



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](#)

2. Policing and crime key developments

[Written statement on the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill: Wales](#)

The Minister of State for Crime Prevention (Norman Baker): Currently Schedule 7 to the Government of Wales Act 2006 includes an exception to the National Assembly's competence in relation to 'anti-social behaviour orders'. As a result, an amendment to Schedule 7 to that Act is necessary to ensure the exception's continuing operation following the reforms made in this Bill.

[PCC 'should apologise' to chief](#)

A police and crime commissioner (PCC) should formally apologise to his chief constable for suspending him from duty. The suspension of Lincolnshire Constabulary Chief Constable Neil Rhodes was branded “perverse” by a judge.

[Chiefs responsible for 'making ethics code meaningful'](#)

Chief constables have a responsibility for making the proposed Code of Ethics “meaningful” to ensure it is accepted at every level of policing, the College of Policing’s Chief Executive has said. The final version of the code, which clearly sets out the 10 standards of behaviour that officers and staff should be held to account over, is due to be sent to senior leadership teams later this month. The code could be amended further following the passing of legislation, such as the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill in the summer.

[Compulsory severance will 'probably be introduced'](#)

Compulsory severance will “probably” be introduced to the Police Service in the future and staff associations should work hard to get their members the best deal, an analyst has suggested. Dr Tim Brain believes that the controversial recommendation will eventually be brought in after Home Secretary Theresa May announced that she would not introduce it at this time. Dr Brain – former chief constable of Gloucestershire Constabulary – said that the A19 ruling has “upped the ante” on early leaving schemes and that Mrs May’s decision had acknowledged the consensus of feeling on the issue of compulsory severance.

[Elected commissioner's unauthorised information disclosure will be criminally investigated by IPCC.](#)

The Bedfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) will face a criminal investigation by the Independent Police Complaints Commissioner (IPCC) after he disclosed confidential information. PCC Olly Martins (pictured) admitted to discussing information about the death of Leon Briggs to a close associate who disclosed it to a third party. He accepted a written warning from the force’s Police and Crime Panel (PCP) during a private hearing in January.

[Chief officer proposes the creation of two or three alternative tests to the current shuttle run which could be validated by the end of the summer.](#)

Several alternative fitness tests have been proposed to address the difficulties some officers have in completing the current endurance runs. The “two or three” alternative options follow a comprehensive audit of the current system in place where economic and medical concerns have been highlighted as issues. The alternative tests, which would be developed in line with Tom Winsor’s recommendation, could take into account medical reasons for why an officer would not be able to complete the 15-metre shuttle run.

[It is important that we understand how the frontline of law enforcement is coping in the wake of deep cuts, says Peter Neyroud.](#)

When there was money to invest in policing over the last 20 years, we heard confident assertions from politicians and senior police officers that increased investment would result in falls in crime. Crime went down, ipso facto that investment was sound. Now that there is no money to invest, politicians and to some extent senior police are now equally confidently asserting that there is no connection between police numbers and the crime rates. Can both sets be right?

[National policing lead for ANPR and member of Met's senior command announced as preferred candidate.](#)

A Metropolitan Police assistant commissioner has been announced as the preferred choice to become the chief constable of Cheshire. Simon Byrne, responsible for territorial policing at the Met, was selected as the preferred candidate following a selection process and panel interview.

[Major project in the east Midlands will secure efficiencies while maintaining the integrity of local policing, says chief.](#)

A major collaboration project between several forces in the east Midlands is providing "a model for others to follow", one of the ACPO officers behind the initiative has said. Neil Rhodes, Chief Constable of Lincolnshire Police, believed large scale regional partnerships, similar to the arrangements in place with east Midlands forces, would be a viable way forward in future.

[Body worn video: Officers 'should review their thinking'](#)

Frontline officers pioneering the use of body worn video will need to need to think carefully about how the material they collate will be processed in the criminal justice system, it has been claimed.

[Thousands 'would not choose policing career again'](#)

Nearly 90 per cent of officers would not join the Police Service if they started their career over, a new report has revealed. A survey of 13,591 officers in England and Wales highlighted that 11.9 per cent of the respondents agree or strongly agree that they would join the service today. Many also said that they would not recommend the job to family or friends.

[Force 'surprised' at stress absence rate](#)

A request under the Freedom of Information Act from a national newspaper to 35 forces revealed large disparities in the proportion of officers in each force who have been signed off work due a stress-related condition. Derbyshire Constabulary replied to say it had 30 officers off, which is equivalent to around 1.6 per cent of all its officers - the highest of any force that responded.

[Labour may introduce quotas to improve board diversity, says Chuka Umunna](#)

Researchers from executive recruitment consultancy [Green Park](#) analysed 10,000 executives in the FTSE 100 and found that of the top 289 jobs, only 12 are held by women, and just 10 by ethnic minorities. Shadow business secretary Chuka Umunna said: "The continued existence of a glass ceiling for women and ethnic minorities in our boardrooms is undeniable and unacceptable.

