



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

[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 assault 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](#)

[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](#)

The Police (Promotion) (Amendment) Regulations 2015

SI 2014/3285 Crime and Courts Act 2013 (Commencement No 1) (England and Wales) Order 2014

In force **2 March 2015**, this Order is the first commencement order relating only to England and Wales made under the Crime and Courts Act 2013. It brings into force in England and Wales, section 56 of that Act together with Schedule 22 to that Act, which deal with drugs and driving.

SI 2015/82 The Sexual Offences Act 2003 (Prescribed Police Stations) Regulations 2015

These Regulations, which came into force on **25 February 2015** and extend to England and Wales only, revoke and replace the Sexual Offences Act 2003 (Prescribed Police Stations) Regulations 2013 (SI 2013/300).

SI 2015/142 The Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) (Amendment) Regulations 2015

These Regulations, which come into force on **9 March 2015**, amend the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986 (the 1986 Regulations).

SI 2015/138 The Dangerous Dogs Exemption Schemes (England and Wales) Order 2015

This Order, which came into force on **3 March 2015**, extends to England and Wales.

SI 2015/212 The Football Spectators (Corresponding Offences) (Revocation) Order 2015

This Order, which comes into force on **11 March 2015**, revokes the Orders in Council listed in the Schedule to the Order.

SI 2015/206 The Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 (External Investigations) (Scotland) Order 2015

This Order, which comes into force on **16 March 2015**, extends to Scotland only.

SI 2015/232 The Misuse of Drugs (Designation) (Amendment) (England, Wales and Scotland) Order 2015

This Order, which comes into force on **11 March 2015**, extends to England and Wales and Scotland.

SI 2015/ 231 The Misuse of Drugs (Amendment) (England, Wales and Scotland) Regulations 2015

These Regulations, which come into force on **11 March 2015**, extend to England and Wales and Scotland.

SI 2015/228 The Regulation of Investigatory Powers (Communications Data) (Amendment) Order 2015

This Order, which came into force on **12 February 2015**, amends the Regulation of Investigatory Powers (Communications Data) Order 2010 (the 2010 Order).

SI 2015/217 The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (Code of Practice for Officers exercising functions under Schedule 1) Regulations 2015

These Regulations came into force on **13 February 2015**.

SI 2015/215 The Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 (Amendment) Order 2015

This Order which comes into force on **11 March 2015**, brings certain drugs under the control of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 ('the Act').

SI 2015/242 The Motor Vehicles (Wearing of Seat Belts) (Amendment) Regulations 2015

These Regulations came into force on **3 March 2015**.

[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.

2. Strategic policing and crime news

[ACS: Home Affairs Select Committee Slams Out-of-Court Disposals](#)

The Home Affairs select committee have criticised police use of out-of-court disposals, stating they are used inappropriately in up to 30% of cases. In a report published today, the committee raised concerns that persistent and serious offences were being dealt with through out-of-court disposals when they ought to have been prosecuted at court. ACS research has shown that 1 in 4 shop thieves are repeat offenders, contributing to a £35m annual loss to the sector.

[Home Office](#)

Crime outcomes in England and Wales 2013 to 2014.

[Guidance on Part 2 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003](#)

Guidance for police and practitioners regarding the legislation under Part 2 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003.

[Defence Secretary discusses shared threats with Middle East partners](#)

Defence Secretary [Michael Fallon](#) has met key ministers in Saudi Arabia and Oman to discuss regional security and international action to counter ISIL during a tour of the Middle East.

The Home Secretary has announced that the Home Office will work with Surrey and Sussex police forces to develop a prototype for people to report non-emergency crime on www.police.uk. This will give victims greater choice over how they report issues to the police and could eventually be made available across England and Wales.

[International cooperation more vital than ever, says Police Scotland](#)

Police Scotland has strengthened its ties with Europol following a two-day visit to Scotland by the European crime agency's director Rob Wainright this week. According to the force, the main item on the agenda was partnership working, with discussions taking in the increased [international sharing of intelligence](#), joint investigations and multi-agency work.

[Government report shows continued need for cyber security spending](#)

The JCNSS has published its latest report, looking at the next National Security Strategy which is expected to be published after the General Election. In its report the Committee said that the next NSS should look hard at the UK's place within the international order, and what strategic thinking should underpin its actions over the next five years. It also needs to influence the Comprehensive Spending Review, to ensure that the Government can make fully-informed decisions on security-related spending. The next NSS should set clear objectives for the UK's future place in the world and geopolitical priorities, and inform the Strategic Defence and Security Review's assessment of the means required to achieve them.

