



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

[New powers to tackle anti-social behaviour](#)

The House of Commons Library has published its first briefing paper on the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill.

[Road safety: clear registration will ensure vehicles meet safety standards, say MEPs](#)

The European Parliament's Transport committee have voted on three pieces of legislation - also known as "Roadworthiness Package" - enforcing new rules on standards on safety checks for all vehicles to improve both road safety and environmental protection.

2. Policing and crime key developments

[A night out on Twitter](#)

Over 25 Police forces around the country used social media to reveal the impact of excessive drinking in towns and cities on Saturday 25th May. Using the hashtag #alcoholharm, forces tweeted about alcohol-related calls as they receive them in police control rooms, as well as incidents officers are called to on the street.

[IPCC promises 'thorough investigation' into Woolwich](#)

The Independent Police Complaints Commission is investigating the non-fatal shooting of two suspects by Metropolitan Police officers, following the murder of a soldier in Woolwich earlier this week.

[Track a cop with West Mids](#)

West Midlands Police are giving local people the opportunity to 'follow the footsteps' of an officer on his beat via a pilot for a new project.

[Scottish wildlife taskforce convenes for the first time](#)

Police Scotland has unveiled a new team of wildlife crime fighters, whose remit is to protect the country's natural resources.

[Police to breathalyse thousands more drivers to tackle drink and drug driving](#)

The Association of Chief Police Officers launched its summer anti-drink and drug driving campaign targeting under 25s and day time drinkers. ACPO lead for roads policing, Chief Constable Suzette Davenport, said there was a problem with drivers under 25 and warned drivers against drinking at barbecues if they intend on driving. A total of 156 people under the age of 25 were killed or seriously injured as a result of drink driving in 2010. In 2011 drivers aged between 20 and 24 failed more breath tests than any other age group.

New THINK! road safety resources for teachers and parents

A new online resource to help teachers plan road safety lessons for schoolchildren has been launched (29 May 2013) by Road Safety Minister Stephen Hammond. The [THINK! resource centre](#) brings together a wide range of road safety materials for children and teenagers in one place. It will allow teachers, road safety officers and anyone teaching road safety to plan lessons easily and effectively.

The Government should review police bail practices, according to a report by the Law Society.

The report reveals that more than 57,000 people are on police bail, including more than 3,000 people who have been waiting longer than 6 months for a decision on whether they will be charged ([Telegraph](#); [Mail](#); [BBC online](#)).

90 leading barristers have publicly opposed reforms to the legal aid system proposed by the Justice Secretary, Chris Grayling MP, in a letter to *The Daily Telegraph*.

The new reforms, where applications for judicial review will only receive legal aid funding once a judge has agreed the case is strong enough to proceed to a full hearing, were criticised as “unjust” ([Telegraph](#))

£165 million boost to tackle bottlenecks

Congested roads across England are to be tackled with £165 million of funding, Transport Secretary Patrick McLoughlin has announced. The announcement is the second tranche of funding from the £190 million [Local Pinch Point Fund](#), first announced in December 2012. A further 62 schemes have won department funding, bringing the total number of schemes financed by the fund to 72. Combined with local contributions, the total investment rises to more than £300 million. The successful schemes announced include improvements and upgrades to vital roads and bridges, new access routes and enhancements to address congestion at local traffic hotspots. Many of the schemes will help enhance provision for buses, as well as improving facilities for cycling and walking.

3. Reports

[Small businesses can protect themselves against cyber crime](#)

Security Minister, James Brokenshire, has told an industry conference this week there are simple steps that they can take to protect themselves

[Ministry of Justice](#)

Local adult reoffending – January – December 2012

[Centre for Social Justice](#)

Signed On, Written Off: An inquiry into welfare dependency in Britain. Economic dependency and worklessness are amongst the most destructive forces in our society. *Signed On, Written Off* revisits the challenges posed by our welfare system and other broader barriers to employment. The central guiding question remains the same: what more can be done to help people find work, stay in work, and achieve economic independence?

[Children's Commissioner](#)

The Office of the Children's Commissioner for England is calling for urgent action to develop children's resilience to pornography following a research report it commissioned which found that: a significant number of children access pornography; it influences their attitudes towards relationships and sex; it is linked to risky behaviour such as having sex at a younger age; and there is a correlation between holding violent attitudes and accessing more violent media. The report published today by the Office of the Children's Commissioner, "[Basically... porn is everywhere](#)" - [A Rapid Evidence Assessment on the Effects that Access and Exposure to Pornography has on Children and Young People](#) also found that:

- Children and young people's exposure and access to pornography occurs both on and offline but in recent years the most common method of access is via internet enabled technology
- Exposure and access to pornography increases with age
- Accidental exposure to pornography is more prevalent than deliberate access
- There are gender differences in exposure and access to pornography with boys more likely to be exposed to and deliberately access, seek or use pornography than girls.

It concludes that there are still many unanswered questions about the affect exposure to pornography has on children: a situation the Office of the Children's Commissioner considers requires urgent action in an age where extreme violent and sadistic imagery is two clicks away.

[Department for Communities and Local Government](#)

Minutes of ministerial working group on preventing and tackling homelessness.

