



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

[Unlimited fines for serious offences](#)

A new law has come into force which removes the £5,000 cap that used to limit the maximum fines magistrates could impose.

[Home Office publishes draft Riot Compensation Bill](#)

The draft Bill will replace the outdated Riot (Damages) Act, which was written in 1886 and remains unchanged.

[Finance Bill - date of publication](#)

The Finance Bill will be published on Tuesday 24 March.

[Part 1 of the new Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014](#) which relates to the new civil injunction power will now come into force on March 23rd 2015.

[New Drug Driving laws come into force](#)

From Monday 2nd March new laws come into effect which introduce a new offence of driving while over the generally prescribed limit of drugs such as morphine and methadone. There will also be set limits for eight illegal drugs including heroin, cocaine, LSD and cannabis.

[New rules to crackdown on violent prisoners comes into force](#)

The publication of a joint national protocol on crime committed in prison has set out clearly that when a serious assaults on prison staff, the perpetrators will be prosecuted unless there is a good reason why not.

[Bill on PCC recall](#)

[MOJ: No more 'early release' for child rapists and terrorists](#)

[Home Office](#)

[Counter-Terrorism and Security Bill: Receives Royal Assent](#)

Commons motion to approve SIs on Counter-Terrorism

[Home Office publish code of practice on powers of entry](#)

[Proceeds of Crime Act Draft Code of Practice](#)

[Motion to approve an SI on Prevention and Suppression of Terrorism](#)

[Government to create new domestic abuse offence](#)

[The Immigration Act 2014 \(Transitional and Saving Provisions\) Order 2014](#)

[Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014](#)

[The Modern Slavery Bill](#)

[Social Action, Responsibility and Heroism Bill received Royal Assent on 12 February](#)

[Upcoming secondary legislation published](#)

[Criminal Justice and Courts Bill received Royal Assent on 12 February](#)

[Home Office Circular 002/2015: Guidance to examining officers on the examination of goods under Schedule 7 to the Terrorism Act 2000](#)

The Home Office has published circular 002/2015, which relates to the examination of goods under Schedule 7 to the Terrorism Act 2000.

[European Parliament approves rules for safer and more eco-friendly lorries](#)

the European Parliament gave its final approval to new EU rules for safer and more eco-friendly lorries ([Directive 2013/0195](#)), put forward by the Commission. These rules will allow manufacturers to develop more aerodynamic lorries which will reduce fuel consumption by 7-10%, cut emissions of greenhouse gases, and also enhance road safety.

2. Strategic policing and crime news

[Home Secretary announces statutory inquiry into undercover policing](#)

Home Secretary Theresa May established an inquiry into undercover policing and the operation of the Metropolitan Police's Special Demonstration Squad (SDS). The Home Secretary has also published [Stephen Taylor's independent review](#) of the Home Office's knowledge of SDS activities. The Home Office's Permanent Secretary commissioned the review on 10 March 2014.

[GMB calls for undercover police inquiry to include blacklisting](#)

GMB is calling on the Appeal Court judge Lord Justice Pitchford, appointed by Home Secretary [Theresa May](#) to head an inquiry into undercover policing and the operation of the

Metropolitan Police's controversial Special Demonstration Squad, to include blacklisting in the scope of the Inquiry.

[Government publishes its response to Sir Brian Leveson's Review of Efficiency in Criminal Proceedings](#)

The government has published its response to Sir Brian Leveson's Review of Efficiency in Criminal Proceedings.

[Home Secretary at alternative place of safety launch](#)

Theresa May: an important step in ensuring people suffering a mental health crisis get the help they need.

[Border security tightened to halt terrorists and protect vulnerable individuals](#)

Individuals suspected of posing a terrorism-related threat may be prevented from travelling to or from the UK under new powers in the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015.

[ACPO comments on the UK Prevent Strategy](#)

National Policing Lead for Prevent, Chief Constable Sir Peter Fahy said:

"The Prevent programme is based on the successful work British police carried out with community groups and families to reduce gun and gang crime in our big cities. It is supported by the huge commitment we have made to neighbourhood policing and building strong relationships with local people, including minority groups."

