



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.

[SI 2013/2907 The Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 \(Victims' Code of Practice\) Order 2013](#)

[SI 2013 No. 2319 The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 \(Transitional Provision\) Order 2013](#)

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

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

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

European Council adopts financing programmes in the area of justice and fundamental rights
The European Council, meeting in Brussels today, adopted has without discussion two regulations establishing the financing programmes in the area of justice and fundamental rights within the framework of the Multiannual Financial Framework for the period 2014-2020.

2. Policing and crime key developments

[Dyfed-Powys Police plan to shed 118 posts](#)

The plan includes a reshaping of professional support services currently delivered by a civilian workforce of 823. It aims to improve and maintain frontline policing in Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire and Powys. The force said it would keep redundancies to a minimum, losing posts through natural wastage.

Chief Constable Simon Prince said that none of the 156 Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) who are part of the civilian workforce would lose their job.

[Social media is a powerful tool for police to engage with the public](#) – ACPO response to comments by Tom Winsor on police use of social media.

[Statement following jury conclusions in Mark Duggan inquest.](#)

[Legal obligations: issue 2](#) - Includes the role of the expert witness, duty of disclosure and preservation, important judicial guidance, admissibility of expert testimony and types of evidence.

[Public to get a more detailed picture of how crimes are investigated](#)

A new crime statistics framework which will better reflect how the police respond to reports of crime will be launched by the government. This will come into force in Humberside from 1st January 2014 with the rest of England and Wales coming on line from April 2014.

3. Reports

[Lords reject government's antisocial, crime and policing bill.](#)

The government suffered a big defeat in the [House of Lords](#) on Wednesday evening over its planned new injunctions to tackle antisocial behaviour.

Peers voted by 306 to 178, majority 128, against the plans [amid fears that noisy children, carol singers and nudists could fall victim to the new injunctions](#)

[Violence rates unaffected by 24-hour licensing laws](#)

A study from the University of Cambridge has found no correlation between violent crime and flexible alcohol licensing following the 2003 Licensing Act.

[Youth Justice Board](#)

Lord McNally has been appointed new Chair of the Youth Justice Board.

[Calls for reform of the criminal law on child neglect](#) - The current criminal offence of child neglect is set out in section 1 of the Children and Young Persons Act 1933. The charity Action for Children has launched a campaign calling for reform of the law, arguing that the legislation needs to "catch up" with modern society's understanding of neglect. However, the Government has said it has no plans to change the law in this area as the courts and children's services already interpret the 1933 Act "in a contemporary way". In October 2013 Damian Green stated that he had asked officials to undertake a targeted consultation.

[Mark Duggan Inquest](#) – Record of the inquest.

[Met police want water cannon ready to use in Britain by summer.](#)

[Inquiry into police crime figures 'expected to find degree of fiddling'.](#)

[Injuring a police dog should carry the same sentence as attacking a serving police officer.](#)

[Osborne announces £25bn more public spending cuts to come](#)

Public spending cuts totalling £25bn will be needed after the next general election to cut the deficit, Chancellor George Osborne has warned, despite the brightening economic outlook and rising business confidence.

[Tagging overcharges to be repaid](#)

Serco has agreed to repay the Government £68m for overcharging on contracts to tag criminals in the UK. It follows allegations that Serco and G4S had charged for tagging of people who were either dead or in jail.

[Flood Alerts: Whole of England and Wales has been placed under flood alert](#)

The Environment Agency issued the alerts as rain continues and tidal surges batter the coast – concerns over budget cuts to DEFRA and future investment in flood defences.

[Nigel Farage calls for five year ban on migrant benefits](#)

UKIP leader Nigel Farage has called for immigrants to be barred from receiving any benefits until they have been resident in the UK for five years. He also suggested they should not be eligible for tax credits. It comes as a survey suggests 77% of Britons want to see immigration cut.

[Details have emerged of further violent incidents at a privately-run prison where a serious disturbance took place on Sunday](#)

In the latest incident, a group of prisoners at HMP Oakwood, near Wolverhampton, reportedly refused to be locked-down.

[Gloucestershire police 'living hell' threat investigated](#)

A police officer who was captured on film apparently threatening to make an amateur photographer's day a "living hell" is being investigated.

