



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

[Apply for funding: £20m fund for domestic violence refuge provision](#) – 3rd November 2016

The Home Office is inviting bids from local authorities to increase refuge spaces and other accommodation for women fleeing domestic violence. £20m has been made available as part of the government's £80m commitment to tackling [Violence Against Women and Girls](#). Deadline for applications is 5pm on 16 December. The supporting prospectus outlines new 'Priorities for Domestic Abuse Services' and recommendations that local authorities collaborate with other councils to open up services to victims from outside the local area.

[Prison Safety and Reform White Paper](#) – 3rd November 2016

[White Paper](#) establishing the Government's vision and framework for prison reform includes proposals for:-

- 2,500 more prison officers across the prison estate by the end of 2018 following £100m annual investment
- Rigorous new standards to get prisoners off drugs and into work
- Prisoners to be tested for drug use on entry and exit from prison
- Prisoners to be tested on English and maths so progress made in prison can be measured
- Results to be published in new league tables to drive reform and improvements across the estate
- Making the Secretary of State accountable for the reform of offenders in addition to providing places
- New duty for Secretary of State intervention when prisons are failing and strengthening inspection regimes
- A £1.3bn modernisation programme to create 10,000 modern prison places
- Giving governors control over their own budgets from April 2017
- Enabling governors to choose the behavioural programme that will best tackle offenders' criminal tendencies
- Enabling governors to begin commissioning healthcare services jointly with local NHS managers in 2017
- Work with the Department of Health on a mental health strategy for prisons
- Creating a new network of 'no-fly' zones to block drones flying dangerous illicit items into the prison estate

Further announcements will be made in 2017, which include

- Recommendations on strengthening family ties for those sent to prison (Lord Farmer)
- Development of a common curriculum for prisons
- Introduction of a new employment strategy for prisons
- New prisoner apprentice programme that will count towards completion of formal apprenticeship on release

[Justice Secretary oral statement to Parliament on Prison Reform](#) also included a commitment to invest £14m to bring in 400 additional prison officers into the ten most challenging prisons by March 2017.

[A Matter of Conviction: A Blueprint for Community-based Prisons](#) – 24th October 2016

Report following the year-long Future Prison project (RSA and Transition Spaces) concludes that the potential impact of prisons on reoffending has been undermined by a lack of clarity and consistent leadership which has led to reactive policy, episodic change, and over-centralisation. The report makes recommendations for the MOJ to urgently return frontline staffing to 2010 levels, publish a 2017–20 National Rehabilitation Strategy and:-

- Create Local Prison Boards- NOMS should hand over prison funding to local boards and prison governors
- Introduce new devolved powers for governors and PCCs-providing greater freedoms and local autonomy, the government should adopt a staged process of devolution with a focus on expanding the remit of PCCs
- Integration of Health Services - through Joint Strategic Needs Assessments (JSNA) and Health and Wellbeing Board requirements to include prisoner populations explicitly in their priorities
- Develop a Centre of Prisons Excellence learning from the College of Policing
- Create a Rehabilitation Requirement for prisons and probation – a legal duty to track progress
- Make NOMS smaller, more arms-length and more independent from the MOJ – focus on resilience issues
- Develop a more enhanced and Integrated Prison and Probation Inspection Regime
- Designing in Rehabilitation to the prison building programme with evidence of what supports rehabilitation

[National Cyber Security Strategy 2016 to 2021 launched](#) – 1st November 2016

The Chancellor launches government's new Cyber Security Strategy underpinned by £1.9 billion investment to:-

- defend and safeguard citizens and businesses against growing cyber threats, and make sure industry takes the right steps to protect Critical National Infrastructure in sectors like energy and transport
- deter perpetrators by strengthening law enforcement capabilities and building international partnerships – over 50 specialist investigators and technical specialists to support the National Cyber Crime Unit this year
- develop the nation's capabilities to keep pace with cyber threats – including investment in future expertise and development of a new virtual cyber security research institute to improve phone and tablet security

[Education Secretary announces extra investment in social care](#) – 3rd November 2016

Education Secretary announced an additional £4.7 million investment in the teaching partnership programme which aims to improve the education and training of social workers in 11 new areas across the country. Minister for Vulnerable Children and Families also announced a £200 million investment in the [children's social care innovation programme](#) over the next four years to pilot of new approaches to supporting vulnerable children and their families. The new funding will initially focus on two priority areas; rethinking children's social care, and rethinking the transition into adulthood for adolescents in the social care system

