



Commissioner's horizon scanning brief

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1. Legislation

Enterprise Bill Ping Pong stage – [TBC] 28th March 2016

Make provision regarding promotion of enterprise and economic growth; restricting exit payments in relation to public sector employment; introduces apprenticeship commencement targets for public sector bodies with more than 250 employees and the establishment of an Institute to regulate quality. [Apprenticeships policy briefing](#)

Riot Compensation Bill 2015-16 Third reading in Lords (No Report stage required) - TBC

Private Members' Bill to repeal the Riot (Damages) Act 1886 and make provision about types of claims, procedures, decision-making and limits on awards payable. [Lords Briefing Paper](#) - 22nd February

Immigration Bill Lords Report stage – 21st March 2016

Make provision about the law on immigration and asylum; access to services, facilities, licences and work by reference to immigration status; language requirements for public sector workers; fees for passports and civil registration; provision about the Director of Labour Market Enforcement.

Online Safety Bill Lords Report stage - TBC

Private Members' Bill to make provision about the promotion of online safety; to require internet service providers and mobile phone operators to provide an internet service that excludes adult content; to require electronic device manufacturers to provide a means of filtering internet content; to make provision for parents to be educated about online safety and for the regulation of harmful material through on-demand services.

Road Traffic Act 1988 (Alcohol Limits) (Amendment) Bill 2015-16 Lords Report stage - TBC

Private Members' Bill to lower prescribed limit of alcohol in breath, blood and urine by 37%
[Lords Committee stage](#) – 11th March 2016

Advertising of Prostitution (Prohibition) Bill Lords Committee stage - TBC

Private Members' Bill to prohibit the advertising of prostitution; and for connected purposes.

Age of Criminal Responsibility Bill Lords Committee stage - TBC

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

Policing and Crime Bill – Commons Committee stage – 17th March

Bill makes provision for [Emergency Services Collaboration](#); [Police complaints, discipline and inspection reform](#); [changes affecting the police workforce and representative institutions](#); [Police powers and PCCs](#); [Firearms and alcohol licensing](#); and [Miscellaneous provisions](#).

- Supporting documentation: [explanatory information](#), [overarching documents](#), [Commons analysis paper](#)
- [Second reading in Commons](#) – 7th March 2016: Passed without a division
- [Public Bill Committee](#) 15th March – accepting [written evidence submissions](#) until 14th April

Investigatory Powers Bill – Commons Committee stage – TBC [[Public Bill Committee](#) by 5th May]

Bill consolidating largely existing provisions governing police, security and intelligence service intrusive powers, some of which are due to expire in 2016. These relate to the interception, acquisition and retention of communications data and other bulk data for analysis and the use of equipment interference. Provisions are due to be enacted by the end of 2016. [Second reading in Commons](#) – 15th March 2016

- [Commons Briefing Paper](#) published 11th March 2016, [Joint Select Committee recommendations](#)

Victims of Crime Etc (Rights, Entitlements) Bill 2015-16 Second reading in Commons – 22nd April 2016

Private Members Bill to make further provision regarding duties and responsibilities of Victims' Commissioner; and the Victims' Code; require PCCs to assess the needs of victims and effectiveness of services and publish annual victims' plans; establish a duty to report suspected child abuse by those working in regulated activities, code of practice on the recording of allegations, right of appeal by victims against a decision to cease a criminal investigation; standards for the review of open or reopened homicide cases; provision about court procedures relating to vulnerable victims and witnesses. Commons Briefing paper '[A new victims' law in 2016?](#)'

Child Victims of Human Trafficking Bill 2015-16 Second reading in Commons – 22nd April 2016

Introduces duty for the provision of safeguarding and protection of child (under 18) victims of human trafficking

Criminal Driving (Justice for Victims) Bill Second reading in Commons – 22nd April 2016

Private Members' Bill to change the law to improve justice for the victims and families of road crime

Foreign National Offenders Exclusion Bill 2015-16 Second reading in Commons - TBC

- [Second reading in Commons](#) – 11th March 2016: Division called: rescheduled for debate

Convicted Prisoners Voting Bill 2015-16 Second reading in Commons – 6th May 2016

Bill to make provision for rules relating to the exclusion of convicted prisoners from participation in elections

Rehabilitation of Offenders Bill Second reading in Lords - TBC

Amendments to the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 introducing revised rehabilitation requirements

Proposed **Counter Extremism Bill Announced as part of the Queen's Speech - 27th May 2015**

Proposals include new civil orders to ban extremist groups, restrict the behaviour of extremist individuals, and to close down premises used for extremist purposes. The Bill will also provide Ofcom with powers to censor extremist content, and enable employers to conduct checks on employees for involvement in extremism.

