



Commissioner's horizon scanning briefing

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For further information or to be included on our mailing list, please contact daniel.howitt13452@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk

1. Policy and Practice

[Further £26m police transformation funding awarded](#) – 30th November 2016

Home Secretary awards over £26 million over the next three years to 28 transformational policing projects

[£15m Violence Against Women and Girls \(VAWG\) service transformation fund](#) – 7th December 2016

Home Office publishes prospectus setting out the application process for £15m VAWG service transformation fund which will also be open to PCCs, local authorities and health commissioners during four weeks in January-February 2017. The fund will support community-based services and work to promote best practice, preferably via joint bids with women's charities and VAWG service providers that focus on early intervention and crisis response. Successful bids will be announced in March 2017. A [Local Commissioning toolkit](#) has also been published for commissioners and service providers on how to address and prevent the effects of VAWG

[Stalking Protection Orders to be introduced](#) – announced 7th December 2016

Home Secretary announces plans to introduce stalking protection orders as an early intervention to 'stranger stalking'. This will enable police to apply to the courts for an order to impose restrictions and requirements on perpetrators. Breaching the conditions will be a criminal offence with a maximum sentence of five years in jail

[Violence Against Women and Girls guidance documents published or updated](#) – 7th December 2016

- [National Statement of Expectations](#) - actions areas should take to ensure victims get the support they need
- [Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme](#) - updated guidance detailing checks, information required, outcomes
- [Mandatory reporting of female genital mutilation](#) - updated procedural information on mandatory reporting duty for regulated health and social care professionals and teachers in cases involving under 18-year-olds
- [FGM protection orders: factsheet](#) - information about FGM protection orders and the process of applying

[Emergency Services Collaboration 2016 - National Overview](#) – 8th December 2016

Overview of current collaborative projects, plans and initiatives from across England and Wales compiled by the Emergency Services Collaboration Working Group

[Home Secretary speech on vulnerability](#) - College of Policing – 30th November 2016

Lord McNally speeches to [Youth Justice Convention](#) (30th Nov) and [Sports for CJ Conference](#) (7th Dec)

Recent Commons briefing papers include: [Migration statistics](#) (2nd Dec), [Sex and Relationship Education in Schools](#) (1st Dec), [Personal, social, health and economic education in schools](#) (30th Nov), [Safety in Prisons](#) (30th Nov), [NEET: Young People Not in Education, Employment or Training](#) (30th Nov), [Homophobia in sport](#) (29th Nov), [Transgender Prisoners](#) (28th Nov)

2. Research, Development and Statistics

[Domestic homicide reviews – Key findings from analysis](#) – Updated 7th December 2016

Home Office publication identifies common themes and trends in domestic homicide which include record keeping (issue in 85% of cases sampled), risk assessment (82%) and communication and information sharing between agencies (76%). In 73% of sampled cases, victims or perpetrators presented to agencies with possible signs of abuse which was not recognised or explored further. In 2013, agencies receiving the largest proportion of recommendations were in the health sector, in both 2014 and 2015 this was the CSP and in 2016 the highest proportion of recommendations was for the police

[Domestic abuse in England and Wales: year ending March 2016](#) – Published 8th December 2016

ONS report combines data from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW), police recorded crime, the Home Office Homicide Index and CPS referrals prosecutions and convictions. It shows that domestic incidents reported to police went on to be confirmed and recorded as crimes in 41% of cases. A decision to charge was made in 70% of domestic abuse-related cases referred to the CPS. Over half of unsuccessful prosecutions (53%) were either due to victim retraction, victim non-attendance or evidence that the victim did not support the case. In 22% of unsuccessful prosecutions the defendant was acquitted by a jury or magistrates after a trial. A [domestic abuse data tool](#) was also published profiling CSEW, police and CPS data at police force level

[Crime Severity Score for England and Wales](#) – Published 30th November 2016

Article describing proposed new ONS measures to weight the severity of crimes recorded by the police, based primarily on Ministry of Justice sentencing data. This is considered an objective measure that reflects how society views different crimes. A number of other metrics, such as costs of crime and public perception data from the CSEW were considered but were not deemed appropriate on account of the complexity involved and lack of sufficiently detailed data. The report has been published alongside a [Crime Severity Score data tool](#) which enables users to profile data at police force level. ONS are seeking feedback on the methodology and proposals to incorporate the score in Official Statistics on Crime in England and Wales