[NCA steps up game to combat cybercrime](#)

The National Crime Agency has launched a week of activity to help businesses guard against [cybercrime](#). The action follows what the organisation calls a number of recent 'high-profile malware threats' to the UK, and consists of providing customised intelligence reports for hosting companies and service providers.

[57 arrested in nationwide cyber crime strike week](#)

Working with partners in law enforcement, industry and government, the National Crime Agency (NCA) has this week (2-6 March) coordinated an intensive period of UK-wide action against cyber crime.

[Draft code of practice for police and border officials on seizing travel documents](#)

The Home Office have published the draft code of practice for officers exercising functions under Schedule 1 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (the 2015 Act) in connection with seizing and retaining travel documents.

[Office for National Statistics publish updated statistical release on police workforce for England and Wales](#)

The Office for National Statistics has published an updated statistical release which covers police officers, police staff, police community support officers (PCSOs), designated officers, traffic wardens and special constables in post on 30 September 2014 in the 43 police forces of England and Wales and the British Transport Police.

[CSPL publishes update note on area visits for policing inquiry](#)

The Committee on Standards in Public Life completed the final of five visits to police areas as part of the [inquiry](#) into local policing leadership, ethics and accountability. Area visits were held in the West Midlands, Essex, Manchester, Northumbria and Warwickshire.

3. Developments and reports

[Home Office publishes terms of reference on bribery and corruption enforcement](#)

The [UK Anti-Corruption Plan](#) announced that the government would review the enforcement response to bribery and corruption more broadly. It would determine how to go even further in prosecuting and disrupting those who engage in bribery, corruption and associated economic crimes or hide the proceeds. The Plan said the review would include a full consideration of the powers, capabilities and structures involved in the response to bribery and corruption.

[All Party Parliamentary Group on Domestic and Sexual Violence](#)

The Changing Landscape of Domestic and Sexual Violence Services.

[Ministry of Justice](#)

Response to the Victims' Commissioner's Review of Complaints and Resolution for Victims of Crime.

[Supporting young victims of crime](#)

Victim Support has launched a new website to support young victims of crime - You & Co.

[MOJ grant agreement with Victim Support to operate the national homicide service](#)

Redacted version of the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) grant agreement with Victim Support to operate the nationally commissioned Homicide Service from 1 October 2014.

[Minister of Justice support for rape and sexual violence victims](#)

The minister met staff and volunteers at the Birmingham Rape and Sexual Violence Project (BRSVP) as part of a visit to the West Midlands where he was able to see how Ministry of Justice (MOJ) funding helps create a safe and secure environment for vulnerable victims to help them move on with their lives wherever possible.

[Home Secretary publishes Government response to Rotherham reports](#)

The Home Secretary laid a Written Ministerial Statement in Parliament on the Government's response to Professor Alexis Jay's report on child sexual exploitation in Rotherham and Louise Casey's follow up report on the performance of Rotherham Council.

[Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs](#)

Prevention of drug and alcohol dependence.

[Almost 150 addicts to every rehab bed in England, warns CSJ](#)

There are 138 addicts for every residential rehabilitation bed in England, according to a think-tank which outlines bold plans to build a new generation of treatment services.

[Home Office](#)

Drug strategy annual review, 2014 to 2015.

[Home Affairs Select Committee](#)

Gangs and youth crime.

[Ministry of Justice](#)

Reoffending analysis of MAPPA eligible offenders.

[Department for Communities and Local Government](#)

The Alcohol Fund: end of project report.

[Equality and Human Rights Commission](#)

Preventing Deaths in Detention of Adults with Mental Health Conditions.

[Business and technology companies urged to unite against slavery](#)

The Minister for Modern Slavery and Organised Crime Karen Bradley has called on business and technology leaders to work together to tackle modern slavery at a major two-day event in London.

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

Summary of consultation.

[Council admits failure to protect young people from sexual grooming](#)

More than 350 young people in Oxfordshire have been victims of sexual exploitation over the last 15 years, according to a serious case review. The review, published by the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board, found Oxfordshire County Council had failed to act upon the child sex grooming scandal, which saw seven men imprisoned for a total of 95 years as part of Operation Bullfinch.

[Social workers 'deeply disturbed' by findings of serious case review](#)

The serious case review into [the grooming of young girls in Oxfordshire](#) will have 'far-reaching consequences' for the way child sexual exploitation is handled, according to social workers. The College of Social Work says the [findings of the review](#) are 'deeply disturbing' and should lead to changes in the way exploitation is dealt with by frontline staff and leaders.

