing the Gap: priorities for essential change in mental health.

## [Institute for Government](#)

Beyond big contracts: Commissioning public services for better outcomes.

## [Joseph Rowntree Foundation](#)

Households below a minimum income standard: 2008/9 to 2011/12.

## [London Councils](#)

Anti-Social Behaviour and Mental Health.

## [MIND/Victim Support](#)

Police and Mental Health - How to get it right locally

## [National Audit Office](#)

Police accountability: Landscape review.

## [OECD](#)

Who are the school truants?

## [PLOS Medicine](#)

Associations between Intimate Partner Violence and Termination of Pregnancy: A systematic review and meta-analysis.

## [RSA](#)

Police Federation Independent Review.

## [Revolving Doors Agency](#)

Street Talk: An evaluation of a counselling service for women involved in street based prostitution and victims of trafficking.

## **Centre for Cities publishes 'definitive healthcheck' of the UK's largest cities and towns**

Centre for Cities has published [Cities Outlook 2014](#), an authoritative economic index of the [64 largest cities and towns](#) in the UK. [Cities Outlook 2014](#) sets out how different cities are



set to fare in the year ahead. Now that the UK is staging a recovery, which cities are leading the way? And are any still suffering stagnation?

[Cities Outlook 2014](#)'s special focus is on London and its relationship to other cities. It shows that [the Capital is leading the economic recovery, and its longstanding economic strength continues to attract talented workers from across the country](#).

But the report also highlights that many of our largest cities are also showing green shoots of growth, with Liverpool, Manchester, Nottingham and Leeds all delivering large numbers of private sector jobs, while cities like Cambridge, Reading and Bristol perform well on skills and employment.

[Cities Outlook](#) also makes the case that devolving more funding and powers to UK cities – London and others – so they can generate more of their own income and respond to the different strengths and weaknesses of their economy will be critical to ensuring this is a sustainable, job-rich recovery

### **A new report by the London Assembly Committee has shown that the Metropolitan Police is struggling to provide adequate medical staffing to assess and treat detainees in their custody.**

According to the report there is a 60 per cent shortfall in the number of nurses giving care and medical assessments for people in custody ([BBC Online](#)).

### **Mayor's "deep concern" at UK government opposition to safer lorry proposals as he joins forces with other European cities**

The Mayors of London, Amsterdam, Copenhagen, Madrid, leaders of 130 other European cities, haulage industry associations, transport unions, accident victims, safety campaigners and Olympic gold medallist Chris Boardman joined forces in Brussels today (29 January) to press for much tighter EU rules on lorry safety.

## **4. Consultations**

### **[Local authority parking strategies](#)**

The Government has launched a consultation in which it invites views on local authority parking strategies and government options for parking enforcement. The consultation is open until 14th February 2014.

**The Public Accounts Committee has revealed that up to £55 billion a year is being lost to the taxpayer due to fraud, error and unpaid taxes.** The Committee called on the Treasury to develop a strategy for tackling fraud through the public sector ([Times](#); [Mirror](#); [BBC Online](#)).

### **[Government approves low-level lights to boost cyclists' safety](#)**

More than 80% of cyclists favoured the use of low-level signals during the track-based trials of the system, which works by repeating the signal displayed on main traffic lights at the eye level of cyclists.

### **[Future funding of the Housing Ombudsman](#)**

The Government has announced a consultation on the proposal to extend the Housing

Ombudsman's existing fee charging model to local authority landlords from April 2014. This consultation closes on 30th January 2014.

## [Fingerprint comparison consultation document](#) – Plus [appendix](#).

This is a consultation issued to allow comments from interested parties; all comments will be given consideration when finalising the fingerprint comparison Appendix FSR-C-128 prior to publication. Comments should be sent to

[FSRConsultation1@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:FSRConsultation1@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk) and should be submitted by 20 January 2014.

## [Plan for joint inspections by Criminal Justice inspectorates](#)

On 15 January the four Criminal Justice Inspectorates published a consultation setting out the proposed joint inspection activity in the criminal justice system from 2014 to 2016. The consultation asks two specific questions, 'Do any work streams duplicate, overlap or clash with inspections or other work you have planned (or are otherwise aware of) for 2014/15 or 2015/16? Are there any other subject areas that warrant inclusion in our criminal justice joint inspection programme?'. The consultation closes on 31 January.

## [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.

## [The Transforming Rehabilitation programme and the LGPS](#)

This consultation paper relates to the draft statutory instrument that enacts the technical changes to the local government pension scheme (LGPS). The draft regulations allow the continued participation in the Local Government Pension Scheme by employees engaged in probation services (within the Secretary of State for Justice's Transforming Rehabilitation Reforms) when they are transferred to the National Probation Service or a Commercial Rehabilitation Company. The Regulations allow for the benefits of all probation services employees (past and present) to be administered by one administering authority and for the transfer of all past service liabilities in relation to those employees to that one authority. The consultation closes on 10 February and the regulations are planned to come into effect on 1 April.

[12th February 2014](#) - Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

[14th February 2014](#) - Community Life Survey

## 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.