[Knife possession sentencing quarterly: July to September 2016](#) – Published 8th December 2016

Police recorded offences involving a knife or sharp instruments increased by 9% in the most recent year to date, continuing the trend seen throughout 2016. Increases were recorded in the majority of police forces (37 of the 44). Despite this trend, levels remain 10% lower than in the year ending March 2011. Some forces have suggested that recording process improvements may be a contributing factor. The most common disposal for a knife possession offence continues to be immediate custody (34%) followed by community sentence (24%) and suspended sentence (20%). The average custodial sentence length was 7.7 months, marking an increase of 0.7 months compared with the same period last year. [Data available at police force level.](#)

[Drink-drive rehabilitation scheme course completion statistics](#) – Published 1st December 2016

Course delivery and completion data published by area and provider

[Immigration statistics, July to September 2016](#) – Published 1st December 2016

Upcoming [Crime Reduction Systematic Reviews](#):

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|---|---------------|
| • Police responses to people with mental health problems | December 2016 |
| • Speed cameras to reduce speeding traffic and road traffic injuries | January 2017 |
| • Diversity and organisational outcomes | January 2017 |
| • Tagging as a method to reduce theft in retail environments | February 2017 |
| • Effectiveness of asset-focussed interventions against organised crime | February 2017 |
| • The effectiveness of electronic monitoring of offenders | February 2017 |
| • Personal security alarms for the prevention of assaults | February 2017 |

3. Inspections

[PEEL: Police Leadership 2016](#) – 8th December 2016

HMIC publish Police Leadership inspection findings for 2016 which examine how well forces understand, develop and display leadership. Unlike the Efficiency, Effectiveness and Legitimacy reports, forces were not given a specific grade for Leadership on account of various interdependent factors. The [thematic report](#) shows:-

Key strengths identified as part of the inspection:

- Many forces demonstrating that they have set out clearly how they expect good leaders to behave
- Most forces having a range of leadership programmes and initiatives in place
- Many forces are beginning to widen the way they identify possible candidates for leadership roles
- Most forces having senior leaders that encourage and act on new ideas e.g. innovation schemes
- Good examples of forces working with academia and encouraging new evidence-based ways of working

Key areas for improvement:-

- Leadership development for the wider workforce, particularly police staff, remains inconsistent
- Individual performance review processes are often weak and rarely capture expectations of leaders
- Few forces demonstrate broad understanding of the skills, background and experience of leadership teams
- Many forces cannot be confident that their processes for identifying talent and new approaches are fair
- Very few forces appear to have a systematic process to identify and address poor leadership

[PEEL: Police Legitimacy 2016](#) – 3rd November 2016

HMIC publish Police Legitimacy inspection findings for 2016 which examine the extent to which forces treat people with fairness and respect and ensure their workforces act ethically and lawfully and are treated fairly. The [thematic report](#) shows that 2 forces were graded as outstanding, 36 as good, 5 as requiring improvement and none as inadequate in 2016. This was largely consistent with findings in 2015.

Key strengths highlighted as part of the inspection programme included:

- Victim satisfaction with their treatment by the police, which remains high and understanding of importance
- Continuing to clarify standards of professional behaviour for the workforces and reinforce standards
- Seeking the views of the workforces and using a range of channels of communication to feedback
- Understanding and recognising the importance of wellbeing, including psychological and mental health
- Improving understanding of the Code of Ethics for Policing
- Communicating the outcomes of gross misconduct and corruption cases to the public and workforce

Key areas for improvement highlighted as part of the inspection programme included:-

- Many forces could do more to seek and analyse feedback from those less likely to complain or trust police
- Some forces are not complying with every aspect of national vetting policy e.g. re-vetting after 10 years
- Many forces only respond to reports of corruption rather than actively seek out and prevent it, particularly in
- Cases of abuse of authority for sexual gain: some fail to recognise as serious corruption or refer to IPCC
- Workforce wellbeing support varies considerably as does capability of supervisors to identify / support needs
- Missing opportunities to tackle more systematic problems due to responses / processes being uncoordinated

