



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

[2013 Spending Round](#)

On 26 June, the Chancellor announced the results from the 2013 Spending Round, including that central government revenue funding to the police will reduce by less than 6 per cent in real terms in 2015/16. More precisely, the reduction will be £269 million, equivalent to a 4.9 per cent real terms reduction compared with 2014/15.

Police and crime commissioners will drive considerable further savings through improving procurement and collaboration across operational areas and support services, on top of the progress already made over the current Spending Review period. An Innovation Fund of up to £50 million will be created from 2014/15 to enable police and crime commissioners to invest in innovative approaches to improve policing and deliver further efficiencies in the future.

[Minister announces Immigration Bill consultation](#)

The government is consulting on regulating migrant access to UK health services and requiring landlords to carry out immigration status checks.

New directive on reuse of public sector information published

The Official Journal of the European Union published the [Directive on reuse of public sector information \(PSI\)](#) which amends its predecessor issued in 2003. The key features of the amended directive include:

- strengthening the directive to include a mandatory obligation on public authorities to consider re-use;
- a broadening of scope to consider libraries and museums; and
- ensuring only marginal cost charges can be made, with some exceptions.

Member states have until 18 July 2015 to adopt and publish the laws, regulations and administrative provisions necessary to comply with this directive. For the UK this is likely to mean that the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2005 and the reuse provisions in the FOI Act will need to be updated. The National Archives are leading the UK Government's work to transpose the directive. The recent Government response to the

Shakespeare review indicated that they plan to bring forward legislation to implement the directive in 2014-2015.

2. Policing and crime key developments

New Committee calls for new police code of ethics and integrity

After a six month inquiry the Committee concluded that:

- Policing standards should be unified for the first time, at every level from constable to chief constable with all new officers required to obtain a Certificate of Knowledge in Policing. The College of Policing must produce a new Code of Ethics and Integrity for police officers. Guidance issued by the College should be binding and Chiefs who do not follow them should be subject to fines and disciplinary proceedings.
- Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary should hold the new Chief Constables' register of interests. In addition, it should also hold a national register of Police and Crime Commissioners' interests and financial details. A register of dismissed officers should be held by the College of Policing. Each force should hold a register of hospitality received by all its officers and must publish details of misconduct hearings on its website.
- The College must establish a scale of fines which should be docked from officers pensions in cases of the most grave misconduct. Officers who are dismissed by one force, or who retire to avoid disciplinary proceedings, must not be allowed to resume service with another. Nor should officers be able to see retirement as a "get out of jail free card" for misconduct.
- Responsibility for leading systemic and standards investigations should be transferred to HMIC for all historic investigations covering multiple forces or the IPCC for all other failings investigations, which will give the public confidence in an independent investigation and free senior officers to do the tasks they should be doing.
- Diversity has for too long been given lip service but not acted upon in the police service and the law should be changed to allowed for positive action.

Oral statement (Commons) on Stop and Search - July 2

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mrs Theresa May): statement on the powers of the police to stop and search members of the public. Police officers have been given the right to stop and search people by several Acts of Parliament, although most searches are conducted through the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 and the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. These Acts say that officers must have "reasonable grounds to suspect" that the subject is guilty of some form of criminal behaviour before they are allowed to conduct a search. Owing to the sensitivity of stop and search, officers are required by law to record various pieces of information about each search they undertake.

Investigation in to the cross-examination of vulnerable victims in court

Justice Minister Damian Green has ordered an investigation into how to reduce the distress caused to victims of crime without compromising the fundamental right to a fair trial.

Digital Courtrooms to be rolled out nationally

At the launch of a wide-ranging action plan bringing together key people from across the criminal justice system, including the police, the Crown Prosecution Service, and court service, Damian Green announced that the Government will be investing £160 million for 'digital courtrooms' and improved IT systems across agencies, meaning information can be shared electronically, securely and efficiently.

[Harms of criminal justice](#)

Over the three years from July 2013-July 2016, Centre for Crime and Justice Studies is undertaking a major initiative to explore the social harms caused by the criminal justice system and develop realistic alternatives to the problems the criminal justice regulates but does not solve.

[International action announced on 'legal highs'](#)

The Home Office has unveiled a UK-led international agreement to tackle the threat of new psychoactive substances.

[Home Secretary's statement on banning Khat](#)

Khat is a herbal stimulant traditionally used by members of the Somali, Yemeni and Ethiopian communities. The Government has announced today that it will control Khat under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 as a Class C drug.

Written Ministerial statement on Drug paraphernalia and announcement on the locations of a network of resettlement prisons

The Government has accepted the advice of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) to allow for the lawful provision of foil by drug treatment providers subject to the strict condition that it is part of structured efforts to get people into treatment and off drugs. Ministers will also put in place mechanisms to carefully monitor and evaluate take-up, implementation and adherence to the conditionality over the next year.

