



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: Overarching documents](#) - These documents are part of the Anti-social Behaviour Crime and Police Bill.

[Immigration Bill to be introduced](#)

Bill to make provision about immigration law; to limit, or otherwise make provision about, access to services, facilities and employment by reference to immigration status; to make provision about marriage and civil partnership involving certain foreign nationals; and for connected purposes.

[The Criminal Procedure \(Amendment\) Rules 2013](#). Interpreters.

[New powers for tighter restrictions on sex offenders](#)

New measures to give greater powers for the police to protect the vulnerable from sexual predators have been unveiled by the Home Office.

[Scrap metal laws to stop metal theft come into force](#)

From 1st October all scrap metal dealers will need to apply for a licence to operate from their local council and Magistrates will be able to issue fines up to £5,000 to scrap metal dealers who trade for cash.

[Simple cautions to serious offences to be scrapped](#)

'Simple' cautions are to be overhauled so that changes will be made to the circumstances in which a caution can be used and a review is to be undertaken in the use of all out of court disposals for adults.

[The Drug Driving \(Assessment of Drug Misuse\) Bill](#)

The Bill is published and the Second Reading is scheduled to take place in the House of Commons on Friday 18th October 2013. This is a Private Member's Bill by Graham Evans, MP for Weaver Vale.

[Guide on Firearms Licensing Law 2013](#) (Updated) - This document provides consolidated guidance on firearms licensing legislation. This guide is not intended to be a definitive

statement of the law, but a cohesive explanation of the often complex area of firearms licensing.

2. Policing and crime key developments

[The National Crime Agency \(NCA\) has been launched, replacing the former Serious Organised Crime Agency.](#) The NCA will comprise computer experts, child protection workers, uniformed and undercover officers, and will use information from other police forces and the security services to tackle criminals such as cyber criminals, drug barons, paedophiles and people traffickers.

[Review of the IPCC's work in relation to cases involving death.](#)

Progress report and consultation. The report provides an update on the progress of the review, provides details on key themes that have emerged from the consultation, outlines the IPCC's response to these themes and explains the actions that have already been taken or planned to be taken to respond to these.

[Trafficked children's basic rights breached by system failures](#)

UK authorities' focus on border control and crime prevention means that they are continuing to fail trafficked children, ECPAT UK and Children's Rights Alliance for England (CRAE) will tell the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child in Geneva.

[Football related arrests and banning orders, season 2012 to 2013.](#)

This report contains statistics on football-related arrests and banning orders issued in 2012 to 2013.

[Driving age 'must increase to 18'](#)

The minimum driving age must be raised from 17 to 18 to stop young people "killing themselves and others", MPs have said. The Commons transport committee also wants learner drivers to spread lessons over a year before taking the test and a complete alcohol ban for new drivers. Novice drivers should be banned from carrying passengers aged between 10 and 20 late at night, the report adds. Government figures show that one-third of road deaths involve a car driven by a person aged between 17 and 25, although this group accounts for just one in eight licence-holders.

[October Hillsborough investigation update.](#)

[Serious organised crime strategy](#) - The serious and organised crime strategy sets out how we will prevent people getting involved in serious and organised crime.

[Cyber crime: a review of the evidence](#) - A review of the published evidence on the scale and nature of cyber crime, drawing upon data from academic, industry and government sources.

[Automatic 'early release' axed for child rapists and terrorists](#) - The Government has announced an overhaul of the sentencing which will see those convicted of rape or attempted rape of a child or terrorism offences no longer automatically being released half way through their sentence.

[Research map to boost policing and crime-reduction knowledge](#) - A new interactive map of current academic research on policing and crime reduction has been launched by the College of Policing.

[ACPO does not condone use of ERBs as split hoods, says Commander David Martin](#)
“The Emergency Response Belt (ERB) was introduced into national police practice as a limb restraint. Its use was considered by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and an independent group of health professionals before being included within national practice advice. ACPO would not endorse its use for anything other than its primary function. “At the centre of police decision-making is the principle that officers will, in the face of violence, be professional, calm and restrained and apply only that force which is necessary to accomplish their lawful duty. Any use of force by officers in protecting themselves, the public and any detainee from harm should be applied with this principle in mind.”

