



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

[Amendments to the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001](#)

Summary of the 2015 amendments of the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001 that will affect vets.

[Summary of the Finance Bill 2015-16](#)

A Bill to grant certain duties, to alter other duties, and to amend the law relating to the National Debt and the Public Revenue, and to make further provision in connection with finance.

[Finance Bill: Explanatory notes](#)

The explanatory notes to the Finance Bill have now been published.

[Psychoactive Substances Bill](#)

[Welfare Reform and Work Bill](#)

[The Female Genital Mutilation Protection Order \(Relevant Third Party\) Regulations 2015](#)

[The Serious Crime Act 2015 \(Commencement No. 2\) Regulations 2015](#)

[The Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 \(Temporary Class Drug\) \(No. 2\) Order 2015](#)

[The Civil and Criminal Legal Aid \(Amendment\) Regulations 2015](#)

[The Criminal Legal Aid \(Remuneration etc.\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2015](#)

[The Deregulation Act 2015 \(Commencement No. 2 and Transitional Provisions\) Order 2015](#)

[The Civil Legal Aid \(Merits Criteria\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2015](#)

[The Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015](#)

[The Control of Major Accident Hazards \(Amendment\) Regulations 2015](#)

[Modern Slavery Act 2015](#)

[Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill](#)

[European Union Referendum Bill](#)

[Extremism Bill](#)

[Investigatory Powers Bill](#)

[Policing and Criminal Justice Bill](#)

[Psychoactive Substances Bill](#)

[Age of Criminal Responsibility Bill](#)

[Advertising of Prostitution \(Prohibition\) Bill](#)

[Rehabilitation of Offenders Bill](#)

[Regulation of Political Opinion Polling Bill](#)

2. Strategic policing and crime news

[Consultation on proposals to reform the police funding formula](#)

One of the government's key priorities in this new parliament is to continue the ambitious programme of police reforms taken forward over the last five years. This includes putting police funding on a long-term, sustainable footing.

[Spending Review launched by Chancellor](#)

Chancellor launches Spending Review 2015, the next stage in the government's plan to fix the nation's finances. The review, which will be published on 25 November 2015, will set out how the government will both invest in priority public services and deliver the £20 billion further savings required to eliminate Britain's deficit by 2019/2020.

[Spending Review 2015: What it means](#)

In this video, Chancellor George Osborne explains the next stage in the government's plan to fix the nation's finances.

[NPCC Chair Sara Thornton: We must "re-imagine" policing in the UK](#)

Chief Constable Sara Thornton has today argued that the twin challenges of changing requirements and cost pressure mean that we have to think imaginatively and radically about policing.

[Reshaping policing for the public](#)

A discussion paper from the advisory group on the national debate on policing in austerity.

[Home Secretary announces an independent review of deaths and serious incidents in police custody](#)

Home Secretary [Theresa May](#) has announced an independent review of deaths and serious incidents in police custody.

[Home Office sustainability report published](#)

Describes the department's efforts to achieve a balance between ensuring a fairer society, protecting the environment and supporting sustainable economic growth.

[Extradition, UK law and practice: the government's response to the second report from the select committee on extradition law](#)

The government's response to the second report from the select committee on extradition, UK law and practice.

[National Crime Agency Remuneration Review Body 2nd report: 2015](#)

Recommendations from the NCA Remuneration Review Body (NCARRB) on the pay and allowances of NCA officers with operational powers.

[Public Accounts Committee discusses NAO report on police financial sustainability](#)

The Public Accounts Committee met on 13 July and discussed the National Audit Office report on the financial sustainability of police forces in England and Wales. The Committee is now chaired by the Rt Hon Meg Hillier MP.

[National Crime Agency's annual report published](#)

The second annual report of the National Crime Agency (NCA).

[Home Office circular 024/2015 published on Modern Slavery Act](#)

Home Office circular 024/2015: Modern Slavery Act 2015 was published on 9 July and sets out details of the Act.

