



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

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

That the draft Terrorism Act 2000 (Proscribed Organisations) (Amendment) Order 2015, which was laid before this House on 19 January, be approved.

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

Home Secretary Theresa May has announced a new domestic abuse offence of coercive and controlling behaviour.

[Counter-Terrorism and Security Bill: Amendments to be moved in Committee](#)

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

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

[Serious Crime Bill](#)

[The Modern Slavery Bill](#)

Social Action, Responsibility and Heroism Bill

The Public Bill Committee is expected to report to the House by **14 October 2014**.

[Upcoming secondary legislation published](#)

[Criminal Justice and Courts Bill](#)

[SI 2015 No. 9 The Criminal Justice \(Specified Class B Drugs\) Order 2015](#)

[SI 2015 No. 13 The Criminal Procedure \(Amendment\) Rules 2015](#)

2. Strategic policing and crime news

[National Threat Level – Severe: an attack is highly likely](#)

Members of the public should always remain alert to the danger of terrorism and report any suspicious activity to the police on 999 or the anti-terrorist hotline: 0800 789 321.

[Home Secretary correspondence with Chief Constables regarding stop and search](#)

Home Secretary correspondence to Chief Constables, and responses, regarding stop and search.

[Chancellor pledges support for new memorial to UK police](#)

The Chancellor, George Osborne, has announced £1 million in government support for the development of a new memorial to honour the United Kingdom's Police service, to be built at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire. The announcement was made at a reception held on behalf of the Police Arboretum Memorial Trust at Number 11 Downing Street, attended by business leaders, Chief Constables and Police and Crime Commissioners.

[Crime statistics in England and Wales: year ending September 2014](#)

[Young people's advocates get 12 months more funding](#)

On 22 January, the Home Office confirmed Home Office funding of £400,000 to continue the work of 13 young people's advocates for a further 12 months.

[NAO publishes report on Home Office oversight of forensic services](#)

On 21 January, the National Audit Office published a briefing for the Commons Science and Technology Committee on Home Office oversight of forensic services. The report states that the data available publicly on forensics spending is limited. The information that is available is incomplete, inconsistent and/or difficult to access. The Home Office collects a range of data on forensic services procured externally by police forces through the national forensic framework but has very little data on forensic services procures by police forces outside of the framework. The report also says that police forces are undertaking more forensics work internally and this could undermine the market, the forensic science regulator has no statutory powers to enforce compliance with quality standards and the Home Office has not produced a strategy for forensics.

[Emergency Services Lot 4 network contract removed](#)

The Home Office announced the removal of the contract for a national 'extension to mobile services'.

3. Developments and reports

[PAC report on Managing and removing foreign national offenders](#)

The number of foreign nationals in prison has stayed at around 10,000, and the number of foreign national offenders removed from the UK peaked at 5,613 in 2008–09 and has not matched that level since. The figure fell to 4,539 in 2011–12 and it remains below the peak levels. This is just not good enough. "Furthermore, as of March 2014 there were still 4,247 foreign national offenders in the community post sentence awaiting removal, and of these around 1 in 6 – 758 – had absconded. 151 foreign national offenders have been released without even being considered for deportation at all since 2009, and the Department was

forced to pay out £6.2m in compensation payments to 229 foreign national offenders because of Home Office delays in dealing with cases since April 2012 – that is an average of £27,000 each.

ACPO statement - foreign national offenders (PAC report)

National Policing Lead for Foreign National Offenders, Deputy Assistant Commissioner Steve Rodhouse.

Home Office

HMIC Domestic Abuse Review - National Oversight Group Update Report.

Respect

Briefing paper on the findings of the Mirabel research into the outcomes of the accredited domestic violence perpetrator programmes.

Runnymede

Local Ethnic Inequalities: Ethnic differences in Education, Employment, Health and Housing, in Districts of England and Wales, 2001-2011.