[If Tories cut spending by £70 billion, people would have more chance of winning the lottery than seeing police on their streets - GMB](#)

GMB commented on the speech by [Ed Balls](#), Labour Party Shadow Chancellor, showing that Conservative spending plans will mean £70 billion of cuts to public spending if the Tories win the election. *See notes to editors for copy of Labour Party press release and text of [Ed Balls](#) speech.*

[Early intervention guide launched for frontline staff](#)

New guidance has been launched to help frontline staff identify families in need of early intervention. In the first of a series of manuals, the Early Intervention Foundation (EIF) and College of Policing have published information on early warning signs and prevention techniques to ensure families in the community receive adequate support.

[Written statement on Machinery of Government Change: Police and Crime Commissioner Elections](#)

Prime Minister (Mr David Cameron): This written ministerial statement confirms that policy responsibility for the conduct of elections in relation to Police and Crime Commissioners will transfer from the Home Office to the Cabinet Office. This change will be effective from 1 April 2015, though the Home Office will retain responsibility for the conduct of any Police and Crime Commissioner elections held before May 2016. The Home Office will retain all other responsibilities in relation to Police and Crime Commissioners.

[Proposals strengthen IPCC's role and powers](#)

The latest proposals to reform the police complaints and disciplinary systems strengthen the Independent Police Complaints Commission's (IPCC) independence and its ability to deal effectively with police complaints and misconduct.

3. Developments and reports

[South Yorkshire Police accused of covering up Sheffield sex abuse](#)

South Yorkshire Police has been accused of ignoring hundreds of reports ... that 1,400 children were abused in the town over a 16-year period.

[Key achievements in Ending Gang and Youth Violence](#)

Coalition Government publishes its Ending Gang and Youth Violence programme annual report for 2014/15.

[Government response to the annual report on the operation of the Terrorism Acts in 2013](#)

In July 2014, David Anderson QC, Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation, published his annual report on the Operation of the Terrorism Acts in 2013.

[Consultation outcome: Changes to the police disciplinary system](#)

From 18 November 2014 to 2 January 2015, the Home Office consulted on holding disciplinary and appeal hearings in public, introducing legally qualified chairs in disciplinary hearings, protecting whistleblowers and changes to chief officer compensation payments. The new regulations set out in this circular will:

- increase transparency by requiring that police disciplinary hearings are held in public from 1 May 2015
- make these hearings fairer by ensuring that the chair is legally-qualified from January 2016
- protect police whistleblowers from unfair disciplinary action from 1 May 2015
- allow compensation to be withheld from Chief Officers in specific circumstances from 1 May 2015

[Home Office announces increase in firearms licensing fees](#)

The fees have not been increased since 2001 and, according to police estimates, forces currently recoup only 27% of the cost of issuing a licence.

[Written statement on Police Federation reform](#)

The Police Federation of England and Wales commissioned Sir David Normington to lead an independent review of its own operation and structures, which published its report early in 2014. The report raised significant concerns about the functioning and culture of the Police Federation and made 36 specific recommendations for change.

[Rape Monitoring Group digests now provide a more complete picture of how rapes are dealt with across England and Wales](#)

HMIC, on behalf of the Rape Monitoring Group (RMG), has published 42 local digests showing how cases of rape are dealt with at all stages of the criminal justice process.

[Councils failing to protect children warns watchdog](#)

Over half of local authorities inspected for their children's social care provision last year are 'not yet good enough', a damning report from Ofsted has warned.

[Fears raised over complaints in children's social care](#)

The complaints system for children's social care is 'creaking under the strain', costing thousands of pounds while often failing to resolve issues – inspectors claim. A study by the

Local Government Ombudsman (LGO) has found the procedure is often subjected to long delays or fails to recognise complaints about children's services.

Indefinite detention of migrants is 'expensive, ineffective and unjust' say MPs

A cross-party group of MPs and Peers has called for the end to the indefinite detention of migrants, calling the current system "expensive, ineffective and unjust". The call comes in a [report published](#) following a joint inquiry into the use of immigration detention in the UK by the APPG on Refugees and the APPG on Migration.

Unemployed EU migrants face benefit ban

New EU migrants will not be able to claim benefits until they find employment, under new regulations intended to crack down on the abuse of the system.

Alcohol Concern

A Measure of Change - The impact of the public health transfer of local alcohol provision.

Alcohol Research UK

Understanding the alcohol harm paradox.

