



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

[Parliament has now dissolved in preparation for the General election](#)

Manifesto watch: where parties stand on key issues

[Immigration Act 2014: appeals](#)

Policy guidance on the appeals process from the Immigration Act 2014.

['Legal highs' to be banned under temporary power](#)

Ban on five substances will come into force at 00:01 on Friday 10 April for up to 12 months.

www.asbtools.co.uk is a new website that allows practitioners to share their experiences of using the new ASB tools and powers which commenced on 20th October.

[Historic law to end Modern Slavery passed](#)

A landmark Bill to help eradicate modern slavery received Royal Assent. The Modern Slavery Act 2015 is the first of its kind in Europe, and one of the first in the world, to specifically address slavery and trafficking in the 21st century.

[The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 \(Risk of Being Drawn into Terrorism\) \(Amendment and Guidance\) Regulations 2015](#)

[Serious Crime Bill: overarching documents](#)

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

[Bill on PCC recall](#)

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

[Upcoming secondary legislation published](#)

2. Strategic policing and crime news

[New national rural crime network launches](#)

A new National Rural Crime Network, endorsed by eighteen (18) of the UK's Police and Crime Commissioners, has been set up to help tackle rural crime more effectively in England and Wales.

[Serious violence in England and Wales drops 10% in 2014](#)

Numbers of people injured in serious violence dropped by 10% in 2014 compared to 2013, according to an England and Wales study by Cardiff University.

[Home Office publishes police recorded crime open data tables](#)

The data tables contain police recorded crime figures broken down by Community Safety Partnership, quarterly period and individual offence code.

[Immigration Rules](#)

The Immigration Rules are some of the most important pieces of legislation that make up the UK's immigration law. They are updated on a regular basis and all changes can be found in the [Immigration Rules: statement of changes](#).

[IPCC Annual statistics on complaints](#)

We have published [police complaint statistics for 2013/14 and 2012/13](#).

Key findings include:

- a total of 34,863 complaints were recorded during 2013/14. This is a 15% increase compared with 2012/13
- in 2013/14, 3,134 appeals about the handling of a complaint were made to police chief officers and 4,079 appeals were made to the IPCC
- in 2013/14, 20% of appeals completed by police chief officers were upheld and 46% of appeals completed by the IPCC were upheld

[Guidance for non-club transfers](#)

These are guidance documents provided by the Government Actuary's Department. Police pension schemes.

3. Developments and reports

[New era for child protection in Scotland](#)

Police Scotland has launched its National Child Abuse Investigation Unit, designed to support officers involved in complex child abuse cases across the country. The unit is made up of specially-trained local policing teams, and will provide 'consistent, high quality support for robust investigations'.

[Demand Profile for Greater Manchester Police](#)

Greater Manchester Police have produced an infographic which outlines the demand faced by Greater Manchester Police based on the recent work done by College of Police.

[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.

[Prison population figures: 2015](#)

Latest prison population figures for 2015.

[Solihull officers keep the peace](#)

West Midlands officers delivered on their promise of 'business as usual' in Solihull at the weekend, policing a leafleting campaign carried out by the English Defence League. Around 70 EDL supporters occupied Brueton gardens in the town on Saturday (18 April), ostensibly to protest a planning application for a local Muslim cemetery. At the same time, 40 anti-fascist protestors met in nearby Golden Jubilee gardens.

[Northumbria PCC: victims' charity is best for region](#)

The Ministry of Justice has confirmed that Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner Vera Baird will not be investigated over her involvement with local charity Victims First. The announcement follows an initial questioning of the PCC's decision-making, after she awarded the charity a reported figure of around £500,000. The charity - of which Baird is a director - helps provide care to victims of crime in the region.

[Drugscope](#)

Report on Mental health and substance misuse.

[Manchester Metropolitan University](#)

Report on Alcohol and other Drug Use: The Roles and Capabilities of Social Workers.

[Fed to PCs: make your feelings known](#)

The Police Federation is urging officers to take part in a new survey looking at issues around pay and morale. The survey has been put together by the Fed in conjunction with the Police Superintendents' Association. It follows on from a similar initiative carried out at the end of last year, which ultimately revealed that officer morale was at an all-time low.

[Scottish force warns against legal highs](#)

Police Scotland has reacted with enthusiasm to the temporary banning of five chemicals related to 'new psychoactive substances' or legal highs.

[College 'fast track' scrutiny under way](#)

Testing of the 113 people that made it through to the second stage of the College of Policing's fast track officer programme has begun at the Service's new national assessment centre.

['People power' could cut cost of public service says report](#)

Councils have been urged to develop initiatives that encourage a more active contribution from the public, as a new report hails the benefits of public engagement.

