



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. **Strategic policing and crime news** (relevant crime and criminal justice information and partners' policy/reports/campaigns)
3. **Developments and 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

Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 Amendments

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act, which has been updated to reflect the latest amendments. The amendments are:

- [Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014](#) (Prospective – the provisions in Sch.11 as they relate to the PRSR2011 are not yet in force).
- [Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014](#) (Prospective – the provisions as they relate to the PRSR2011 are not yet in force).
- [Crime and Courts Act 2013](#) (The provisions as they relate to the PRSR2011 came into force 7th October 2013 by [S.I. 2013/1682 art. 3\(v\)](#) The Crime and Courts Act 2013 (Commencement No. 2 and Saving Provision) Order 2013).
- [Localism Act 2011](#) (The provisions as they relate to the PRSR2011 came in force 3rd December 2011 by [S.I. 2011/2896 art. 2\(i\)](#)) The Localism Act 2011 (Commencement No. 1 and Transitional Provisions) Order 2011.

APACC are doing a piece of work to review the changes to various other Acts and Orders.

Offender Rehabilitation Act 2014 – Received Royal Assent on 13 March.

The Offender Rehabilitation Bill today received Royal Assent. It provides many of the measures which underpin the Transforming Rehabilitation programme.

Criminal Justice and Courts Bill

This Government Bill was presented to Parliament on **5 February 2014**. The Bill had its second reading debate in the House of Commons on **24 February 2014** and considered in a Public bill Committee on **25 March 2014**. The Public Bill Committee is expected to report by **1 April 2014**. The Bill is to make provision about how offenders are dealt with before and after conviction; to amend the offence of possession of extreme pornographic images; to make provision about the proceedings and powers of courts and tribunals; to make provision about judicial review; and for connected purposes.

Report stage (Lords) (Day 1) of the Immigration Bill - April 1

The **Immigration Bill** had its first day of report stage in the Lords. Further progress will be made on April 3.

Second reading (Commons) of the Finance (No. 2) Bill - April 1

The Finance (No. 2) Bill was given a second reading in the Commons and now goes to committee for further consideration.

Immigration Bill - amendments to be considered at remaining stages

Children and Families Act 2014 receives Royal Assent

The new Children and Families Act - given royal assent today - will mean changes to the law to give greater protection to vulnerable children, better support for children whose parents are separating, a new system to help children with special educational needs and disabilities, and help for parents to balance work and family life.

International Development (Gender Equality) Act

Received Royal Assent to promote gender equality in the provision by the Government of development assistance and humanitarian assistance to countries outside the United Kingdom; and for connected purposes.

The Police Act 1997 (Criminal Records) (Amendment) Regulations 2014

These Regulations came into force on 10th March 2014. These Regulations insert a new regulation in the Police Act 1997 (Criminal Records) Regulations 2002 to prescribe a fee in relation to an application for the issue of a criminal conviction certificate within the meaning of section 112 of the Police Act 1997. These Regulations also prescribe the details to be provided in relation to a conditional caution and conviction disclosed under section 112 of the Act. Finally, these Regulations prescribe the meaning of 'central records', which are the records where convictions or conditional cautions are held for the purposes of section 112 of the Act.

SI 2013/3183 The Criminal Procedure (Amendment No. 2) Rules 2013 - Rule 7 of these Rules came into force on **24 February 2014** and rules 4, 5, 6, 8 and 9 will come into force on **7 April 2014**.

SI 2014/260 The Road Traffic Offenders (Additional Offences) Order 2014 - This Order came into force on 1 April 2014.

SI 2014/259 The Fixed Penalty (Amendment) Order 2014

This Order came into force on 1 April 2014. It applies in relation to a fixed penalty offence alleged to have been committed on or after 1 April 2014.

SI 2014/264 The Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 - These Regulations came into force on 1 April 2014.

SI 2014/478 Crime and Security Act 2010 (Commencement No. 7)

Order 2014 - This Order brings into force sections 24 to 31 of the Crime and Security Act 2010 on 8 March 2014 across police forces throughout England and Wales.

SI 2014/633 The Criminal Justice Act 2003 (Commencement No. 32) Order 2014

This Order brought into force on 1 April 2014 the provisions in sections 29 and 30 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 so as to allow the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA), a new executive agency of the Department of Transport, to institute criminal proceedings by issuing a written charge and requisition.