[Committee publishes report on renewed strategy to tackle tobaccos fraud](#)
The Rt Hon Margaret Hodge MP, Chair of the Committee of Public Accounts, today said: "Tobacco smuggling is not a victimless crime. Each year it constitutes a theft of revenue to the tune of some £1.9 billion, 20% of the total sum collected through tax. It undermines drives to cut smoking and is also linked to the activities of organized crime."

[Forces warned over restraining belts on detainees' heads.](#)
The police watchdog issues a warning to officers to stop using restraining belts on detainees' heads following a man's death. His family wants to see CCTV footage from the police station.

[Police 'struggling' with historical child abuse workload.](#)
The NSPCC says some police forces are struggling to deal with an increase in historical child abuse cases, after the BBC obtained figures indicating arrests in such cases had fallen. The number of allegations rose by 70% after Jimmy Savile's past was widely publicised, but arrests fell by 6% over the same period.

[Victim Support helps abuse victims in wake of high profile investigations](#)
Local Victim Support staff and volunteers are reporting increases in the numbers of victims coming forward to seek help following sex abuse – suggesting the raised profile of the issue is giving victims the confidence to come forward to report, whether affected by the activities of Savile or as part of other, unrelated cases.

[Falling officer numbers: Emergency response times hit.](#)
Sussex Fed vents concerns at chief constable following the loss of 300 officers.

[Ian Learmonth to stand down as Kent's Chief Constable.](#)
The Chief Constable of Kent, Ian Learmonth, is to stand down after three-and-a-half years in the job.

[Staffordshire police to wear video cameras on patrol.](#)
All frontline officers, special constables and PCSOs will be required to wear video cameras on their uniforms when on patrol in a bid to boost a force's "integrity".

[Tim Loughton accuses police chief of 'losing the plot'.](#)

Ex-children's minister Tim Loughton has accused Sussex Police's chief constable of having "lost the plot" after the MP was issued with a harassment warning.

Kent detective receives national recognition for cracking trafficking and prostitution ring.

Detective Constable Simon Harrold, from Thanet, was shortlisted for the Detective Investigation of the Year Award at the Police Federation National Detective Forum ceremony.

Health and Safety Exec probes custody processes.

A formal health and safety investigation has been launched into the Metropolitan Police's new arrangement for conducting custody reviews for detainees after concerns were raised that it is unsafe.

Taser: Two new variants under testing.

Two new variants of the Taser weapon are now under evaluation by specialists from the Home Office – although dates for the completion of trials have not been confirmed.

Youth PCC recruitment of Paris Brown 'robust and transparent'.

An independent review into the way Kent's first youth police and crime commissioner was recruited has concluded that the process was "robust, transparent and well run".

Police tell children it's a 'crime' to play in street.

Police sent flyers to families in a Surrey town warning them it was a crime for children to play on skateboards in a residential street.

Police forced to deal with mentally ill rather than fight crime.

People are dying in police custody as officers are being forced to deal with mental health patients and diverted from fighting crime, one of Britain's top police officers said.

Trials hit by 'police errors'.

MORE than 1,300 criminals, including rapists, child molesters and violent thugs, have escaped justice in the past five years because of police blunders after their arrest.

Expert suggests police videos of Hillsborough disaster may have been edited.

It also emerged that 74 more police statements are suspected of being altered than was originally believed.

Police officers injured after taking part in new fitness tests.

Police have to perform the tests involving 15-metre shuttle runs to measure their endurance after a recommendation by Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary, Tom Winsor, earlier this year.

Four police officers face prosecution after prisoner died in custody when restraint belt was fixed across his mouth.

Four police officers face prosecution after a mentally ill prisoner died in custody when a restraining belt was fixed across his mouth to prevent him from 'spitting or biting'. Church caretaker Thomas Orchard collapsed in a police cell after he was arrested in Exeter city centre on suspicion of a public order offence.