[Councils at risk of becoming irrelevant, says report](#)

A [paper](#) released by *NLGN* with the support of *Socrata* today warns that if councils fail to understand and harness the power of data they risk making themselves irrelevant to their citizens.

[Tower Hamlets mayor found guilty of corrupt practices](#)

Mayor's Lutfur Rahman's election victory at Tower Hamlets has been declared void after the controversial figure was found guilty of corrupt and illegal practices.

[Council sued over wheelchair access to polling station](#)

A council is being sued for failing to ensure a disabled resident could access a polling station, in a national first. Wheelchair user Adam Lotun claims he was left unable to vote in last year's European and local elections because a ramp and drop to the floor blocked him from entering the polling site in Kingstone.

[Vague manifesto tax pledges leaving voters 'in the dark', says IFS](#)

Leading public finance experts have condemned the main political parties' manifesto spending pledges for refusing to spell out the detail of where funding would be cut.

[Trust in council data security 'dangerously low', finds poll](#)

Almost a third of people don't trust their council to protect personal data online, with outsourcing raising key concerns - a poll has revealed.

[Majority of English public back borrow-to-build](#)

More than half of people in England would support the next government borrowing money to build more affordable homes, according to a new survey.

[Council report calls Welsh local authority reform plans 'wrong in principle'](#)

Welsh government plans to reorganise local authorities have been described as "wrong in principle, unduly prescriptive and unworkable in practice" in a council report

[Head teachers call for local agency to commission school places](#)

A local agency able to commission both new schools and places across maintained, academy and free schools is needed, the NAHT (National Association of Head Teachers) has claimed.

[Integration won't solve all financial woes, says new ADASS chief](#)

The future of health and social care has to combine "integration" with a "sustainable financial" settlement for both, the new president of the Association of Directors of Adult Social Service has said.

[Two candidates put themselves forward for interim GM mayor role](#)

Two Labour veterans are set to go head-to-head in the race to become the interim mayor of Greater Manchester. Wigan council leader and current chair of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority Lord Peter Smith and police and crime commissioner Tony Lloyd have emerged as the only two candidates to put their names forward for the role.

[Foreign Office permanent secretary to step down in July](#)

The Foreign Office permanent secretary, Sir Simon Fraser, has announced he will step down in July after five years in the job. Sir Simon joined the FCO in 1979, rising to the top job in

2010. While at the department he specialised in Europe, international economic policy and the Middle East. He served in Baghdad, Damascus, Paris and Brussels.

[Devolution will bring maximum value for every taxpayer pound](#)

With pressure on government expenditure unlikely to abate any time soon, devolution can help drive maximum value for every taxpayer pound, the head of Localis, the leading local government think tank, has stated.

[Extending Right to Buy won't solve housing crisis – CIH](#)

A key Conservative manifesto pledge to extend the Right to Buy to housing associations won't solve the country's housing crisis and is more likely to make it worse, according to the Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH).

[Protected defence spending could leave councils at risk, warns Kerslake](#)

Council budgets could be squeezed even further in a post-election spending round, as ministers are likely to protect the country's defence budget due to political pressure, the former head of the Civil Service has suggested.

[Record numbers register to vote in last minute rush](#)

A record 485,012 people registered to vote on Monday, as the enrolment deadline closed ahead of May's General Election.

[UK 'ashamed' as foodbank use reaches historic high](#)

A record one million people received at least three days of emergency help from foodbanks run by the Trussell Trust last year, figures reveal.

[Councils and businesses need to work together](#)

A senior local authority executive has called for Nottinghamshire councils and businesses to work together ahead of cuts. The Deputy Chief Executive of [Nottinghamshire County Council](#) [Jayne Francis-Ward](#) has suggested the current model in place for the public sector would not be viable if cutbacks continued.

4. Consultations

[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.

[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

[Sentencing Council tackles dangerous dogs](#)

The Sentencing Council has published proposals for how courts should sentence people convicted of dangerous dog offences. The consultation is open until 9th June 2015.

[Nice Domestic Violence Quality Standard Upcoming Consultation](#)

Nice are seeking views and comments on the draft guidance and guidelines for Domestic Violence from the Quality standards programme. The Consultation will run from 11 May to 9 June.

[Ashfield Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report](#)

The Council has undertaken a Review of the Ashfield Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report. The Review is out for consultation over the period 16th March to 30th April 2015.

[College of Policing published the Leadership Review interim report](#)

The College is seeking feedback on the 10 recommendations from the report and the APCC is planning to compile a co-ordinated response on behalf of Police and Crime Commissioners, under the auspices of the Workforce and EDHR Standing Group.

[Open access restriction at Cooplaw: how to comment](#)

Open date: 17/04/2015

Close date: 15/05/2015

5. Reviews and Inspections

[HM Inspector of Probation](#)

A joint inspection of the treatment of offenders with learning disabilities within the criminal justice system - phase two in custody and the community.