2. Strategic policing and crime news

The Chief Inspector of Constabulary publishes his first annual assessment of policing

State of policing: the annual assessment of policing in England and Wales 2012/13

HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary, Tom Winsor, has published his annual assessment of the efficiency and effectiveness of policing in England and Wales. The assessment covers the full breadth of policing work inspected by HMIC throughout 2012/13, and an overview of police forces in England and Wales. The report opens with an essay by HM Chief Inspector, on his thoughts on policing for the last year drawing on his experience in his role, and HMIC inspections. The essay addresses the financial challenge faced by forces, the demand for the services of the police and the changing nature of crime, crime prevention, the role of police and crime commissioners and HM Inspectorate of Constabulary's role in inspecting forces.

ACPO comment on HMIC State of Policing report

HMIC's annual assessment summarises the complex challenges that policing must grapple with: how to find further efficiencies and savings within constrained budgets, how to protect the public against national and international threats across force boundaries and how to optimise consistency in systems and IT across 43 forces.

Police Innovation fund bidding form and assessment criteria published

The bidding process for the £50m Police Innovation Fund for 2014/15 has opened with the publication of the bidding form and assessment criteria. Police and Crime Commissioners need to submit their applications by 5pm on 30 April. The bids will be assessed against the following four criteria:

- Transform policing through innovation
- Enhance collaboration
- Deliver efficiencies
- Be locally owned and monitored

Bids need to set out how they meet the above criteria (with a maximum of 300 words for each).

Damian Green's speech to Police Innovation Fund bidders' event - April 1

Policing minister outlines vision of digital policing for 2016 as forces are invited to bid for £50 million of Home Office funding.

Tackling domestic abuse – still a long way to go

The new report from HM Inspectorate of Constabulary suggests domestic abuse is a kind of 'pretend' priority for the police. Given the effects of such violence on children, and its known link to child abuse, the report has implications for social care, and safeguarding, as well as the police, says CareKnowledge editor Jim Kennedy.

[Direct entry launched](#)

The College of Policing has launched its direct entry training programme, aimed at providing a path into senior Service positions for 'experienced leaders from the private, public and third sectors.'

[Ground-breaking course combats corruption north of the border](#)

Police Scotland are this week holding a unique training course designed to enhance investigation skills for public sector workers charged with investigating corruption within their own organisations.

3. Developments and reports

[Final Report Published: Review of IPCC's Work in Investigating Deaths](#)

The Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) has published a major report into the way it investigates deaths, signalling changes in approach and procedure, including ensuring the effective engagement of families. The report follows a wide-ranging review, launched in autumn 2012 in response to a number of critical cases and feedback from families, individuals and organisations. The findings focus on independence, the conduct of investigations, and engagement with families and police officers.

[Review of ways to reduce distress for victims in sexual violence trials](#)

Within the Criminal Justice Strategy and Action Plan, the Ministry of Justice committed to conduct a review of ways to reduce distress for victims in sexual violence trials. The review report has been published. Among the recommendations are: to develop more specialised case management for sexual violence cases, improve the special measures available to victims, and, to consider use of reserve jurors to ensure that cases are not repeated/delayed due to juror absence.

Commons debate on Prevention and Suppression of Terrorism - April 3

The Minister for Security and Immigration (James Brokenshire): raised that the Terrorism Act 2000 (Proscribed Organisations) (Amendment) Order 2014, which was laid before this House on 31 March, be approved.

[Ministry of Justice re-structure](#)

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA) has become an Executive Agency of the Ministry of Justice. CICA was established in 1994 with the core function of paying money to people who have been physically or mentally injured because they were the blameless victim of a violent crime. The creation of CICA as an Agency will not lead to any change in the organisation's core function. CAFCASS (Children and Family Advisory and Support Service) have also become a part of the Ministry of Justice, moving from Department of Education.

[Independent Review of the Police Federation](#)

The Report of the Independent Review of the Police Federation of England and Wales has been published. This is the Final Report of the review panel set up in Spring 2013 by the Police Federation and chaired by Sir David Normington.

[Home Office Circular 003/2014: increased police officer pension contributions 2014 to 2015](#)

This circular publishes the Home Secretary's decision to increase police pension contributions payable by police officers, with effect from 1 April 2014. This concerns contributions made under the Police Pension Regulations 1987 and the Police Pension Regulations 2006.

