



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

[Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill](#)

The **Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill** completed the commons committee stage on 16 July 2013.

[Home Office Publishes Domestic Violence and Abuse Chapter to the Guidance on Firearms Licensing Law](#)

The Home Office has published a Domestic Violence Chapter to add to the Guide on Firearms Licensing Law. It follows the introduction of the new non-statutory definition of domestic violence and abuse which was introduced on 31 March 2013.

[New guidance explains the publication scheme and new dataset provisions](#)

The dataset amendments to the FOI Act, made by the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012, came into force on 1 September 2013.

SI 2013/1906 The Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 (Commencement No. 8) Order 2013

This Order commences the provisions of the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 listed in article 2 and article 3.

SI 2013/1963 The Offender Management Act 2007 (Commencement No. 6) Order 2013

In force 6 January 2014. This Order is the sixth commencement order made under the Offender Management Act 2007. It brings provisions concerning the application and effect of polygraph conditions (contained in sections 28 and 29 of the Offender Management Act 2007) into force. These provisions enable the Secretary of State to include polygraph conditions for certain offenders released on licence.

SI 2013/1966 The Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 (Commencement and Transitional Provisions) Order 2013

This Order brings into force the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013, which repeals the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 1964 and the system of registration contained therein, and replaces it with a new system of licensing, to be administered by local authorities. The 2013 Act also

replaces the system of registration for motor salvage operators under the Vehicles (Crime) Act 2001, in that motor salvage operators will now be treated as scrap

2. Policing and crime key developments

[PCC Bulletin Released by Home Office](#)

Police and Crime Commissioners have released a 20th bulletin providing an update of issues of interest in the police reform landscape. The bulletin includes discussion on Community Action Against Crime and Commissioning from voluntary, community and social enterprise providers in relation to strengthening community safety and reducing crime.

[Justice Releases Guide to Criminal Procedure Rules 2013](#)

Justice has released a guide written by the Criminal Procedure Rule Committee secretariat on the Criminal Procedure Rules 2013, which are due to come into force on 7 October 2013.

[HMIC Releases Report on Stop and Search](#)

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) has released a report titled 'Stop and Search Powers: Are the police using them effectively and fairly?'

[Home Office Releases Briefing on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls](#)

The Home Office has released a briefing paper entitled 'Ending Violence Against Women and Girls'. The document outlines key statistics concerning violence against women and girls.

Committee to hear evidence from PCCs and others on crime reduction policies

The Justice Select Committee has announced the details of its meeting on September 11 when it will question witnesses on the subject of crime reduction policies: a co-ordinated approach.

[Campaign spending at the Police and Crime Commissioner elections](#)

The Electoral Commission will publish details of spending by candidates at last November's Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) elections.

Domestic violence and abuse

The Home Office is in discussions with HMIC about looking at the effectiveness of the police response to domestic violence and abuse across England and Wales. More details are to be published shortly.

[Crimestoppers Wales launches new project](#)

This three year project will tackle crime through sport at Cardiff City Football Club.

[SPA appoints interim Chief Executive](#)

The Scottish Police Authority has appointed an interim Chief Executive in the shape of chartered management accountant John Foley. He takes over the role from Andrea Quinn who will be leaving the organisation in September.

[Home Office](#)

Drug Misuse: findings from the 2012 to 2013 CSEW. Estimated and reported drug use in 16 to 24 year olds and 16 to 59 year olds.

[Secured by Design](#)

An interactive guide providing key examples of Secured by Design guidance on designing out crime.

[Cheshire custody commended by Inspectorate](#)

Cheshire Constabulary has been praised for its custody work following an unannounced joint inspection by HMIC and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons.

Foster: We'll fight "Big Brother" car controls

Conservative MEPs pledged to fight any attempt by the EU to require that cars and vans be fitted with hi-tech devices to stop them ever breaking the speed limit.

[Drugs gang 'fell like dominoes' following Met investigative work](#)

A crime gang linked to a haul of cocaine worth an estimated £2.25 million has been jailed for more than 80 years, thanks to the work of Metropolitan Police officers.

