



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](#)

This Bill has just passed through the committee stage during its passage through the House of Commons and is about to go to the report stage.

[Finance Bill receives Royal Assent](#)

The Finance Bill, which contains provisions to exempt chief constables and the Commissioner of Police for the Metropolis from any corporation tax liability, received Royal Assent.

[Local Audit and Accountability Bill progress](#)

This Bill has now been through the report stage in the House of Lords and is due to have its third reading on 24 July.

[Powers of entry](#)

On 15 July, a written Ministerial Statement was delivered to the House of Commons by James Brokenshire, Minister for Crime Prevention. He provided a second progress report on the review of powers of entry under the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012.

2. Policing and crime key developments

[Crime is down by more than 10%](#)

These statistics show that police reforms are continuing to deliver results across the country with falls in crime in every police force in England and Wales. Recorded crime is down by more than ten per cent, and the independent survey shows that the public's experience of crime is at its lowest level since records began. Police forces have shown an impressive ability to rise to the challenge of making savings while still cutting crime.

[Better scrutiny required for police & crime commissioner decisions to remove chief constables](#)

The Home Affairs Committee publish its Report on *Police and Crime Commissioners: power to remove Chief Constables*. The Committee took evidence from Ian Johnston, Gwent Police

and Crime Commissioner , and Carmel Napier, the former Chief Constable whom he sacked. It also considered the departure of the Chief Constable of Avon & Somerset, and the suspension of the Chief Constable of Lincolnshire. The Report recommends that police and crime panels should fully exercise their powers of scrutiny in cases where the commissioner proposes to remove a chief constable. **Committee Chair, Rt Hon Keith Vaz MP said:** *"It is worrying that Police and Crime Commissioners seem able to side-step the statutory process for dismissing a chief constable. Police and Crime Panels should make more active use of their powers to scrutinise decisions such as this. We will be returning to this area when we carry out our next major inquiry into Police and Crime Commissioners, towards the end of this year."*

South Wales delivers suspended chief report

South Wales Police has completed its investigation into allegations of misconduct against suspended Cumbria Temporary Chief Constable Stuart Hyde. Cumbria's Police and Crime Commissioner, Richard Rhodes said: "I have now received the full investigation report from South Wales Police. This is a lengthy and complex report with more than 36 recommendations. I am now in the process of considering the report and taking detailed legal advice in regard to the steps I must take in accordance with misconduct legislation. I will make a further statement at the earliest opportunity and in any event before the end of July 2013."

Police workforce, England and Wales, 31st March 2013

- There were 129,584 full-time equivalent (FTE) police officers in the 43 police forces of England and Wales as at 31 March 2013. This is a decrease of 3.4% or 4,516 officers compared to a year earlier and follows a decrease of 5,010 officers in the twelve months prior to that.
- There were 6,537 FTE Minority Ethnic officers in the 43 English and Welsh police forces as at 31 March 2013, 5.0% of total officers, the same as a year earlier.
- FTE police staff numbers (excluding PCSOs, traffic wardens and designated officers) for the 43 police forces of England and Wales stand at 65,573 as at 31 March 2013, a decrease of 2.8 compared to a year earlier.
- The total number of FTE police community support officers in the 43 forces of England and Wales was 14,205 as at 31 March 2013, a decrease of 1.3% on the previous year.
- There were 19,011 special constables as at 31 March 2013, 6.5% fewer than the previous year.

Action Fraud and The European Commission's proposal for a Europol Regulation

- Action Fraud receives all reports of fraud on behalf of all police forces in England and Wales. Between November 2012 and July 2013, 2,490 reports (of which 1,738 were reports of crime) were not processed correctly due to a fault in the IT system. This represents 1.3% of all fraud reports taken by Action Fraud in this period. No data was lost or compromised at any point and the IT fault has been rectified.
- Action Fraud has taken immediate action to process the affected reports and will be writing to apologise to everyone who submitted a report and to make clear that their report is now being dealt with.
- This issue came to light too late to notify the Office for National Statistics for inclusion in Crime in England and Wales for the year ending March 2013, published today. Although the levels of total police recorded crime and fraud would be affected by this

issue, the annual percentage change for total police recorded crime and for fraud would be unaffected.