[Announcement on the locations of a network of resettlement prisons](#)

The Lord Chancellor has announced a nationwide network of resettlement prisons so that offenders leaving custody receive 'through the gate' supervision and support. There are plans for 70 such prisons across England and Wales which will mean that the vast majority of offenders are released from prisons in, or close to, the area in which they will live. Trials will begin in the North West of England in the autumn with full roll out by autumn 2014.

[Mental health nurses to join police on the beat](#)

In a pilot scheme, the street triage scheme will see mental health nurses accompany officers to incidents where police believe people need immediate mental health support. The scheme will be piloted in North Yorkshire, Devon and Cornwall, Sussex and Derbyshire.

[More detailed crime information available on police.uk](#)

As part of ongoing work to make police.uk more transparent and user-friendly, new crime data categories including 'bicycle theft' and 'theft from the person' have been introduced to ensure the public are able to see how these types of crime affect them directly.

[NSPCC has launched a free 24 hour female genital mutilation \(FGM\) helpline](#)

Information gathered from the calls will provide police and child protection agencies with intelligence so that action can be taken against those who facilitate FGM.

[Organisations commit to supporting staff facing domestic violence](#)

A new Public Health Responsibility Deal pledge for all organisations wanting to help staff facing domestic violence has been launched.

[Government removes 'volunteering tax' on councillors](#)

The government announced today that individual councillors' data protection registration fees can be paid by their council. Local Government Secretary Eric Pickles will outline plans to cut red tape in his speech to the Local Government Association's annual conference.

3. Reports

[Publication of Criminal Justice System Strategy & Action Plan](#)

Transforming the CJS: a Strategy and Action Plan to reform the Criminal Justice System published by the Ministry of Justice on 28 June 2013.

[House of Commons Home Affairs Committee Publishes Report on Child Sexual Exploitation and the Response to Localised Grooming](#)

The House of Commons Home Affairs Committee has published a report on child sexual exploitation and the response to localised grooming. The report is the second report of the session 2013-2014 and consists of three volumes.

ICO Annual Report Launch 2013 – the year that good data handling becomes a commercial imperative

The Information Commissioner Christopher Graham announced that 2013 will be the year that organisations realise the commercial imperative of handling personal data. His comments came at the launch of the [ICO Annual Report 2012/13](#).

[Massive expansion of Troubled Families programme](#)

An additional £200m will be invested to extend intensive help to 400,000 more high risk families.

[Tackling radicalisation through communications is vital](#)

Security Minister James Brokenshire has, in a speech this week, stressed the importance of using communications to challenge violent extremist views.

Equality Commission publishes guidance for schools

The Equality and Human Rights Commission has today published [guidance](#) to help schools protect their pupils from discrimination and promote equality.

[Department for Communities and Local Government](#)

Fire statistics – April 2012-March 2013

[Department for Communities and Local Government](#)

Live tables on local government finance

[Department for Transport](#)

Reported road casualties in Great Britain

[United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime](#)

World Drug Report 2013

[Addiction](#)

Reducing intoxication among bar patrons: some lessons learned from prevention of drinking and driving.

[Chartered Institute of Housing](#)

Learning today, leading tomorrow

[Compact Voice](#)

The Compact and Police and Crime Commissioners. This guidance makes the case for why Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) should engage with their local Compact. It includes information about what local Compacts are and how they can help with areas like improving outcomes of local services and managing risk. It also includes a case study exploring how local Compact partners in Gloucestershire have engaged with their PCC.

[European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction](#)

Models of addiction

[Home Office Releases Quarterly Figures on Arrests, Outcomes and Stop and Search under the Terrorism Act 2000](#)

The Home Office has published a quarterly update in relation to the operation of police powers under the Terrorism Act 2000 and subsequent legislation up to December 2012.

[Home Office](#)

Amended guidance issued under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003

[Home Office](#)

Guidance for health professionals on domestic violence

[Home Office](#)

Multi-agency statutory guidance for the conduct of domestic homicide reviews

[Joseph Rowntree Foundation](#)

Forced Labour and Human Trafficking: Media coverage in 2012

[Joseph Rowntree Foundation](#)

Poverty and Problematic Debt: What can social housing providers do?

[Ministry of Justice](#)

Transforming the CJS: A Strategy and Action Plan to Reform the Criminal Justice System

[Public Health England](#)

New commissioning guidance for addiction to medicines

[Resolution Foundation](#)

The challenges of build to rent for UK housing providers

[St Mungo's](#)

No More: Homelessness through the eyes of recent rough sleepers

Danny Alexander MP, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, yesterday outlined plans for £100 billion of infrastructure spending over the next five years.

Mr Alexander set aside £3 billion to create a further 165,000 new affordable homes, the biggest public housing programme in over 20 years, and promised to rebuild 261 of the country's worst schools by 2017 ([Telegraph](#), [Independent](#)).

