



## 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

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

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

- [Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014](#) (Prospective – the provisions in Sch.11 as they relate to the PRSR2011 are not yet in force).
- [Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014](#) (Prospective – the provisions as they relate to the PRSR2011 are not yet in force).
- [Crime and Courts Act 2013](#) (The provisions as they relate to the PRSR2011 came into force 7<sup>th</sup> October 2013 by [S.I. 2013/1682 art. 3\(v\)](#) The Crime and Courts Act 2013 (Commencement No. 2 and Saving Provision) Order 2013).
- [Localism Act 2011](#) (The provisions as they relate to the PRSR2011 came in force 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2011 by [S.I. 2011/2896 art. 2\(i\)](#)) The Localism Act 2011 (Commencement No. 1 and Transitional Provisions) Order 2011.

APACC are doing a piece of work to review the changes to various other Acts and Orders.

### [Offender Rehabilitation Act 2014](#) – Received Royal Assent on 13 March.

The Offender Rehabilitation Bill today received Royal Assent. It provides many of the measures which underpin the Transforming Rehabilitation programme.

### [Criminal Justice and Courts Bill](#)

This Government Bill was presented to Parliament on **5 February 2014**. The Bill had its second reading debate in the House of Commons on **24 February 2014** and considered in a Public bill Committee on **25 March 2014**. The Public Bill Committee is expected to report by **1 April 2014**. The Bill is to make provision about how offenders are dealt with before and after conviction; to amend the offence of possession of extreme pornographic images; to make provision about the proceedings and powers of courts and tribunals; to make provision about judicial review; and for connected purposes.

## [Report stage \(Lords\) \(Day 1\) of the Immigration Bill - April 1](#)

The **Immigration Bill** had its first day of report stage in the Lords. Further progress will be made on April 3.

## [Second reading \(Commons\) of the Finance \(No. 2\) Bill - April 1](#)

The Finance (No. 2) Bill was given a second reading in the Commons and now goes to committee for further consideration.

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

## [Children and Families Act 2014 receives Royal Assent](#)

The new Children and Families Act - given royal assent today - will mean changes to the law to give greater protection to vulnerable children, better support for children whose parents are separating, a new system to help children with special educational needs and disabilities, and help for parents to balance work and family life.

## [International Development \(Gender Equality\) Act](#)

Received Royal Assent to promote gender equality in the provision by the Government of development assistance and humanitarian assistance to countries outside the United Kingdom; and for connected purposes.

## [The Police Act 1997 \(Criminal Records\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2014](#)

These Regulations came into force on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2014. These Regulations insert a new regulation in the Police Act 1997 (Criminal Records) Regulations 2002 to prescribe a fee in relation to an application for the issue of a criminal conviction certificate within the meaning of section 112 of the Police Act 1997. These Regulations also prescribe the details to be provided in relation to a conditional caution and conviction disclosed under section 112 of the Act. Finally, these Regulations prescribe the meaning of 'central records', which are the records where convictions or conditional cautions are held for the purposes of section 112 of the Act.

## **2. Strategic policing and crime news**

### [State Opening of Parliament](#)

The State Opening of Parliament marks the formal start of the parliamentary year and the Queen's Speech sets out the government's agenda for the coming session, outlining proposed policies and legislation. It is the only regular occasion when the three constituent parts of Parliament – the Sovereign, the House of Lords and the House of Commons – meet. In a statement to MPs, Leader of the House Andrew Lansley announced that the date for the State Opening of Parliament and the Queen's Speech has changed from June 3<sup>rd</sup> to Wednesday June 4<sup>th</sup>. The reason given was to better facilitate arrangements for the ceremony and other events that week including the now planned G7 summit in Brussels, Belgium.

### [PASC: "Why we can't rely on police recorded crime statistics"](#)

The Commons Public Administration Select Committee (PASC) report, "Caught Redhanded: Why we can't rely on Police Recorded Crime", published on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2014, says:

- There is strong evidence that the police under-record crime, particularly sexual crimes such as rape in many police areas.