[Ministerial statement: Safeguarding unaccompanied refuge / asylum-seeking children](#) – 1st November

Minister for Vulnerable Children and Families makes a statement on the development of a government strategy for unaccompanied asylum-seeking and refugee children. Includes a commitment to consult all relevant public bodies, revise the statutory guidance on the 'Care of unaccompanied and trafficked children', providing quarterly updates to the children's commissioners and updating Parliament on an annual basis

[National Fraud Initiative report](#) - 4th November 2016

Report shows that work undertaken via the National Fraud Initiative to match electronic data within and across 1,300 organisations has helped trace almost £198m in fraud, errors and overpayments in England over 2 years

[College of Policing Digest](#) – 10th November 2016

Recent Commons briefing papers include:

[Protection of police dogs and horses](#) (10th Nov), [Road accident casualties in Great Britain](#) (10th Nov), [Driving and mobile phones](#) (8th Nov), [Police funding in England and Wales](#) (8th Nov), [Crime in England and Wales](#) (8th Nov), [Police numbers in England and Wales](#) (8th Nov), [Press regulation after Leveson](#) (4th Nov), [CSP approach to prosecuting disability hate crime](#) (4th Nov), [Sentencing for animal cruelty](#) (4th Nov), [Effect of social media on mental health of young people](#) (1st Nov), [Police Officer safety](#) (31st Oct), [Suicide: summary of statistics](#) (31st Oct)

2. Research, Development and Statistics

Monitoring the legal provision of foil to heroin users – 3rd November 2016

Research findings show that the supply of foil to heroin users by drug treatment providers has increased following the commencement of legislation in September 2014. Needle exchange professionals welcomed the law change, and considered foil provision as beneficial to treatment and recovery outcomes. Providers beginning foil distribution only after the law change confirmed that provision had broadened the reach of their services, allowing them to access clients with no injecting history who they might not have otherwise seen

Police Seizures of drugs 2015/16 – published 3rd November 2016

Home Office statistics show an 11% decrease in drug seizures by police and border force in the year to March 2016, continuing the trend seen since 2011/12. Seizures of Class A drugs, however, increased by 1% with just over half involving cocaine. Although the majority of individual drug seizures (96%) were made by police, Border Force seized generally larger quantities – including 90% of all cannabis resin, 89% of anabolic steroids, 89% of herbal cannabis, 84% of ketamine and 83% of cocaine. [Data available at police force level](#)

Prisoner transgender statistics: March to April 2016 – published 9th November 2016

Ad hoc Ministry of Justice data collection exercise shows that there are around 70 prisoners currently living in or presenting in a gender different to their sex assigned at birth across 33 (27%) of the 123 public and private prisons in England and Wales. This equates to 0.8 transgender prisoners per 1,000 prisoners in custody

Upcoming Crime Reduction Systematic Reviews:

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

3. Inspections

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

HMIC publish Police Efficiency inspection findings for 2016 which examine how well forces understand the demand for their service and match their resources to that demand. The [thematic report](#) shows that 2 forces were graded as outstanding, 33 as good, eight as requiring improvement and none as inadequate in 2016. HMIC found that some forces have reduced the pace and ambition of their plans since last year which could reflect the short time between the inspection, latest settlement announcement and May 2016 PCC elections.

Key strengths highlighted as part of the inspection programme included:

- Having a good understanding of service demand and being proactive in seeking out under-reported crimes
- Demonstrating progress in collaborative working with other forces and public sector organisations
- Making ongoing savings this year, with most forces having made sensible mid-term financial provisions
- Almost all forces making use of or intending to make use of mobile technology

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

- Many forces do not understand the skills and capabilities of their workforce well enough to match to demand
- Only a small number of forces could clearly demonstrate the benefits collaborative working
- Some forces need to improve joint working arrangements quickly in order to manage changing demand
- Only a small number have a sufficiently clear sense of the skills that they are looking for in new recruits
- Digital skills remaining a significant capability gap
- Forces continuing to struggle with the large number of different and incompatible ICT systems
- There were few examples of forces taking advantage of programmes such as Police Now and Direct Entry

The thematic report is accompanied by reports on each force, based on inspections carried out from March to July 2016, and data provided by forces on their spending plans for future years. Further reports on effectiveness and legitimacy will be published in December 2016 and early 2017 respectively.