[First PCC app developed in Gwent](#)

Gwent PCC Ian Johnston has launched the UK's first police and crime commissioner app, aimed at providing local residents with an interactive look at the activities of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

[New guidance to fight online football abuse](#)

The Crown Prosecution Service and ACPO have published a joint policy for dealing with criminality related to football matches - including online abuse of players and fans.

[Using MASH Data for Effective Policing in Devon & Cornwall](#)

Data analyst Fiona Bohan talks about how Devon & Cornwall Police use reports from their multi-agency safeguarding hub to support operational & strategic objectives of improving child protection.

[Six in 10 crimes are never investigated admits Manchester's police chief](#)

Chief Constable Sir Peter Fahy said that his officers only 'actively pursue' criminals in 40 per cent of cases reported by the public.

3. Reports

[100s of young people create a better future with Arts Award](#)

33 Youth Offending Teams across England and Wales are helping young people tap into their creative side and boost their CV as part of a national scheme.

[New streamlined planning guide launched online](#)

New online planning guidance will give much needed simplicity and clarity to the planning system and bring about better community involvement.

[Ministry of Justice](#)

Prisons and probation statistics. Ministry of Justice holds information about prisons and probation. This includes probation caseload, the number of offenders in custody and prison population projections.

[Ministry of Justice Release Local Adult Reoffending Statistics for 1 April 2012- 31 March 2013](#)

The Ministry of Justice has released a statistical bulletin on local adult reoffending for 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013. Key statistics indicate that five regions had a statistically significant reduction in re-offending, seven probation trusts had a statistically significant increase in re-offending, whilst 14 Probation Trusts showed a statistically significant reduction in re-offending.

[Centre for Social Justice](#)

No Quick Fix: Exposing the depth of Britain's drugs and alcohol problem. This report lays bare the reality of substance abuse and addiction in Britain today. This ongoing challenge affects millions of people and has huge costs. Alcohol abuse costs taxpayers £21 billion a year and drugs £15 billion. While costs matter, it is the human consequences that present the real tragedy. The abuse of substances is a pathway to poverty and can lead to family breakdown and child neglect, homelessness, crime, debt, and long-term worklessness. From its impact on children to its consequences for those in later life, addiction destroys lives, wrecks families and blights communities.

[National Audit Office](#)

2012-2013 review of the government published updated departmental business plans. Focusing on assurance of the coalition's priorities and delivery of these priorities monitoring.

[National Institute for Health and Care Excellence](#)

Autism: The management and support of children and young people on the autism spectrum.

[Policy Exchange](#)

Smaller, Better, Faster, Stronger: Remaking Government for the digital age. Report to help ensure that this Government, and future Governments, are exposed to new provocations and ideas, and continually pushed to make public sector IT even more efficient, even more effective, and even more transformative for citizens.

[Re-Unite/University of Cambridge](#)

Re-Unite Revisited: An Evaluation Summary Report (Re-Unite is a national programme re-uniting mothers with their children on release from custody).

[The Migration Observatory at Oxford University](#)

Migration in the News: Portrayals of Immigrants, Migrants, Asylum Seekers and Refugees in National British Newspapers 2010-2012.

Modernisation of the Prison Estate

The Government has today set out the next stage in its prison modernisation programme, with confirmation that its planned new 2,000 place prison will be built in Wrexham, and the news that it has started feasibility work on a second large prison to be constructed in the South East of England. It has also confirmed opening dates for the new house blocks – mini-prisons – being built to create 1200 new places at four sites across England.

The feasibility study for the proposed second big new prison is focusing on the possibility of replacing the existing Feltham Young Offenders Institution with a large new adult prison and a new youth facility on adjoining sites in West London.

At the same time the Ministry of Justice is moving to close four older prisons which are either expensive to run or need substantial capital investment in the next few years, and is changing the role of three others.

The Prime Minister, David Cameron, and the Education Secretary, Michael Gove MP, announced the opening of 93 new free schools this month. Mr Cameron said that this “means more choice for parents, more school places and a better education for our children” ([Guardian](#)).