[The European Commission's proposal for a Europol Regulation](#)

The Government has decided at this time not to opt in to the European Commission's proposal for a Europol Regulation which would establish the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation and Training. The Government will however seek to opt in to the Regulation post adoption provided that Europol is not given the power to direct national law enforcement agencies to initiate investigations or share data that conflicts with national security. Ministers have two main concerns:

- There is an increased obligation to provide data. In the proposal Member States are not exempt from providing data, even where it would conflict with national security, endanger ongoing investigations or an individual's safety. This conflicts with the national interest.
- Whilst Europol can already request a Member State to initiate an investigation, this proposal goes much further and includes an obligation to provide a reason if no such operation is conducted. Any reasons provided would be subject to challenge before the European Court of Justice. This creates a risk that the European courts could dictate what national law enforcement agencies should prioritise. This interferes with operational independence which is at the heart of UK policing.

[Police forces tackle foreign national criminals on our roads](#)

A national campaign to target foreign national criminals travelling the country's roads has been launched by police. Police officers from Romania, Lithuania and Poland have arrived in the UK to join the campaign, which is aimed at catching travelling criminals who use the roads to avoid detection and move around the country. Some travelling gangs are thought to be involved in volume offences such as shoplifting, fraud, metal theft and theft from motor vehicles – for instance of catalytic converters. These criminal gangs move around the country and are not linked to individual or established communities.

[Getting cases ready for court – A joint review of the quality of prosecution case files by HMIC and HMCPSI](#)

An efficient criminal justice system is dependent upon the effective exchange of information between all the relevant agencies. Nowhere is this exchange more important than in the context of the relationship between the police and the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) when preparing a case for court. Effective management of the process of building a prosecution case file can improve the quality of the files, and keep the inevitable paperwork associated with the passage of a case through the criminal justice system to a minimum. In our recent report, Stop the Drift 2, we examined a sample of case files in the magistrates' courts where the police had anticipated a guilty plea from the defendant. This found little evidence of any improvement since the NAO report was published. This review builds on the work undertaken since 2011 by the National Audit Office, criminal justice inspectorates, and the joint CPS/Police National Prosecution Team.

[Justice Committee calls for evidence on JHA block opt-out](#)

On 15 July the House of Commons invited the Justice Committee, along with the European Scrutiny Committee and the Home Affairs Committee, to submit a report by the end of October on matters relevant to the exercise by the UK of its right under Article 10(4) of Protocol 36 to the EU Treaties, to opt out, by 31 May 2014, of approximately 130 police and criminal justice measures which were adopted before the Treaty of Lisbon entered into force.

The Justice Committee is calling for written evidence to enable it to prepare a report to the House. Deadline for submissions is 30 September 2013.

[HMIC Policing in Austerity: Rising to the Challenge](#)

In the October 2010 spending review, the Government announced that central funding to the police service in England and Wales would be reduced in real terms by 20% in the four years between March 2011 and March 2015. Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary's (HMIC's) Valuing the Police Programme has tracked how forces have planned to make savings to meet this budget reduction, and published findings in July 2011 and June 2012. This report explains, analyses and makes recommendations in relation to what has been found as we enter the third year of the spending review period.

[Nottinghamshire Police has made sound progress in meeting its financial challenge, finds HMIC](#)

Nottinghamshire Police has made sound progress in meeting its financial challenge - its savings programme has allowed it to reduce costs while continuing to fight crime and it is redesigning the way it delivers policing services to the people of Nottinghamshire.

[HMIC](#)

Stop and Search Powers: Are the police using them effectively and fairly?

[HMIC Inspection – Northamptonshire Police](#)

HMIC has now published interim findings from its continuing inspection of child protection arrangements in Northamptonshire Police.

- A series of inspections by HM Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) has found that Northamptonshire Police has more progress to make before it can offer assurance that children at risk in the county are being adequately protected.
- In January, as part of a pilot multi-agency inspection of child protection arrangements in Northamptonshire, the inspectorate found that Northamptonshire Police was not giving sufficient priority to the protection of children in the county. The pilot found that child protection arrangements in Northamptonshire were wholly inadequate.
- A further inspection by HMIC in March found the force had developed a plan for how it would improve its approach to child protection. But, there were still concerns and HMIC considered that more progress should have been made.
- The most recent revisit by HMIC in June found that the force had made extensive changes, investing significantly in child protection and developing a comprehensive plan designed to ensure the required improvements are made. However, HMIC concluded it is too early to say whether the force is doing enough to properly protect children at risk within the county.