[HMIC Organisational Strategy 2016](#) – 29th November 2016

Sets out values, vision and objectives to 2020

4. Reviews and Inquiries

[The Casey Review: a review into opportunity and integration](#) – 5th December 2016

Dame Louise Casey's year-long independent review into integration and opportunity in our most isolated and deprived communities concludes that social and economic gaps between ethnic groups remain, ethnic segregation is increasing in some areas and that women in some communities are suffering from major inequalities ranging from poor English language skills and economic inactivity to coercive control, violence and criminal acts of abuse. The report calls for a major new government programme to help:

- empower all communities to take advantage of modern Britain's economic opportunities
- provide more English language classes for isolated groups
- encourage young people to mix in schools and across communities
- secure emancipation in communities where women are being held back by regressive cultural practices

[Female Genital Mutilation: Abuse Unchecked](#) – 1st December 2016

Government response to Home Affairs Select Committee inquiry [report](#) sets out commitments to:

- Continue to work to improve data collection / dissemination, including work with HMIC to improve police data, NHS organisations to improve recording compliance and communities and stakeholders
- Issue Data Provision Notice to clarify GP and NHS recording requirements and deliver targeted outreach
- Continue to look at options for ensuring work in this area is effectively coordinated
- Work with FCO and DFID to explore what more can be done to build the overseas intelligence picture
- Consider responses to the consultation on reporting and acting on child abuse and neglect before considering options for strengthening sanctions for failure to meet the mandatory reporting responsibility
- Continue to work with international partners to share global learning and best practice

[Government response to Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence in Schools inquiry](#) - 9th Nov 2016

Government response to House of Commons Women and Equalities Committee report sets out commitment to:

- Prioritising work to make significant progress across government particularly via the VAWG strategy
- Supporting schools in to develop wider preventative approaches and promote inclusive tolerant communities
- Support schools in developing their own codes of practice in combating bullying, harassment and abuse
- Build the evidence base to better understand the scale and scope of the issue and share best practice
- Setting up an advisory group to look at how recommendations can be best reflected within DfE guidance
- Look at how what is taught in PSHE and SRE can fit into a whole school approach / codes of practice

[Government response to Forensic Science Strategy inquiry report](#) published – 24th November 2016

[Independent Child Sexual Abuse Inquiry](#) publishes first summaries from [Truth Project](#) – 1st December

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- **Report in preparation:** [Lammy Review of BAME representation in the CJS](#) (Spring 2017)
 - **Evidence in progress:** [Child Sexual Abuse Independent Inquiry](#) (ongoing), [Implications of Brexit for the justice system inquiry](#) (6th December 2016), [Disclosure of youth criminal records](#) (6th December 2016), [EU policing and security issues](#) (6th December 2016), [Prison Reform inquiry](#) (29th November 2016), [Emergency Services Communications](#) (Inquiry session 16th November 2016), [Hate crime and its violent consequences inquiry](#) (15th November 2016), [Syrian Resettlement Programme](#) (7th November 2016), [Apprenticeships inquiry](#) (2nd November 2016), [Sharia Law](#) (1st November 2016), [Child Protection inquiry](#) (31st October 2016), [Troubled Families Inquiry](#) (19th October 2016), [Undercover Policing inquiry](#) (ongoing), [Support for ex-offenders inquiry](#) (26th October 2016)

5. Legislation

[Investigatory Powers Act 2016](#) - Bill Received Royal Assent on 29th November 2016

The Investigatory Powers Act 2016 introduces new legislation and updates / brings together existing powers, while also overhauling how they are authorised and overseen. The Act makes Internet Connection Records accessible by law enforcement and the intelligence agencies to disrupt terrorist attacks and prosecute suspects. The act protects both the privacy and security of the public by introducing a “double-lock” for the most intrusive powers, so that warrants issued by a Secretary of State will also require the approval of a senior judge. It also introduces a new Investigatory Powers Commissioner, to oversee how the powers are used. New protections for journalistic and legally privileged material have also been introduced and a requirement for judicial authorisation for acquisition of communications data that identify journalists' sources. Further sanctions for those misusing the powers have been introduced which include new criminal offences

[Policing and Crime Bill](#) – Lords Report stage – 12th December 2016 [Supporting documents](#)