[Homeless Link](#)

What's it worth? A guide to financial savings analysis and how it can be used by homelessness services in a robust way.

[Mentor Thinks](#)

Reviewing a school drug policy and responding to substance misuse.

[Ministry of Justice](#)

The public's understanding and views of sentencing and the criminal justice system.

[Prison Reform Trust](#)

What Can I Do? – Essential guide to volunteering in the criminal justice system

[Prison Reform Trust](#)

Where do you stand? – Package of information and materials aimed at non-experts on which to base discussions about prison and community sentencing in schools and community groups

Restorative Justice Council

Restorative Justice for young adults – Factoring in maturity and facilitating desistance
Drawing on primary evidence in the form of interviews with criminal justice practitioners and young adult offenders, as well as the existing literature, the aim of this report is to broaden our understanding of how restorative justice can be used with young adults (both victims and offenders) throughout the criminal justice process, considering the relevance of the maturation process, its implications for restorative practitioners working with this age group, and why restorative justice might be effective at encouraging desistance from crime.

The main findings are as follows:

- Although technically considered to be adults, victims and offenders between the ages of 18 and 25 may not be fully mature. This has many implications for restorative practice, of which facilitators and other criminal justice professionals must be aware;
- There are a number of theoretically- and empirically-informed ways in which participation in a restorative process might encourage desistance and otherwise have a significant impact on young adult offenders. For example, it can be argued that it helps to develop a sense of personal responsibility and self-efficacy, is conducive to the building of social bonds and attachments and encourages compliance by being perceived by participant offenders to be more procedurally-just than court-based processes. Depending on the offender, restorative justice might either instigate the desistance process or provide additional motivation for those who have already chosen or begun to desist;
- It is possible for service managers to integrate restorative practices into their work with 18-25 year old victims and offenders at any stage of the criminal justice process.

The Young Foundation

Growing Community Organising

The number of hospital admissions related to alcohol has more than doubled over the past decade, according to the Health and Social Care Information Centre.

Over the same period, the number of drugs prescribed to treat alcoholism increased by 73 per cent over the same period ([Telegraph](#); [BBC Online](#)).

A central database of personal medical records held by family GPs will launch next month.

NHS officials say the project to collect data will allow local health services to more effectively respond to the needs of the local population ([Telegraph](#)).

Trade union membership has increased for the first time in a decade, largely driven by a rise in the membership of private sector staff.

The study from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has revealed that the number of employees in a Union has increased by 59,000 to 6.5 million in 2012 ([Telegraph](#)).

Government figures show that more than 25,000 disabled people have found jobs, training or work experience over the past 2 years.

Under the Coalition's employment schemes, around 1,000 people are preparing for employment, finding work or starting their own companies every month, according to figures released by the Department for Work and Pensions ([Telegraph](#)).

Phillip Hammond MP, the Defence Secretary, has argued that any cuts to the budget beyond efficiency savings may require reopening the 2010 Strategic Defence and Security Review.

Mr Hammond believes that the 5 per cent cuts which the Treasury has called for will impact on military capabilities and result in further job losses in the Armed Forces ([FT](#); [Telegraph](#); [Guardian](#)).

Reform's latest report on schools funding, [Must do better](#), has been referenced in an article on the Chancellor of the Exchequer, George Osborne MP's, decision to continue the ring-fence around the schools budget in the upcoming Spending Review.

The article cites the report's finding that the schools budget could be cut by 18 per cent without impacting upon the quality of education ([BBC Online](#)).

Ministers who fail to agree on cuts to their departmental budgets are to appear before a Star Chamber, under plans announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, George Osborne MP.

Mr Osborne has called on departments to agree £11.5 billion of cuts to public spending for 2015 to 2016, with the agreements reached yesterday only making up 20 per cent of the savings required ([Telegraph](#); [Times](#); [Guardian](#); [City A.M.](#)).

The British Chambers of Commerce has revised its forecast for growth in the UK economy upwards over the next three years.

The improvement in the forecast was attributed to a stronger services sector and a pick-up in consumer spending as inflation has eased from its 2011 peak ([Telegraph](#); [BBC Online](#)).

4. Consultations

[Further consultation on equal pay audits launched](#)

The government has published a [second consultation](#) asking businesses about their views on the detail of equal pay audits and the likely contents of impending legislation.

Following the [Modern Workplaces](#) consultation in 2011, the Government announced that it would implement a proposal which will require employment tribunals to order an employer to conduct an equal pay audit where the employer is found to have broken equal pay law.

Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill 2013-14

A briefing on the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill by APCC has been circulated with the purpose to provide an overview of the Bill and highlight potential implications for Police and Crime Commissioners. The Bill contains a variety of measures including policies to tackle anti-social behaviour, forced marriage, dangerous dogs and illegal firearms used by gangs and in organised crime. The Bill is expected to have its second reading in the House of Commons on 10th June. Concerns and issues in relation to the Bill are requested to be submitted by APCC by the 5th June to send to Members of Parliament a briefing on the Bill by the 10th. After the second reading it is planned to brief the Bill Committee by 24th June and will require any further points from Commissioners by the 18th. All APCC briefing papers to Parliamentarians will be agreed by the APCC Reference Group before they are submitted, but any PCC or officer who wishes to be included are very welcome.