The Local Government Association (LGA) has said that almost half of the school districts in England will have more primary pupils than places by 2015. Analysis of 2012 figures has led the LGA to warn that 1,000 of the 2,227 local school planning districts will be over capacity by 2015-6, with some areas facing a 20 per cent shortfall ([Guardian](#); [Independent](#); [BBC Online](#)).

After 200 years, the census is axed: Critics accuse Government of ending ten-yearly headcount to try and hide truth about immigration

According to a report released today by the World Economic Forum, the UK has slipped two places in a global ranking of countries based on competitiveness, falling from eighth to tenth. The main issue for the UK was seen to be poor access to finance, with high taxes and wasteful bureaucracy in joint second place ([City A.M.](#)).

The Justice Secretary, Chris Grayling MP, has announced reforms that will cut legal aid for 11,000 prisoners, those who fail a new residency test and people with incomes of over £37,500 a year as part of plans to reduce the £2 billion legal aid budget by £220 million. Mr Grayling has however dropped plans to award legal aid contracts to the lowest bidders amid fears that it would allow the cheapest firms to monopolise the market and could put 1,200 law firms out of business ([Telegraph](#); [Times](#); [Guardian](#); [Independent](#); [BBC Online](#)).

Chris Grayling MP, has confirmed the immediate closure of four prisons and will consider the closure of a fifth in Dartmoor. Mr Grayling also announced that the first 2,000 capacity “super jail” will be built at the former Firestone site in Wrexham with a scheduled opening date of late 2017 ([Guardian](#); [Independent](#); [Mail](#); [Mirror](#); [BBC Online](#)).

Government figures have shown that a total of 106,859 legal cases were either thrown out or delayed as a result of failings in the legal system, costing an estimated £17.4 million. Tony Arbour, Conservative London Assembly member, said that “In general the court system is chaotic and even the basics are not in place which often means cases cannot go ahead” ([Independent](#)).

The National Audit Office (NAO) has concluded that the Universal Credit programme is “overambitious” and represents poor value for money. The Work and Pensions Secretary, Iain Duncan Smith MP, has said that the programme’s pilot scheme in the Manchester area has been successful, but the NAO has claimed that the Department lacks “a detailed view of how Universal Credit is meant to work” ([FT](#); [Telegraph](#); [Times](#); [Guardian](#); [Independent](#); [BBC Online](#)).

Action taken over council’s subject access request failings

Following the publication of last month's [Subject Access Code of Practice](#), the ICO has served its [first undertaking](#) against an organisation for failing to handle subject access requests correctly. The action has been taken after significant problems were discovered in Cardiff City Council's processes for dealing with requests from individuals for their data. The issues were uncovered after our office received a complaint from a member of the public whose subject access request had not been answered within the statutory time limit of 40 days.

Organisations urged to check home working policies are up to scratch

The ICO is warning organisations to make sure that they have adequate measures in place to make sure personal information being accessed and used by home workers is being kept secure. The warning comes after Aberdeen City Council was served with a penalty of £100,000 after sensitive personal information relating to the care of vulnerable children was inadvertently posted online by one of their home workers. The information was freely available for a three-month period before a council employee spotted it and the information was taken down.

4. Consultations

Consultation on the general consents issued under section 25 of the Local Government Act 1988

This consultation is on a revised version of the [general consents](#) issued under [section 25 of the Local Government Act 1988](#). The revised consents remove the requirement on local authorities to seek the specific consent of the Secretary of State to dispose at less than market value for the provision of privately-let housing accommodation of (a) vacant housing land, and (b) vacant dwellings to other registered providers. The deadline for responses is 13 September.

Drug Driving : proposed regulations

The consultation seeks views on the government's preferred policy option of making it an offence to drive if any of 17 controlled drugs are found in blood over a specified limit. The consultation closes on the 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 closing date for consultation responses is 17 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](#). The closing date for consultation responses is 17 September.

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 closing date for consultation responses is 19 September.

[Serious Fraud Office and DPP Launch Consultation on Deferred Prosecution Agreements Draft Code of Practice](#)

The Director of the Serious Fraud Office and the Director of Public Prosecutions have published a draft code of practice on Deferred Prosecution Agreements (DPAs) for consultation. The consultation is open to interested individuals and organisations and closes on 20 September 2013.