- Places a statutory duty on police, fire and ambulance services to collaborate to improve efficiency and effectiveness. Enable PCCs to take on responsibility for fire and rescue services.
- Reforms the police complaints and disciplinary systems, including measures to extend disciplinary procedures to former officers (up to 12 months after leaving). Makes changes to governance of the IPCC.
- Enable chief officers to confer a wider range of policing powers on police civilian staff and volunteers.
- Introduces provisions in respect of breach of pre-charge bail conditions and makes changes to rules governing how police deal with people suffering mental crisis under s135 & s136 of Mental Health Act 1983
- Makes changes to terms of office for Deputy PCCs and would give the Home Secretary the power to change the name of a police area by order
- Provides statutory definition of the terms ‘lethal’, ‘component part’ and ‘antique firearm’ (Firearms Act 1968)
- Amends Licensing Act 2003 to make clear powdered and vaporised alcohol are both covered by the Act
- Makes provisions relating to the enforcement of EU, UN and other financial sanctions
- Mandates that offences relating to CSE (Sexual Offences Act 2003) cover streaming / transmission of indecent images of children. Enables Secretary of State to issue statutory guidance to local taxi and private hire licensing authorities with regard to the protection of children and vulnerable adults
- [Lords amendments](#): Further line by line examination of the Bill is scheduled to begin on 30th November
- [Emergency services collaboration](#) (ESC) provisions documents updated 8th December 2016

[Children and Social Work Bill](#) – Committee Stage in Commons – TBC

Bill to make provision about looked after children; ensure lessons are learned from serious child safeguarding cases; create a new ‘power to innovate’ giving local authorities the freedom to test out innovative new ways of working and introduce measures to improve how agencies share information

[Asset Freezing \(Compensation\) Bill](#) – 2nd reading in Commons – 16th December 2016

A Bill to make provision for the imposing of restrictions on assets owned by persons involved in supplying terrorist organisations in the United Kingdom with arms, for the purpose of securing compensation for citizens of the United Kingdom affected by the supply of such arms.

[Digital Economy Bill](#) – 2nd reading in Lords – 13th December 2016

Bill to make provision about; restricting access to online pornography; protecting intellectual property related to electronic communications; [improving government data to transform public services](#) – allow public authorities to share personal data with other public authorities to improve the welfare of individuals (e.g. Troubled Families programme), measures to help detect and prevent government losses due to fraudulent activity, The Bill also proposes tougher penalties for nuisance callers and increasing the sentencing options for people who infringe copyright laws online. Royal Assent is expected spring 2017. [Commons analysis paper](#)

[Modern Slavery \(Transparency in Supply Chains\) Bill](#) – 2nd reading in Commons – 13th January 2017

Private Members' Bill to require commercial organisations and public bodies to include a statement on slavery and human trafficking in their annual report and accounts; and to require contracting authorities to exclude from procurement procedures economic operators who have not provided such a statement. [Briefing](#)

[National Citizen Service Bill](#) – 3rd reading in Lords – 14th December 2016

[NCS](#) brings different communities together and gives 15 to 17-year-olds the opportunity to take part in new experiences, develop skills and give back to communities across England. The Government has committed to offer an NCS place to everyone that wants one. [Lords briefing](#) – 20th October 2016

[Criminal Finances Bill](#) – Commons Report Stage – TBC

Tackle corruption, money laundering and tax evasion. Allow the Government to recoup more criminal assets by reforming the law on proceeds of crime, including provisions to strengthen our enforcement powers and protect the public. Introduction of a criminal offence for corporations who fail to stop their staff facilitating tax evasion; Improve the operation of the Suspicious Activity Reports (SARs) regime to encourage better use of public and private sector resources against the highest threats; to target entities that carry out money laundering instead of individual transactions; and to provide the National Crime Agency (NCA) with new powers; Improve the ability of law enforcement agencies and courts to recover criminal assets more effectively, particularly in cases such as those linked to grand corruption. [Explanatory documents](#) , [Commons Library Analysis](#) , [Consultation responses](#)

[Homelessness Reduction Bill](#) – Commons Committee Stage – 14th December 2016

Private Members Bill to place a duty on local authorities to help eligible people at risk of homelessness to secure accommodation, 56 days before they are threatened with homelessness, and to provide those who find themselves homeless with support for a further period of 56 days to help to secure accommodation. The bill will also ensure that other local services refer those either homeless or at risk of being homeless to local authority housing teams. Bill builds on the government's commitment in December 2015 to consider all options, including legislation, to prevent homelessness. [Commons briefing](#)

[Sexual Offences \(Pardons Etc.\) Bill](#) – Commons 2nd reading – 16th December 2016

Private Members' Bill to formally pardon gay and bisexual men convicted for now abolished sexual offences and enable any mention of these offences to be removed from criminal record checks.