[Met Police sergeant who downloaded child abuse images jailed.](#)

[Police spend £84,000 on food and drink for informants.](#) Essex Police.

[Officers pumping petrol into diesel cars costs one police force £30,000 in five years.](#)

[Bible oath could be scrapped from courts.](#)

Magistrates will debate scrapping the religious oath for witnesses and defendants, but critics have raised fears the move could further erode the Christian heritage of Britain

3. Reports

[Victim Support](#)

Out of the shadows: Victims' and Witnesses' experiences of attending the Crown Court. Findings highlight how important it is that victims and witnesses are treated with consideration and respect by the range of professionals with whom they come into contact; including Witness Care Unit staff, the police, court staff, Witness Service staff and volunteers, barristers and the judge. Considerate and respectful treatment makes the difficulties and frustrations of coming to court more manageable, and helps to reduce any sense of marginalisation.

[Ministry of Justice](#)

Further breakdown of cautions.

[Justice Data Lab Statistics April to October 2013](#)

Presents a summary of the requests for re-offending information through the Justice Data Lab for the period 2nd April 2013 to 31st September 2013. This report is published alongside the tailored reports which have been produced for individual organisations requesting information through the Justice Data Lab.

[At risk yet dismissed](#)

The report follows research by Victim Support, Mind, the Institute of Psychiatry at King's College London, the Faculty of Health, Social Care and Education at Kingston University and St George's, University of London, in collaboration with University College London.

The report reveals that people with mental health problems are:

- three times more likely to be a victim of crime than the general population
- five times more likely to be a victim of assault and rises to 10 times more likely if you're a woman
- more likely to be a repeat victim of crime
- far less likely to be satisfied with the service they receive.

It is the first UK survey on crime against people with severe mental health problems. The findings paint a stark picture of the risks and the barriers people with mental health problems face in getting the help they need.

[Talking about alcohol](#)

Drinkaware has new films on its website to encourage parents to 'talk now and avoid problems later'.

[EUCAM \(European Centre for Monitoring Alcohol Marketing\)](#)

The effects of online marketing on drinking behaviours of young people.

[Main results of the Justice and Home Affairs Council in Luxembourg](#)

On Monday, Justice ministers had an in-depth discussion on the “one-stop-shop” mechanism, which is a key issue in the proposal for a General Data Protection Regulation. The Council agreed on a general approach on the proposal for a directive on the protection of the euro and other currencies against counterfeiting by criminal law.

[Caste in Britain](#)

The Equality and Human Rights Commission has commissioned an external research team to carry out an independent study titled 'Caste in Britain'. The project reports, due in early 2014, will inform the future work of EHRC and feed into the proposed formal consultation on caste legislation that the Government Equalities Office will undertake in Spring 2014.

[Making it easier for areas to set up Business Improvement Districts](#)

Changes come into force on 7th October that mean that areas will no longer need to carry out separate ballots in each authority area where the Business Improvement District will be - on single ballot will be allowed for the whole area.

[Councils attacked over 15-minute care visits](#)

The rising trend for care organisations to provide only ‘flying’ 15-minute home visits has been condemned by a leading charity. Leonard Cheshire Disability has released a poll showing that 93% of people agreed with it that 15 minutes is not enough time to support disabled and elderly people with washing, dressing and bathing. But there has been a 15% rise in the proportion of care visits lasting 15 minutes or less in the last five years, according to its new report, ‘Ending 15 minute care’.

Andrew Haldenby took part in Guardian Live Chat for the *Public Leader’s Network on public sector reform*. Andrew argued that public spending cuts have been a catalyst for more innovative forms of public service delivery, that performance related pay is crucial in achieving greater efficiency, and that important reforms still need to be made with regards to the NHS and pensioner benefits ([Guardian Online](#)).

[‘Can-do’ councils leading transformation of local government](#)

18 local authorities to share £7 million for cutting edge shared service projects.

Local Government Minister Brandon Lewis announced today (9 October 2013) that 18 local authorities will share a £6.9 million reward for radically overhauling how they do business, a part of the government’s pledge to transform public services.