- This is due to “lax compliance with the agreed national standard of victim-focussed crime recording.”
- As a result of PASC’s inquiry, the UK Statistics Authority has already stripped Police Recorded Crime data of the quality kite mark, “National Statistics”.
- The Home Office, the Office of National Statistics and the UK Statistics Authority have all been “far too passive”.
- Numerical targets drive perverse incentives to mis-record crime.
- Associated “attitudes and behaviour... have become ingrained, including within senior police leadership” raising “broader concerns about policing values”.
- This presents officers with “a conflict between achievement of targets and core policing values.”
- PASC “deprecate the use of targets in the strongest possible terms” and accuses the police of adopting a “flawed leadership model, contrary to the policing Code of Ethics.”

The PASC report recommends:

- The Home Office should do more to discourage use of targets.
- The Home Office must take responsibility and accept accountability for the quality of Police Recorded Crime Statistics.
- Senior police leaders must emphasise data integrity and accuracy, not targets.
- They should place new emphasis on values and ethics, especially in the Metropolitan Police.
- The Home Office should “clarify the route open to police whistleblowers” and Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of the Constabulary (HMIC) should investigate the treatment of key PASC witness police whistleblower PC James Patrick.
- PASC recommends that “the Committee on Standards in Public Life conducts a wide-ranging inquiry into the police’s compliance with the new Code of Ethics; in particular the role of leadership in promoting and sustaining these values”.

### [ACPO statement on PASC report on crime statistics](#)

“Working with Police and Crime Commissioners, chief constables have an important role to play in building a culture of ethical crime reporting that complements the service’s wider values, laid out in the draft Code of Ethics developed by the College of Policing. We will continue to work hard to achieve greater consistency and accuracy across the country.”

### [Commons statement on PASC report: Police Recorded Crime Statistics](#)

The Chairman of the Public Administration Selection Committee spoke on the subject of the police recorded crime statistics.

### [Westminster Hall debate on Domestic Violence](#)

Debate on domestic violence to consider the context of and the facts about domestic abuse.

### [Written statement on Countering Terrorism](#)

Protecting the safety of the UK and our interests overseas is the primary duty of Government. Terrorism remains the greatest threat to the security of this country.

### [CONTEST Annual Report](#)

The Home Secretary has published the annual report on CONTEST, the UK’s CT Strategy, which states that it provides a sound strategic framework for counter terrorist work. The report describes recent developments in the terrorist threat to the UK and its interests, and the progress made in counter-terrorism work in 2013. The report highlights that there were

two terrorist murders here in 2013, the first in Great Britain since 2005. There were also attempted terrorist attacks against mosques in the West Midlands and thirteen British nationals were killed in terrorist attacks by Al Qa'ida linked groups overseas, the highest number since 2005. Internally the threat from terrorism. The strategy is based around four main areas: Pursue, Prevent, Protect, Prepare.

## **[The Chief Inspector of Constabulary publishes his first annual assessment of policing](#)**

State of policing: the annual assessment of policing in England and Wales 2012/13

HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary, Tom Winsor, has published his annual assessment of the efficiency and effectiveness of policing in England and Wales. The assessment covers the full breadth of policing work inspected by HMIC throughout 2012/13, and an overview of police forces in England and Wales. The report opens with an essay by HM Chief Inspector, on his thoughts on policing for the last year drawing on his experience in his role, and HMIC inspections. The essay addresses the financial challenge faced by forces, the demand for the services of the police and the changing nature of crime, crime prevention, the role of police and crime commissioners and HM Inspectorate of Constabulary's role in inspecting forces.