[Better Case Management: A Snapshot](#) – 3rd November 2016

HMICPSI thematic report on compliance with the Crown Court Better Case Management (BCM) initiative which was rolled out in January 2016. The review, based on visits to all 13 CPS Areas in July 2016, found the CPS to be fully engaged and committed to the initiative, with good 'buy-in' by staff. It also found the quality of high level decision-making in applying the Code for Crown Prosecutors to be excellent. The focus should now be on maintaining momentum and driving improvement in terms of compliance with BCM expectations, particularly in:-

- Changing the mind-set of staff towards engaging effectively with the defence and increasing direct engagement with the defence before the first hearing – this occurred in fewer than 10% of cases.
- Improving detail in relation to the case analysis and strategy and file quality - many files were not of the required standard and CPS are not always drawing the failings to the attention of the police force concerned
- Ensuring advocates receive proper instructions – this occurred in only two thirds of cases sampled
- Timeliness - only 13.7% were reviewed within the prescribed time of 72 hours
- Ensuring guilty pleas are identified at the earliest opportunity

HMIC Inspection Programme

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| • JTAI Partnership response to children affected by domestic abuse | In progress |
| • PEEL: Effectiveness - prevention, investigation, vulnerability, SPR, ROCU | In progress |
| • HMIC: Counter-terrorism | Unannounced visits |
| • HMIC Force Management Statement template issued | April 2017 |
| • Force Management Statement completion deadline | October 2017 |
| • HMIC: Crime data integrity (unannounced visits) | Rolling programme |
| • Joint targeted Child Protection Inspection (Ofsted-led) | Rolling programme |
| • Joint inspection of Police Custody Arrangements (HMI Prisons-led) | Rolling programme |

4. Reviews and Inquiries

[Child Sexual Abuse Independent Inquiry reports on progress so far](#) – 31st October 2016

IICSA report highlights progress to date, which includes:-

- Commencement of the Truth Project in June 2016 – over 400 people invited to privately share experiences
- Recruited and trained Facilitators and Assistant Facilitators to lead the sessions with victims and survivors
- Initiated research projects relating to CSE in the Anglican and Catholic Churches and in custodial institutions
- Established an Academic Advisory Board of experts in child protection to assure on ethical integrity
- Launched a range of investigations, with 11 preliminary hearings held in March and July 2016
- Made over 250 formal requests for evidence from over 120 different institutions
- Procured an evidence management system to manage the 75,000 documents received to date

[Government Response: Restorative justice inquiry](#) – 8th November 2016

Government response to [Justice Committee inquiry](#) report published September 2016 accepts that evidence in relation to the cost-effectiveness of and outcomes for RJ is not as well developed as it could be. Government agrees with recommendations that RJ funding should remain part of a wider pot for victims' services as opposed to being ring-fenced. Government also believes there is a clear role for PCCs and police in making sure officers understand what is required of them, but is not persuaded that a 'tick box requirement on the victim personal statement would address this issue'. The Government does, however, make commitments to:-

- Work with PCCs to identify and share good practice in outcomes and value for money
- Develop a common approach to performance indicators across all restorative justice services
- Help PCCs to raise their performance and demonstrate the quality and efficiency of their RJ services
- Consider developing an evidence base for the effective delivery of restorative justice services
- Work with CJ agencies to identify and address any tensions between our policies (e.g. BCM)
- Work with police to reinforce the message that level one RJ is inappropriate for intimate partner abuse cases
- Consider how use of RJ in the youth justice system can be improved, including victims engagement
- Consider ways of making the APACE / ICO data sharing toolkit more widely available to other agencies
- Continue to raise awareness of RJ. PCCs are required to make public aware of their commissioned services
- Consider a review of NOMS service specifications against the Restorative Services Quality Mark
- Share findings from pilot of restorative approaches to conflict resolution in prisons which is now underway
- Consider providing a clearer vision for RJ within the CJS when publishing MOJ Action plan progress report
- Consider recommendations to strengthen entitlements to RJ under the Victims' Code when next reviewed

[Government Response: Efficiency in the criminal justice system inquiry](#) – 7th November 2016

Government response to the [Public Accounts Committee Inquiry](#) report published May 2016

