



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

[Arbitration and Mediation Services \(Equality\) Bill](#)

A Bill to make further provision about arbitration and mediation services and the application of equality legislation to such services; to make provision about the protection of victims of domestic abuse; and for connected purposes.

[Coroners and Justice \(Amendment\) Bill](#)

A Bill to amend section 62 of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 (possession of prohibited images of children) to apply additionally to the possession of prohibited written material about children; to make consequential amendments to the Act; and for connected purposes.

[Crime and Courts Bill](#)

Provides for the establishment of the National Crime Agency (NCA) to prevent and investigate serious, organised and complex crime, enhance border security, and tackle the sexual abuse and exploitation of children, and cyber crime.

[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.

[SI 2013/625 The Misuse of Drugs \(Amendment No. 2\) \(England, Wales and Scotland\) Regulations 2013](#). In force **10 April 2013**. These Regulations provide for the cannabis-based medicine 'Sativex' to be placed in Part 1 of Schedule 4 to the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001.

[SI 2013/624 Misuse of Drugs \(Designation\) \(Amendment No. 2\) \(England, Wales and Scotland\) Order 2013](#) In force **10 April 2013**.

[SI 2013/616 Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 \(Commencement No. 15\) Order 2013](#). In force **8 April 2013**.

[SI 2013/615 Criminal Justice Act 2003 \(Conditional Cautions: Financial Penalties\) Order 2013](#). In force **8 April 2013**.

[SI 2013/614 Criminal Legal Aid \(Determinations by a Court and Choice of Representative\) Regulations 2013](#). In force **1 April 2013**. 22

[SI 2013/613 Crime and Disorder Act 1998 \(Youth Conditional Cautions: Code of Practice\) Order 2013](#). In force **8 April 2013**.

[SI 2013/608 Crime and Disorder Act 1998 \(Youth Conditional Cautions: Financial Penalties\) Order 2013](#). In force **8 April 2013**.

[SI 2013/602 Police and Fire Reform \(Scotland\) Act 2012 \(Consequential Provisions and Modifications\) Order 2013](#). In force **1 April 2013**.

[SI 2013/592 Police and Justice Act 2006 \(Commencement No. 16\) Order 2013](#)
In force **8 April 2013**.

[SI 2013/534 Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 \(Consequential, Transitional and Saving Provisions\) Regulations 2013](#)
In force **1 April 2013**. 24

[SI 2013/511 Criminal Legal Aid \(Recovery of Defence Costs Orders\) Regulations 2013](#)
In force **1 April 2013**.

[SI 2013/487 Police Pensions \(Amendment\) Regulations 2013](#)
In force **1 April 2013** but regulations 4 and 5 have effect from 1 January 2013.

[SI 2013/483 Criminal Legal Aid \(Contribution Orders\) Regulations 2013](#)
In force **1 April 2013**.

[SI 2013/471 Criminal Legal Aid \(Financial Resources\) Regulations 2013](#)
In force **1 April 2013**.

[SI 2013/470 Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 \(Commencement No. 5 and Saving and Transitional Provision\) Order 2013](#)
In force **6 April 2013**.

[SI 2013/457 Legal Aid \(Disclosure of Information\) Regulations 2013](#)
In force **1 April 2013**.

[SI 2013/453 Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 \(Commencement No. 6\) Order 2013](#). In force **4 March 2013**.

[SI 2013/435 Criminal Legal Aid \(Remuneration\) Regulations 2013](#)
In force **1 April 2013**.

2. Policing and crime key developments

[HMIC Release Review into Allegations and Intelligence Material Concerning Jimmy Savile Titled 'Mistakes Were Made'](#)

On 12 March 2013 HM Inspectorate of Constabulary published a review into the allegations that were made and the intelligence material that was obtained relating to Jimmy Savile between 1964 and 2012.

[CPS and ACPO Propose New Measures to Tackle Child Sexual Abuse](#)

Measures have been announced by the Director of Public Prosecutions, Keir Starmer QC, and ACPO lead on violence and public prosecution Chief Constable David Whatton in relation to child sexual abuse investigations.