## **[Commitment to work with Police and Crime Commissioners](#)**

The National Crime Agency has published its commitment to work in partnership with Police and Crime Commissioners. The overall aim of the NCA, as set out in the new Serious and Organised Crime Strategy 2013, is to lead the UK's fight to cut serious and organised crime. The NCA recognises that it is important that Police and Crime Commissioners can access the information they require in relation to activity to counter the threats from serious and organised crime, both regionally and nationally. It is the responsibility of both Chief Constables and the NCA to ensure that PCCs can access this information, and the NCA will therefore ensure that the Chief Constable is provided with the appropriate information to enable them to brief the PCC as required.

## **[Joint committee report on the Draft Modern Slavery Bill](#)**

The joint Parliamentary committee report on the draft Modern Slavery Bill. The Government's plans to introduce a Modern Slavery Bill give Parliament an opportunity to put in place measures to protect the victims of slavery and thereby establish an effective regime for the prosecution of slave masters and traffickers.

## **[Domestic violence victims helps as injunction fees are scrapped](#)**

The £75 fee for domestic violence injunctions will cease from 22nd April.

## **[Sexual offences guideline comes into force](#)**

Following a period of consultation and implementation the definitive guideline on sexual offences came into effect on 1st April 2014 with versions for the [Crown Court](#) and [Magistrates Court](#).

## **[Protecting people most at risk](#)**

The Equality and Human Rights Commission has set out a programme of work to tackle entrenched inequalities and protect the human rights of everyone in Britain.

## **[Stepping up the fight against online child sexual exploitation](#)**

Policing Minister Damian Green has announced the latest work taking place to stamp out online child sexual exploitation.

## [Stronger powers to seize drug cutting agents](#)

Plans have been announced by Government to strengthen powers to seize substances used by criminals to cut illegal drugs.

## [Theft offences](#)

The Sentencing Council has launched a consultation on its proposed guidelines for judges and magistrates to use when sentencing people for theft offences. The consultation runs until 26th June 2014.

## [Criminals paying more than ever to help victims](#)

£14 million of new funding taken directly from criminals' pockets will provide vital services to help victims recover from the effects of crime, Justice Secretary [Chris Grayling](#) has announced.

### 3. Developments and reports

#### [The police mission in the twenty-first century](#)

*Reform* publishes a new report co-authored by Stephen Greenhalgh, London's Deputy Mayor for Policing and Blair Gibbs, Principal Advisor at MOPAC, on the need to reconsider the role of the police in an era of scarce resources.

#### [Ban on sale of alcohol below cost of duty plus VAT](#)

This ban comes into force from 6th April 2014.

#### [Cafcass becomes part of the Ministry of Justice](#)

The Child and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass) has become part of the Ministry of Justice to bring the welfare of children closer to the family court system.

#### [Homeless and vulnerable people in forced labour in the UK](#)

A new research project will be undertaken over three years which will aim to deliver a full 'system change' for service users, practitioners and in policy, law enforcement and public awareness.

#### [Department for Communities and Local Government](#)

Supporting public service transformation: cost benefit analysis guidance for local partnerships.

#### [Department for Communities and Local Government](#)

The Allocation of Housing and Homelessness (Eligibility) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014.

#### **The Office for National Statistics has admitted to miscalculating the extent of migration into the UK from Eastern Europe.**

An estimated 350,000 migrants into the country were not counted between 2001 and 2011. The ONS said that the issue arose out of "inadequate sampling" in a key survey carried out at airports (*Telegraph*; *Times*; *Guardian*; *Independent*).

## [Her Majesty's Inspector of Prisons](#)

People in prison: Ex-service personnel. While estimates of the number of ex-Service personnel in prison vary, there is no doubt that they form a significant minority. They have similar high levels of need arising from mental health and alcohol misuse problems to the prison population as a whole, but are more likely to feel depressed or suicidal on arrival into prison, to have physical health problems or to have a disability compared with other prisoners. They appear to manage some aspects of institutional prison life, such as relationships with staff, better than other prisoners but greater concerns about their safety underline their vulnerabilities. However, there is a range of specific assistance available to ex-Service personnel from service charities but much of this assistance is ad hoc, inconsistent and dependent on the goodwill of individuals to deliver it.