[Michael Gove speech on prisons](#)

[Extremism and cohesion speech by the PM](#)

[Female Genital Mutilation Protection Orders come into force](#)

FGM Protection Orders under the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003, amended by section 73, Serious Crime Act 2015 commenced on 17th July 2015. The orders protect girls under 18 but also vulnerable female adults over 18 years.

[Home Secretary announces water cannon decision](#)

Theresa May has announced that she would not authorise water cannon as a policing tactic for operational use in England and Wales. Before she made her decision, a full independent

review of the medical implications of water cannon and a further review of the latest police guidance, training and maintenance documents were completed.

[Undercover policing inquiry](#)

The Home Secretary has announced the terms of reference to the undercover policing inquiry.

[Cabinet Office publishes memberships of Cabinet Committees](#)

[Girl Summit anniversary: one year on](#)

Speech by Justine Greening at Canada House, marking one year on since Girl Summit 2014 and reflecting on the progress made.

[Voice of the Child conference](#)

Family Justice Minister Caroline Dinenage addressed the third annual Family Justice and Young People's Board Voice of the Child conference.

3. Developments and reports

[Police will enforce drug laws in a way that is appropriate to the circumstances](#)

The job of police officers is to enforce the law and they will use the range of options available to them when dealing with those found in possession of cannabis or who cultivate the plant.

[Declaration on UK government progress since Girl Summit 2014](#)

A cross-government declaration outlining the UK's progress on the issue of female genital mutilation (FGM).

[Police use new FGM control orders for the first time](#)

On the day that control orders to protect girls from female genital mutilation, Bedfordshire Police uses them to prevent two girls travelling to Somalia for the illegal operation

[NPCC welcomes review into deaths in police custody](#)

The NPCC welcomes the announcement by Home Secretary Theresa May for an independent review of deaths and serious incidents in police custody and will fully support the review team.

[Justice Committee announces inquiry into courts and tribunals fees](#)

The Justice Committee has decided to hold an inquiry into the effects of the introduction and levels of courts and tribunals fees and charges.

[Justice Committee announces inquiry into treatment of young adult offenders](#)

The Justice Select Committee has decided to hold an inquiry into the treatment of young adult offenders in the criminal justice system.

[Police use of firearms stats 'reflect professionalism of armed officers'](#)

New Home Office statistics have revealed that armed police in England and Wales only fired their weapons twice over the course of 14,864 operations that took place from 2013-2014.

[Crash deaths prompt urgent review of Police Scotland call handling](#)

The Scottish justice secretary has launched an urgent review of all police call handling in Scotland in response to the deaths of two young people after officers failed to respond to a report of a motorway crash for more than three days.

[Long-serving Greater Manchester Police chief to retire](#)

The chief constable of Greater Manchester Police, Sir Peter Fahy, has said he will retire later this year.

[Mate crime 'staggeringly high' in Merseyside](#)

The number of people with autism and Asperger's syndrome in Merseyside being subjected to mate crime is 'staggeringly high' according to a report from Wirral Autistic Society - and the most vulnerable age group is 16 to 25.

[Youth Offending Teams – stocktake report published](#)

The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) commissioned Deloitte to undertake a stocktake of Youth Offending Teams (YOTs) in England and Wales to assess how the model has evolved in different areas and nationally. The stocktake was published on 15 July and the MoJ is considering the recommendations.

[Annual report by Chief Inspector of Prisons published](#)

This annual report by Chief Inspector of Prisons, Nick Hardwick.

[Guidance published on handling crimes in prison](#)

A protocol on the appropriate handling of crimes in prison was published by the Ministry of Justice.

[Gangs using homeless children to expand drug lines warns report](#)

Children that have runaway or been declared missing are being used by gangs to expand inner city drug rings into county towns, according to a report by the Missing People charity and the Catch22 Dawes Unit.

[Councils urged to 'step up' support for survivors of FGM](#)

Politicians and policy makers at all levels are being urged to act on a new report mapping out the prevalence of female genital mutilation across England and Wales.

[Ministry of Justice](#)

Impact of changes to civil legal aid under Part 1 of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012.

[Ministry of Justice](#)

Stocktake of youth offending teams.