[Council staff could face prison for failing to protect children](#)

Public officials who fail to act on suspicions of child abuse could face five-year prison sentences under new measures unveiled. Prime minister, David Cameron, said council chiefs, social workers and teachers who fail to protect children could face criminal action to help 'eradicate the culture of denial'.

[ATL comment on government plans to protect children from sexual exploitation](#)

Commenting on the Government's new measures to tackle child sexual exploitation, Dr Mary Bousted, general secretary of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers (ATL).

[Lords to report on Extradition Law](#)

The House of Lords Select Committee on Extradition Law will publish its report on Tuesday 10 March. The Committee investigated how fit for purpose the UK's extradition law was for today's world. It considered a range of issues including how the system protected human rights, whether the European Arrest Warrant had improved extradition arrangements between EU Member States and the UK's extradition treaty with the US.

[What is the Crime Reduction Toolkit?](#)

The College and the Economic and Social Research Council have co-funded a consortium led by University College London (UCL) to identify and label all the existing reviews of research evidence on interventions to reduce crime. The Crime Reduction Toolkit allows the results of this work to be viewed in one place online.

[Women urged to speak out about abuse concerns](#)

A new fund has been launched to help women report child sexual exploitation, amid fears some may feel uncomfortable reporting concerns to the authorities. The £250,000 Women's Empowerment Fund is being made available to voluntary and community groups to help women report abuse within their communities.

[CSJ: Charities warn against drug legalisation on eve of Clegg announcement](#)

A new poll of over 100 charities by the think-tank, the Centre for Social Justice (CSJ) found that:

- 69 per cent would be concerned if the Government decriminalised cannabis;
- 73 per cent were concerned of the effects that cannabis had on their clients and families.

Charities on the front-line of the battle against poverty are opposed to liberalising cannabis laws, a new think-tank survey finds.

[Officers not taking shoplifting seriously, says think tank](#)

Political think tank Policy Exchange has said that shoplifting has been 'effectively decriminalised' in a [report published this week](#), authored by Labour MP David Lammy. The report suggests that the courts are currently 'turning a blind eye' to theft, burglary and shoplifting, crimes which its author refers to as a pandemic. It also states that a massive amount of this type of property crime goes unreported – less than one in ten incidents -, because of the lack of faith shopkeepers possess in the criminal justice system

[House of Commons Justice Committee](#)

Robbery Offences Guideline: Consultation.

[House of Commons Library](#)

Anti-social neighbours in private housing.

[Charity criticises government's lack of ambition in cutting road casualties as MPs publish Future of Motoring report](#)

Brake, the road safety charity, has welcomed the transport select committee's [Future of Motoring](#) report published today (6 March). The report calls on the government to set out a comprehensive strategy that sets out first and foremost how it will 'reduce or eliminate fatalities and serious injuries on the roads' and cut vehicle emissions.

[Capturing corporate memory and collective conviction](#)

A feature from the Vice-Chair of Disaster Action, Dr Anna Eyre, in which she discusses how the Service can support "unheard voices and unmet needs of those on the receiving end of criminal and culpable acts".

[Prison population figures: 2015](#)

Latest prison population figures for 2015.

[The Ministry of Justice publish Youth Justice Statistics for England and Wales for 2013/14](#)

The Ministry of Justice has published statistics which examine the Youth Justice System (YJS) in England and Wales in 2013/14 in terms of the number of young people (aged 10-17) in the system, their offences, outcomes and the trends over time.

[Foreign Secretary's International Women's Day message](#)

Philip Hammond says that we should celebrate progress made on women's rights globally, but more must be done.

[CAADA is becoming SafeLives](#)

CAADA has changed its name to SafeLives which better reflects their mission to make all families safe from domestic abuse.

[Home Office](#)

Additional guidance for health bodies on exercising functions under Licensing Act 2003.

[Department for Communities and Local Government](#)

Rough sleeping statistics England: autumn 2014/5.

[Department for Education](#)

Characteristics of children in need: 2013 to 2014.

[Help for small firms by stopping procurement red-tape](#)

The government unveiled plans to reduce the costly gold-plating of procurement in local government so that town halls can channel money into improving services and keeping Council Tax down.

[LGA response to government announcement of devolved health budget to Greater Manchester](#)

The health and social care budget for Greater Manchester is to be taken over by regional councils under devolved NHS powers.

[Majority of businesses agree councils should be able to set business rates locally says LGA report](#)

More than two thirds of UK businesses agree that councils should be able to set business rates locally in discussion with local businesses, a national poll reveals.