## [Ipsos MORI/Drinkaware](#)

Research on unit guidelines.

## [Ministry of Justice](#)

Report on review of ways to reduce distress of victims in trials of sexual violence

## [Department for Communities and Local Government Statistics](#)

Troubled Families Programme: progress by 31st December 2013.

## [Pol Fed Chair cites 'serious opposition' in decision to step down](#)

Police Federation Chairman Steve Williams and General Secretary Ian Rennie have announced that they are to retire following this year's annual conference in May.

## [CBI comments on Labour immigration policy](#)

The CBI commented on a speech by Shadow Home Secretary Yvette Cooper on Labour's immigration policy.

## [ACPO - Clamping down on rogue traders](#)

Police forces and trading standards teams across the UK have been taking action to target rogue traders as part of a week-long national enforcement and awareness initiative.

## [Trust in local councils almost twice as high as in Parliament, says survey](#)

Over a third of people living in England think that local authorities should be given more powers, according to a new report published today by the think tank IPPR North.

## [Ministry of Justice Statistics](#)

Further breakdowns of criminal histories of offenders and proven re-offending.

## [Offender Management Community Cohort Study](#): Waves 2 and 3 Technical Report

[Role of Offender Managers in Community Orders](#): Results from the Offender Management Community Cohort Study.

## [Government pays to extend Microsoft XP support for entire public sector](#)

The government has entered a 12-month agreement with Microsoft to maintain "critical" and "important" security updates for Windows XP after regular support for the operating system ends on 8 April 2014. Worth an estimated £5.5m, the contract will provide updates for

Windows XP, Office 2003 and Exchange 2003, all of which have reached the end of their life in Microsoft's normal product cycles. The Crown Commercial Service (CCS) negotiated the agreement, which will provide support until 14 April 2015. It added that the contract is "vital" and will provide "continuity" during migration onto alternative operating systems.

## **Road repair backlog cost reaches £12bn – ALARM**

Local authorities in England and Wales have warned of a 'national road crisis' escalating as the repair backlog bill on the country's roads hits £12bn. This year's Annual Local Authority Road Maintenance (ALARM) survey, published by the Asphalt Industry Alliance, estimates that the cost to get the local road network in England and Wales back into reasonable condition has increased to £12bn, up from £10.5bn in 2013.

## **New £410m fund for council service transformation**

Funding worth £410m is being made available to help councils transform the way they run, and reward authorities that cut duplication and build services around the needs of local people, local government secretary Eric Pickles has announced. The total funding package, which will be rolled out in a staggered manner until 2016, is made up of a number of different programmes. Firstly, £1m has been made available in 2013 to 2014 for nine local authorities working with the [Public Service Transformation Network](#) to speed up and scale up their transformation plans.

## **Audit of private providers 'vital check' on public spending – ACCA**

The transparency of the private sector in delivering public services is "sub-standard", according to Gillian Fawcett, global public sector finance chief of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA).

## **Councils offered £88m to help roll-out of 'lacklustre' Green Deal**

The government is providing 24 local authorities across England with a share of £88m to help drive the roll out of its "lacklustre" Green Deal home energy programme on a "street-by-street" basis.

## **Signing-on not so 'simple' anymore DWP**

Simply 'signing-on' for benefits will be a thing of the past under new rules coming into force at the end of this month which will mean jobseekers will have to do more to find work. Figures from the [Office for National Statistics](#) show that the employment rate has hit a 5-year high and a record 30.19 million people are now in jobs. Private sector employment has increased by 1.73 million since 2010, showing the government's long-term economic plan is proving successful. The latest figures also show the number of job vacancies increased in the last 3 months by 23,000 to 588,000.

## **New Early Conciliation service goes live**

Anyone thinking of making an employment tribunal claim will now have to contact ACAS first, under the new Early Conciliation service.