[Pope Francis calls for action on clerical sex abuse](#)

Pope Francis has called for "decisive action" in the fight against sex abuse of minors by priests.

[George Osborne's Philpott gamble](#)

Chancellor George Osborne chose his words carefully when he was asked about Mick Philpott on an official visit to Derby and the link to Welfare reform.

[Ministry of Justice Release Knife Possession Sentencing Quarterly Figures](#)

The Ministry of Justice has recently released statistics relating to cautioning, sentencing, probation supervision and prison population for offences involving possession of a knife or offensive weapon in England and Wales. The main findings between Quarter 4 of 2011 and Quarter 4 of 2012 have been as follows:

- The number of disposals given for knife or offensive weapon possession has decreased by 17%;
- The proportion of offences resulting in immediate custody decreased slightly;
- Both suspended sentences and cautions increased slightly;
- The proportion of adults receiving a caution remain the same while the proportion of juvenile offenders receiving reprimands and warning decreased.

In addition the following changes have been noted:

- In Quarter 4 2012, 20% of all possession offences resulted in a caution in England and Wales compared to 19% in Quarter 4 of 2011;
- In Quarter 4 of 2012 1,144 of all possession offences resulted in community sentences compared to 1,397 in Quarter 4 of 2011;
- In Quarter 4 of 2012 13% of all possession offences resulted in suspended sentence orders compared to 12% in Quarter 4 of 2011;
- In Quarter 4 2012 1,092 of all possession offences resulted in immediate custody compared to 1,363 in Quarter 4 of 2011.

[The Police Investigations and Review Commissioner \(Investigations Procedure, Serious Incidents and Specified Weapons\) Regulations 2013](#)

These Regulations make provision about investigations which may be carried out by the Police Investigations and Review Commissioner ("the Commissioner") under Chapter 2 of

Part 1 of the Police, Public Order and Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2006 (“the 2006 Act”) as amended by Chapter 10 of Part 1 of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012.

[Policing major events: CEPOL publishes THE HOUSE project documentation](#)

Documentation related to ‘Enhancing European Coordination for National Research Programmes in the Area of Security at Major Events – *The House*’. The House – a project funded by the European Commission – involves the testing of the provision of coordination standards during major events in Europe. These standards concern key areas which were identified as commonalities of interest as being the basic constituents of major event security planning in Europe requiring further coordination. After the elaboration of these standards in previous projects (most notably EU-SEC and EU-SEC II) their provision is now being tested in The House project.

[The Government has begun a review into the use of police cautions due to fears that cautions are being used to sanction repeat and serious offenders who would be more appropriately dealt with by the courts.](#)

Damian Green MP, the Minister for Police and Criminal Justice, said the review would look into why serious and repeat offenders were being offered cautions and why there appeared to be regional differences among police forces. Working closely with the police and other criminal justice professionals, the review will scrutinise the way in which ‘simple’ cautions are currently used and consider the need for any changes to legislation or guidance. **[The latest statistics.](#)**

[New Justice Data Lab to help cut reoffending](#)

A pioneering new service giving charities and voluntary organisations more information about what works to reduce reoffending has been launched. The Justice Data Lab will for the first time give voluntary and community sector (VCS) agencies access to high-quality reoffending data tailored to their needs. This will allow them to better understand the impact of their work and design more effective interventions.

[Minister gives evidence to committee on child grooming and exploitation](#)

3. Reports

[The House of Commons Home Affairs Committee Releases Interim Report on Undercover Policing](#)

On 1 March 2013, the House of Commons Home Affairs Committee published an interim report on Undercover Policing. The report addresses the committee's concerns relating to undercover policing and the legal framework and public policy that applies to it, and the areas that require urgent action by the Government. The committee intends to examine this subject again in due course.

[Torbay Safeguarding Children Board Publishes Serious Case Review on Operation Mansfield](#)

Torbay Safeguarding Children Board published the findings of a serious case review relating to Operation Mansfield, an investigation conducted by Devon and Cornwall Police concerning the sexual abuse and exploitation of young girls in the Torbay area.