[Ministry of Justice Target Operating Model](#)

The Target Operating Model describes a system which will deliver a step change in the way we rehabilitate offenders, and which will lead to year-on-year reductions in reoffending.

[Home Office Response to Ketamine](#)

The Advisory Council's review and advice on ketamine, commissioned by the Home Secretary, is most welcome in light of the developing evidence around the acute and chronic harms from long term use of the drug.

[Commons debate on the Police Grant Report \(England and Wales\) for 2014-15 - Feb 12](#)

The Commons debated the Police Grant Report (England and Wales) for 2014-15 which was approved after a division.

[Commons debate on Local Government Finance - Feb 12](#)

The Local Government Finance Report (England) 2014-15 was debated in the Commons and approved after a vote.

[Damian Green: Diversity in policing](#) as part of a modern, diverse society is absolutely essential as forces continue to cut crime. Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) are responsible for the totality of policing in their areas, including ensuring that community needs are met, and that forces secure the trust and confidence of the public.

Figures for police officers in post on 31 March 2013, broken down by gender and ethnicity, are published in the 'Police Workforce, England and Wales, 31 March 2013' statistical bulletin, which can be accessed using the following link, I am also placing a copy of this report in the House Library:

The Royal College of General Practitioners has recommended that the introduction of Care.data, a national NHS database of non-identifiable patient records, be delayed until the public is better informed about the changes. Four out of ten GPs have already opted out of the database over concerns about patient confidentiality ([Telegraph](#); [BBC Online](#)).

Lords debate on Water Cannons - Feb 12

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Theresa May): This statement is about police pay and conditions. It provides the government's response to the Police Arbitration Tribunal's findings on 6 recommendations in the final report of Tom Winsor's independent review of police officer and staff remuneration and conditions.

[The Government has closed down so many prisons so quickly, they're running out of space to lock up criminals- Khan](#)

Sadiq Khan MP, Labour's Shadow Justice Secretary commenting on the revelation that the Ministry of Justice has kept prisoners in police cells despite claims to the contrary, said: "This is very embarrassing for David Cameron and his Ministers. Chris Grayling gave assurances that prisoners weren't being kept in police cells on his watch, yet the facts show otherwise. This is Operation Safeguard by the backdoor, and the Justice Secretary needs to explain why he has misled MPs.

[Police officers and staff: review of remuneration and conditions of service](#)

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[Surveillance Camera Commissioner: Appointment](#)

Tony Porter will replace Andrew Rennison, whose term of office came to an end this month. The commissioner is responsible for:

- Encouraging compliance with the surveillance camera code of practice.

- Providing advice on the effective, appropriate, proportionate and transparent use of surveillance camera systems.
- Providing advice on operational and technical standards.
- Reviewing how the code of practice is working and advising the Government where any changes may be necessary.

[ACPO comment on Home Secretary's decision on PAT recommendations](#)

In a service where over 80% of budget is spent on people, it is more vital than ever that we have terms and conditions for all staff that both reward them for what they do and represent value for money.

[Water safety collaboration in Manchester](#)

GMP has joined forces with Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service to demonstrate to the public the importance of being safe when near the water.

[Essex road safety through social media innovation](#)

Essex Police have begun a new initiative to improve road safety by inviting the public to report any concerns they may have on Twitter.

[Rape statistics reveal 'inconsistencies' between forces](#)

The Rape Monitoring Group has published statistics outlining the number of sexual crimes reported in the UK in the past year, as well as details of force outcomes.

[No custody outsourcing for Avon and Somerset](#)

Police and Crime Commissioner Sue Mountstevens has made the decision that Avon and Somerset custody services will continue to be delivered by police staff, following a review.

[Backbench Business committee debate on Police Federation Reform \(Normington Report\)](#)

The Backbench Business Committee nominated the subject of Police Federation Reform (Normington Report) for debate in the Commons.

[College combats online crime](#)

The College of Policing has announced new cyber-crime training for more than 2,000 detectives and investigators, taking place between now and April 2015.

[Airwave launches world-leading location tracking service for public safety organisations](#)

For the first time, Police Forces, Fire & Rescue Services and Ambulance Trusts will be able to proactively share their GPS location data using a truly scalable and secure national platform without having to install new hardware or software by using big data technology through Airwave's Collaborate service.

3. Reports

[NSPCC & NCA launch course to help professionals keep children safe online](#)

The NSPCC and the National Crime Agency's CEOP Command have launched a new online course to help professionals understand how children use the internet, and how to keep them safe.

[Emergency Services going 'beyond the call of duty' to deal with flooding](#)

A range of agencies have coordinated and are working 'around the clock' to respond to the flooding that has devastated parts of Surrey and Berkshire.

[Local Alcohol Action Areas to tackle irresponsible drinking](#)

The government has launched a new project today (Thursday, 13 February) to tackle the harmful effects of excessive drinking. Twenty areas across England and Wales are being set up as Local Alcohol Action Areas (LAAAs) to combat drink-fuelled crime and disorder and the damage caused to people's health.

