



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 7th 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 3rd 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 10th 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.

[Home Office guidance on protecting crowded places: design and technical issues](#)

The Home Office has published updated guide gives advice about counter-terrorism protective security design. This guide is aimed at anyone involved in the planning, design and development of the built environment. It covers the preparation of local planning policy to the commissioning, planning, design and management of new development schemes through to detailed building design.

2. Strategic policing and crime news

[Target culture 'is leading to officer losses'](#)

Officers of an outstanding calibre and highly professional standing are leaving the Police Service because they "cannot stand the target culture", a senior academic has warned.

[Evidence busts myth of exposing young people to prison](#)

For years, people around the world have believed that, if you show young people at risk what prison is like, you can stop them from committing crime. Now, the evidence has been reviewed and actually shows the opposite to be true. More information from College of Policing.

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

Strategic Policing Requirement: An inspection of the arrangements that police forces have in place to meet the Strategic Policing Requirement.

[Home Office](#)

Counting rules for recorded crime.

[Home Office](#)

Female genital mutilation: case studies.

Female genital mutilation: [information sheet](#)

[Public Accounts Select Committee](#)

Why we can't rely on police recorded statistics.

[European Parliament votes to change seat of CEPOL to Budapest](#)

The European Parliament has voted in favour of the draft regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Decision 2005/681/JHA establishing the European Police College (CEPOL) changing the seat of CEPOL to Budapest, subject to the co-decision of the European Council.

[Cabinet Office launches new digital strategy](#)

A Cabinet Office plan to reduce the number of people who have no digital capabilities by 25% by 2016 was launched. Despite the increasing role the internet plays in every day society, there are still a number of businesses and individuals who are unable to access or use digital technology. A recent BBC survey found that 21% of people do not have even basic digital skills. Another survey found that a third of SMEs do not have a website. The government aims to get 2.7m more people online over the next two years.

3. Developments and reports

[New Commissioner appointed for the Criminal Cases Review Commission](#)

The Ministry of Justice has announced that Stephen Leach has been appointed by Her Majesty the Queen to be a Commissioner of the Criminal Cases Review Commission (CCRC).

[£170 million to help young people find jobs](#)

A funding boost is to be targeted at five areas of the UK to help young people into work, thanks to the Youth Employment Initiative (YEI), a new £170 million programme. Nottingham will receive funds to be targeted - £4.0 million.

[Digital courtroom unveiled as justice enters the Wi-Fi era](#)

The changes outlined in the Criminal Justice System Digital Business Model will help victims and witnesses by ensuring cases progress as quickly as possible.

[Alcohol Concern](#)

An audit of the priority given to tackling alcohol-related harm by reviewing JSNAs, JSHS, and CCG plans from 25 local authority areas across England.

[Early Intervention Foundation](#)

Introduction to Social Impact Bonds and Early Intervention.

[Howard League for Penal Reform](#)

Mitigating motherhood: A study of the impact of motherhood on sentencing decisions in England and Wales.

[Joseph Rowntree Foundation](#)

The impact of reform on social landlords and tenants.

[NICE](#)

Needle and syringe programmes (PH52).

[Local government must lead local growth – Solace](#)

Local government must take the lead in shaping local economies to ensure growth is delivered sustainably, a new report from Solace (the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and Senior Managers) has revealed. One of its key recommendations was that whilst accepting valuable contributions from Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) and central government, there must be a focus on local government spearheading local growth.

[Councils urge government to scrap CCTV parking camera ban](#)

The government has been urged by local authority chiefs and campaigners to scrap plans to stop CCTV being used to enforce parking rules.

Under current proposals, the government plans to stop councils from using CCTV to tackle dangerous parking outside schools, prevent drivers blocking bus lanes and loading bays, and stop a crack-down on pavement parkers who pose a risk to disabled pedestrians.

‘Getting the narrative right is vital if you want engage public interest’

Grant Speed, managing director of [Odgers Interim](#), reports from the organisation’s recent Annual Public Services Dinner, addressed by HS2’s Paul Chapman. Paul Chapman, partner at Westbourne Communications and interim communications director at HS2 Ltd (*pictured*), advised an audience of public service executives and leaders that it is essential to get the narrative right and to find ways of effectively engaging the public’s interest in national projects in order to avoid widespread disaffection.

[Housing support vital as 4m families on ‘financial knife-edge’ – Shelter](#)

Nearly four million families are about one month away from homelessness because they would not have enough money to pay their mortgage or rent if they lost their jobs, research has revealed. More than 7,500 people were surveyed by the housing charity Shelter, which found that 44% of working families with children under the age of 18 are one paycheque away from losing their homes if they became unemployed because they have little or no savings.

[Growing number of teachers facing mental health issues – ATL](#)

Over 50% of teachers say their job has had a negative effect on their mental health, a survey by the Association of Teachers and Lecturers (ATL) has found.

The Public Administration Select Committee has called for a better “culture of leadership in public services” after finding that officials across government have failed to deal with complaints in good time.

