



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](#)

The **Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill** completed the commons committee stage on 16 July 2013.

[Home Office Publishes Domestic Violence and Abuse Chapter to the Guidance on Firearms Licensing Law](#)

The Home Office has published a Domestic Violence Chapter to add to the Guide on Firearms Licensing Law. It follows the introduction of the new non-statutory definition of domestic violence and abuse which was introduced on 31 March 2013.

[Operation of police powers under the Terrorism Act 2000, 2012 to 2013](#) - Contains material relating to the Terrorism Act 2000 and subsequent legislation, including arrests and outcomes, and stops and searches.

[Extreme pornography](#) - The Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 made it an offence in England, Wales and Northern Ireland to possess "extreme pornographic images". These include pornographic material which is grossly offensive, disgusting or otherwise obscene and that explicitly and realistically depict: life threatening injury; serious injury to a person's anus, breasts or genitals; bestiality; or necrophilia.

Criminal Law Review. Hate crime - Aggravating features. Prejudice relating to disability. Prejudice relating to sexual orientation or transgender identity. Racially aggravated offences. Religion of belief. Sentencing.

Criminal Law Review. Replacing the ASBO with the injunction to prevent nuisance and annoyance: a plea for legislative scrutiny and amendment - In May 2013, the Coalition Government introduced a Bill which if passed will streamline the tools available to tackle anti-social behaviour. One of their proposals is to replace the controversial anti-social behaviour order (ASBO) with what is termed an Injunction to Prevent Nuisance and Annoyance (IPNA).

2. Policing and crime key developments

[Domestic violence and abuse: thematic review of police response](#)

The Home Secretary has requested HMIC to undertake a thematic review of the police response to domestic violence and abuse across England and Wales. The review will focus upon:

- The effectiveness of the police approach to domestic violence and abuse, focusing on the outcomes for victims
- Whether risks to victims of domestic violence and abuse are adequately managed
- Identifying lessons learnt from how the police approach domestic violence and abuse
- Making any necessary recommendations in relation to these findings when considered alongside current practice

The results of the inspection will be published by April 2014.

[Warning over police cell provision for mentally ill people](#)

Police stations "should stop being used" as places to detain mentally ill people, according to the President of the Police Superintendents' Association of England and Wales.

[West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner](#)

Report on Mental Health and Learning Disabilities Summit June 2013.

[New horizons](#)

Speaking ahead of this week's Supers' Conference, Superintendents' Association Vice President Gavin Thomas talks to Philip Mason about the British policing landscape and the future of the organisation highlighting Winsor and Integrity as being high impact areas on policing.

[Home Secretary praises police at Superintendents' Conference](#)

Speaking at the annual Superintendents' Conference on Tuesday (10 September), the Home Secretary praised officers for helping to cut crime throughout the course of this parliament.

[Theresa May warning over police targets 'comeback'](#)

Some senior police officers are bringing back targets to try to avoid deciding crime-fighting policies, Home Secretary Theresa May has said. She told the Police Superintendents' Association of England and Wales that the government had scrapped "top-down diktats" and urged police confidence.

[SOCA's 'seven-year dither' may impede justice](#)

The Information Commissioner has admitted almost 100 blue-chip organisations and celebrities may escape prosecution due to law enforcement agencies engaging in a "seven-year dither" over tackling their links to rogue private investigators.

[Independent Custody Visiting Code of Practice Consultation](#)

Consultation outcome.

[Are mobile phones causing more anti-social behaviour in teenagers](#)

Although the internet is often seen as a dangerous place for teenagers, their mobile phone and specifically their text messages could be just as damaging and influential. Research from the University of Texas has found a 'strong link' between those teenagers who send and

receive texts about antisocial behaviour, such as rule breaking, drugs and physical aggression, and those who go onto commit similar crimes.

[Severance 'could change officers' relationships with chiefs'](#)

The threat of compulsory severance could give officers the perception that their behaviour will influence whether they keep their job, even if this is not the case, the President of the Superintendents' Association has said.

[Still at risk](#) - A review of support for trafficked children.

[Response to child sexual exploitation inquiry](#) - Policing and Criminal Justice Minister Damian Green reaffirms commitment to providing victims with better protection. The government have [responded](#) to an inquiry by the Home Affairs Select Committee (HASC) on child sexual exploitation and localised grooming.

[Press statement from Police and Crime Commissioners on the independent review of ACPO.](#)

The Association of Police and Crime Commissioners have announced that former military chief General Sir Nick Parker KCB, CBE is to lead independent review of ACPO.