[Preventing & Combating Violence Against Women & DV Bill](#) – Commons 2nd reading – 16th Dec 2016

Private Members' Bill to require UK to ratify the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (the Istanbul Convention)

[Stalking \(Sentencing\) Bill](#) – Commons 2nd reading – 20th January 2017

Private Member's Bill to increase the maximum sentences available to the court for stalking [Commons Briefing](#)

[Road Traffic Offenders \(Surrender of Driving Licences\) Bill](#) – Commons 2nd reading – 27th January 2017

Private Members' Bill to make provision about the surrender / production of driving licences or test certificates in relation to certain offences; and identifying persons / securing payment in connection with fixed penalty notices

[Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 \(Amendment\) Bill](#) – Commons 2nd reading – 27th January 2017

Private Members' Bill to repeal CT and Security Act 2015 provisions requiring teachers, carers and responsible adults to report signs of extremism or radicalisation amongst children in pre-school educational settings

[Malicious Communications \(Social Media\) Bill](#) – Commons 2nd reading – 24th March 2017

Private Members' Bill to make provision about offences, penalties and sentences in relation to communications containing threats transmitted or broadcast using online social media

6. Consultations

[Bladed articles and offensive weapons](#)

Sentencing Council consultation on 3 guidelines; possession of a bladed article/ offensive weapon; threatening with a bladed article/ offensive weapon, and a youth guideline which covers all offences involving bladed articles and offensive weapons. The new guideline will provide sentencers across the Crown Court, magistrates' court and youth court with guidance to improve consistency and transparency in sentencing

Open date: 06/10/2016

Close date: 06/01/2017

[Public Policy Statements on Hate Crime](#)

Three CPS consultations on public policy statements relating to: crimes against disabled people; offences involving hostility on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity and; racially and religiously aggravated hate crime. The statements aim to comprehensively set out how the CPS approach these crimes

Open date: 10/10/2016

Close date: 09/01/2017

[Leveson Inquiry and its Implications](#)

Government consultation on issues relating Section 40 of the Crime and Courts Act 2013 (incentives to join a recognised regulator) and whether, as criminal cases associated with the Leveson Inquiry are entering their final stages, whether Part 2 of the inquiry remains appropriate, proportionate and in the public interest.

Open date: 01/11/2016

Close date: 10/01/2017

[Breach guideline](#)

Sentencing Council consultation on proposed sentencing guideline on breach of court order offences including breach of a Community Order, Suspended Sentence Order, Protective Order, Criminal Behaviour Order, Anti-Social Behaviour Order, Sexual Harm Prevention Order, Sexual Offence Prevention Order, Post Sentence Supervision, Failing to Surrender to Bail and Failing to Comply with Notification Requirement

Open date: 25/10/2016

Close date: 25/01/2017

[Crime Severity Score for England and Wales](#)

ONS consultation on proposed methodology for ...and whether the

Feedback should be sent to crimestatistics@ons.gsi.gov.uk and may be submitted via the [template](#) provided. It would be helpful if feedback could be provided by the end of January.

Open date: 30/11/2016

Close date: 31/01/2017

[Driving offences and penalties relating to causing death or serious injury](#)

Ministry of Justice consultation on sentencing for offenders who kill or seriously injure others on the road welcomes views on the distinction between 'careless' and 'dangerous' driving; a perceived 'gap in the law' for causing serious injury by careless driving; maximum penalties for causing death; driving disqualifications

Open date: 01/12/2016

Close date: 05/02/2017

Home Office Circular 43/2001 - policeresourcespolicy@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Home Office consultation on updated Home Office circular guidance (43/2001) for PCCs receiving a request for financial assistance from officers (or former officers) facing legal proceedings.

Open date: 09/12/2016

Close date: 03/03/2017