



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

[Queen's Speech 2014](#)

Her Majesty's speech to both Houses of Parliament at the State Opening of Parliament 2014 – introduced the following 11 Bills:

- Armed Forces (Service Complaints and Financial Assistance) Bill
- Childcare Payments Bill
- Infrastructure Bill
- Modern Slavery Bill
- National Insurance Contributions Bill
- Private Pensions Bill
- Pensions Tax Bill
- Recall of MPs Bill
- Serious Crime Bill
- Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Bill
- Social Action, Responsibility and Heroism Bill

The following Bills will be published in draft:

- Protection of Charities Bill
- Riot (Damages) Bill
- National Park Authorities (Elections) Bill

[Immigration Act 2014 has received Royal Assent.](#)

The Immigration Bill has received Royal Assent making way for a series of reforms which will ensure our immigration system is fairer to British citizens and legitimate migrants and tougher on those with no right to be here. The Immigration Act 2014 contains 77 clauses and makes fundamental changes to how our immigration system functions.

[Care Act 2014 has received Royal Assent.](#)

[Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 Amendments](#)

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

[Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 overarching documents](#)

These documents contain some updates from when they were last published. They include a schedule of when the various sections of the Act are being implemented.

[Offender Rehabilitation Act 2014](#)

It provides many of the measures which underpin the Transforming Rehabilitation programme.

[Dangerous dogs:owners face tougher sentences for attacks](#)

The changes to the Dangerous Dogs Act came into force on 13th May.

[SI 2014 /1237 The Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 \(Codes of Practice\) \(Revisions to Codes C and H\) Order 2014](#)

This Order brings into force two revised codes of practice under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, which will supersede the corresponding existing codes of practice.

[Revised Draft Code of Practice Published: Schedule 7 Terrorism Act 2000](#)

The Home Office has issued a Revised draft Code of Practice in relation to Schedule 7 to the Terrorism Act 2000 and is currently analysing feedback from a recent consultation on the draft Code.

SI 2014/1239 The Firearms (Amendment) Rules 2014

These Rules make a number of amendments to the Firearms Rules 1998 (SI 1998 /1941) and came into force on 20 May 2014.

SI 2014/1106 The Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 (Ketamine etc.) (Amendment) Order 2014

This Order brings certain drugs under the control of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 (the Act) and comes into force on 10 June 2014.

SI 2014/1274 The Misuse of Drugs (Designation) (Amendment) (England, Wales and Scotland) Order 2014

This Order comes into force on 10 June 2014.

SI 2014 /1275 The Misuse of Drugs and Misuse of Drugs (Safe Custody) (Amendment) (England, Wales and Scotland) Regulations 2014

These regulations come into force on 10 June 2014.

SI 2014/1229 The Prosecution of Offences Act 1985 (Specified Proceedings) (Amendment) Order 2014

This Order comes into force on 9 June 2014.

SI 2014/1226 The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 (Commencement No. 3) Order 2014

This Order brings into force section 149 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 on **2 June 2014**.

2. Strategic policing and crime news

[Home Office publishes communications insight pack on violence against women and girls](#)

The Home Office has published a communications insight pack covering a wide range of VAWG issues and includes national statistics, background information on policy and government and partner campaigns.

The CPS today launched a new action plan to combat issues that may prevent successful prosecutions for rape cases.

The rape action plan includes:

- Steps to ensure better application of the legislation on consent and that police and prosecutors focus on steps taken by a suspect to seek consent from their alleged victim where this is an issue.
- Updating the joint police and CPS national rape protocol on the investigation and prosecution of rape cases.
- Steps to monitor police decisions to take no further action in rape cases, including the quality of record-keeping and authorisation of decision making.
- New practical guidance for frontline police officers and prosecutors.
- A National Conference later this year with all specialist rape prosecutors and police rape leads to raise awareness of key issues.
- Reviews of the operation of CPS rape and serious sexual assault units and the instruction of appropriate advocates in rape trials.

Damian Green: child cruelty law to be updated

Children will be better protected under new plans to update child cruelty law, Justice Minister Damian Green has announced. The change will make clear that it is a crime to inflict cruelty which is likely to cause psychological suffering or injury to a child. Offenders will face a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison whether the harm is physical or psychological in nature.

[Results of the European Justice and Home Affairs Council](#)

The Justice and Home Affairs Council reached a general approach on the proposal for a regulation on the European Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation and Training (Europol). This general approach will constitute the basis for negotiations with the European Parliament in order to agree the final text of the regulation.

[Home Affairs Committee publishes report on Counter-terrorism](#)

The Home affairs committee has reported following its inquiry into terrorism in the UK and abroad.