[DCLG publishes document explaining improvements in fire control room services](#)

The Department for Communities and Local Government has published a document providing a high-level national summary of the improvements being made by fire and rescue authorities to their control room services, delivery timescales and projected savings.

[Crown Prosecution Service](#)

Hate crime and crimes against older people report and data 2012-2013.

[Centre for Social Justice](#)

Girls and Gangs Report. In conducting this research, the CSJ and XLP have engaged with a wide range of individuals and organisations involved in gangs from across the UK, drawing on the expertise of the CSJ's 350-strong Alliance of poverty-fighting charities. We spoke to many girls and young women who are or have been gang-associated and more than 30 organisations working to tackle gang problems.

[Department of Transport](#)

Drug driving offence and drug screening devices: background information.

[The Crisis Care Concordat](#)

A far-reaching new agreement between the police, mental health trusts and paramedics, called the Crisis Care Concordat, has been signed by more than 20 national organisations in an attempt to drive up standards of care for people experiencing crisis such as suicidal thoughts or significant anxiety.

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

Everyone's business: Improving the police response to domestic abuse.

[Home Office](#)

Personal alcohol licences: government response to consultation.

[Independent Police Complaints Commission](#)

Towards greater public confidence: A personal review of the current police complaints system for England and Wales.

[Ministry of Justice](#)

A joint inspection of the Integrated Offender Management Approach.

[Ministry of Justice](#)

Update on delivery of the Government's strategic objectives for female offenders.

[National Audit Office](#)

Departmental Sustainability Overview: Home Office

The [Home Affairs Select Committee](#) has announced a new inquiry on *Gangs and youth crime*. Written submissions are invited until 14th May 2014.

The [Home Affairs Select Committee](#) has also announced a inquiry into *Policing and mental health*. Written submissions are invited before 7th May 2014.

[Home Affairs Select Committee](#) - *Reform of the Police Federation*.

[Human Rights Select Committee](#) - Violence against women and girl.

[Written statement on The Parole Board Rules](#)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Jeremy Wright MP).

[Background briefing on local government: shared services, outsourcing, unitary authorities](#)

An increasing number of local authorities are making use of schemes to share services, relating to both 'back office' and 'front line' functions. Some of these have taken the form of shared services or shared staff between a number of authorities, not always those bordering one another. The best known of these is probably the 'Tri-Borough' arrangement between Hammersmith and Fulham, Westminster, and Kensington and Chelsea. The Local Government Association has published research showing that shared services are being used by a majority of councils in England, but it has warned that sharing services will be unable to make up fully for the reductions in funding to local authorities.

[Severe Weather Preparedness and Resiliency](#)

Hurricanes, winter storms, tornadoes and other severe weather events are an unavoidable fact of life. In 2012, severe weather caused more than \$100 billion in damages within the United States alone.

Written statement on Alcohol Licensing

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs. Theresa May): The Government has consulted on whether to relax licensing hours nationally for England matches with late kick off times during the FIFA World Cup in June and July 2014. Following this, the Government has decided to relax licensing hours nationally to mark England's participation in the tournament.

Written statement on Member State Initiative for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Decision 2005/681/JHA establishing the European Police College (CEPOL)

The Minister of State for Policing and Criminal Justice (Damian Green): The Government has decided to opt in to the Member State Initiative for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council to relocate the European Police College (CEPOL) from Bramshill (UK) to Budapest (Hungary) (European Union Document Nos. 2013/0812 (COD), ENFOPOL 395 CODEC 2773 PARLNAT 307).

[Poets protest outside Pentonville](#)

Writers and actors gathered on Friday afternoon to protest against the ban on sending books and other essentials to prisoners.

[Reforms Report – Solving the NHS care and cash crisis.](#)

The comprehensive plan argues that tackling the “care crisis” requires the NHS to turn into a “National Health and Care Service (NHCS), based on a new partnership between State and citizen, with integrated health and social care available locally in the community and consolidation of hospital specialist services on fewer sites of higher quality”. The report, published by the independent think tank Reform, proposes an NHS Membership scheme for all UK residents, including an annual health MOT to set new responsibilities each year for both the NHS and the individual.

A new draft Bill, published by the law commission, will enable health regulators to bar foreign medical professionals who cannot speak English from practicing and subject them English language tests.

The move follows warnings from MPs and peers that the current system has compromised patient safety (*Telegraph*).