Muslim Council objects to Pickles letter, says ministers are like 'far right'

The Muslim Council of Britain has compared the government to the “far right” after a letter sent by Eric Pickles to Muslim leaders seemed to suggest that they were “inherently apart from British society”.

Higher police numbers 'crucial', warns London borough

A London borough has warned there are 'not enough' local police to deal with the region's serious youth violence problem. Enfield fears the local 'problem' of low police numbers is now likely to be 'exaggerated' while Britain takes precautions following terrorist attacks in Paris and anti-terror arrests in Belgium.

Council leaders say inspection of efforts to tackle child abuse is 'blinkered'

Scrutiny of efforts to tackle child abuse is ‘blinkered’ and failing to recognise the ‘true quality’ of local approaches, town hall chiefs claim.

Government announce first mobile drug testing device

The Policing Minister has announced approval of the first mobile drug testing device that can detect the presence of cannabis and cocaine.

Women's Aid Annual Survey 2014

This year's annual survey has now been published in three infographics and an accompanying report. This year Women's Aid highlight the specific challenges faced by children and young people's domestic violence services as they have difficulties in placing children in school and accessing specialist mental health support for them.

Think tank warns child care system is at 'breaking point'

The care system is in ‘tatters’ with almost a quarter of girls in care becoming teenage mothers and thousands regularly ‘going missing’ – a report claims. Research from the Centre for Social Justice (CSJ) has found 22% of women leaving care become teenage mothers, around three times the national average.

Younger drivers still need to take heed of drink-drive dangers says ACPO

Younger drivers remain proportionally more likely than their over-25 counterparts to fail a breath-test for driving under the influence, the UK's national lead for roads policing has said. Chief Constable Suzette Davenport was speaking as she released the national figures for the December 2014 anti-drink-and-drug-driving campaign, run by forces under the auspices of the Association of Chief Police Officers.

[Brake echoes police calls warning young people of dangers of drink and drug driving](#)

Brake, the road safety charity, has praised police for their efforts to catch drink and drug drivers over the festive period but has expressed concern that a significant minority of drivers – especially among the younger age group – are continuing to endanger lives. An increasingly intelligence-led approach by officers resulted in fewer breath tests this year, down to 133,996, but a higher rate of drivers testing positive, with 5,885, or 4.39%, failing breath tests according to figures released by the Association of Chief Police Officers.

[English Councils demand devolution ahead of draft Scotland Bill publication](#)

Commenting ahead of the Government's expected publication of the draft Scotland Bill, Cllr David Sparks, Chair of the LGA.

[Phone app allows residents to measure and report noise disturbances](#)

A smartphone app is allowing residents in a London borough to measure levels of nuisance noise and report disturbances to the town hall. Croydon Council's My Croydon app has been upgraded to include a decibel metre, allowing members of the community to test nearby noise and see whether it is loud enough to warrant a complaint.

[Report warns north-south divide has widened](#)

The north-south divide has increased since 2004, creating a two-tier economy a think tank is warning.

[Government doubles troubled families specialists](#)

The number of specialists helping council's troubled families teams are set to double this year, under £10m extra investment.

[Big Society has 'failed' warns report](#)

The Government's Big Society has failed to deliver more power to local communities, according to a three-year investigation into the project.

[Fire and Rescue bulletin 53 published](#)

Fire and rescue bulletin 53/2015 was published on 8 January. It includes news on an amendment to the Fire and Rescue Framework for England, Mind, the mental health charity's, new programme of mental health support for emergency services personnel, an update on the Emergency Services Mobile Communication programme and consultation on the prevent duty.

[Department of Health](#)

Mental Health Act 1983: Code of Practice.

[Home Office](#)

Proceeds of Crime Act draft code of practice.

[Centre for Crime and Justice Studies](#)

Empower, resist, transform: A collection of essays highlighting how women facing criminalisation and gender based violence are repeatedly failed by society.

[Department of Health](#)

Mental Health Act 1983: Code of Practice.