4. Consultations

[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.

[Hate crime – The Case for Extending the Existing Offences](#)

The Law Commission is looking at extending the offences that make up hate crime and as part of this work is consulting on its proposals. The consultation runs until 27th September 2013.

[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 UK is one of 8 founding members of the OGP which was launched formally in September 2011 (the remaining founding partners are Brazil, Indonesia, Mexico, Norway, Philippines, South Africa and the United States). There are now 59 governments in the OGP. To become a member, participating countries must:

- embrace a high-level [Open Government Declaration](#)
- deliver a country action plan developed with public consultation
- commit to independent reporting on their progress going forward

This is the UK's second National Action Plan. It is a draft and interim plan that is out for public consultation in line with the requirements laid down by the OGP. This draft plan has been produced through a collaborative multi-stakeholder process involving members of the OGP Civil Society Network and government departments. Views are being sought on the commitments made in this draft plan, ideally supported by evidence wherever possible. The closing date for consultation responses is 19 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. This call for views seeks to gather thoughts and ideas on aspects of corporate responsibility. It looks at what government, business and others should and could do in order to realise the full benefits that corporate responsibility can bring. It covers themes including:

- voluntary reporting and disclosure of non-financial information
- responsible supply chain management
- corporate responsibility in small and medium sized enterprises

Comments will contribute to a framework for action on corporate responsibility, with an intention to publish the framework by the end of 2013. The closing date for consultation responses is 27 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](#). It is proposing amendments to ensure that where

looked-after children are placed out of authority in distant placements, they are effectively safeguarded and their welfare is promoted. The placements to be firmly in the child's best interests. These proposals take forward the recommendations in the [report of the Expert Group on Children's Homes Quality](#), which included conclusions from the Out of Area Placements Task and Finish Group, published on 24 April 2013. The closing date for consultation responses is 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 guidance needs to be updated to reflect: widespread concerns about children in care being sexually exploited; changes in policy, such as the requirement of national indicator 71 which no longer applies; and recent changes in statutory guidance (Care planning and Working Together). The government has therefore decided to produce a new version of the statutory guidance on children who run away and go missing from home or care to reflect these changes. The guidance will also include flow charts to make clearer the actions required of local agencies and carers when a child goes missing from home or care. This consultation seeks the views of local authorities, representative bodies and other interested parties on the content of the guidance and flow charts. The closing date for consultation responses is 17 September.

College of Policing Launches Public Consultation on Guidance on Child Sexual Exploitation

The College of Policing has launched a public consultation on a review of guidance relating to all aspects of violence and public protection, starting with phase one which is addressing Child Abuse and Child Sexual Exploitation. The consultation forms part of a number of measures currently being undertaken to review police and multi-agency practice and learning. The guidance will ultimately form part of Authorised Professional Practice (APP) which is a web-based resource primarily intended as a resource for police officers and police staff. The College of Policing is seeking comments on the following:

- Factual accuracy;
- Areas requiring further development;
- Gaps in knowledge;
- Relevant Supporting documents.

The consultation closes on **3 September 2013**. Responses to the consultation should be emailed to VPP@college.pnn.police.uk

Home Office Launches Consultation relating to Guidance on Early Deletion of DNA and Fingerprint Records

The Home Office has launched a consultation relating to guidance for police Chief Constables on processing applications from individuals for early deletion of their DNA and fingerprint records. Previously Chief Constables have had the discretion to delete an individual's DNA and fingerprint records through an exceptional case procedure. The Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 (PoFA) has made changes to the Police And Criminal Evidence Act 1984 and sets out how long an individual's DNA and fingerprints can be retained. It also introduces an 'early deletion process' which will replace the exceptional case procedure.

The consultation seeks views on how the early deletion application process should work and who it could apply to, so it is fair on innocent individuals looking to have their DNA and fingerprints removed from records, without compromising the ability of the police to tackle crime. The results of the consultation will be passed to the National DNA Database Strategy Board who will draft their final guidance which will come into effect in October 2013 when the provisions relating to DNA and fingerprints within the PoFA will come into force. The consultation document can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/dna-guidance-consultation>

The consultation closes on **29 July 2013** and is open to members of the public, police forces, members of the legal profession and interest groups.

New consultation: Stop and search

This consultation seeks views on the police powers of stop and search, specifically under the following legislation:

- Section 1 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE)
- Section 23 of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971
- Section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994

It concerns those powers used in relation to street crime, burglary, anti-social behaviour, and public order offences such as riots and violent protests. The Home Office has already asked Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) to examine how police forces use stop and search. Through this consultation we aim to understand how the use of these powers is viewed by the public and by those involved in policing. Stop and search powers under counter-terrorism legislation have been the subject of recent changes and are not within the scope of this consultation. The consultation runs for 6 weeks from 2 July 2013.