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- **Evidence in progress:** [Lammy Review of BAME representation in the CJS](#) (ongoing), [Child Sexual Abuse Independent Inquiry](#) (ongoing), [Emergency Services Communications](#) (Inquiry session scheduled 16th November 2016), [Syrian Resettlement Programme](#) (7th November 2016), [Apprenticeships inquiry](#) (2nd November 2016), [Sharia Law](#) (1st November 2016), [Child Protection inquiry](#) (31st October 2016), [Hate crime and its violent consequences inquiry](#) (25th October 2016), [Troubled Families Inquiry](#) (19th October 2016), [Inquiry into the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse](#) (18th October 2016), [Undercover Policing inquiry](#) (ongoing), [Support for ex-offenders inquiry](#) (26th October 2016), [Prison Reform inquiry](#) (TBC), [Implications of Brexit for the justice system inquiry](#) (TBC), [Inquiry launched into the disclosure of youth criminal records](#) (TBC)

5. Legislation

[Investigatory Powers Bill](#) - Ping Pong stage – 15th November 2016

Make provision about the interception, acquisition and retention of communications data and other bulk data for analysis and the use of equipment interference. Establish the Investigatory Powers Commissioner and other Commissioners and make provision about oversight arrangements; make further provision about investigatory powers and national security; amend s3 and s5 of Intelligence Services Act 1994.

[Policing and Crime Bill](#) – Lords Report stage – 23rd November 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
- *Line by line examination of the Bill took place during the [third day of committee stage](#) on 2 November. Further amendments were discussed at Committee stage on 9 November*

[Children and Social Work Bill](#) – 3rd reading in Lords – 23rd November 2016

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

[Modern Slavery \(Transparency in Supply Chains\) Bill](#) – 3rd reading in Lords – TBC

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](#)

[Asset Freezing \(Compensation\) Bill](#) – 3rd reading in Lords – TBC

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](#) – Commons Report Stage – 15th November 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, Royal Assent is expected spring 2017. [Commons analysis paper](#)

- 8th November - [Government publishes codes of practice on how powers in the Bill will operate](#)

[Criminal Finances Bill](#) – Commons Committee Stage – 15th November 2016

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

[Explanatory documents](#) , [Commons Library Analysis](#) , [Consultation responses](#)

National Citizen Service Bill – Lords Committee Stage – 16th November 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

Homelessness Reduction Bill – Commons: Money resolution – 14th November 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 draft bill underwent scrutiny by the Communities and Local Government Select Committee and has received [government support](#) [Commons briefing](#) - 24th Oct 2016

Stalking (Sentencing) Bill - Commons 2nd reading – 18th November 2016

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

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. **20th October 2016**
Justice Minister Sam Gyimah [announced plans](#) to implement 'Turing's Law' through an amendment to the Policing and Crime Bill. [Commons briefing](#) – 20th October 2016

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)

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

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

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

Rehabilitation of Offenders (Amendment) Bill - Lords 2nd reading - TBC

Private Members' Bill to make provision about rehabilitation periods for particular sentences - amending Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974

On-line Safety Bill – Lords 2nd reading - TBC

Private Members' Bill to require internet service providers (ISPs) to provide an internet service that exclude adult-only content; require information to be provided about online safety; provision for parental education

Missing Persons Guardianship Bill – Lords 2nd reading – TBC

Private Members' Bill to make provision for the administration of the affairs of missing persons

Age of Criminal Responsibility Bill – Introduced 9th September 2016 - Lords 2nd reading - TBC

Private Members' Bill to raise the age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12

6. Consultations

[Expedited immigration and asylum appeals for detained appellants](#)

Open date: 12/10/2016

Close date: 22/11/2016

[HM Inspectorate of Prisons 2016 stakeholder survey](#)

Annual survey of stakeholders which aims to gather feedback on HMI Prisons' activities, and to inform future policy and practice

Open date: 07/11/2016

Close date: 24/11/2016

[Reforming Misconduct in Public Office](#)

Second phase of the Law Commission's consultation explores definitions, scope and prosecution requirements in relation to the offence

Open date: 05/09/2016

Close date: 28/11/2016

[Parliamentary constituency boundary reform](#)

Boundary Commission consultation on proposals to revise constituency boundaries

Open date: 13/09/2016

Close date: 06/12/2016

[National Surveillance Camera Strategy](#)

Surveillance Camera Commissioner consultation on strategy to enable system operators to understand best practice and their legal obligations and enable the surveillance camera community to demonstrate compliance with the principles of the surveillance camera code of practice and other guidance. The strategy has been divided into 10 key work strands each led by sector expert. Delivery plans will be published in 2017

Open date: 25/10/2016

Close date: 06/12/2016

[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