Successful schemes will:

- accelerate integration of local health care services
- create shared finance and HR for emergency services
- create a shared asset management company partnership
- use service data to drive efficiency and better delivery

The winners of the Transformation Challenge Award will receive funding for demonstrating their ability to remain at the cutting edge of service transformation, while delivering efficiency savings.

[Better tenancies for families in rental homes](#)

New measures will encourage family-friendly tenancies in the private sector.

[Department for Communities and Local Government](#)

Social housing lettings in England: April 2012 - March 2013.

[British Medical Association](#)

Mental Capacity Toolkit.

[Institute for Government](#)

Organising policy making. A discussion paper on emerging trends.

[Joseph Rowntree Foundation](#)

Addressing poverty through local governance.

[New Economics Foundation](#)

Distant neighbours. This report is about poverty and inequality in Islington. Through interviews with low and high earners in the borough, as well as statistical analysis of key trends.

[Novice drivers: evidence review and evaluation](#)

Summary of research findings on pre-driver educational interventions, graduated driver licensing and an evaluation of the New Drivers Act. The over-representation of young novice drivers in road collisions is a public health risk in Great Britain (GB), and worldwide. The key contributory factors to this problem are known and are cross-cultural; they are youth and inexperience. This report reviewed and synthesised evidence of effectiveness for 3 potential approaches to tackling young and novice driver safety.

[Prison Reform Trust/Rethink](#)

Mental Health and Learning Disabilities in the Criminal Courts.

A report by the Equality and Human Rights Commission has claimed that some councils have breached the human rights of elderly people by cutting the amount they pay private companies for social care ([Telegraph](#)).

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, George Osborne MP, has launched the Help to Buy scheme with details of the 95 per cent mortgages which will be offered to first time buyers and homeowners if they can raise a 5 per cent deposit. The scheme applies to any house with a value of up to £600,000 and it has been estimated that 500,000 buyers could be helped by the scheme over a three year period ([Telegraph](#); Times (print only); [Guardian](#); [BBC Online](#))

The National Grid has warned that the risk of a blackout in the UK has reached a five year high. The network operator has forecast that the amount of spare capacity between supply and demand will fall to 5 per cent this winter, the lowest since 2008 ([Telegraph](#); [City AM](#)).

4. Consultations

[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.

[Public sector procurement changes to help SMEs win business](#)

The Government has published its consultation on making public sector procurement more accessible to SMEs – which could mean every public sector organisation having to use the same pre-qualification questionnaire as central Government. The consultation closes on the 17 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.

[Needle and syringe programmes \(update\): guideline consultation](#)

NICE is conducting an update of [NICE public health guidance 18 \(2009\)](#). The consultation closes on the 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.

[Biodiversity offsetting in England](#)

This consultation sets out proposals for biodiversity offsetting and how it might be introduced in England. The consultation is open until 7 November 2013.

[Consultation on enabling targeted, local alternatives to personal licences to sell alcohol](#)

The Minister of State for Crime Prevention (Jeremy Browne): A consultation on enabling targeted, local alternatives to personal licences to sell alcohol has been launched.

[Registration of providers of social work services](#)

In January and February of this year, the department consulted on proposals to commence part 1 of the Children and Young Persons Act 2008 (CYPA).

[Data sharing between public bodies](#)

The Law Commission has published a consultation paper on the subject of data sharing between public bodies. The consultation will run until 16th December 2013.

[Environment Agency Charges Consultation for 2014](#)

This consultation sets out our charging proposals for our Environmental Permitting, Abstraction and EU Emissions Trading Schemes. The consultation will run until 20 December 2013.

[Competition and Markets Authority: vision, values and strategy](#)

This consultation sets out the Competition and Market Authority (CMA's) proposed: Vision, strategy and values. This was opened on the 1 October and is due to take full effect by 1 April 2014

Local Consultations

[School Admissions consultation on electronic process](#)

[Language Solutions \(Translations and Interpretations\) Service Review](#)

[Leisure Centre Satisfaction Survey](#)

[Heathfield Primary and Nursery school proposal](#)