[Reforms to help reduce reoffending come into force](#)

Reforms which will cut the amount of time some offenders need to disclose details of any low level convictions will come into effect next month, Justice Minister Simon Hughes.

[Crime Statistics, Focus on Violent Crime and Sexual Offences, 2012/13](#)

In accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007, statistics based on police recorded crime data have been assessed against the Code of Practice for Official Statistics and found not to meet the required standard for designation as National Statistics. The full assessment report can be found on the UK Statistics Authority website. Data from the Crime Survey for England and Wales continue to be badged as National Statistics.

[How can thermal imaging be used in law enforcement?](#)

Since the launch of the security range of thermal imaging cameras last year, argus has seen a quick adoption by law enforcement agencies across the globe. Tom Glover looks at the benefits of personal thermal imaging in policing.

[In the annual Hugo Young lecture, Ed Miliband MP, Leader of the Opposition, called for a significant reconfiguration of public services.](#) Mr Miliband plans to devolve power in public services, saying: "Everyone – not just those at the top – should have the chance to shape their own lives".

[Hugely challenging weather continues](#)

Flooding continues to damage communities, with the River Thames rising to record water levels. The Environment Agency has now issued 16 severe flood warnings, including 14 in Berkshire and Surrey.

[HS2 should be built north to south – Greengauge 21](#)

Councils in the Midlands and the North of England are calling for earlier development of HS2, with more connections to existing stations. Greengauge 21 looked at local government responses to the consultation on phase 2 of the line and identified a number of themes; for HS2 to be developed from north to south, to be built earlier, with more connections to existing lines in the North and the Midlands, and with complementary investment to deliver good transport access to HS2 stations.

[Health and Work Service to cut sickness absence](#)

The new Health and Work Service will help get people with long-term sickness back into work, the government has announced.

[Glasgow to make mapping data available to public](#)

A new trial has been agreed between Glasgow and Ordnance Survey to make more information public as part of the [Future City](#) programme.

The [Community Security Trust's \(CST\) annual Antisemitic Incidents Report](#) for 2013.

[Council tax: local referendums - Commons Library Briefing Note](#)

Under provisions in the Localism Act 2011, local authorities, fire authorities, and Police and Crime Commissioners are required to determine whether the amount of council tax they plan to raise is 'excessive'.

[Savings of £31.4m could be achieved in Leicestershire](#)

Commissioned by Leicestershire County Council, the report revealed that a single unitary council could make extensive savings and reduce council tax bills by 3.1%.

[No profit for councils from traffic penalties](#)

A survey by LGiU has found fewer than five local authorities are profiting from traffic penalties.

[Poorest areas hit hardest by council cuts](#)

Analysis of the figures, drawn up by Paul Woods, the veteran treasurer of Newcastle city council showed that more affluent areas are escaping relatively unscathed.

[Converting office space to new homes](#)

Planning Minister Nick Boles has submitted a written Ministerial Statement on the change of use to provide new homes.

[Special Focus: Callsafe Services](#)

Accident statistics from the HSE indicate that significant improvements have been made in health and safety management and standards applied in the workplace over the years. These improvements are in part thanks to effective advice and training for all levels of management, supervision and staff.

[Special Focus: The Crown Estate](#)

The Crown Estate comprises an £8bn property portfolio, which is managed for the benefit of the nation. The Energy and Infrastructure portfolio includes almost all the entire seabed out to the 12 nautical mile territorial limit and the rights to explore and utilise the natural resources of the UK continental shelf.

A report by Sir Martin Narey, a Government Adviser on children's social care, has called for improvements to the training of social workers. Sir Martin has called for greater emphasis on practical skills within training and suggested that tighter minimum entry standards are required ([Telegraph](#); [BBC Online](#)).

[Quarterly and provisional annual road traffic estimates](#): Great Britain (Oct to Dec) Q4 2013.

[Prison population figures: 2014](#)

Latest prison population figures for 2014.

[Decisive action agreed on illegal wildlife trade](#)

The Illegal Wildlife Trade Conference, held in London, has agreed key actions to stamp out the illegal wildlife trade.

[Community finance](#)

Speech by Stephen Williams on how we put 'public good' at the heart of the finance industry, and the role of community finance.

[First meeting of new Cabinet Committee on Flooding](#)

Prime Minister David Cameron has chaired the first meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Flooding.

The Public Accounts Committee has warned that the Government is facing a potential £80 billion shortfall in public finances as nearly half of student loans may never be repaid. The Committee, chaired by Margaret Hodge MP, has raised concerns about the cost of uncollected student debt following an announcement that as many as 48 per cent of loans could be written off, higher than previous Government estimates (*FT*; *Times*; [BBC Online](#)).

The Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) has warned that the public sector will have to cut up to 40 per cent of their workers in five years. In a report published today, the think tank has argued that, protection of education and health budgets could cause accelerated job losses in other departments (*FT*; *Independent*; *Guardian*).

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.

[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 the Licensing Act 2003](#)

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. The consultation is available at: www.gov.uk/government/consultations/locally-set-licensing-fees.

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.