Lords Select Committee - *EU Alcohol Strategy*.

Centre for Social Justice

Concerned about cannabis.

Department for Transport

Civil enforcement of parking contraventions.

HM Government

Individuals at risk of being drawn into Serious and Organised Crime - a Prevent Guide.

Home Office

Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act: Overarching documents.

English road safety comparison website to close

The Department for Transport has reviewed the 'English road safety comparison' website and found that equivalent information is now widely available online from several other sources.

Inquest

Stolen Lives and Missed Opportunities: The deaths of young adults and children in custody.

Youth custody data

Monthly statistics on the population in custody of children and young people within the secure estate.

More than 105,000 troubled families turned around saving taxpayers an estimated £1.2 billion

The Communities Secretary has hailed the life-changing impact of the government's Troubled Families programme, which has now turned around more than 105,000 of the hardest to help households in England.

Managing cyber threat – collaboration delivers but sends a warning of complacency

Following the Ramnit botnet being shut down, Andrew France ([Strategic Advisor Intelligence at Wynyard Group](#)) argues that while collaboration to tackle and disrupt cyber threats should be seen as a very positive step, organisations still need to change their approach to deal with threats that infiltrate their networks without them even knowing.

Security warning as 55% of councils use unsupported software

More than half of councils in England are still using unsupported versions of Java, leading to concerns of a future 'security disaster', according to new research.

Install prison body scanners to stem drugs tide, says CSJ

All 118 prisons in England and Wales should be equipped with body scanners to curb the endemic problem of prison drug smuggling, according to a new report from a leading, independent think-tank.

Joseph Rowntree Foundation

Redistribution of social and societal risk.

Local Government Association

Remodelling public protection: The future of councils' regulatory services.

Policy Exchange

Taking its Toll: The regressive impact of property crime in Britain.

Transition to Adulthood

Better in Europe? European responses to young adult offending.

Home Affairs Select Committee- Out of Court Settlements.

Public Accounts Select Committee - Public Health's grants to local authorities.

Counties call for devolution of health and social care

English counties are calling for the devolution of health and social care budgets in the wake of the Devo Manc agreement. An inquiry by the County All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG), in associating with the County Council Network, has found that nearly eight in ten counties in the UK feel their existing funding pressures in adult social care are severe or critical. An additional 84% say it is the biggest financial pressure they face.

Eight areas to 'blend' health and social care budgets under new pilot

The first eight sites across England where projects will blend health and social care funding have been named by the Local Government Association (LGA) and NHS England. Demonstrator sites as part of the Integrated Personal Commissioning (IPC) programme, which will provide 10,000 people with complex needs with greater power to decide how their combined health and social care budget is spent, are: Stockton-on-Tees, Barnsley, Cheshire West & Cheshire, Luton, Tower Hamlets, Hampshire, Portsmouth and South West Consortium.

Fire chiefs call for lower drink drive limit and mandatory smoke alarms

Fire services and councils have reiterated their calls for a lower drink drive limit and mandatory smoke alarms in private rented properties to be among the next government's priorities in its first 100 days.

[UK cannot be confident its extradition regime is protecting human rights says Lords committee](#)

While many aspects of the UK's existing arrangements are satisfactory, the House of Lords Committee investigating extradition law has concluded that the system of accepting assurances during the extradition process cannot guarantee the UK is meeting its human rights obligations, according to its report, published today.

[Ban will end testing of household products on animals](#)

Testing of household products on animals will be banned, Crime Prevention Minister Lynne Featherstone has announced.

[Quarterly revenue outturn for local authorities in England: October to December 2014](#)

This release provides the estimate of financial quarter 3 revenue expenditure outturn data. Local authorities had the opportunity to revise their quarter 1 and 2 data in this quarter.

[New report from IEA debunks the EU jobs myth](#)

In a new report from the Institute of Economic Affairs, author Ryan Bourne calls for a rational debate, acknowledging how the structure of the UK labour market is fluctuating constantly; prior to the financial crisis, the UK saw on average 4 million jobs created and 3.7 million jobs lost every single year.

[Health Profiles User Survey 2015](#)

Public Health England has launched its survey that will help shape future developments to Health Profiles and other products.