[NSPCC 'underwear rule' aims to encourage parents to talk about sexual abuse risks](#)

The NSPCC has launched a new "green cross code against sexual abuse" in an effort to ensure parents talk to their children about the risks of sexual abuse.

[Newcastle approves first late night levy](#)

Newcastle City has become the first council to agree a late night levy in the town after doubts over its likely use. New charges will apply to city pubs and clubs open after midnight. Fees will range from £299 to £4,400 per year depending on the rateable value of venues. The levy is intended to provide funding for public services, primarily policing costs, involved in managing [crime and disorder](#) in and around the Night-Time Economy (NTE).

[Alcohol Research UK](#)

A feasibility study to explore alcohol service engagement among Polish street drinkers in a London borough.

[There is an overwhelming case for more safeguards on undercover police operations](#)

Yvette Cooper MP, Labour's Shadow Home Secretary, responding to the publication of Report 1 of Operation Herne into the use of covert identities by the Metropolitan Police, said: "There is an overwhelming case for more safeguards on undercover police operations. They can be vitally important, for instance in protecting children online and tackling serious and organised crime. But the details emerging from news reports and now Operation Herne show that in some cases things have gone badly wrong, and the monitoring and safeguards weren't strong enough to sort things out. We still need to get to the bottom of what happened, but it's clear changes need to be made in how undercover operations are authorised and how they are independently monitored. As I set out in my speech on liberty and security, there is now a strong case for independent pre-authorisation, for example by the Office of Surveillance Commissioners, especially for the small number of long term covert operations. And there also needs to be independent oversight and scrutiny of long term operations – not just a paper based exercise – either by the Chief Surveillance Commissioner or the inspectorate."

[Home Office](#)

Advice to parents and carers on gangs.

[Home Office](#)

Proscribed terror groups or organisations.

[Independent Police Complaints Commission](#)

Annual Report 2012 to 2013.

[Teeside University](#)

Anti-Muslim Hate Crime and the Far Right.

[Third Sector Research Council](#)

The 'Big Society' as a spontaneous order. Decoupling the state and the third sector? The 'Big Society' as a spontaneous order.

[Keep illegal profit hoarders in jail, Met chief says](#)

Metropolitan Police Commissioner Bernard Hogan-Howe has called for clampdown on crime's 'Mr Bigs' by urging the government to keep sending crime bosses back to jail until they pay back all illegally-made profits.

[Clinks](#)

Commissioning of offender services from the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector: Interim research findings and discussion paper.

[Department for Communities and Local Government](#)

Our Place! And what the pilot areas achieved. Over the last year, as one element of the Government's public service reform agenda, twelve neighbourhoods developed Our Place!

areas. Across England in small rural towns, inner-city neighbourhoods, metropolitan suburbs, housing estates and small towns on the edge of conurbations, communities have been at the heart of decision-making about their neighbourhoods.

3. Reports

[Launch of National Stalking Advocacy Service](#)

There has been an event to launch Paladin.

[Ministry of Justice](#)

The Compendium of reoffending statistics and analysis contains a selection of papers summarising analysis produced by the Ministry of Justice on reoffending for 2013.

Ministry of Justice

More than 800 prisoners are at large despite being recalled to jail over 12 months ago, according to official figures from the Ministry of Justice ([Times](#)).

[Scheme to let victims request meetings with offenders trialled](#)

Victims of crime in the Thames Valley have become the first in England to be able to ask for face to face meetings with their offenders. Until now, restorative justice has started with offenders being selected and then their victims being contacted for a possible meeting. A new EU-funded trial set up in March is now seeing victims offered the chance to initiate a meeting.

[Cambridge Centre for Housing and Planning Research](#)

Mapping the number of housing units needed for young people. Recent research conducted by the Universities of York and Heriot-Watt, *Ending Youth Homelessness*¹ represents the most recent and comprehensive effort to define and measure youth homelessness across the UK, estimating that at least 78-80,000 young people experienced homelessness in a year. It looks at the scale of the task, and the levels of service network needed to end youth homelessness. What it does not do is to put precise numerical estimates on the requirements, either for homeless accommodation, or for the amount of independent housing that is required. This study aims to help address this gap.

