



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

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

Child rapists and terrorists will no longer be automatically released half-way through their sentence, as part of a range of tough new laws that have received Royal Assent.

[Home Office](#)

Serious Crime Bill: overarching documents

Commencement of Part 1 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 – the Civil Injunction

The Ministry of Justice will soon complete the necessary operational and legislative changes to the legal aid system to ensure the commencement of the Civil Injunction under Part 1 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 can come into force. As a result, **the Part 1 Civil Injunction will commence on 23 March 2015.**

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

[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](#)

[Upcoming secondary legislation published](#)

[Criminal Justice and Courts Bill](#)

2. Strategic policing and crime news

[White House Summit on Countering Violent Extremism: Speech by Home Secretary Theresa May](#)

Home Secretary Theresa May spoke at a summit on violent extremism in Washington DC, organised by the White House and US Department of State.

[New Landscape of policing not yet complete, say MPs](#)

The Home Affairs Committee has published its report, Evaluating the new architecture of policing: the College of Policing and the National Crime Agency. This is the final report as part of the Committee's ongoing work which has look at all aspects of the landscape of policing.

[Home Office announces crackdown on criminals who change their names to avoid detection](#)

The Home Office is clamping down on people who change their identity in order to commit crimes and escape justice. New guidance has been provided to ensure there is a consistent approach to handling change of name applications for official documents, such as the British Passport, Home Office travel documents and biometric residence permits.

[Domestic policy on violence against women and girls is lagging behind efforts abroad, says committee](#)

In a Report, the Joint Committee on Human Rights warns that the Government is harming its international reputation by failing to ratify the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence. The Committee concludes that the Government's progressive work on tackling violence against women and girls abroad is not translating into its domestic policy.

[CSPL response to the Home Office's 'Improving Police Integrity' consultation](#)

The Committee on Standards in Public Life has published its response to the Home Office's consultation "Improving Police Integrity: Reforming the Police Complaints and Disciplinary Systems" which ran from 11 December 2014 to 5 February 2015.

[Too many sexually exploited children are still not identified, says Children's Commissioner](#)

There are still many child victims and children at risk of becoming victims of child sexual exploitation who have not been identified by authorities, according to a report published by the Office of the Children's Commissioner. This is despite heightened awareness of child sexual exploitation following high profile investigations in a number of parts of England.

[Inspector of Constabulary reappointed](#)

Home Secretary announces new five-year term for Stephen Otter.

3. Developments and reports

[Tackling radicalisation in Buckinghamshire](#)

Councillor Martin Phillips, Cabinet Member for Community Engagement at Buckinghamshire County Council, talks about the work being done in the county to stop young people becoming radicalised. It comes ahead of the government's new Prevent legislation which comes into force this year, and will make it a duty for schools and other public sector bodies to support young people and adults at risk of exploitation through radicalisation.

[Mandatory reporting of Female Genital Mutilation](#)

The government has tabled amendments to the Serious Crime Bill to ensure that a new mandatory duty on frontline officers to report cases of FGM is legislated ahead of the dissolution of Parliament.

[Child sex abuse inquiry should cover whole of UK say MPs](#)

The inquiry into historic child sex abuse in England and Wales should widen its scope to look at the entire UK, MPs are urging.

[Inquest](#)

Deaths in Mental Health Detention: An investigation framework fit for purpose?

[Older people concerned about 'sorry state' of social care](#)

More than a third of older people think Britain has become a worse place to live in the past year, with the majority concerned about funding cuts to social care, a new report has revealed.

[CQC publishes guidance on the use of hidden cameras to monitor care](#)

The CQC has issued guidance on the use of hidden cameras to monitor the care of older people in hospitals and care homes. The warning comes as the government announced, nationally, that local authorities would receive £37m to help combat the rise in demand for home care packages over winter.

[Analysis reveals 500,000 five minute home care visits](#)

Calls were today raised for a 'fundamental' overhaul of home care visits, after figures highlighted 500,000 appointments that lasted less than five minutes.

[London Councils calls for 'sustainable' adult social care funding](#)

Local authorities need long-term investment in health and social care integration to free-up hospital beds and address the crisis in A&E departments, London Councils has said.

[Late intervention efforts cost local government £6.5bn annually](#)

Failing to intervene early to protect young people from the impact of damaging social problems is costing the government £17bn a year, with councils picking up the largest share, according to new research. [The new Early Intervention Foundation \(EIF\) analysis](#) shows council services (£6.5bn) are having to pick up the largest share of the national late intervention spend – followed by welfare costs of £3.7bn and the NHS at £3bn

[Local Government Association](#)

Tackling child sexual exploitation - A resource pack for councils.