[New fund to help women speak up on child sexual exploitation](#)

Local Government Minister, Kris Hopkins, has announced a new £250,000 Women's Empowerment Fund for voluntary groups.

[Research project to tackle gambling issues in local communities](#)

Westminster City Council and Manchester City Council, supported by the Local Government Association, have joined forces to launch the first research project of its kind in the UK.

[Older workers face discrimination and disadvantage in the labour market says Altman report](#)

A Report published today by the Business Champion for Older Workers, Dr. Ros Altmann, makes the case for ensuring the over 50s can stay in employment if they want or need to. The Report 'A New Vision for Older Workers - Retain, Retrain, Recruit' identifies significant failings in labour market practice and a lack of joined-up Government policy for the ageing workforce which will mean lower economic growth and greater burdens on younger generations in future years. The Report puts forward wide-ranging recommendations to Government, Business, media and individuals themselves which would address these failings to the benefit of us all.

[49 per cent rise in long-term unemployment for black and minority ethnic young people](#)

New figures show 49 per cent rise in long-term unemployment for black and minority ethnic young people since 2010. New figures from the Office of National Statistics reveal that the number of black and minority ethnic (BAME) young people aged 18-24 out of work for over a year has risen by 49 per cent since 2010.

Graduate labour market statistics: July to September 2014

'Graduate labour market statistics July to September 2014' is the first statistical publication in this series. It provides information on graduate and non-graduate earnings and employment rates for England in the third quarter of 2014.

New rights for people with mental health conditions

The government has unveiled proposals to strengthen the rights of people with learning disabilities, autism and mental health conditions.

Households with no-one to turn to costing London boroughs over £25m

More than 1,500 households in the capital with no recourse to public funds (NRPF) are receiving some form of support from London boroughs at an annual cost of over £25m, new figures have revealed.

English devolution focused too much on major cities

Devolution to non-metropolitan areas could put a million more people in work and generate £8.7bn for the economy, according to a new report.

Poorest areas hit hardest by council cuts, study shows

The most deprived areas have been hit hardest by council spending cuts over the current parliament, a public finance think tank has reported. Analysis issued by the Institute for Fiscal Studies shows local authority spending per person decreased by 23.4% in real terms from 2009/10 to 2014/15 but with significant variations across the country.

Three councils warned over FOI delays

Three councils are being monitored by the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) following concerns they are too slow at responding to freedom of information (FOI) requests. Salford City Council is being monitored for responding to less than 65% of all its FOI requests within the legal timeframe. The ICO is also monitoring Cumbria County Council and Nottingham City Council for failing to respond to at least four cases in the allocated time.

Eight cities discover their share of £114m cycling fund

Following successful bids, Birmingham, Manchester and Leeds are poised to each receive £22m by 2017/18 to expand cycling routes and raise local uptake. Proposed funding allocations would see Bristol taking £19m, Newcastle £10.6m, Norwich £8.4m, Cambridge £6m and Oxford £3.3m.

New support for social tenants who want to work

Social tenants who need to move for work will no longer be pushed to the back of the housing waiting list, Communities Secretary Eric Pickles announced. The change follows a public [consultation on the 'Right to Move'](#) proposal, (launched on 10, September, 2014) which showed widespread support for the reform.

DWP workforce could shrink by more than a third

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) could see its staff numbers cut by more than a third in the next five years, according to senior civil servants.

[Cameron welcomes next wave of free schools](#)

Prime minister David Cameron has approved plans for 49 new free schools across the county.

[Housing crisis hits youngest while elderly prosper, finds report](#)

Young people and the poor are 'bearing the brunt' of the national housing shortage, worsening inequality and disadvantage in the UK - a report claims.

[Unequal legacy of crisis leaves young with economic mountain to climb, according to new LSE report](#)

People in their twenties have been the worst affected by the economic crisis despite higher qualifications than any earlier generation, according to a comprehensive LSE analysis of what has happened to inequalities in qualifications, employment, pay, incomes and wealth since 2007.

[£3 million funding to boost low carbon heating](#)

More people will have their homes and businesses heated by renewable, sustainable or recoverable energy sources thanks to extra £3 million of funding awarded to 55 local authorities across England and Wales today.

[Traineeships: evaluation: Findings from a survey of the first year of the traineeships programme](#)

An analysis of what employers and trainees think of the traineeships scheme, which launched in 2013. It also looks at how effective the scheme has been at helping former trainees into apprenticeships and work.