[New external advisory group on disability issues proposed](#)

The Equality and Human Rights Commission has suggested to the Government that a high level strategic advisory group replaces its statutory disability committee. The proposal follows a mandatory review, as set out by the 2006 Equality Act, to determine whether the Disability Committee should continue in its present form.

[Labour Market Statistics, July 2013](#)

- The employment rate for those aged from 16 to 64 for March to May 2013 was 71.4%, down 0.1 percentage points from December 2012 to February 2013. There were 29.71 million people in employment aged 16 and over, up 16,000 from December 2012 to February 2013.
- The unemployment rate for March to May 2013 was 7.8% of the economically active population, down 0.2 percentage points from December 2012 to February 2013. There were 2.51 million unemployed people, down 57,000 from December 2012 to February 2013.

- The inactivity rate for those aged from 16 to 64 for March to May 2013 was 22.5%, up 0.2 percentage points from December 2012 to February 2013. There were 9.04 million economically inactive people aged from 16 to 64, up 87,000 from December 2012 to February 2013.
- Between March to May 2012 and March to May 2013 total pay rose by 1.7% and regular pay rose by 1.0%.

[Department for Communities and Local Government](#)

English housing survey 2011: homes report.

[English housing survey 2011 to 2012: household report](#)

[Tenure trends and cross tenure analysis](#), [Social and private renters](#), [Attitudes and satisfaction](#), [New households and recent movers](#) and [Owner occupiers, recent first time buyers and second homes](#)

[English housing survey 2011: Attitudes and satisfaction](#)

Web tables on: satisfaction with local area and accommodation; problems in local area; feelings of safety in home and local area; satisfaction with landlord repairs and maintenance.

[Housing stock summary](#)

The English housing survey tables supplement information provided in the reports. Tables may also contain data from the former survey of English housing and the English house condition survey, providing information on change over time.

[Tenure trends and cross tenure analysis](#)

Web tables on: tenure trends at national and regional levels; cross-tenure comparisons of characteristics of households and their accommodation; overcrowding and under-occupation; need for specially adapted accommodation.

[Department for Communities and Local Government](#)

The future of high streets: progress since the Portas Review. This report, which comes a year from the launch of the Portas Pilots, summarises progress on high streets and the next phase in the future of the high street.

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. A zero tolerance approach to the limits is proposed for 8 drugs most associated with illegal use. A road safety risk approach to the limits is proposed for 8 drugs most associated with medical uses. For a further controlled drug, amphetamine, a limit is not proposed in this consultation but the government is seeking views on what a suitable limit might be because this drug has both significant illegal and medical use. Two other policy options are also considered in this consultation. After taking account of any responses received from the consultation, regulations containing the final proposals would then need to be approved by Parliament before they could become law. The consultation closes on the 17 September.

[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. Our terms of reference ask us to look into:

(a) extending the aggravated offences in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to include where hostility is demonstrated towards people on the grounds of disability, sexual orientation or gender identity;

(b) the case for extending the stirring up of hatred offences under the Public Order Act 1986 to include stirring up of hatred on the grounds of disability or gender identity. 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.

[Codes of practice issued under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002](#)

The aim of the consultation is to seek comments and representations on the guidance provided in four draft codes of practice. These codes are issued to provide guidance to investigators on the use of investigation and supporting powers in the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002, which have been amended in recent legislation. These are an important safeguard to ensure the proportionate and focused use of the powers. It is important to note that the consultation is not seeking views on the powers themselves to which the codes relate. The consultation runs until 30 August 2013.

[Child Sexual Exploitation guidance](#)

The College of Policing is consulting on a review of guidance covering all aspects of violence and public protection, starting with Child Abuse and Child Exploitation. The consultation runs until 3rd September.

[Hate crime – The Case for Extending the Existing Offences](#)

The Law Commission is looking at extending the offences that make up hate crime and as part of this work is consulting on its proposals. The consultation runs until 27th September 2013.

