



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. During the committee, the government undertook to consider:

- widening the scope of the Criminal Behaviour Order so that it can be used when the victim and offender live in the same household
- increasing the current two year maximum sentence for an aggregated offence under section 3 of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991
- extending police community support officers' powers to allow them to issue a fixed penalty notice for cycling without lights on a highway and to search a person for drugs where the PCSO had reasonable grounds to suspect that the person was in possession of a controlled drug

The government also tabled a number of new clauses to the Bill which were agreed by the committee.

New regulation of Private Investigators to be introduced

The Home Office is to introduce a new system of regulation for private investigators to protect the public from unscrupulous activity.

2. Policing and crime key developments

UK failing to win the war on e-crime

After a 10 month inquiry the Home Affairs Select Committee has published its first ever report on Ecrime. It concluded that:

- A dedicated state of the art espionage response team should be established so that British companies, media, and institutions can immediately contact it to report an attack so that effective action can be taken.
- There appears to be a 'black hole' where e-crime is committed with impunity. Online criminal activity which defrauds victims of money is often not reported to or

investigated by law enforcement. Banks simply reimburse the victims with no pursuit of the perpetrators. Criminals who commit a high volume of low level fraud can still make huge profits. Banks must be required to report all e-crime fraud to law enforcement.

- It is alarmed that CEOP is having its budget cut by 10% over 4 years, its experienced Chief Executive is leaving and it could lose its laser-like focus when merged with the NCA.
- It is still too easy for people to access inappropriate online content, particularly indecent images of children, terrorism incitement and sites informing people how to commit online crime. There is no excuse for complacency. The Committee urges those responsible to take stronger action to remove such content. The Government should draw up a mandatory code of conduct with them to remove material which breaches acceptable standards.
- The DPP should review sentencing guidance and ensure e-criminals receive the same sentences as if they had stolen the same amount of money or data offline.
- The Government should look at setting up a similar organisation to the Internet Watch Foundation focused on reporting and removing online terrorist content. The Committee encourages those companies who donate to the Internet Watch Foundation to give more.

[ACPO comment on HASC e-crime report](#)

National policing lead on e-crime Deputy Chief Constable Peter Goodman said: “The police service, like the other agencies that are working to combat e-crime, is continually adapting to meet the threat.

“There is absolutely more to do but we are committed to protecting victims and preventing this form of crime as well as targeting offenders. The ACPO e-crime strategy will drive forward further improvements in this area including increasing the number of regional e-crime hubs. These hubs have been successful in improving our regional capability and response times as well as supporting the work of the Police Central e-Crime Unit. We are continuing to work with College of Policing to ensure that there is mainstream cyber awareness and capabilities across the service to support the work done by specialist officers.”

Home Secretary extends consultation into use of stop and search

Members of the public are to be given an extra six weeks to have their say on stop and search after a consultation was extended to 24 September.

The Government’s Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing bill outlines plans for head teachers to be able to apply for injunctions for children who bully, replacing Anti-Social Behaviour Orders.

Children who breach the injunction could receive a six-month supervision order, or in the most serious cases, those aged 14 or over could be given a three-month prison sentence ([Guardian](#)).

[Government must protect forensic science – MPs](#)

The private sector has so far failed to fill the gap left by the closure of the Forensic Science Service (FSS), a new inquiry indicates. The Science and Technology Committee warned that the criminal justice system could be jeopardised. The market appears to be shrinking, and MPs have called for a working group to review the accounting practices of police forces to identify possible causes. It points out that some police labs have made little progress towards

the same quality benchmark as private providers and calls for the forensic science regulator's role to be strengthened with statutory powers. The committee also highlights a lack of funding for research into new techniques.

[ACPO Drink Drive Summer results](#)

A nationwide police operation to tackle drink and drug driving has found the percentage of those failing breath tests has fallen, despite officers carrying out nearly 18,000 more tests than in 2012.

[Alcohol Diversion Scheme launched in Norfolk and Suffolk](#)

A new scheme is being launched in Norfolk and Suffolk to help reduce crime and disorder linked to binge-drinking. Anyone found committing minor offences such as drunk and disorderly will be offered the opportunity to take part in a drink awareness course, aimed at tackling incidents associated with binge-drinking.

[Drug warning system detects 10 'legal highs'](#)

Ten 'legal highs' were detected last year by the Home Office's Forensic Early Warning System, a report reveals. It brings to 27 the total number of new psychoactive substances detected by FEWS in two years.

[New Director of Public Prosecutions announced](#)

Alison Saunders CB has been announced as the new DPP at the Crown Prosecution Service.

[Department for Transport](#)

Enforcement procedures against drink drivers and other offenders

[Home Office](#)

Crime rates impact indicator: offence codes (Spreadsheet lists descriptions of over 100 offences and the accompanying offence codes).

[Home Office](#)

Sexual Violence against Children and Vulnerable People National Group. Progress report and action plan together with a support document for local areas on multi-agency working and information sharing approaches.

The [Public Administration Select Committee](#) (PASC) says migration statistics produced by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and the Home Office are blunt instruments for measuring, managing, and understanding migration to and from the UK. A full and accurate account of migration to and from UK requires new sources of statistics.

[New resettlement prison announced for Staffordshire and West Midlands](#)

HMP Dovegate joins three other prisons in the region that will see most offenders who live in the area being held and released from prisons in the area.

3. Reports

[Home Office](#)

Drug misuse: findings from the 2012 to 2013 Crime Survey for England and Wales.