[Our study reveals extent of income generation in local government](#)

The way local authorities are using commercial methods to secure financial stability has been highlighted in a new study by LGN and The MJ, in partnership with think tank Localis.

[Prison education must be 'overhauled', Michael Gove says](#)

Education in prisons must be overhauled to reduce re-offending and make prisoners more employable, the justice secretary has said.

Victorian prisons to be closed as Govt vows to replace 'ageing and ineffective' Victorian jails

Justice secretary Michael Gove has promised to shut down and replace "ageing and ineffective" Victorian jails, using funds from the sale of sites for new buildings to replace them.

Councils warned they could face 40% extra spending cuts

The Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) has been warned it could face further budget cuts of up to 40%, when the 2015 spending review is published in November this year.

Justice Committee - First Special Report: Women offenders

The Justice Committee published its First Special Report *Women offenders: follow-up: Government response to the Committee's Thirteenth Report of Session 2014–15* at 11.00am on 23 July 2015.

National Audit Office

Care leavers' transitions to adulthood. The system for supporting young people leaving foster or residential care in England is not "working effectively" and support varies widely between local authorities, the National Audit Office (NAO) has found.

Quarter of 'frustrated' LAs not preparing for universal credit

A quarter of local authorities have not even started making preparations to switch to **universal credit** and are frustrated about the confusion surrounding the transition, according to a report by Ipsos MORI carried out on behalf of the DWP.

Free feasibility study to boost eight shortlisted Taxi Scheme bids

The eight shortlisted winners of a £20m fund to increase the number of local plug-in taxis have each received a government-backed feasibility study into environmentally-friendly travel opportunities in their area.

DWP 'not on track' for achieving fraud and error reductions

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) is "not on track" for delivering its spending review target for reducing fraud and error, the National Audit Office (NAO) has revealed.

Cuts to social housing rents will end up costing councils £2.6bn – LGA

Government proposals to cut rents paid by social housing tenants by 1% a year will cost councils £2.6bn by the end of this government, new analysis by the LGA has revealed.

Council spending drops by 32% since 2010

Council spending has fallen by almost a third since 2010, with housing and planning suffering the biggest losses.

Osborne announces another £20bn in departmental cuts

Chancellor George Osborne has announced an additional £20bn in cuts in an effort to "finish the job of fixing public finances", according to a **government report** released today (21 July).

Delay to elderly care costs cap 'understandable and inevitable' – ADASS

The Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) says the government's decision to delay the cap on care costs at £72,000 until 2020 is "understandable and inevitable".

DCLG criticised for failing to monitor housebuilding

MPs have been told that the DCLG did not monitor housebuilding after it released land for development due to fears about the "burden" being put on developers.

Councils call for 'collective accountability' on educational success

Council leaders have stated that student performance shouldn't be judged on "short-term measures" such as exam league tables and Ofsted inspections, but instead on where people are finding employment or further learning opportunities once they have left school.

IFS study: 63% of children in poverty live in working families

The proportion of children in poverty living in a working family has increased in the last five years, an Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) report into living standards has revealed.

National Housing Federation

A Plan for Homes: Working with Housing Associations to End the Housing Crisis.

New Local Government Network

Fire Works - A collaborative way forward for the fire and rescue services

Youth Justice Board

YFB annual report and accounts 2014 – 2015.

'Revolving door' approach must be changed

The 'revolving door' approach to patients leaving hospital can be confusing for older people and must be changed, campaigners have warned.

Government sends commissioner to Sunderland after damning Ofsted inspection

The Government has stepped in to fast-track improvement at Sunderland City Council after inspectors found 'serious failings' in services for children and young people.

New victims' representative appointing to Sentencing Council

Mark Castle, Chief Executive of Victim Support, has been appointed to the Sentencing Council as its victims' representative. The appointment is for an initial term of 3 years.

Overwhelming support for restorative justice

A poll carried out by Ipsos MORI on behalf of the Restorative Justice Council found that 77% of people think that victims should have the right to meet their offender.