[Police officer who lied about witnessing Andrew Mitchell 'plebgate' incident admits misconduct in public office](#)

Pc Keith Wallis, 53, pleaded guilty to misconduct in public office after wrongly claiming he had seen Andrew Mitchell arguing with police.

[Scotland Yard corruption: leaked report claims police were bribed to destroy evidence, sleep with criminal and intimidate witnesses](#)

The 2002 report, produced as part of Operation Tiberius, an investigation into police corruption, named 80 corrupt officers. More than half of them were still serving at the time.

[Intrusive powers over travellers at ports and airports require greater safeguards, says Human Rights Committee](#)

Reasonable suspicion is the absolute minimum that is required to qualify as a safeguard for some of the more intrusive powers available at ports and airports, says the Joint Committee on Human Rights in its Report published today.

[Patients attending A&E more than FIFTY times in a year as doctors warn that emergency care is almost at breaking point](#)

- Nearly 12,000 people visited casualty department more than 10 times a year
- Meanwhile 150 people went to A&E more than 50 times a year, figures show

- Doctors say repeated visits to units are increasing pressure on staff
- As a result, some wait more than four hours to be seen by a doctor
- One person visited A&E department in Bedfordshire 234 times in one year

[Pakistani brides as young as 14 force to marry](#)

To countless migrants, Britain is the promised land. But, once here, many are cruelly exploited.

[Sustaining services, ensuring fairness:](#) Government response to the consultation on migrant access and financial contribution to NHS provision in England

[Cash for councils to stop rogue landlords](#)

Twenty three councils are to receive a share of £4m to tackle rogue landlords in their area.

[Provisional local government finance settlement 2014 to 2015](#)

The coalition government has published its formal proposals for funding English local authorities for 2014 to 2015.

[Department for Communities and Local Government](#)

Local authority housing statistics data returns for 2012 to 2013

[Home Office](#)

An overview of hate crime in England and Wales

[British Journal of Community Justice](#)

Mind the Gap: Quality without Equality in Transforming Rehabilitation

[Centre for Social Justice](#)

Something's got to give: The state of Britain's voluntary and community sector

[Department for Communities and Local Government](#)

Allocation of accommodation: guidance for local housing authorities in England

[Home Office](#)

IOM conference report 2013

[Howard League for Penal Reform](#)

No fixed abode: The implications for homeless people in the criminal justice system

[Ministry of Justice](#)

Evaluation of the Employment and Reoffending Pilot

[Ministry of Justice](#)

The strengths and skills of the Judiciary in the Magistrates' Courts

[National Audit Office](#)

Confiscation Orders

[New Local Government Network](#)

Healthy Dialogues: Embedding health in local government

[Public Health England](#)

Medications in recovery: best practice in reviewing treatment

[Public Health England](#)

New resources to support facilitated access to mutual aid for drug and alcohol recovery

[Public Health England](#)

Supporting information for developing local joint protocols between drug and alcohol partnerships and children and family services

[Sentencing Council](#)

Sexual offences definitive guideline

4. Consultations

[Review of UK and EU balance of competences: call for evidence on social and employment policy](#)

The government is carrying out a review of the balance of competences between the UK and the EU. The review will provide an analysis of what the EU does and how it affects the UK. The [Review of the balance of competencies detailed guide](#) provides full details of the review programme. Consultation closes 17 January 2014.

The Home Office have outlined plans to allow holidaymakers and business travellers to pay to skip passport queues when entering the UK. The proposal is part of a consultation paper which aims to cover the costs of the UK Border Force, using the income from passengers to help fund the UK's immigration system ([Telegraph](#); [Mail](#)).

[Local authority parking strategies](#)

The Government has launched a consultation in which it invites views on local authority parking strategies and government options for parking enforcement. The consultation is open until 14th February 2014.

The Public Accounts Committee has revealed that up to £55 billion a year is being lost to the taxpayer due to fraud, error and unpaid taxes. The Committee called on the Treasury to develop a strategy for tackling fraud through the public sector ([Times](#); [Mirror](#); [BBC Online](#)).

[Government approves low-level lights to boost cyclists' safety](#)

More than 80% of cyclists favoured the use of low-level signals during the track-based trials of the system, which works by repeating the signal displayed on main traffic lights at the eye level of cyclists.