[Ministry of Justice](#)

Accredited Programmes Annual Bulletin 2012/13

[Offender management statistics quarterly](#) – Jan-March 2013

[Prison and Probation Trusts performance statistics](#) – 2012/13

[Safety in custody statistics](#)

Safety in custody statistics cover deaths, self-harm and assaults in prison custody in England and Wales. This publication updates statistics up to the end of March 2013.

[BASW calls for training to counter online abuse](#)

Social workers are struggling to deal with abuse on online platforms, a new survey shows. The British Association of Social Workers (BASW) warned that more specialist training was needed to help workers protect children from online grooming and sexual abuse. A survey of 327 social workers found 74% wanted more support and half were concerned about online abuse. Concerns included assessing the risk of abuse with an online dimension, identifying warning signs of online sexual abuse, and confidence around the language used by young people talking about the internet.

[Law Commission](#)

Insanity and Automatism – discussion paper and summary for non-specialists. In July 2012, the Law Commission published a Scoping Paper to find out how the criminal defences of insanity and automatism operate in practice. The responses to that paper have informed the Discussion Paper which is now published. The Discussion Paper contributes to the continuing debate on whether the law has the right test to distinguish between those who should be held criminally responsible for what they have done, and those who should not.

[NatCen](#)

Survey of Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use among young people in England. The Survey of Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use among Young People in England (SDD) is carried out annually. Each year this major survey collects data from over 6000 school pupils aged between 11 and 15.

[Nick Clegg calls on banks to do more to support ethnic minority business](#)

Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg has called on Britain's banks to do more to ensure that everyone who wants to start a business is given the opportunity to turn their ideas and aspirations into successful enterprises.

[New Local Government Network](#)

The Shock of the New – Can councils innovate their way out of austerity?

[St Mungo's](#)

Health and homelessness: Understanding the costs and role of primary care services for homeless people.

[20 'outstanding' schools told to improve](#)

Over 100 schools previously rated 'outstanding' by Ofsted have been downgraded, new inspection reports show. Ofsted's new approach of focusing more on standards of teaching means that of 155 schools rated outstanding overall, but not for teaching and learning, only

44 have kept the top ranking. 91 have been redesignated as good and 20 told that they need to improve.

[MPs call for action on rural inequality](#)

Poor access to public services and broadband is leading to an urban-rural divide, MPs on the Commons Rural Affairs Committee have warned. It follows a recent warning from [Age UK](#) of the impact of cuts on elderly people living in rural areas. In a new report, the MPs highlight slow internet connections, low mobile coverage and less government funding despite higher costs of delivering services in the countryside. The committee called for a firm date for a minimum broadband speed, better access to a choice of mobile phone providers, more affordable housing and improved access to finance for rural enterprises.

[Changes to Business Improvement Districts](#)

Proposals have been outlined that will allow landlords to be part of Business Improvement Districts. This change will be alongside a fund of £500,000 loan fund to be set up more districts and scrapping regulations to ensure partnerships are set up within a business area rather than restricted by administrative boundaries. The consultation closes on 17th September 2013.

[New right to transfer for council tenants](#)

The new Right to Transfer coming into effect in the Autumn will mean that Council tenants who want to see their homes owned, managed and maintained by a housing association can request a change of ownership, with councils required to consider the merits of every request.

[Department for Communities and Local Government](#)

High income social tenants: pay to stay consultation paper: summary of responses.

[Broadway](#)

Keeping Work: Longitudinal qualitative research on homeless people's experiences of starting and staying in work.

The use of Employment tribunals will now cost a fee for the first time since they were introduced.

People will now have to pay up to £250 to lodge a claim and a further charge, up to £950, if the case goes ahead ([BBC Online](#)).

Almost half of all job vacancies in the UK are in London and southeast England, compared with 3.3 per cent in the northeast and 1.7 per cent in Wales, according to figures from the jobs search engine Adzuna ([FT](#); [Telegraph](#)).

The Ministry of Justice will impose a tougher judicial review eligibility test for cases challenging decisions by the Government and other public bodies.

This move is being led by the Justice Secretary, Chris Grayling MP, in an effort to prevent the abuse of judicial review clogging up courts and delaying policy implementation ([Telegraph](#); [Times](#)).

[Cheap coal pushes up carbon emissions](#)

An increase in coal consumption has led to a rise in carbon emissions after years of steady falls, new statistics from DECC show. In 2012, coal produced 39% of the UK's electricity, up

from 29% in 2011. In the same period carbon emissions rose by around 4%. The UK was the worst performing EU member state for carbon emissions, data from Eurostat showed. Only two other states saw emissions rise.

[DECC opens £20m fund for Green Deal](#)

The Green Deal receives another boost, as DECC has announced £20m to help local authorities take a street-by-street approach to promoting the scheme. The funding will help councils to target the areas that could benefit most from energy efficient improvements. Bids will be judged on creativity, sustainability, credibility and the total value of plans to be delivered. The [fund](#) will be open to bids until the end of 2013. A Green Deal Provider Forum has also been established, chaired by Ian Cheshire, to support uptake of the Green Deal.

[Cities youth employment boost](#)

Nick Clegg announces a new boost for the government's flagship programme, the Youth Contract, to get young people into jobs that last. Youth unemployment is a major issue for cities, which is why we are working with the core cities to tackle the issue at a local level. England's 8 largest cities will now be able to bid for a share of £50 million to help young people into work through the Youth Contract.

4. Consultations

[New consultation: Stop and search](#)

This consultation seeks views on the police powers of stop and search. The consultation runs up to 13 August 2013.

[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. 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.

[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.

[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.

[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 paper explores options for the introduction of such flexibilities to help stimulate organisational change for local authorities, and asks local authorities for views and suggestions. This consultation closes on the 24 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.

[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.

[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.