[The State of the State 2013](#)

The State of the State report provides independent analysis of the UK government and public sector by Deloitte and Reform, the leading think tank. It brings together new research alongside analysis of hundreds of datasets and the Government's accounts to provide a snapshot of the UK state. The report suggests that the Coalition Government has taken some bold and unprecedented steps to tackle some of the UK's most intransigent public policy issues. Pension reform, welfare spending and social care funding have all traditionally been seen as uniquely difficult issues for politicians to reform, each of which the Coalition has begun to address. However, the report argues that while the existing reforms are crucial first steps, more profound change is still required to create the necessary impact on the UK's balance sheet. No area of state activity can be considered taboo for reform. That includes public sector productivity, which has become a critical issue for the UK state.

[Deputy Chair Deborah Glass comments on the publication of police Taser use data.](#)

Senior police officers are under growing pressure to stop their officers using 50,000-volt Tasers at point-blank range. A review is to be published by the Independent Police Complaints Commission into the use of Tasers in the so-called drive-stun mode. Police are being told to dramatically reduce the frequency of such deployments. The directive comes as new figures show the use of Tasers by police in England and Wales has more than doubled to 7,250 deployments a year, raising fresh concern about the risks.

[Police fitness test 'is biased in favour of fat male officers'](#) because it prioritises strength and forces women to endure 'sexist' conditions a leading scientist has outlined.

[Crimestoppers](#)

2012/2013 Impact Report.

[New Economics Foundation](#)

Better Courts: cutting crime through court innovation. By encouraging courts to innovate and

become better – faster, fairer, more authoritative and more people focused – we can cut crime and improve the way resources are allocated across the justice system in England and Wales.

[Home Affairs Select Committee](#)

EU Justice and Home Affairs Opt-outs.

[Justice Select Committee](#)

Crime reduction policies: a co-ordinated approach?

[Survey highlights interoperability issues among emergency services](#)

A recent survey of emergency services first responders has highlighted recent improvements in interoperability but suggested that challenges still remain to achieve optimum integration.

[Terrorism arrests - analysis of charging and sentencing outcomes by religion](#) - The figures in this article are for people arrested, charged and/or convicted following a terrorism-related arrest in Great Britain, from 1 September 2001 to 31 August 2012.

[One step closer to court broadcasting](#) - From next month broadcasting will be allowed for criminal and civil cases in the Court of Appeal, where filming will be allowed of the legal arguments and the final judgment.

[IPCC update on Hillsborough investigation.](#)

[Diversity: Service has 'failed to produce representative workforce'.](#)

[Cyber crime: Forces would be considered 'HMIC failures'.](#)

3. Reports

[Recommendations to support mental health in the justice system](#)

Community groups are the key to engaging black and ethnic minority (BME) groups who are disproportionately over-represented in the criminal justice system. The BME population is also significantly more likely to suffer from mental health issues. A new Centre for Mental Health commission chaired by Lord Bradley is conducting a five year review of the Bradley report, his earlier research which offered recommendations on how to support people with mental health problems in the criminal justice system. The commission is reviewing the progress made in achieving these recommendations, and has highlighted that community groups offer effective mental health support in the justice system. Lord Bradley said the needs of BME communities were “often overlooked”.

[Mental Health Foundation](#)

Crossing Boundaries: Improving integrated care for people with mental health problems. This report sets out the findings from the Mental Health Foundation’s Inquiry into integrated health care for people with mental health problems. The Inquiry ran from April 2012 to June 2013. Its aim was to identify good practice, generate discussion, and draw up key messages on integrated healthcare for people with mental health problems.

Communities and Local Government Select Committee

Knight Review of Fire and Rescue Service. The session will focus on the findings of Sir Ken's review of efficiencies and operations.

Joint Committee needed to avoid civil service disaster

The Government's programme of incremental change in the Civil Service Reform Plan is "bound to fail", MPs have warned. The Public Administration Select Committee (PASC) has published a hard-hitting report criticising the civil service for a lack of strategic coherence and clear leadership, as well as a general lack of trust and openness. There is a tendency to scapegoat, as seen in the West Coast Main Line debacle where individual officials were blamed rather than there being any department-wide responsibility, the report states.