Department for Communities and Local Government

English Housing Survey - Households 2013-14.

Social housing lettings in England: April 2013 to March 2014.

Home Office

A summary of recorded crime data from 1898 to 2001/2.

[A summary of recorded crime data from March 2003 to year ending March 2015](#)

[Crime outcomes in England and Wales 2014 to 2015](#)

[Police recorded crime open data tables](#)

[Offences recorded by the police in England and Wales by offence and police force area from year ending March 2003 to year ending March 2015](#)

[Office for National Statistics](#)

Crime in England and Wales, Year Ending March 2015.

[Alcohol Research UK](#)

All in the mind? The effect of beliefs about alcohol on alcohol binges.

[Centre for Crime and Justice Studies](#)

UK Justice Policy Review Volume 4.

[Demos](#)

Character and moderation: encouraging the next generation of responsible drinkers.

[Department of Health](#)

Public health commissioning in the NHS 2015 to 2016.

[Institute of Alcohol Studies](#)

Alcohol's harm to others.

[Inquiry opens into future of devolution](#)

An inquiry into devolution and constitutional reform has been launched today, calling for evidence on 'sustainable' funding for local government.

[15m workers urged to join public health workforce](#)

Hairdressers, cleaners and firemen have been urged to support efforts to improve public health, in a new report published. The report, from the Royal Society for Public Health (RSPH), calls on the 15 million workers who have regular contact with the public to support public health activities.

[Council spending falls by a third](#)

Council spending in England has plummeted by a third over the course of the last parliament, finance bosses have warned.

[North East drops opposition to explore elected mayor](#)

The North East Combined Authority (neca) is considering installing an elected mayor in a bid to deliver local devolution, despite previous opposition towards the idea.

[Reducing social rents will cost councils £2.6 billion by 2019/20 says LGA](#)

Proposals to reduce rents paid by tenants in social housing in England by 1 per cent a year will cost councils £2.6 billion by 2019/20, new analysis reveals today.

[West Midlands leaders agree power sharing deal](#)

Each of the seven councils in the [West Midlands Combined Authority \(WMCA\)](#) is poised to take responsibility over a different regional portfolio.

[Fracking U-turn sparks fears of drilling in wildlife sites](#)

A Government U-turn on pledges to protect Britain's important wildlife locations from fracking could 'ruin' hundreds of conservation sites, campaigners have warned.

[Councils face pressure on pay and equality under national campaign](#)

Councils are set to come under mounting pressure to tackle poverty and inequality under a national campaign. The Equality Trust's 'Make My Council Fair' project is encouraging members of the public to lobby their local authorities into making 'concrete and practical' changes including introducing fairer pay structures.

[Councils warn living wage will cost £1bn by 2020](#)

Councils will have to find more than £1bn a year by 2020/21 to cover the costs of the new National Living Wage, according to estimates by the Local Government Association (LGA).

[Cornwall first to gain 'historic devolution deal'](#)

Cornwall Council has become the first rural county to be given new devolution powers after signing an historic [devolution deal](#) with the Government.

[Budget 2015: Osborne clamps down on high earners in social housing](#)

High earners living in social housing will no longer be entitled to reduced rents, under plans announced in today's Emergency Budget.

[Borough cracks down on 'buy-to-leave' homes](#)

Islington Council has adopted new planning measures to stop the rise of 'buy-to-leave' properties by ensuring owners do not leave their homes empty for more than three months.

[Cities urged to enter £10m Internet of Things competition](#)

Cities are being encouraged to bid for a £10m government fund to demonstrate how the Internet of Things (IoT) can benefit citizens in a city region.

[Union paves the way for illegal strike action](#)

Britain's largest union has erased a clause in its rulebook requiring strikes to remain legal, ahead of the introduction of [tighter controls on industrial action](#).

4. Consultations

[Tackling the hidden economy: Extension of data-gathering powers](#)

A consultation on the best way to implement extended data-gathering powers. Closes 14 October 2015.

[Consultation on the draft statutory multi-agency practice guidance on Female Genital Mutilation \(FGM\)](#)

This consultation seeks views on the draft statutory multi-agency practice guidance on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) for frontline professionals in England and Wales.