[Future funding of the Housing Ombudsman](#)

The Government has announced a consultation on the proposal to extend the Housing Ombudsman's existing fee charging model to local authority landlords from April 2014. This consultation closes on 30th January 2014.

[Fingerprint comparison consultation document](#) – Plus [appendix](#).

This is a consultation issued to allow comments from interested parties; all comments will be given consideration when finalising the fingerprint comparison Appendix FSR-C-128 prior to publication. Comments should be sent to FSRConsultation1@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk and should be submitted by 20 January 2014.

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

Consultation on ideas and views on this important strategic intent.

[Female Genital Mutilation \(FGM\)](#)

The Home Affairs Committee has announced an inquiry into female genital mutilation (FGM).

5. Reviews and Inspections

[IPCC supervising investigation into use of Taser on pupils at special needs school.](#)

[Custody of 17-year-olds to be investigated by IPCC.](#)

[IPCC to investigate Humberside Police's detention of mentally ill woman.](#)

[Making best use of police time](#) - Valuing the Police is a major Her Majesty Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) programme to inspect the efficiency and effectiveness of police forces. This work will begin in the new year with the findings to be published in the summer.

[Terms of reference for the investigation into the conduct of three Police Federation representatives](#) - Following this incident on 12 October 2012 Mr Mitchell attended a meeting with three Police Federation representatives: Inspector Ken MacKaill of West Mercia Constabulary, Detective Sergeant (DS) Stuart Hinton of Warwickshire Police and Sergeant (PS) Chris Jones of West Midlands Police at his constituency offices in Sutton Coldfield. Immediately after the meeting Inspector MacKaill gave a statement to the media in which he said that Mr Mitchell had "refused to elaborate" on the events of 19 September and that he should therefore resign.

HMIC: Crime Data Integrity Inspection

This inspection covers three stages to begin in December 2013.

[HMIC: Value for Money Profiles](#)

Profiles for forces and local policing bodies to assist in making budget decisions.

[HMIC Published: Working Together](#). A review of the arrangements for collaboration between the five East Midlands police forces, commissioned by the police and crime commissioners in the region has been published.

[Her Majesty's Inspector of Probation](#): Published Victim Contact: An inspection of the Victim Contact Arrangements in Probation Trusts.

[HMIC published findings from an inspection of South Yorkshire Police's response to child sexual exploitation](#). This inspection was commissioned by the PCC for South Yorkshire.

[Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary's \(HMIC\) approach to monitoring forces – An overview for the public, forces and local policing bodies](#)

Her Majesty's Inspectors of Constabulary (HMIs) routinely monitor the performance of all police forces to identify apparent issues for closer scrutiny, ensure emerging problems with efficiency and effectiveness are spotted quickly, and problems are resolved quickly with Chief Constables and local policing bodies.

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.

CJJI: Child Protection Arrangements. In June 2013, the HMIC Board agreed a series of child sexual exploitation related inspections to be conducted over the next three years.

HMIC: National Thematic Review – Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR). The scope of the inspection is subject to further development but the focus is in the prevention of crime.

CJJI: National, Thematic Review: Road Traffic Offences Involving Fatalities

In the light of continuing concern about traffic offences involving fatalities, despite the introduction of new offences in 2008, the review will analyse and assess the quality of police/CPS investigation and prosecution of such cases, and the progress made by the CPS following HMCPSP's 2008 review, establish good practice and make recommendations for positive change. Inspection in 2013/14.

CJJI Inspection: Integrated Offender Management (IOM)

IOM provides an overarching framework for agencies to prioritise interventions with offenders of greatest concern in their locality. This inspection is intended to assist in assessing the impact of IOM and disseminating good practice.

HMCPSP Inspection: Statutory Charging

The previous joint report in 2008 highlighted a number of concerns over the efficiency of the operation of the statutory charging scheme (whereby the CPS took over the responsibility from the police for determining whether an alleged offender should be charged in the more serious or contested cases, by virtue of the Criminal Justice Act 2003). With changes in the landscape implemented in 2010–11 and 2012–13, this follow-up was postponed to 2013-14.

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.

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

Police Custody: Good practice examples.