



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 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

[Modern slavery white paper published](#) - A flagship Bill to tackle modern slavery, the first of its kind in Europe, has been published by the Home Secretary Theresa May.

[Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill](#) - Government response. Delegated Powers and Regulatory Reform Committee.

[Offender Rehabilitation Bill](#) - Report, together with formal minutes.

[Immigration Bill - amendments to be considered at remaining stages](#)

[Counter-terrorism Bill Committee Stage Report](#) - This paper has been published for the Report Stage debate on the Counter-Terrorism Bill. The bill is wide-ranging but the most contentious provisions relate to pre-charge detention, post charge questioning and inquests and inquiries.

[Criminal Justice and Courts Bill](#) - The Criminal Justice and Courts Bill second reading is on the 24th February.

[Pensions Bill: Amendments to be moved on Report](#)

[SI 2014 No. 239 The Police Act 1997 \(Criminal records\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2014](#)
This statutory instrument was laid before Parliament on 13 February and comes into force on 10 March. It concerns fees for criminal conviction certificates.

2. Policing and crime key developments

[Home Secretary announces police corruption offence](#)

Proposal put forward to amend existing legislation to introduce new offence which will strengthen "outdated" misconduct charge.

[Stephen Lawrence police 'spy' prompts public inquiry](#)

Revelations that a police officer spied on the family of Stephen Lawrence will lead to a judge-led public inquiry into undercover policing.

[Direct entry will 'threaten officers' safety'](#)

Federation officials believe contentious reform will threaten credibility and experience as force becomes the first to use new recruitment mechanism.

[IPCC: Officers 'should abide to civilian standards'](#)

Police witnesses should be held to same rules as civilians following death or serious injury and not be allowed to confer, draft guidance states.

[Police are getting back to basics in tackling domestic abuse says ACPO](#)

Assistant Chief Constable Louisa Rolfe reveals that her vision for building on the last decade's progress on domestic abuse means "an absolute focus on the police's core role – the first response to victims of abuse, the investigation and the subsequent action to protect victims from violence and abuse." As part of a national focus on domestic abuse from 4 – 8 March, forces across the country will be explaining what they do to protect victims of abuse and highlighting the support available from charities, local authorities, social services and probation services. The aim is to encourage more people living with domestic abuse to seek help.

[Funding boost for Missing People charity](#)

A charity that supports missing people and their families has been given a £220,000 funding boost by the Home Office.

[Sentencing Council](#)

Environmental offences definitive guideline.

[Home Office](#)

Tables for 'Crime against businesses: headline findings from the 2013 Commercial Victimisation Survey'.

Yvette Cooper outlines challenges of digital world for security and privacy

She has set out how:

- The pace of change is creating new opportunities for society and the economy, but also challenges for rising online crime such as fraud and child abuse.
- Reform is needed to keep up. The police and security & intelligence agencies will need to do more tackle the serious increases in online fraud and online child abuse, and also respond to the use of online communications by serious criminals, extremists and terrorists.

But for them to do so, we also need stronger safeguards and limits to protect our privacy and sustain confidence in their vital work. The oversight and legal frameworks

are now out of date.

3. Reports

State Opening of Parliament

It has been announced that the Queen will open the final session of this Parliament on Tuesday June 3rd 2014.

NAO report - Criminal justice system: landscape review

A National Audit Office review today examines whether current reforms of the criminal justice system are addressing the issues identified by the spending watchdog in past studies on, for example, the prison estate, police technology, bought-in services and financial management.

[Committee to publish report on Local Government procurement](#)

The central focus of this inquiry is to assess the extent to which Local Government is delivering good value for money and meeting the objectives of local authorities. The inquiry aims to highlight and examine good practice and initiatives within local authority procurement and elsewhere and explore how and to what extent local authorities can adopt and take advantage of them.

[New UN-led anti-trafficking campaign launched to raise tourists' awareness](#)

The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) have joined forces to promote a global campaign urging travellers to support the fight against a number of forms of trafficking.

Minister announces schemes supported under the Green Deal Communities

[Greg Barker](#) has announced today that the first six schemes supported under the Green Deal Communities initiative are:

- Cambridgeshire
- Ashfield
- Suffolk
- Peterborough
- 6 north London boroughs led by Haringey, and
- Bracknell Forest

Together they represent a total of £19.5m and aim to deliver over 5,500 Green Deal Plans, to over 7,000 households.

[CAADA](#)

In plain sight: Effective help for children exposed to domestic abuse.

[Drugscope](#)

It's about time: Tackling substance misuse in older people.

[Equality and Human Rights Commission](#)

Caste in Britain: Socio-legal Review.

[Home Office](#)

Understanding organised crime: estimating the scale and the social and economic costs.

[Howard League for Penal Reform](#)

Women in Prison: Coercive and consensual sex.

[Independent Academic Research Studies](#)

Impact Report 2013 - Community led solutions for a fairer society.