[Digital 'Make A Plea' system introduced](#)

This new digital service will allow people charged with minor motoring offences will be able to make their plea online at a time and place of their choosing.

[Locally set licensing fees](#)

The Home Office has announced it will not introduce locally set licensing fees.

The Alzheimer's Society has published new guidance '[Accessing and sharing information: acting on behalf of a person with dementia](#)'. The guidance was developed with assistance from the ICO and explains how personal information can be shared in compliance with the DPA to help manage the affairs of a person with dementia.

[UKVI publish guidance on criminal investigation and court proceedings](#)

United Kingdom Visas and Immigration (UKVI) have published modernised guidance on court proceedings for immigration enforcement criminal investigation teams.

IFS: Sharpest cuts to local government spending in poorer areas; same areas likely to lose most in next few years

The spending power of local authorities in England has been cut substantially during this parliament. We find that local authorities' spending per person has been cut by 23.4% in real terms between 2009–10 and 2014–15, using a comparable definition of net spending on services over time by single-tier and county councils.

[Devolution outside city areas "vital" for the economy says LGA](#)

Devolution to England's non-metropolitan areas is essential for economic growth and tackling skills shortages holding back UK business, a Commission of business and public service leaders and economists has concluded.

Unused public sector land will provide over 100,000 new homes

Enough unused public sector land has been released to build over 103,000 new homes, Communities Secretary [Eric Pickles](#) announced.

[Councils get new powers to seize waste crime vehicles](#)

New legislation will make it easier for local authorities to stop, search and seize vehicles suspected of waste crime. Under the new legislation, enforcement officers will have more power to deal with those suspected of being involved in fly-tipping, a crime which costs councils £45.2m a year to clear up.

[Independent Commission on Local Government Finance](#)

The Independent Commission on Local Government Finance, set up by the LGA and CIPFA, has published its final report on 18 February 2015, titled *Financing English Devolution*.

[Council tax freeze costing public services £2.8bn a year](#)

Local authorities could have raised an extra £2.8bn a year if council tax had risen in line with inflation, according to new research. New analysis from the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) reveals a 'virtual freeze' in council tax across England for 2015. The average council tax for band D properties is set to increase by 1%, less than £16 extra.

[Councils unable to fund Care Act duties, suggests survey](#)

Councils do not have enough funding to meet their duties under the Care Act, according to new research.

[Biggest city winners support high-skilled jobs, finds 100-year study](#)

Cities have been urged to foster knowledge over low-skilled jobs after research suggested a 'culture of innovation' was crucial for determining future economic success.

[Deploy 'hidden army' to tackle cold home deaths, say health leaders](#)

A 'hidden army' of care workers and even plumbers should be used to tackle deaths caused by cold homes, according to health leaders.

[Aberdeen first to join new local government body](#)

Aberdeen has become the first council to join a new voluntary association for local government.

[Calls mount for £15bn northern transport devolution package](#)

Pressure is mounting for a £15bn Government investment in a Transport for London style body to 'fire up' the Northern economy.

Keeping our railways safe during a time of political change:

Speech by Transport Minister Baroness Kramer

[Number of young people NEET falls across the board](#)

The number of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) in England is at its lowest level in more than 8 years

[Town-wide ban on unauthorised travellers granted in UK first](#)

An 'unprecedented' ban on unauthorised traveller encampments across an Essex town has been granted by the High Court. Harlow Council and Essex County Council last week applied for the measure after months of collaboration.

[Carillion secures £1.5bn public sector framework](#)

Carillion has been appointed as the sole provider on a new £1.5bn facilities management framework. The framework is provided by Scape Group, a public sector owned company, and is worth up to £1.5bn over six years.

Simon Hughes speech to ICO's 2015 Data Protection Practitioner Conference

Speech given at Manchester Central Convention Centre to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) Data Protection Practitioner Conference.

[BIS research papers](#)

This collection brings together all documents relating to Business Innovation and Skills research papers.

[Right to challenge parking policies](#)

Statutory guidance issued under the Traffic Management Act 2004, on using petition schemes to provide a right to review parking policies.

[Industry backs government's spaceport plans](#)

A spaceport consultation outcome has been published, paving the way to make UK commercial spaceflight operations a reality. Publishing the [outcome of a 3 month consultation](#) with a range of interested parties, the government confirmed widespread support for its plans.

4. Consultations

[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.

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

New [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.

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

Open date: 27/02/2015
Close date: 20/03/2015

New [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

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

To be published.