[New consultation: Stop and search](#)

This consultation seeks views on the police powers of stop and search. The consultation runs up to 24 September 2013.

[Proposals for the use of capital receipts from asset sales to invest in reforming services](#)

In the Spending Review document [Investing in Britain's future](#), the government announced that it would consult on allowing local authorities some flexibility to use their receipts from asset sales to pay for the one-off revenue costs of service reforms. This consultation closes on the 24 September.

[Proposed changes to Codes of Practice C \(Detention\) and H \(Detention – Terrorism\)](#)

This consultation runs until Wednesday 25 September 2013.

[Hate Crime-The Case for Extending the Existing Offences](#)

This project came to the Law Commission by a reference from the Ministry of Justice, following the Government's publication of its three-year hate crime action plan in 2012. The consultation closes on the 27 September.

[Views sought on changes to the alcohol and drugs reporting framework](#)

Public Health England (PHE) is keen to ensure that the alcohol and drug reporting framework is fit for purpose, and so is consulting with the alcohol and drugs sector on a number of proposed changes to the reporting framework. The consultation runs until 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. The closing date for consultation responses is 27 September.

[Domestic violence and abuse – identification and prevention](#)

NICE is developing public health programme guidance on 'Domestic violence and abuse: how social care, health services and those they work with can identify, prevent and reduce domestic violence and abuse'. The consultation period runs from 2nd August – 27th September.

[Forensic Science Codes of Practice: Guidance on validation consultation](#)

The Forensic Science Regulator published Codes of Practice and Conduct (Codes) for forensic science providers and practitioners in the criminal justice system in 2011. The Codes are being supplemented with appendices covering evidence specific requirements, guidance, information and protocols. In order to finalise each appendix, each one is being consulted on and feedback sought. This draft guidance is issued to allow comments from

interested parties. Comments should be sent on the feedback form provided to FSRConsultation5@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk and should be submitted by 27 September 2013.

Assisted Areas Map 2014 to 2020

Updating the UK's Assisted Areas Map for 2014-20 delivers an opportunity to help drive sustainable strong growth, which will help to rebalance the UK economy. Assisted Area status permits the granting of additional financial support to small businesses and large enterprise in economically disadvantaged locations. This support is to encourage business in these communities to grow, innovate and thrive, which can positively affect these locations and the whole UK economy. This consultation closes on the 30 September.

Local Government Finance Settlement 2014-15 and 2015-16: technical consultation

This consultation seeks views on a range of detailed and technical issues concerning the 2014-15 and 2015-16 Local Government Finance Settlements. It will be of particular interest to local authority finance departments. The closing date for consultation responses is 2 October.

Sentencing Council Launches Public Consultation on the Sentencing of Fraud, Bribery and Money Laundering Offences

The Sentencing Council has launched a public consultation on the sentencing of fraud, bribery and money laundering offences. The Consultation document states that it does not concern the legislation that relates to these offences, but is only consulting on the sentencing. The consultation is open to all members of the public, including members of the judiciary, legal practitioners and individuals that work in or have an interest in criminal justice. The consultation closes on 4 October 2013.

Consultation on prescription drug tramadol

The government wants to make tramadol a Class C drug but ensure it is available to those who need it as a prescription medicine. The number of deaths involving tramadol has risen from 83 in 2008 to 154 in 2011. The deadline for responses is 11 October 2013.

Greater flexibility for change of use

In order to support the Government's priorities for making better use of existing buildings a consultation on proposed changes to planning regulations has been launched and will run until 15 October.

Alcohol fraud: next steps

This consultation provides further details and seeks views on the next steps the Government plans to take to tackle existing and emerging threats to the UK alcohol duty regime. The consultation runs until 28 October.

Conducting Privacy Impact Assessments Code of Practice consultation

The ICO is consulting on its draft '[Conducting privacy impact assessments code of practice](#)' and would like to hear views. The deadline for responses is 5 November.

Do drug and alcohol workers need a Voluntary Professional Register?

Skills for Justice is carrying out a consultation and are seeking views of practitioners, employers, membership organisations, commissioners of services and policy makers.