[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 UK is one of 8 founding members of the OGP which was launched formally in September 2011 (the remaining founding partners are Brazil, Indonesia, Mexico, Norway, Philippines, South Africa and the United States). There are now 59 governments in the OGP. To become a member, participating countries must:

- embrace a high-level [Open Government Declaration](#)
- deliver a country action plan developed with public consultation
- commit to independent reporting on their progress going forward

This is the UK's second National Action Plan. It is a draft and interim plan that is out for public consultation in line with the requirements laid down by the OGP. This draft plan has

been produced through a collaborative multi-stakeholder process involving members of the OGP Civil Society Network and government departments. Views are being sought on the commitments made in this draft plan, ideally supported by evidence wherever possible. The closing date for consultation responses is 19 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. This call for views seeks to gather thoughts and ideas on aspects of corporate responsibility. It looks at what government, business and others should and could do in order to realise the full benefits that corporate responsibility can bring. It covers themes including:

- voluntary reporting and disclosure of non-financial information
- responsible supply chain management
- corporate responsibility in small and medium sized enterprises

Comments will contribute to a framework for action on corporate responsibility, with an intention to publish the framework by the end of 2013. The closing date for consultation responses is 27 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](#). It is proposing amendments to ensure that where looked-after children are placed out of authority in distant placements, they are effectively safeguarded and their welfare is promoted. The placements to be firmly in the child's best interests. These proposals take forward the recommendations in the [report of the Expert Group on Children's Homes Quality](#), which included conclusions from the Out of Area Placements Task and Finish Group, published on 24 April 2013. The closing date for consultation responses is 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 guidance needs to be updated to reflect: widespread concerns about children in care being sexually exploited; changes in policy, such as the requirement of national indicator 71 which no longer applies; and recent changes in statutory guidance (Care planning and Working Together). The government has therefore decided to produce a new version of the statutory guidance on children who run away and go missing from home or care to reflect these changes. The guidance will also include flow charts to make clearer the actions required of local agencies and carers when a child goes missing from home or care. This consultation seeks the views of local authorities, representative bodies and other interested parties on the content of the guidance and flow charts. The closing date for consultation responses is 17 September.

College of Policing Launches Public Consultation on Guidance on Child Sexual Exploitation

The College of Policing has launched a public consultation on a review of guidance relating to all aspects of violence and public protection, starting with phase one which is addressing Child Abuse and Child Sexual Exploitation. The consultation forms part of a number of measures currently being undertaken to review police and multi-agency practice and learning. The guidance will ultimately form part of Authorised Professional Practice (APP)

which is a web-based resource primarily intended as a resource for police officers and police staff. The College of Policing is seeking comments on the following:

- Factual accuracy;
- Areas requiring further development;
- Gaps in knowledge;
- Relevant Supporting documents.

The consultation closes on **3 September 2013**. Responses to the consultation should be emailed to VPP@college.pnn.police.uk

Home Office Launches Consultation relating to Guidance on Early Deletion of DNA and Fingerprint Records

The Home Office has launched a consultation relating to guidance for police Chief Constables on processing applications from individuals for early deletion of their DNA and fingerprint records. Previously Chief Constables have had the discretion to delete an individual's DNA and fingerprint records through an exceptional case procedure. The Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 (PoFA) has made changes to the Police And Criminal Evidence Act 1984 and sets out how long an individual's DNA and fingerprints can be retained. It also introduces an 'early deletion process' which will replace the exceptional case procedure.

The consultation seeks views on how the early deletion application process should work and who it could apply to, so it is fair on innocent individuals looking to have their DNA and fingerprints removed from records, without compromising the ability of the police to tackle crime. The results of the consultation will be passed to the National DNA Database Strategy Board who will draft their final guidance which will come into effect in October 2013 when the provisions relating to DNA and fingerprints within the PoFA will come into force. The consultation document can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/dna-guidance-consultation>

The consultation closes on **29 July 2013** and is open to members of the public, police forces, members of the legal profession and interest groups.

New consultation: Stop and search

This consultation seeks views on the police powers of stop and search, specifically under the following legislation:

- Section 1 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE)
- Section 23 of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971
- Section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994

It concerns those powers used in relation to street crime, burglary, anti-social behaviour, and public order offences such as riots and violent protests. The Home Office has already asked Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) to examine how police forces use stop and search. Through this consultation we aim to understand how the use of these powers is viewed by the public and by those involved in policing. Stop and search powers under counter-terrorism legislation have been the subject of recent changes and are not within the scope of this consultation. The consultation runs for 6 weeks from 2 July 2013.