Leadership failures and a culture of denial in handling complaints within public services is what leads to failures like the Mid-Staffs hospital disaster, says the Commons Public Administration Committee (PASC). In a new report – [More complaints please!](#) – it reveals that failures to recognise the importance of complaints leads to insufficient redress for the individual, limits the impact that complaints have in improving services, and alienates the public.

[Extending powers to 'pull' renewable projects a 'costly mistake'](#)

Plans to extend the communities secretary's powers to "pull" renewable energy projects for a further 12 months have been branded a "costly mistake" by RenewableUK.

The secretary of state had announced in October 2013 that he would recover more renewable energy projects in England for a six month period, so he could determine how new planning guidance was being implemented.

[Making sure European area of Justice works for international couples and their children](#)

Speech: Making sure European area of Justice works for international couples and their children.

[LGA responds to Government legal action on council publications](#)

Thousands of people living with dementia are being helped to lead more independent lives, thanks to an initiative being supported by the Chairman of the Local Government Association.

[DCLG denies plans to remove council duties to provide allotments](#)

An e-petition has been circulating suggesting that the Department for Communities and Local Government is examining plans to remove council duties to provide allotments. This is completely untrue and has no basis in fact.

[£4.3m funding for communities to take control of neighbourhood schemes](#)

Communities Minister Stephen Williams MP today (14 April 2014) announced 123 more communities will be taking control of neighbourhood schemes to boost employment, combat crime and improve the health of residents. The announcement signals a major expansion in the [Our Place programme](#) which is a neighbourhood level way of working that brings together the right people – councillors, public servants, voluntary and community organisations and the community themselves – to tackle local issues and revolutionise the way an area works.

'Smart motorway' section opens on M25

An 8 mile section of the motorway in Hertfordshire is the first in the country of a new style of 'smart motorway' schemes where pioneering technology and use of the hard shoulder as a permanent running lane combine to reduce congestion and ease traffic flow, improving the reliability of journeys...

[Council publishes 50 ways to save list](#)

Warrington Borough Council has been able to save £50m with its own '50 ways to save' list. The council produced its own list which is said to be 'very different' from the list published by Eric Pickles last year. The list includes innovative ways in which the council has saved money despite losing almost a third of its government funding in the past three years.

LGA chief calls for greater awareness on dementia

Sir Merrick Cockell, chairman of the Local Government Association (LGA), has called on 400 council leaders across England and Wales to become a Dementia Friend – in an attempt to drive public knowledge and awareness of the illness.

Currently, more than 800,000 people across the UK are affected by dementia and this is expected to rise to around one million by 2021.

The Ministry of Justice has released research showing that community punishments are seen as “not at all demanding” by a large number of criminals. Jeremy Wright MP, Minister for Prisons and Rehabilitation, said: “Victims must be confident that offenders will pay a price for their crimes, which is why we have toughened up community sentences to now include a punitive element in all adult community sentences” (*Times*).

The Commons Treasury Committee will further scrutinise the Chancellor’s plans to extend the power of HM Revenue and Customs amid concern that the move could harm civil liberties. Andrew Tyrie MP, Chairman of the Committee, urged vigilance to ensure a “correct balance between the powers that HMRC needs and protecting individuals” (*FT*).

David Cameron has announced that elderly and vulnerable patients will soon have access to greater personalised care by GPs, including regular home visits. Mr Cameron has announced that over £400 million will be invested in improving home care for patients over 75 with long-term conditions. Ministers claim that this move is a big step towards shifting care “from hospital to home” (*Telegraph*).

Economists have forecast an average £40,000 increase in house prices by the end of next year. Dismissing fears of a price bubble in the next 12 months, experts say this will see house values rise by 7.4 per cent this year and 7.2 per cent in 2015 – adding a combined £38,437 to average asking prices (*Express*).

Five in six NHS hospital finance directors expect to end the year 2015-16 in deficit, according to The King’s Fund. Richard Murray, Director of Policy at The King’s Fund, said “It is now certain that the next government will need to find more funding for the NHS, or accept significant cuts to services” (*FT*; *Telegraph*; *Independent*; *Mail*).

A new poll by Ipsos Mori has found that 45 per cent of the claimants affected by the cap on welfare payments say they are now doing more to find work. The poll found that 28 per cent of claimants sent off more job applications to find paid work and 27 per cent said they are using agencies such as JobCentre Plus, careers centres and recruitment consultants more regularly to help them find work (*Mail*).

4. Consultations

Schedule 7 Code of Practice

The statutory Code of Practice provides guidance to examining officers on the application and interpretation of Schedule 7. These have had to be revised code to ensure they reflect the changes introduced in the ASBCP Act. These changes will maintain the protection of the UK border as well as continuing to respect individuals’ human rights. The Home Office welcomes your views on how adequately the changes in the ASBCP Act are reflected within the revised draft Code of Practice. You can respond via the [online survey](#).

Review of the operation of Sections 135 and 136

The Government is reviewing the operation of Sections 135 and 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983 to make sure the legislative framework offers the right support for people at the right time. The consultation is open until 3rd June 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.

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.