Proposed **Prisons Bill – Announced as part of the [Prime Ministers Prison Reform Speech](#) – 8th Feb 2016**

Provision for new 'reform prisons'; transformation of the prison education system; new performance metrics / League Tables; new prison-based counter extremism programme; 'secure alternative academies' for young offenders; [problem-solving courts](#); expanded use of tags / satellite tracking; arrangements for [women offenders with children](#)

Illegal Immigrants (Criminal Sanctions) Bill 2015-16 Withdrawn at second reading – 4th March 2016

2. Reviews and Inquiries

[Police and Crime Commissioners](#) – 23rd February 2016 – Report in preparation

Home Affairs Committee [evidence session](#) explored relationships with Chief Constables, awareness of PCCs, activity to tackle hate crime, HMIC inspection, experience of first term in office and future opportunities with regard to the Fire and Rescue Service, Youth Offending Services and free schools.

[Prison Reform](#) - 16th March 2016

Justice Select Committee one-off evidence session exploring Prison Reform following announced reforms

[Efficiency in the Criminal Justice System](#) – 17th March 2016

Public Accounts Committee evidence session exploring CJ efficiencies and the programme of reform

[Reform of the Police Funding Formula inquiry Report \(11 Dec 2015\)](#) awaiting Govt. response

Commons Home Affairs Committee recommends an independent panel of accounting firms, financial experts and the College of Policing be appointed to assist the Home Office in formulating [police funding](#) proposals

[Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill inquiry Report \(29 Jan 2016\)](#) awaiting Govt. response

CLG Committee recommends for more clarity, long-term objectives and greater consultation on devolution

[Financial sustainability of fire and rescue services inquiry Report \(17 Feb 2016\)](#) awaiting Govt response

Public Accounts Committee report recommends more proactivity from the Home Office in assessing impact and options for merging services. The Home Office should also produce guidance to [strengthen accountability](#) and publish a delivery plan by summer 2016 in relation to external scrutiny

[Comprehensive Spending Review Report \(11th Feb 2016\)](#) awaiting Govt. response

Treasury Committee Inquiry into CSR and Autumn Statement ahead of next govt. budget on 16th March

- [Cyber security: Protection of personal data online inquiry](#) Oral evidence – 27th January 2016
Culture, Media and Sport Committee inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the TalkTalk data breach
- [Countering extremism inquiry](#) Oral evidence in progress - 2nd February 2016
Inquiry into the Government's new five year strategy into countering extremism is now taking oral evidence
- [Young adult offenders inquiry](#) Oral evidence in progress - 2nd February 2016
Justice Committee considering the Harris Review and evidence on treatment of young adults within CJS
- [Prostitution inquiry](#) Oral evidence in progress – 1st March 2016
Home Affairs Committee inquiry into the way prostitution is treated in legislation
- [Proceeds of crime inquiry](#) Oral evidence in progress – 8th March 2016
Home Affairs Committee inquiry into the effectiveness of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002
- [Restorative justice inquiry](#) Publishing written evidence – 23rd February 2016
Justice Committee Inquiry into use of restorative justice in criminal justice system
- [Role of the magistracy inquiry](#) Publishing written evidence – 16th March 2016
Justice Committee Inquiry into the current and future role of the magistracy
- [Forensic Science Strategy inquiry](#) Accepting [written submissions](#) until 4th April 2016
Science and Technology Committee exploring extent to which previous concerns have been met
- [Support for ex-offenders inquiry](#) Accepting [written submissions](#) 8th April 2016
Work and Pensions Committee Inquiry into benefits and support available to offenders leaving prison
- [Child Sexual Abuse Inquiry \(Goddard\)](#) Ongoing
Independent Inquiry into institutional failures in protecting children against sexual abuse

3. Inspections

[Confiscation orders: Progress review](#) – 11th March 2016

National Audit Office review considers progress against 6 Public Accounts Committee recommendations from 2014. Despite some progress by criminal justice bodies, the NAO considers only one recommendation to have been fully addressed (strengthening of sanctions for non-payment). Improvements have been made in how confiscation orders are administered with a greater focus on enforcement and better joint working across bodies, however, the number of orders imposed have fallen and continue to be made in only a tiny fraction of total crimes. The report highlights that more could be done to reduce confiscation order debt which has risen in the last two years, but recognises that capacity to help recover high-value orders has reduced as the number of financial investigators has fallen. While the government aspires for law enforcement agencies to prioritise confiscation orders, most police forces do not consider asset recovery a priority compared to other areas of enforcement, such as countering extremism.