[Family Liaison Common Standards and Principles Released by the Independent Advisory Panel on Deaths in Custody](#)

The Independent Advisory Panel on Deaths in Custody, following consultation with the Department of Health, investigatory bodies and custodial organisations, has published a set of family liaison common standards and principles. This follows endorsement by the Ministerial Board on Death in Custody on 12 February 2013. The standards will be incorporated in existing policies and information leaflets forthwith.

[Children Entering Detention Held Solely Under Immigration Act Powers](#)

Due to a recent demand and increased interest in the number of children who are entering detention held solely under Immigration Act powers, the Home Office has released monthly management information on this, in addition to the quarterly statistics that are released relating to detention and migration.

[Eric Pickles MP](#), the Communities and Local Government Secretary, for announcing a shake-up of Whitehall estates by suggesting that the Department for Communities and Local Government will move into the Home Office.

Prison efficiency. On Friday, the [National Offender Management Service](#) published its Business Plan for 2013-14, revealing that the new “public sector efficiency benchmark”, designed to replace twenty years of prison competition, will not be in place until 2014-15.

[Male drivers more likely to risk lives by overtaking blind and speeding on rural roads, says Brake](#)

Male drivers are being urged to use their head and not lose it at the wheel, as a survey out today by Brake and Direct Line reveals almost one in four (24%) risk catastrophic head-on crashes by overtaking blind, while more than four in 10 (44%) admit speeding at 60mph+ on rural roads. Men are much more likely to take these deadly risks than women, and more than twice as likely to have been involved in an overtaking near-miss or incident.

[European committee issues "opinion" on social housing and womens' issues, including abuse.](#) Opinion of the Committee on Women’s Rights and Gender Equality
The Committee on Women’s Rights and Gender Equality calls on the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs.

Government plans to remove responsibility for adoption from local councils who are slow to place children in families have been called a “reckless gamble” by the Local Government Association (LGA). David Simmonds, Chairman of the LGA’s Children and Young People Board, said: “Government’s starting point for recruiting more adopters needs to be working with councils, not removing them from the process altogether” ([Independent](#); [BBC Online](#)).

4. Consultations

[Get Involved in Designing the College of Policing: Survey](#)

The College of Policing is the first national body to focus solely on strengthening professionalism in the police service. College CEO Alex Marshall has appointed a team to design the College ‘blueprint’ by 30 June 2013. It is critical to the design of the College that everyone involved in or with policing has a chance to get involved in its detailed design. To get your views on the design of the College a survey has been launched, which is open for completion until 5pm on Friday 12 April 2013.

[Ministry of Justice Publishes Consultation Document on Implementing the Coroner Reforms in Part 1 of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009](#)

The Ministry of Justice has published a consultation paper discussing their proposals for implementing the coroner reforms in Part 1 of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009. It seeks views on proposed coroner investigation regulations, inquest rules, fee and allowance regulations, coroner areas, and statutory guidance for bereaved people.

This consultation is aimed at coroners, coroners' officers and other staff, bereaved people, voluntary organisations who help bereaved people, local authorities, and all those who have an interest in coroner services. The consultation closes on 12 April 2013.

[Consultation on Preventing the Supply of Highly Specialist Printing Equipment to Fraudsters Takes Place](#)

On 4 March 2013 a consultation commenced on the prevention of the supply of specialist printing equipment which assists criminals to make false documents such as passports, driving licences and credit cards. The government is proposing to create two new offences: one of deliberately and one of negligently supplying highly specialist printing equipment to fraudsters. To avoid prosecution under these new offences companies would be required to follow requirements like those in the voluntary code. The consultation was aimed at those in the highly specialist printing industry and concluded on 31 March 2013.

[Ministry of Justice Publishes Consultation Document on Transforming Education Within Youth Custody](#)

The Ministry of Justice has published a Consultation document called 'Transforming Youth Custody: Putting education at the heart of detention.' The document discusses the vision of putting education at the forefront of youth detention by way of the creation of secure colleges. The consultation closes on 30 April 2013.