[Drugscope](#)

Briefing - Mental health and substance misuse.

[Suicide in prison: 82 prisoners took their own lives in 2014 says Howard League](#)

Eighty-two prisoners took their own lives during 2014 as the suicide rate behind bars rose to its highest level for seven years. They included 14 young adults, aged between 18 and 24, data compiled by the Howard League for Penal Reform reveal.

Unemployment drops by 58,000

Comparing the estimates for September to November 2014 with those for June to August 2014, employment continued to rise and unemployment continued to fall. These changes maintain the general direction of movement since late 2011/early 2012.

A landmark one million jobseekers on more rigorous work search regime

Over a million jobseekers have signed up to a Claimant Commitment meaning they need to do more to find work or face losing their benefits.

[Thousands of disabled people supported by Access to Work](#)

Access to Work provides financial support towards the extra costs faced by disabled people who are looking for work or need support to stay in their job.

[National Audit Office: Strategy 2015-16](#)

The NAO strategy 2015-16 to 2017-18 sets out how our public audit perspective helps Parliament and government to account and improve public services.

[£1.1bn fall in social care spending leaves elderly 'high and dry'](#)

Spending on adult social care has fallen by £1.1bn since 2010, leaving hundreds of thousands of older people without support - a charity has said. Age UK has found the proportion of people aged 65 and over receiving social care has fallen from 15.3% in 2005/6 to just 9.1% this year, with the number of elderly people simultaneously rising by 15.6%.

[Councils lack funding to tackle obesity – LGA](#)

Council leaders are warning that they do not have enough money in their public health budgets to tackle obesity once mandatory services, such as sexual health and drug and alcohol services, have been paid for.

[MPs concerned over lack of council support for single homeless people](#)

Three-quarters of MPs have been contacted by single homeless people who have been refused help from their local council, a new survey reveals.

[Councils consulted on sector-led improvement](#)

Council leaders and chiefs are being asked to give their opinions on sector-led improvement.

Employment powers devolved to boroughs under £11m work scheme

Almost 4,000 Londoners will be helped into work under an £11m scheme that will see boroughs claiming greater powers over their employment services.

County accused of wasting money on unitary bid

Oxford City Council and four district councils have united to reject calls for a single unitary council in Oxfordshire, claiming the savings possible have been 'vastly overstated'.

Council first to sign energy investment deal with Chinese firm

Peterborough City Council has become the first local authority in the UK to sign an investment partnership with a Chinese company to deliver energy efficiency projects throughout the city.

Council mergers could hurt local democracy warns report

The reorganisation of local government in Wales could deter new councillors from standing for election, a new report is warning.

Cardiff to cut senior management by a third

The senior management team at the City of Cardiff Council is to be cut by a third under plans to save £650,000.

Council unveils 'pop-up' temporary housing solution to cut waiting list

Lewisham Council has unveiled plans for an innovative 'pop-up' village, providing temporary homes for 24 families and space for community and business use.

£1.5bn public works civil engineering contractor appointed

Balfour Beatty has been appointed by Scape Group as the sole provider to a new four-year, £1.5bn national civil engineering and infrastructure framework for public works.

Birmingham City Council to sell the NEC

Birmingham City Council has agreed to sell NEC Group, including the NEC Exhibition Halls, the Genting Arena, the International Convention Centre (ICC) and the Barclaycard Arena, to LDC for £307m.

PAC 'sceptical' on whether HS2 can deliver value for money

The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) said they were "not convinced" that the current crop of expensive transport infrastructure projects overseen by the Department for Transport (DfT) are part of a clear strategic approach to investment in the rail network.

Sheffield council to cut 200 jobs and raise council tax

Sheffield City Council is set to cut 200 jobs and raise council tax by 1.99% as part of an effort to make savings of £63m.

Half of local welfare funding left unused by councils

A third of councils spent less than 40% of their local welfare allocation on direct financial assistance for vulnerable people last year, with almost half the £178m set aside by ministers for the schemes left unspent, a study has found.