## **Public sector reforms hampered by 'skills shortage'**

In a survey of 1,619 public sector staff from central government, local government and the health sector, a total of 82% say that reforms are under pressure due to "staffing cuts". Healthcare workers are particularly concerned with one in four (23%) stating that staff headcount reductions mean the reforms will fail to be delivered. Additionally, almost one in two (45%) public sector staff think that the workforce does not have the skills it needs to

deliver public services effectively. Healthcare workers were even less confident, with 60% stating it doesn't have the skills to deliver.

## **NHS clinics have begun a trial offering financial incentives to drug addicts who manage to stay clean.**

Professor John Strang from the National Addiction Centre at King's College London supported the idea, arguing that financial incentives that bring about clinical improvements can be a significant "tool" for improving public health ([Telegraph](#); [Independent](#)).

## **A House of Lords Select Committee report has found that some senior civil servants in the NHS continue to be employed "off-payroll".**

The report also raised concerns about low paid workers in the public sector being exploited through the use of personal companies, with Baroness Noakes, the Chairman of the Committee stating that "this is something which needs to be thoroughly assessed by the low pay commission" ([FT](#)).

## **570 failing primary schools have been taken out of council control and turned into sponsored academies, according to figures from the Department for Education.**

A total of 1,983 primary schools in England have now been awarded academy school status, making 12 per cent of English primaries academies. Education Secretary Michael Gove MP said that a consequence of this change was that schools that were "struggling under council control" are "at least getting up to speed in the three Rs" ([Telegraph](#)).

## **Ed Miliband speech on the "cost of living crisis" - April 8**

## **Charities, Schools, Councils and Road Safety Groups warn against CCTV parking ban – LGA**

Road safety campaigners, schools, disability and pedestrian charities and transport groups have joined councils in warning against plans to ban CCTV parking cameras. The Government wants to stop councils from using CCTV to tackle dangerous parking outside schools, prevent drivers blocking bus lanes and loading bays and crack down on pavement parkers posing a risk to disabled pedestrians.

## **Access to the Local Government Pension Scheme for councillors in England - Commons Library Briefing Note**

From April 2003, regulations were introduced allowing councillors to be members of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) at the discretion of the local authority.

## **The UK will be the fastest growing member of the G7 this year, according to the IMF.**

The UK economy is predicted to grow 2.9 per cent in 2014. This estimate is almost double last year's forecast for growth this year and is the fourth time the IMF has raised its prediction for the UK in 12 months ([FT](#); [Telegraph](#); [Times](#); [Guardian](#)).

## **4. Consultations**

### **Revised PACE codes and NoREs**

Open date: 24/03/2014

Close date: 22/04/2014

## **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.

## **Review of local authority role in housing supply**

This call for evidence from the Government seeks ideas, evidence and good practice into how local authorities can help to increase housing supply in order to meet local housing need. The consultation is open until 23rd May 2014.

## **Using a legislative reform order to set up town and parish councils**

The Government is consulting on a proposal to use a legislative reform order for making it easier to set up town and parish councils. The consultation is open until 22nd May 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

## **Prevention of Offending by Young People**

Open date: 05/02/2014

Close date: 30/04/2014

## **Child poverty: a draft strategy**

Open date: 27/02/2014

Close date: 22/05/2014

## **Wildlife legislation in England: General and Class Licences**

Open date: 24/02/2014

Close date: 19/05/2014

## **Draft Guidance on Police Post-incident Management**

The IPCC has produced additional statutory guidance on police post-incident management, designed to achieve best evidence in investigations of deaths or serious injury. The IPCC are seeking feedback on the draft guidance from stakeholders. The consultation is open until 27 May 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.

## Public consultation - EU guidance on integrated Child Protection Systems

Date: 10/04/2014

### 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 (ROCU).

#### [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
- Child Protection

#### **Thematic Inspections Commencing in 2014/15**

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