[Local Government Knowledge Navigator](#)

Need to know review 2: What local government needs to know about public health.

[Ministry of Justice](#)

The implications for access to justice of the Government's proposals to reform legal aid.

[Ministry of Justice](#)

Transforming Legal Aid: Next Steps.

[National Housing Federation](#)

An ambition to deliver - housing associations unbounded.

[New Economics Foundation](#)

Credit unions: international evidence.

[RSA](#)

Managing Demand; Building Future Public Services.

[Transform Justice](#)

Magistrates: representatives of the people?

[Department for Communities and Local Government](#)

English Housing Survey 2012 to 2013.

[Department for Communities and Local Government](#)

Rough sleeping statistics: England Autumn 2013.

Local Government Innovation Taskforce report sets out costs and failure of centralisation

The interim report of the Local Government Innovation Taskforce, "The Case for Change", commissioned as part of Labour's Policy Review, says that the Tory-led Government is failing to deliver on its promise of localism and that Labour must decentralise power to help communities deal with social and economic change.

Sir Stephen Bubb, Chief Executive of the Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations, has criticised this Government's public service reform programme as emphasising "narrow cost savings" at the expense of "engagement, collaboration and social value". In a letter to the Financial Times, Mr Bubb identified opening up services to private sector involvement as a key factor, writing "The public sector monopolies that you were so keen to break open have been threatened by new private sector oligopolies" ([FT](#)).

Concerns have been raised following evidence that hospital records are being used by private firms to advise companies how to target their marketing. The concerns over the alleged misuse of the Hospital Episodes Statistics data coincides with ongoing debates over the safety of care.data records ([Telegraph](#)).

Councils in England have planned a slight increase in council tax, amounting to a 0.6 rise on average, according to a survey by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy ([BBC Online](#)).

An EU directive will cost UK businesses over 1.2 billion per year, according to the Regulatory Policy Committee's annual report. Although the Government has a policy of balancing the cost of new regulation with cuts to red tape elsewhere, the cost of implementing the "Alternative Investment Fund Managers Directive" is predicted to far outstrip the money saved by such measures ([FT](#)).

A report by the Family and Childcare Trust has found that, on average, families are spending more on childcare costs than mortgage payments. According to the report, parents are paying £7,500 a year for part-time childcare with costs having risen by 27 per cent since 2009 ([Telegraph](#); [Guardian](#); [Mail](#); [BBC Online](#)).

Analysis by the UK Commission for Employment and Skills has found that many will be delaying their retirement until their 70s or 80s. The report by the Commission also identified a range of future changes to the workplace: technology will accelerate change throughout the working environment, multi-media visual work will become the norm and the size of core workforces will fall as companies rely more heavily on networks or freelancers ([Telegraph](#)).

4. Consultations

[College of Policing's Strategic Intent](#)

Consultation on ideas and views on this important strategic intent.

[Climate Change - Enforcement and Sanctions Guidance](#)

This consultation explains a proposed approach to enforcement for the European Union Emissions Trading System, CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme and Climate Change Agreements. Closing date 21 March 2014.

[Government announces consultation into surveillance](#)

The Government has announced a consultation on covert surveillance and covert human intelligence sources codes of practice. The consultation runs until 27th March 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.

[Community engagement](#)

NICE is developing public health guideline Community Engagement (update of PH9)

All registered stakeholders for the above public health guideline are invited to comment on the draft scope. Closing date 19/03/2014.

[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.

[Interventions to reduce substance misuse among vulnerable young people](#)

NICE are undertaking a consultation to decide if this guidance needs to be updated. The consultation runs until 28 February 2014.

[UK Commission for Employment and Skills \(UKCES\) triennial review 2014: call for evidence](#)

Open date: 24/02/2014

Close date: 14/03/2014

[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

[Call for evidence: transport investment and economic performance](#)

Open date: 24/02/2014

Close date: 24/03/2014

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

Open date: 24/02/2014

Close date: 19/05/2014

[Alcohol: preventing harmful alcohol use in the community](#)

Open date: 27/02/2014

Close date: 27/03/2014

5. Reviews and Inspections

[HMIC announces new programme of annual inspections](#)

[Making best use of police time](#)

[Terms of reference for the investigation into the conduct of three Police Federation representatives.](#)

HMIC: Crime Data Integrity. This inspection will examine the effectiveness of the police in dealing with reports of crime by members of the public. The scope is subject to development but is likely to build on the findings of HMIC's previous inspections in this area. Scoping work will include consultation with the Crime Statistics Advisory Committee.

[HMIC: Domestic Violence:](#) On 9 September, the Home Secretary commissioned HMIC to look at the effectiveness of the police response to cases of domestic violence and abuse. Started for Nottinghamshire on the 4 November. This is a Home Secretary commissioned Thematic due to be completed by April 2014.

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

Police Custody: Good practice examples.

[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.