Paperless government could save billions – Policy Exchange

Government could save £70bn by 2020 if it moved to paperless services and cut civil service jobs, a new report suggests. The remaining staff would have higher levels of IT skills, Policy Exchange says in its new 'Smaller, Better, Faster, Stronger' report, which calls for all government services to be moved online unless face-to-face interaction is essential. This could speed up processes, meet customer demand and deliver huge cost savings.

Putting the parish perspective back in town

The measures announced (9 September 2013) will enable more people to run local services and take decisions that affect their area. Although there are almost 10,000 parish councils in England, only a handful are to be found in urban areas. For example Birmingham has just 1 (New Frankley) and Queen's Park Community Council in Westminster will be the first in London for nearly 50 years when elected next year.

Modernisation of the prison estate

The Government has set out the next stage of its prison modernisation programme. With confirmation that its planned new 2,000 place prison will be built in Wrexham, and the news that it has started feasibility work on a second large prison to be constructed in the South East of England. It has also confirmed opening dates for the new house blocks – mini-prisons – being built to create 1200 new places at four sites across England.

Economy 'turning a corner' – Osborne

The Government's plan for the economy is working, Chancellor George Osborne will insist in a speech today. Recent positive reports on the economy have "ended questions" about his economic policy, he will say. The UK economy grew by 0.7% in the second quarter of the year, and the OECD increased its growth forecast to 1.5% from an earlier estimate of 0.8%.

The Ministry of Defence has launched the Defence Growth Partnership, a joint initiative with the defence industry that aims to protect British jobs and skills and maintain Britain's place in the global industry.

The Prime Minister, David Cameron MP, said the project would be aimed at "maximising opportunities for British business" ([FT](#)).

£10m cast to improve the health of homeless people

Fifty two projects run by voluntary sector organisations will work with the NHS and local government to make sure homeless people get the best possible support and care after they leave hospital.

[Family Voices 2013 launched](#)

The national writing competition for families affected by drug and alcohol use has opened.

[Law Society and Ministry of Justice agree new proposals for criminal legal aid](#)

Following the consultation in April, and agreement with the Law Society, the Government has published revised proposals for criminal legal aid contracting.

[Department for Communities and Local Government](#)

Live tables on homelessness.

[Department for Communities and Local Government](#)

Statutory homelessness in England - April-June 2013.

[Department of Health](#)

Public Health Outcomes Framework: May 2013 Quarterly update.

[Demos](#)

Generation strains: A Demos and Ipsos MORI report on changing attitudes to welfare. This report finds that age does play a role: the youngest generation is most sceptical of the welfare state, while the oldest generation is the most proud and most likely to support further spending on it. However, the report also finds a remarkable degree of cross-generational solidarity, and a common motivation for any difference in views: all cohorts want the system to benefit those who have contributed and those in most desperate need.

[National Audit Office](#)

The Border Force: Securing the border. Outlines how to provide value for money, and identifies how it needs to perform effectively and in a sustained way across the full range of its activities.

[Labour Market Statistics, September 2013](#)

- The employment rate for those aged from 16 to 64 for May to July 2013 was 71.6%, up 0.2 percentage points from February to April 2013. There were 29.84 million people in employment aged 16 and over, up 80,000 from February to April 2013.
- The unemployment rate for May to July 2013 was 7.7% of the economically active population, down 0.1 percentage points from February to April 2013. There were 2.49 million unemployed people, down 24,000 from February to April 2013.
- The inactivity rate for those aged from 16 to 64 for May to July 2013 was 22.3%, down 0.1 percentage points from February to April 2013. There were 8.96 million economically inactive people aged from 16 to 64, down 33,000 from February to April 2013.
- Between May to July 2012 and May to July 2013 total pay rose by 1.1% and regular pay rose by 1.0%.

4. Consultations

[Drug Driving : proposed regulations](#)

The consultation seeks views on the government's preferred policy option of making it an offence to drive if any of 17 controlled drugs are found in blood over a specified limit. The consultation closes on the 17 September.

[Statutory guidance on children who run away or go missing from home or care](#)

The current statutory guidance on children who run away and go missing from home or care was published in July 2009. The closing date for consultation responses is 17 September.

[Improving safeguarding for looked-after children: changes to the Care Planning, Placement and Case Review \(England\) Regulations 2010](#)

This consultation seeks views on proposals to amend the [Care Planning, Placement and Case Review \(England\) Regulations 2010](#). The closing date for consultation responses is 17 September.

[Open Government Partnership: UK draft National Action Plan 2013](#)

This draft of the UK's second National Action Plan is a result of the UK's membership of the [Open Government Partnership](#) (OGP) - a multilateral initiative that aims to secure concrete commitments from governments to promote transparency, empower citizens, fight corruption, and harness new technologies to strengthen governance. The closing date for consultation responses is 19 September.