[Police Use of Force](#) – 8th March 2016

IPCC report informed by evidence from police complaints data, IPCC investigations and referrals and research into public, police and stakeholder perceptions. The research identified that, nationally the public believe police use force more readily than they did 10 years ago and use firearms much more frequently than is the case. Trust in police to use reasonable force was found to be lower than average (83%) amongst younger people (71%) and BAME communities (76%) – particularly Black respondents (61%). Young people experiencing use of force were found to be disproportionately more likely to be from a BAME background and a disproportionate number of cases resulting in death or multiple uses of force involved people with mental health concerns. Appeals to the IPCC regarding use of force were also more likely to succeed than for other complaint types, particularly where the complainant is from a BAME community. The report makes 20 recommendations for police forces (14), NPCC (2), PCCs (2), the College of Policing (1), and HMIC (1), with police forces being invited to respond with details of any action to be taken in response. Forces and other stakeholders have been invited to [respond](#) formally to the recommendations and any action they plan to take. IPCC have also developed a [prompt sheet](#) to help community and voluntary sector groups in scrutinising their police force.

- PEEL: Efficiency, Legitimacy and Leadership (visits) – Expected Spring 2016
- [JTAI Missing and absent children & child sexual exploitation \(thematic\)](#) – Expected summer 2016
- PEEL: Effectiveness (visits) – Expected Autumn 2016
- [Child Protection Inspection](#) – Rolling programme
- HMIC/P: Joint inspection of police custody arrangements – Rolling programme (New schedule April)

4. Research, Development and Statistics

[Alley Gating Systematic Review](#) – 16th March 2016

Systematic review comprising six evaluations concludes that alley gating is an effective burglary reduction. As with most other forms of situational crime prevention, there appears little evidence of displacement to other areas. It is important to consider the type of neighbourhood in which alley gates are to be implemented, with schemes being more effective where residents are invested in their area and are willing to come together to use alley gates effectively and efficiently.

[Road Traffic Law Enforcement](#) – 15th March 2015

Transport Committee report highlights a 4% increase in road fatalities in 2014 (most recent reported statistics) and a 5% increase in serious injuries. While overall recorded offences continue to fall, the report suggests that this may not represent a reduction in offences actually being committed. The report also highlights year on year increases in the number of cyclists and motorcyclists killed or seriously injured and long term reductions in the number of motoring offences that result in a detection.

[Child sex offence reporting](#) – 9th March 2016

NSPCC Freedom of Information request to 45 forces in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland identifies that the number of child sex offences reported to police across the UK reached the highest on record last year (45,456), equating to 124 a day – or five every hour. The report notes that it is unclear to what extent the increases have been driven by improved recording methods, greater vigilance with regard to sex crimes or more survivors feeling encouraged to speak out. Figures have been released as part of NSPCC 'It's Time' Campaign which calls for more therapeutic help to support victims, and more ring-fenced funding for survivor services and child survivors of abuse in particular.

[Forced Marriage Unit Statistics 2015](#) – 8th March 2016

In 2015, the national Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) gave advice or support relating to a possible forced marriage in 1,220 cases via its public helpline and email inbox. This represents a further 3% reduction on 2014 and continues the general downward trend seen since 2009. While 14% of cases had no overseas element, 44% involved victims being at risk of (or already) being taken to Pakistan. Other 'focus countries' Bangladesh (7%), India (6%), Somalia (3%) and Afghanistan (2%).

[Assessment of Domestic violence protection orders](#) – 8th March 2016

Home Office assessment of data collected during 2015 indicates significant variations between forces in the number of DVPNs issued and an average breach rate for DVPOs of 18%. A high level of awareness of DVPOs was reported by practitioners and police participants. Findings showed a need to ensure victims are routinely made aware of local support services, cases are properly risk assessed and Police consider the risks of coercive control in domestic violence cases to ensure DVPOs are not targeted solely at cases with obvious signs of physical abuse. Assessment identifies policy considerations and examples of good practice.

[Assessment of Domestic violence disclosure scheme](#) – 8th March 2016

Home Office assessment considers how the scheme has been working since the national roll-out in March 2014. Indicative data from police forces shows that between March and December 2014, a total of 4,724 applications had taken place with 1,938 disclosures made. Amongst the 15 forces submitting data for January to July 2015, 691 DVDS disclosure applications were made with 297 disclosures. Police and partner agencies were largely positive about the DVDS and some good practice is emerging, with some forces placing markers on the Police National Computer (PNC) following a disclosure to alert officers of individuals at potential risk.