[£5m funding will help young people with special educational needs transition into work](#)

The Department for Education announced an additional £5 million to help young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) make the transition from school into employment.

[Commission welcomes moves to make gender pay gap reporting law](#)

A decision by the government to make gender pay gap reporting mandatory for large companies has been welcomed by the Equality and Human Rights Commission.

Government to press ahead with regulations on new towns and parish councils

Local Government minister Stephen Williams has told Parliament that the government will proceed with a draft order on the role new town and parish councils will take in the Community Rights programme.

4. Consultations

[Speaking to witnesses at court: consultation](#)

The aim of this consultation is to ask for responses to the draft guidance which sets out the role played by prosecutors at or before court in ensuring that witnesses give their best evidence. This is a core part of the prosecutor's job and will, if done properly, impact

positively on both the quality of the witness's evidence in court and the perception of the service they receive from us. Closes 16/03/15.

[Pre-charge bail: consultation on statutory time limits and related changes](#)

The government has launched an open consultation on pre-charge bail. The consultation is focused on a series of measures whose overall impact should reduce both the number of individuals subject to, and the average duration of, pre-charge bail.

National Procurement Strategy for Social Care

Calling for an integrated approach to procurement – comments by 21st March.

New: [Neighbourhood and Home Watch Networks 5 year business plan](#)

Consultation on the final draft consultation document regarding the Neighbourhood and Home Watch Networks 5 year business plan (2015 – 2020). Feedback to be sent by 20 March 2015.

[Law Commission consultation on electoral law](#) [The Law Commission has launched a consultation on electoral law reform.](#) This is a joint project by the Law Commission of England and Wales, the Scottish Law Commission and the Northern Ireland Law Commission. Closes 31 March 2015.

[Modern slavery and supply chains](#)

Open date: 12/02/2015

Close date: 07/05/2015

[Strengthening rights for people with learning disabilities](#)

Consultation to seek the views to strengthen rights of people with learning disabilities, autism and mental health issues to enable them to live independently. Closes on the 29 May 2015.

[Revised best value statutory guidance consultation paper \(for England\)](#)

Open date: 27/02/2015

Close date: 20/03/2015

[Interim Report of the Review of the Implementation of the Welfare of Animals Act \(NI\) 2011](#)

Open date: 26/02/2015

Close date: 26/04/2015

[Drug misuse prevention](#)

NICE are seeking views on their draft scope for drug misuse prevention. The consultation is open until 1st April 2015.

[Written statement on Motorcycle compulsory basic training consultation](#)

A public consultation on proposals to strengthen the structure and delivery of the course. In 2013, motorcyclists accounted for 22% of all road user deaths despite representing only 1% of vehicle traffic; 19% of all reported motorcycle casualties involved young riders aged 19 and under.

5. Reviews and Inspections

[Call handlers showed 'lack of mental health awareness' prior to man's disappearance](#)

The Independent Police Complaints Commission has found that Devon and Cornwall Police call handlers failed Valan Pitts prior to his death in 2012.

[The Welfare of Vulnerable People in Custody](#)

Children, people who are mentally unwell and other vulnerable members of society are being locked in cells and sometimes unnecessarily criminalised because police custody is being used as a substitute for social and health care, found a report published today by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC).

[Ombudsman sets out lessons to halt rise in prison suicides](#)

There is no simple answer to why the number of prisoners committing suicide rose so sharply last year, but the rise was unacceptable, said Nigel Newcomen, the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman (PPO). Today he published a thematic report on lessons to be learned from investigations into self-inflicted deaths of prisoners in 2013/14.

[IPCC response to publication of GMP report on Rochdale child sexual exploitation](#)

IPCC Commissioner James Dipple-Johnstone said: "I welcome Greater Manchester Police's decision to publish this report. This is a matter of significant public interest and it is important that the findings of the *investigation* are put into the public domain. I can see that Greater Manchester Police has learned significant lessons around its initial handling of this case."

[Failings identified in investigation into South Yorkshire Police death in custody](#)

The Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) found two custody sergeants had a case to answer for misconduct after failings were identified during an investigation into the death of a man being held in custody by South Yorkshire Police.