[NCA to investigate matters arising from Rotherham Council](#)

Operation Stovewood, the National Crime Agency's independent investigation examining criminal allegations of non-familial child sexual exploitation in Rotherham, is to examine a number of potentially criminal matters identified during a recent inspection of Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council.

[NCA leads child protection workshops in India](#)

The National Crime Agency's CEOP Command has begun delivering a series of child protection workshops across India. Funded by the UK's Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), the activity in Mumbai, New Delhi and Pune aims to share knowledge and raise awareness of some of the emerging trends and key issues surrounding child sexual exploitation.

[Cyber attacker targeted important public service websites](#)

A cyber criminal has admitted conducting a malicious campaign of attacks against children's social services, social housing, and crime prevention websites.

[Commission on Sex in Prison](#)

The Howard League for Penal Reform has established an independent Commission on Sex in Prison to undertake the first ever review of sex inside prison.

[Migrant journey: fifth report: data tables](#)

Data tables covering the immigration status of migrants issued visas by visa type after 5 years.

[MOJ: Courts to recognise good intentions of volunteers and small businesses'](#)

Volunteers, community groups and 'good deed doers' have been given legal reassurance that courts will take account of the fact they have been acting to help society if something goes wrong and they end up having to defend themselves against being sued.

[Online court system to allow judges to adjudicate from home by 2017](#)

A new online court system that would allow judges to adjudicate civil cases from home and for the Ministry of Justice to sell off much of its court estate is being proposed by the body responsible for modernising the justice system.

[Department for Transport](#)

Reported drinking and driving (RAS51).

[Reported road casualties in Great Britain, provisional estimates involving illegal alcohol levels, 2013](#)

[Office for National Statistics](#)

Alcohol-related deaths in the United Kingdom, Registered in 2013

[Northamptonshire to outsource all services and save £68m](#)

Northamptonshire County Council has rubber stamped plans to outsource all services and make £68m of cuts.

[New 'groundbreaking' tri-council partnership for Dorset](#)

North Dorset District Council has agreed to establish a 'tri-council' partnership with two neighbouring authorities.

[National Institute for Health and Care Excellence](#)

NICE Quality Standard: Psychosis and schizophrenia in adults.

[Local Government Association](#)

The Fire and Rescue Service: Making our Nation Safer.

[New Economics Foundation](#)

Responses to Austerity. Austerity policies have put communities and organisations across the UK under intense pressure. While the negative social consequences are well documented, less attention has been paid to the range of creative responses to austerity measures from local authorities, housing associations, grant-makers and funders, charitable and voluntary sector, campaigners and activists.

[Public Sector Finances, January 2015](#)

- From April 2014 to January 2015, public sector net borrowing excluding public sector banks (PSNB ex) was £74.0 billion; a decrease of £6.0 billion compared with the same period in 2013/14.
- In January 2015, PSNB ex was -£8.8 billion (a surplus); an increased surplus of £2.3 billion compared with January 2014.
- In January 2015, self-assessed income tax receipts were £12.3 billion; an increase of £1.7 billion compared with January 2014. The proportion of self-assessed income tax recorded in January and February can vary year-on-year and it is therefore advisable to consider data for the two months (January and February) together.
- Due to the volatility of the monthly data, the cumulative financial year-to-date borrowing figures provide a better indication of the progress of the public finances than the individual months.
- From April 2014 to January 2015, the central government net cash requirement (CGNCR) was £68.6 billion; an increase of £14.6 billion compared with the same period in 2013/14. Cash transfers from the Asset Purchase Facility were £20.4 billion lower in year-to-date 2014/15 than in the same period in 2013/14, CGNCR without the impact of these transfers was therefore £5.8 billion lower in year-to-date 2014/15 than in the same period in 2013/14.
- At the end of January 2015, public sector net debt excluding public sector banks (PSND ex) was £1,464.0 billion (79.6% of GDP); an increase of £86.1 billion compared with January 2014.
- At the end of January 2015 General Government Gross Debt (Maastricht debt) was £1,586.0 billion (86.2 % of GDP) and General Government Net Borrowing (Maastricht deficit) in 2013/14 was £100.5 billion (5.8% of GDP).
- In December 2014, an additional £2.9 billion contribution to the European Commission was recorded as current expenditure. Latest guidance from Eurostat has resulted in this figure being revised down by £1.2 billion to reflect a repayment from the European Commission to the UK.

[NHS England](#)

Guidance to support the introduction of access and waiting time standards for mental health services in 2015/16.

[Policy Exchange](#)

Garden Village: Empowering localism to solve the housing crisis. Over one million new homes could be built over the next decade if each of the 353 councils in England built just one garden village of 3,000 new houses.