[Statistical bulletin: Crime in England and Wales, Year Ending December 2013](#)

The Office of National statistics (ONS) have published the latest crime statistics.

[National mapping of restorative services](#)

The Restorative Justice Council has commissioned Sheffield Hallam University to undertake a mapping exercise of restorative justice providers within the criminal justice sector in England and Wales.

[Mental health top priority for Met, says commissioner](#)

The Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) has come a long way in improving the way it responds to people with mental ill health, but more needs to be done its commissioner, Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe, has said. This message comes one year on from the publication of a report by an Independent Commission – led by Lord Victor Adebowale – which made 28 recommendations after examining the MPS' response to mental health and the interface between the MPS, mental health services and partners.

[On the beat](#)

Police are increasingly the first resort for people who are mentally ill and in crisis. With hundreds of mental health bed closures in recent years and the NHS facing unprecedented staffing pressures, it is no wonder that an [estimated 15% of police calls have a mental health aspect](#), according to the Centre for Mental Health.

[College outlines direct entry training programme](#)

The College of Policing has published its training plans ahead of the first intake of direct entry superintendents joining the force in November. The programme - which is one of the central strands of the government's ongoing reform of UK policing - will see seven forces recruiting up to 20 'experienced leaders' from outside the Service to join at a senior rank.

3. Developments and reports

[New scheme to help businesses defend against cyber threats goes live](#)

BAE Systems, Barclays and Hewlett-Packard are amongst the first businesses applying for the new Cyber Essentials award. The award will allow business to show consumers that they have measures in place to help defend against common cyber threats, such as the recent GOZeus and CryptoLocker malware attacks.

[Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict](#)

The use of sexual violence in war is one of the great injustices of our lifetime. It is hard to document, let alone investigate. Perpetrators do not discriminate, because it's not about sex, but violence, terror, power and control. When rape is committed during conflict, it has often been seen as an inevitable part of war, and so it has been allowed to go unpunished.

[Chief Inspector's report shows yet more incompetence and heartlessness from Home Office Ministers - David Hanson](#)

David Hanson MP, Labour's Shadow Minister for Immigration, responding to the report by HM Chief Inspector of Prisons on the escort and removal of detainees.

[Project to tackle binge drinking in universities](#)

Seven universities have signed up to a 12 month pilot scheme launched by the Government and National Union of Students to encourage responsible drinking amongst students.

Accreditation will be awarded to universities that meet a set of criteria committing them to take actions such as preventing alcohol-related initiation ceremonies, tackling student

participation in pub crawls and monitoring anti-social behaviour.

[Alcohol Research UK](#)

Evaluation of the impact of public health transfer to local authorities on alcohol.

[NICE](#)

Alcohol-use disorders - preventing harmful drinking - Review 1 2014.

[Carnegie UK Trust](#)

A Call to Action for the Common Good.

[Drug and Alcohol Findings](#)

Alcohol problems in the criminal justice system: an opportunity for intervention.

[Drug and Alcohol Findings](#)

The effects of family therapies for adolescent delinquency and substance misuse: a meta-analysis.

[Howard League for Penal Reform](#)

Child arrests in England and Wales 2013.

[Health and Social Care Information Centre](#)

Statistics for Alcohol - England 2014.

[Ministry of Justice](#)

Further breakdown of reoffences by type of reoffence.

[New Local Government Network](#)

Effective Commissioning.

[Government funding 'opens up' access to more enterprise zones](#)

The government has signed off £23m for infrastructure development to 'open up' access to four more enterprise zones across the country. Local growth minister Kris Hopkins stated that the funding will bring more jobs to Bristol, Manchester, New Anglia and Leicestershire as part of the government's long-term economic plan.

[Law Commission](#)

Hate Crime: Should the current offences be extended?

[Blitz on homophobic hate crime launched in schools](#)

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), along with Stonewall and the Ministry of Justice, has launched a new anti-hate crime education campaign in schools to help young people tackle homophobic and transphobic abuse.

Adult social care complaints increase 14% in 2013 – LGO

The number of complaints relating to adult social care in the last year has increased by 14%, according to new figures from the Local Government Ombudsman (LGO). The LGO's report – [Review of Adult Social Care Complaints 2013](#) – highlighted the impact that people feel when services let them down.

[Local Government Information Unit](#)

Municipal Futures: How we might begin to think differently about local government.

[NICE](#)

Autism in Adults: Evidence Update.

[Successive governments 'let the public down' over council finance](#)

The LGA and CIPFA have launched an independent commission on how to overhaul local government finance, saying there is an “urgent need for change”. The Independent Commission on Local Government Finance will be chaired by Darra Singh, partner in the Government and Public Sector team at EY (formerly known as Ernst & Young).