Chancellor of the Exchequer, George Osborne MP, has revealed that the creation of a million new jobs by the end of the decade will form key part of the Conservative 2015 election pitch.

In a speech given in Essex yesterday, Mr Osborne claimed that “unemployment is never a price worth paying” and that “there is no reason why Britain shouldn’t aim to have the highest employment rate of any of the world’s leading economies” (*FT*; *Times*; *Guardian*; *Independent*; [BBC Online](#)).

Ministers are set to introduce changes to trespass laws in order to allow companies to exploit shale gas reserves under privately owned properties.

The energy industry is demanding the changes, which are set to be unveiled in the Queen’s Speech, before it invests hundreds of millions of pounds in assessing the economic viability of full-scale exploitation of Britain’s natural gas reserves (*Times*).

A report from the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has shown that English students are “more practical than academic”.

The OECD study of 44 nations concludes that, despite lagging behind other developed nations in literacy and numeracy standards, English students are amongst the best in the world at problem solving (*Independent*).

4. Consultations

Revised PACE codes and NoREs

Open date: 24/03/2014

Close date: 22/04/2014

Balance of competence review information rights

Open date: 27/03/2014

Close date: 01/07/2014

Public consultation on pre-charge bail

The College of Policing in partnership with the national policing lead for criminal justice, Chief Constable Chris Eyre, is consulting on new bail principles to support police use of pre-charge bail. The consultation is open until 19th June 2014.

[Review of local authority role in housing supply](#)

This call for evidence from the Government seeks ideas, evidence and good practice into how local authorities can help to increase housing supply in order to meet local housing need. The consultation is open until 23rd May 2014.

[Using a legislative reform order to set up town and parish councils](#)

The Government is consulting on a proposal to use a legislative reform order for making it easier to set up town and parish councils. The consultation is open until 22nd May 2014.

[Public Consultation: Developing NICE guidelines: the manual](#)

From 1 April 2014 NICE are inviting comments and feedback from stakeholders and the public on the new manual for developing NICE guidelines. Consultation closes 30 June 2014

[Written statement on Consultation on fees under the Licensing Act 2003](#)

The Minister of State for Crime Prevention (Norman Baker): Has informed Parliament of the publication of a public consultation on the move from centrally-set to locally-set fees under the Licensing Act 2003. The consultation will run for 8 weeks, from 13 February to 10 April.

[Prevention of Offending by Young People](#)

Open date: 05/02/2014

Close date: 30/04/2014

[Fees under Licensing Act 2003](#)

The Government is consulting on details of the move from centrally set to locally set fees under the Licensing Act 2003. The consultation is open until 10th April 2014.

[Wales Rural Development Programme 2014-2020: Final Proposals](#)

This consultation invites comments on the Welsh Government's strategy and priorities for the delivery of the Wales Rural Development Programme 2014-2020. Closing date 14/04/2014.

[Proposal to Authorise Motor Sport Events on Public Roads](#)

Open date: 27/02/2014

Close date: 10/04/2014

[Child poverty: a draft strategy](#)

Open date: 27/02/2014

Close date: 22/05/2014

[Wildlife legislation in England: General and Class Licences](#)

Open date: 24/02/2014

Close date: 19/05/2014

[Draft Guidance on Police Post-incident Management](#)

The IPCC has produced additional statutory guidance on police post-incident management, designed to achieve best evidence in investigations of deaths or serious injury. The IPCC are seeking feedback on the draft guidance from stakeholders. The consultation is open until 27 May 2014.

5. Reviews and Inspections

Thematic Inspections already Committed to in 2014/15:

- Making Best Use of Police Time
- Valuing the Police Programme – Phase 4
- Undercover Policing (Home Secretary Commission)
- Domestic Abuse (Home Secretary Commission)
- Crime Data Integrity
- Child Protection

Thematic Inspections Commencing in 2014/15

- Valuing the Police Programme – Phase 5
- Strategic Policing Requirement
- Police Integrity and Leadership
- Follow up to Mistakes Were Made Report
- Revisit of Stop and Search
- Protecting Vulnerable People Programme: Missing Children
- Police Management of Information
- Police National Database (PND) Audit
- Use of the Police National Computer (PNC) by Non-Police Organisations

Proposed Topics for New Thematic Inspections in 2014/15

- Modern Slavery
- So-Called Honour Based Violence (HBV)
- Cyber Crime.

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[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.