4. Consultations

[Prevent duty](#)

The Counter-Terrorism and Security Bill, which is currently before Parliament, seeks to place a duty on specified authorities (identified in full in Schedule 3 to the bill, and set out in this draft guidance) to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. Closes 30th January 2015.

[31st January 2015](#) - Guidance for healthcare professionals on information sharing

[Schedule 7 to the Terrorism Act 2000: draft code of practice](#)

Schedule 7 to the Terrorism Act 2000 ('Schedule 7') allows an examining officer to stop and question individuals travelling through ports, airports, international rail stations or the border area. When necessary they may also detain and search individuals. The aim is to determine whether that person appears to be someone who is or has been concerned in the commission, preparation or instigation of acts of terrorism. Closes on 30th January 2015.

Privacy and Civil Liberties Board

Open date: 17/12/2014
Close date: 30/01/2015

Working together to safeguard children: revisions

Open date: 06/01/2015
Close date: 03/02/2015

Pre-charge bail: consultation on statutory time limits and related changes

Open date: 17/12/2014
Close date: 08/02/2015

[Consultation on 2015-16 Draft Budget Proposals](#)

Open date: 03/12/2014
Close date: 03/02/2015

[Waste crime: new regulations for dealing with seized property in suspected waste offences](#)

Consultation on proposals for new laws to allow the seizure of vehicles for suspected waste crime offences. The draft regulations will help us reduce illegal waste activity, giving enforcement authorities better tools to use in the investigation and prosecution of suspected offences. Close date 3rd February 2015.

[Improving police integrity: reforming the police complaints and disciplinary systems](#)

Consultation seeks views on proposals to reform the police complaints and disciplinary system.

[Improving police integrity: reforming the police complaints and disciplinary systems](#)

The Government is consulting on proposals for changes to the way in which complaints against the police are dealt with including transferring responsibility to Police and Crime Commissioners. The consultation is open until 5th February.

[Consultation on revisions to PACE Codes](#)

Open date: 14/11/2014

Close date: 06/02/2015

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

The government is consulting on a series of measures whose overall impact should be to reduce both the number of individuals subject to, and the average duration of, pre-charge bail. Closes on the 8th February 2015.

[Offences against the person](#)

The Law Commission is consulting on 'Offences against the person'. The consultation runs until 11th February 2015.

[Domestic abuse consultation](#)

The College of Policing is currently developing guidance on the subject of domestic abuse and is looking for feedback on the content of the guidance. The consultation is open until 18th February 2015.

[Use of Expert Witnesses in Courts in NI](#)

Open date: 13/11/2014

Close date: 20/02/2015

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

Open date: 01/12/2014

Close date: 27/02/2015

[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.

5. Reviews and Inspections

[Joint Inspectorates' report on YOTs and troubled families published](#)

Joint report by HMIC, HM Inspectorate of Probation, the Care Quality Commission and Ofsted was published on the role of Youth Offending Teams (YOTs) in the Troubled Families Programme by helping to reduce reoffending and tackling anti-social behaviour by children and young people.

[IPCC](#)

Independent investigation following death of a man in north-west London

[IPCC](#)

IPCC investigates death in Avon and Somerset Constabulary custody and appeals for witnesses

[IPCC](#)

Update on the IPCC investigation following the death of Henry Hicks

[Ofsted to inspect schools twice on the same day](#)

Ofsted plans to inspect some schools twice on the same day to test the reliability of its own inspectors' findings.

[Criminal Justice Joint Inspection](#)

The contribution of Youth Offending Teams to the work of the Troubled Families Programme in England.

HMIC: West Yorkshire Police national child protection inspection report

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) is inspecting the child protection work of every police force in England and Wales.

[Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation](#)

Girls in the Criminal Justice System.

[Full Joint Inspection of Youth Offending Work in Lambeth](#)