[Revitalising failing high streets 'depends on local leadership'](#)

The Future High Streets Forum says local leadership is the ‘recipe for success’ – but has warned that a lack of sustainable funding for change and improvement could imperil some projects. The new report by the Forum, ‘[Good leadership: Great High Streets](#)’, is based on an analysis of four of the ‘Portas Pilot’ towns – Bedminster, Dartford, Rotherham and Sydenham.

[Breakaway councils to spell out post-Cosla 'vision'](#)

Glasgow is to spell out its vision for a breakaway organisation for the Scottish councils that have quit Cosla, the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities.

[Government must take lead as living wage employer](#)

More than 1,600 directly employed staff in Whitehall are paid below the living wage, according to new figures from the Smith Institute.

[ICO critical of Wolverhampton Council data security](#)

Wolverhampton City Council has been ordered to provide adequate data protection training to its staff, following a series of failures.

[EU Google judgment](#)

A key development in the last month was the European Union Court of Justice’s judgment on the need for Google to amend its search results following a request by a member of the public.

4. Consultations

[Department for Transport public consultation on Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2015](#)

On 1 May 2014, the Department for Transport (DfT) launched an open consultation on the revised Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions (TSRGD) 2015. The consultation period will run until 12 June 2014.

[Tax-Free Childcare: consultation on childcare account provision](#)

The consultation seeks views on options for the government to deliver Tax-Free Childcare itself, through National Savings and Investments (NS&I), or within HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC). This will mean all interested parties will have had an opportunity to comment on all of the options for account provision across public and private sectors. The

government will consider responses to this consultation alongside the response to the previous consultation before it makes its final decision on the provision of childcare accounts. The consultation closes on 27 June 2014.

Read the [consultation on the implementation of the Tax-Free Childcare scheme](#) published in August 2013.

Read the [government's response](#) to the August consultation which set out details on the design of Tax-Free Childcare.

Proposed changes to guidance on domestic violence

The Director of Public Prosecutions, Alison Saunders, has proposed changes to the way the CPS considers domestic violence cases and has published draft guidance, which is out for consultation, that explains the impact of domestic abuse on different groups to help prosecutors to adopt a tailored approach taking into account their particular support needs. The consultation is open until 9th July 2014.

Banning the sale of alcohol below the cost of duty plus VAT

The Home Office has published guidance for suppliers of alcohol and local authorities in England and Wales for banning the sale of alcohol below the cost of duty plus VAT

Data policy for a Public Data Corporation

Views wanted on how to provide accessible public sector information. The consultation will close on 27 October 2014.

E-petition – Exempt Victims of Domestic Abuse who have had a Police Assessment and/or have a Safe/Panic Room from the Spare Room Subsidy:

<http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/64544>.

Public Traffic Signs consultation

The Department for Transport has launched a public consultation on proposed changes to the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2002. The consultation will close on 10 June 2014.

Schedule 7 Code of Practice

The statutory Code of Practice provides guidance to examining officers on the application and interpretation of Schedule 7. These have had to be revised code to ensure they reflect the changes introduced in the ASBCP Act. These changes will maintain the protection of the UK border as well as continuing to respect individuals' human rights. The Home Office welcomes your views on how adequately the changes in the ASBCP Act are reflected within the revised draft Code of Practice. You can respond via the [online survey](#).

Review of the operation of Sections 135 and 136

The Government is reviewing the operation of Sections 135 and 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983 to make sure the legislative framework offers the right support for people at the right time. The consultation is open until 3rd June 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.

[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.

[Sentencing guidelines for theft](#)

The consultation on the draft guideline on theft offences is open from 3 April 2014 to 26 June 2014. The Council is seeking views on:

- the principal factors that make any of the offences included within the draft guideline more or less serious;
- the additional factors that should influence the sentence;
- the approach taken to structuring the draft guidelines;
- the types and lengths of sentences that should be passed for theft offences; and
- anything else that you think should be considered.

5. Reviews and Inspections

[HMIC provides assurance that chief constables are having regard to the Strategic Policing Requirement – but finds that more needs to be done](#)

This inspection examined how well police forces have established the arrangements that the Strategic Policing Requirement requires them to have in place to counter a number of specified threats to national security and public safety. It is based on data and documentary evidence provided by all 43 police forces in England and Wales in July 2013. It includes supporting fieldwork, conducted in 18 forces, and in nine Regional Organised Crime Units (ROCs).

[HMIC Programme](#)

HMIC sets out its inspection programme and resources for the year ahead.

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 – July 2014
- Child Protection – July 2014

Thematic Inspections Commencing in 2014/15

- Valuing the Police Programme – Phase 5
- Strategic Policing Requirement
- Police Integrity and Leadership (Police Integrity and Corruption)
- 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.