[Equality and diversity policy](#)

How every Monitor employee is protected against unlawful or unfair discrimination.

[Competency framework](#)

The skills expected of all Monitor staff at the 4 different role levels and the 6 competencies they need to achieve.

[National Audit Office](#)

Inspection: A comparative study: £35m is spent on five inspectorates in 2014-15: Home Office, Ministry of Justice, Attorney General's Office, covering: HM Inspectorate of Constabulary, The Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration, HM Inspectorate of Prisons, HM Inspectorate of Probation and HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate.

[Report highlights pay divide between public and private sectors](#)

A new pay divide is opening in the UK with public sector workers more likely to see wages frozen than their private counterparts – a report suggests.

[Council tax becomes most common debt problem, charity says](#)

Council tax debt has overtaken credit card arrears to become the most common financial issue for British households, according to Citizens Advice.

Unemployed young should do community work, says Cameron

Young people out of work, education or training for six months will have to do unpaid community work to get benefits if the Tories win the election.

£6 million new funding to give communities even greater local control

Communities Minister [Stephen Williams](#) today announced a new £6 million funding boost to the [Community Rights programme](#) which will give even more people greater control and influence over what happens locally.

[Cuts to council tax support will get 'broader and deeper'](#)

A new report warns 270,000 low income families affected by the 'Bedroom Tax' have also been hit by cuts in council tax support (CTS).

[Labour market statistics: February 2015](#)

Employment, unemployment, economic inactivity, claimant count, average earnings, labour productivity, vacancies and labour disputes statistics. A report from the [New Policy Institute](#) reveals that 70% of those affected by the Government's Spare Room Subsidy policy also have to pay more council tax due to cuts in support.

[Maude backs public sector asset management company](#)

The UK's first ever single asset management company for the public sector has been set up in the West Midlands. The new company will allow the six member organisations – which

include Redditch Borough Council, Worcester City Council and Worcestershire County Council – to maximise value from property and land assets.

[Local government on a 'cliff-edge' warns Commission](#)

The [Independent Commission on Local Government Finance](#) has published its 10-year reform plan for local government, setting out a two-speed approach to devolution.

[Regional labour market statistics: February 2015](#)

Official statistics on employment, unemployment, inactivity, jobs and the Claimant Count for regions, local authorities and parliamentary constituencies.

[Concerns about Universal Credit support following national roll-out](#)

The government has started its national roll-out of Universal Credit (UC), but there are concerns about the amount of support for those being transferred onto the new system.

[Scottish councils threaten government with legal action over education funding](#)

Council leaders in Scotland have threatened legal action against the government over the "imposition" of a budget deal by Holyrood forcing them to maintain current teacher staffing levels.

[Tees Valley Combined Authority plans receive public support](#)

Five councils in the Tees Valley are to press ahead with plans to establish a combined authority after a majority of the public supported the idea in a consultation.

[Environment committee questions Defra funding plans for flood defence](#)

Flood defences in England face a £600m budget shortfall as the government has failed to attract enough private sector investment, MPs have warned.

[Parents-to-be begin the countdown to Shared Parental Leave](#)

With just 8 weeks to go until mums and dads with babies due on or after 5 April 2015 can start sharing up to 50 weeks of parental leave, expectant parents need to have that all-important conversation with their employers.

4. Consultations

[HMIC Consultation on Inspection Programme for 2015/16](#)

The HMIC are currently consulting on the proposed inspection programme for 2015/16, closes 25 February 2015.

[Proposal to extend the power of the Criminal Cases Review Commission](#)

Open date: 01/12/2014

Close date: 27/02/2015

[Improving the Display Energy Certificates regime for public buildings](#)

Open date: 11/02/2015

Close date: 11/03/2015

Updating the NHS Constitution

Open date: 11/02/2015

Close date: 11/03/2015

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.

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

5. Reviews and Inspections

HMIC: Dyfed-Powys Police National Child Protection Report – 17 February

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) is inspecting the child protection work of every police force in England and Wales. Previous reports from this programme of work can be found on our website.

HMIC publish report on girls in the criminal justice system

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) have published their report on girls in the criminal justice system.

Police forces making progress on tackling corruption

Police forces have made significant progress in putting in place the processes to prevent and tackle corruption, according to a report launched today by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC), and this is in part due to strong leadership being demonstrated by senior police officers.

The National Audit Office (NAO) issued an "adverse opinion" on the Department for Education's financial statement; the first time since 2005 the NAO has issued such criticism. The NAO identified errors and uncertainties stemming from inadequacies in combining accounts of more than 2,500 bodies, including academies, which operate on different reporting periods.