[Consultation on future social care health topics](#)

The Health and Social Care Act 2012 set out a responsibility for NICE to develop quality standards and guidelines for social care in England. In 2013, the Department of Health (DH) ran a consultation to identify social care topics suitable for developing into NICE guidelines and quality standards. An initial set of topics has been referred by the DH and Department for Education (DfE). Consultation open until 9 October 2015.

[Written statement on Consulting on revisions to the Victims' Code](#)

The previous government updated the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime (the Victims' Code) in 2013 to give victims clear entitlements - including the right to ask to read their personal statement to the court - and to give greater flexibility to core criminal justice agencies to tailor services according to individual need. The Government is consulting on some additional changes we plan to make to the Victims' Code as part of our commitment to implement the EU Victims' Directive by 16 November 2015.

[Consultation on Proceeds of Crime Act](#)

The Home Office has opened a consultation as the operation of certain powers within POCA are subject to guidance issued by the Secretary of State. The existing codes need to be updated due to provisions in the Serious Crime Act 2015. The consultation runs until 2nd October 2015.

[Law Commission lays out DoLS replacement in consultation](#)

The Law Commission has unveiled its proposals for a framework to replace what it calls the "deeply flawed" Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS). Consultation is open until the 2 November 2015.

[Office of Rail and Road: Highways England: enforcement policy](#)

This document sets out how we intend to enforce compliance by Highways England with the Road Investment Strategy and statutory directions and guidance issued to it by the Secretary of State, as well as the options available to us in taking enforcement action (both statutory and non-statutory) against Highways England. Closing date 25 September.

[The Law Commission: Transition to the New Sentencing Code](#)

The law on sentencing affects all criminal cases, and is applied in hundreds of thousands of trials and thousands of appeals each year. Currently, the law lacks coherence and clarity: it is spread across many statutes, and frequent updates are brought into force at different times by different statutory instruments and have a variety of transitional arrangements. Closing date 26 August.

[Cabinet Office: Third Party Campaigning Review: call for views and evidence](#)

Closing date 31 July.

[Consultation on human trafficking](#)

Open date: 29/05/2015

Close date: 29/07/2015

[Public consultation on proposed topics for the 2021 Census questionnaire in England and Wales](#)

Open date: 04/06/2015

Close date: 27/08/2015

Consultation on Proposal for a Cyber Resilience Strategy for Scotland

Open date: 05/06/2015

Close date: 28/08/2015

5. Reviews and Inspections

HMIC consults on joint inspections

On 16 July, HMIC published its consultation on joint inspections with Ofsted, the Care Quality Commission and HMI Probation. The closing date for responses is 11 August.

HMIC inspects South Wales Police on duty to protect children

HMIC reported on 14 July that South Wales Police carries out its duty of child protection well in a number of areas but inspectors found concerning areas where the service fell short.

HM Inspectorate of Prisons publishes prisoner communications report - majority of calls to MPs listened to in error

There is no evidence of a widespread, deliberate attempt to monitor communications between prisoners and MPs and the majority of calls were downloaded for listening in error, said Nick Hardwick, Chief Inspector of Prisons. He has published a report of the second stage of an inquiry into prison communications.

HM Inspectorate of Prisons: Prisons in decline across all areas, warns Chief Inspector

Outcomes in prisons reported on by the inspectorate declined across all areas in 2014-15 and were the worst for ten years, said Nick Hardwick, Chief Inspector of Prisons. Today he published his last annual report before his term of office ends in January next year. However, the small number of women's prisons and establishments holding children had not declined in the same way as adult men's prisons, he added. All of the prisons inspectors were most concerned about in 2013-14 which had been inspected in 2014-15 had made significant improvements thanks to effective leadership, very hard work by staff and some investment in the environment.

Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary

In harm's way - the role of the police in keeping children safe.

Building the picture: an inspection of police information management

HMIC conducted a review of the business processes which police forces in England and Wales use to collect, record, process, evaluate and share information.