[Serious Fraud Office and DPP Launch Consultation on Deferred Prosecution Agreements Draft Code of Practice](#)

The Director of the Serious Fraud Office and the Director of Public Prosecutions have published a draft code of practice on Deferred Prosecution Agreements (DPAs) for consultation. The consultation is open to interested individuals and organisations and closes on 20 September 2013.

[New consultation: Stop and search](#)

This consultation seeks views on the police powers of stop and search. The consultation runs up to 24 September 2013.

[Proposals for the use of capital receipts from asset sales to invest in reforming services](#)

In the Spending Review document [Investing in Britain's future](#), the government announced that it would consult on allowing local authorities some flexibility to use their receipts from asset sales to pay for the one-off revenue costs of service reforms. This consultation closes on the 24 September.

[Proposed changes to Codes of Practice C \(Detention\) and H \(Detention – Terrorism\)](#)

This consultation runs until Wednesday 25 September 2013.

[Hate Crime-The Case for Extending the Existing Offences](#)

This project came to the Law Commission by a reference from the Ministry of Justice, following the Government's publication of its three-year hate crime action plan in 2012. The consultation closes on the 27 September.

[Views sought on changes to the alcohol and drugs reporting framework](#)

Public Health England (PHE) is keen to ensure that the alcohol and drug reporting framework is fit for purpose, and so is consulting with the alcohol and drugs sector on a number of proposed changes to the reporting framework. The consultation runs until September.

[Corporate responsibility: call for views](#)

Corporate responsibility is sometimes known as corporate social responsibility. It is defined as the responsibility of an organisation for the impacts of its decisions on society and the environment above and beyond its legal obligations, through transparent and ethical behaviour. The closing date for consultation responses is 27 September.

Domestic violence and abuse – identification and prevention

NICE is developing public health programme guidance on 'Domestic violence and abuse: how social care, health services and those they work with can identify, prevent and reduce domestic violence and abuse'. The consultation period runs from 2nd August – 27th September.

Forensic Science Codes of Practice: Guidance on validation consultation

The Forensic Science Regulator published Codes of Practice and Conduct (Codes) for forensic science providers and practitioners in the criminal justice system in 2011. The Codes are being supplemented with appendices covering evidence specific requirements, guidance, information and protocols. In order to finalise each appendix, each one is being consulted on and feedback sought. This draft guidance is issued to allow comments from interested parties. Comments should be sent on the feedback form provided to FSRConsultation5@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk and should be submitted by 27 September 2013.

Assisted Areas Map 2014 to 2020

Updating the UK's Assisted Areas Map for 2014-20 delivers an opportunity to help drive sustainable strong growth, which will help to rebalance the UK economy. Assisted Area status permits the granting of additional financial support to small businesses and large enterprise in economically disadvantaged locations. This support is to encourage business in these communities to grow, innovate and thrive, which can positively affect these locations and the whole UK economy. This consultation closes on the 30 September.

Local Government Finance Settlement 2014-15 and 2015-16: technical consultation

This consultation seeks views on a range of detailed and technical issues concerning the 2014-15 and 2015-16 Local Government Finance Settlements. It will be of particular interest to local authority finance departments. The closing date for consultation responses is 2 October.

Sentencing Council Launches Public Consultation on the Sentencing of Fraud, Bribery and Money Laundering Offences

The Sentencing Council has launched a public consultation on the sentencing of fraud, bribery and money laundering offences. The Consultation document states that it does not concern the legislation that relates to these offences, but is only consulting on the sentencing. The consultation is open to all members of the public, including members of the judiciary, legal practitioners and individuals that work in or have an interest in criminal justice. The consultation closes on 4 October 2013.

Consultation on prescription drug tramadol

The government wants to make tramadol a Class C drug but ensure it is available to those who need it as a prescription medicine. The number of deaths involving tramadol has risen from 83 in 2008 to 154 in 2011. The deadline for responses is 11 October 2013.

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.

[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.

[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](#)

Biodiversity offsetting ensures that when a development damages nature (and this damage cannot be avoided) new, bigger or better nature sites will be created. This consultation sets out proposals for biodiversity offsetting and how it might be introduced in England. The consultation provides an overview of biodiversity offsetting, explores how it might operate, and introduces the key issues that would need to be addressed. 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 today.