5. Policy and Practice

[Forensic Science Strategy – A National Approach](#) – 11th March 2016

Strategy published to articulate the Government's vision for 'a clearer system of governance to ensure quality standards and proper ethical oversight, a cost effective service that delivers robust relevant forensic evidence across the CJS, strengthening public and judicial trust in forensic science'. The Strategy sets out how forensic science will keep pace with the changing world to deal with significant threats and challenges such as child sexual exploitation (CSE) and the proliferation of digital forensic material generated by this crime. It also sets out the Government's expectations with regard to consistent quality management across policing, a clearer statutory role for the Forensic Regulator, enhanced governance for the forensics system, use of the Police Innovation Fund to encourage innovative new approaches, working with research councils to identify new opportunities and working with the College of Policing to understand the capabilities required within the forensic science workforce. [Digital Forensics and Crime](#) briefing paper published – 9th March 2016

[Freedom of Information: changing the law?](#) - 10th March 2016

Considers the background to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and responses to new proposals in view of the Independent Commission on Freedom of Information's review of the existing law

[Police complaints systems in the UK](#) – 7th March 2016

House of Commons Briefing Paper – See Policing and Crime Bill

[Strategy to End Violence Against Women and Girls 2016 to 2020](#) – 8th March 2016

Government launches revised government strategy to end violence against women and girls. The strategy presents a shift from a model of crisis intervention to prevention and early intervention alongside a commitment to develop the evidence base on what works in tackling the causes of offending behaviour. An £80 million [VAWG Service Transformation Fund](#) for 2017 was announced to support the strategy and promote projects which are leading the way in stopping violence before it happens and establishing the best ways to help victims and their families. The funding will also help to deliver a secure future for refuges and other specialist accommodation, as well as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and Forced Marriage Units and work on changing the attitudes and behaviours of perpetrators, to make sure rehabilitation, mental health interventions and other appropriate perpetrator programmes are in place. The strategy aims to harness new technologies such as body-worn cameras or GPS tracking. The government is encouraging police forces to use new technologies and digital policing, and will provide support in introducing new methods.

[Reforming the IPCC: Consultation Responses and Next Steps](#) – 7th March 2016

Government response concludes that the IPCC's existing governance model is no longer suitable for the expanding organisation and in view of the Policing and Crime Bill, the complaints body will be subject to a new governance model, headed by a director general appointed by Her Majesty The Queen. Corporate governance will be provided by a board comprising a majority of non-executive directors appointed by the Home Secretary. The organisation will also be renamed the "Office for Police Conduct" to reflect its expanded role investigating serious and sensitive matters. The reforms in the Policing and Crime Bill increase the IPCC's powers, including initiating its own investigations and recommending remedies.

[CNC and Home Office collaboration agreement](#) – 7th March 2016

A collaboration agreement has been signed between the Civil Nuclear Constabulary (CNC) and Home Office allowing the CNC to provide support to other police forces should they require it. This extends provisions under the Energy Act 2014 to enable the CRC to provide Authorised Firearms Officers (AFOs), should they be needed, without the need for a formal agreement between Chief Constables and the CNC.

6. Consultations

[Police Education Qualification Framework](#)

College of Policing consultation on proposals to establish a qualifications framework for policing, develop opportunities for officers and staff to gain accredited qualifications equivalent to their level of practice or rank and develop entry routes which involve self-funded undergraduate programmes, police-funded graduate conversion programmes and higher level apprenticeships.

Open date: 02/02/2016

Close date: 29/03/2016

[Changes to criminal justice statistics](#)

Ministry of Justice consultation seeks views on five proposed changes to the quarterly criminal justice statistics. These comprise ceasing to produce a number of overview tables, sourcing failing to appear at magistrates court data from the courts as opposed to police, publishing more detail on remand decision statistics, rationalising the interactive data tools and publishing outcome data at Home Office offence code level.

Open date: 18/02/2016

Close date: 31/03/2016

[Health risks from alcohol: new guidelines](#)

Seeks views on the UK Chief Medical Officers' proposed new guidelines to limit the health risks associated with the consumption of alcohol. The guidance makes recommendations for both men and women to not drink more than 14 units per week and if as much as 14 units per week are consumed, that it is best spread evenly over 3 days or more.

Open date: 08/01/2016

Close date: 01/04/2016

[Law Commission Sentencing Law in England and Wales consultative document](#)

Second consultative document on legislation currently in force in relation to sentencing. A further consultation on policy issues will follow in spring 2016. Commission plans to publish a consultation report and draft of the New Sentencing Code in the summer of 2017. The final report and draft Bill for this project is due by early 2018.

Open date: 09/10/2015

Close date: 09/04/2016

[Child Safety Online: Age Verification for Pornography](#)

Seeking views on protecting children from seeing pornographic material online, including proposals to require age verification for pornographic content online and placing legal responsibilities on companies that profit from online pornography.

Open date: 16/02/2016

Close date: 12/04/2016

[Better use of data in government](#)

Cabinet Office consultation seeking views on proposals to enable greater information sharing between public authorities in order to improve public services, address fraud and debt and inform research and official statistics. This includes proposals to share personal data in specific contexts and give the Office for National Statistics access to detailed administrative government data.

Open date: 29/02/2016

Close date: 22/04/2016

[Reduction in sentence for a guilty plea guideline](#)

The Sentencing Council is consulting on a revised guideline for guilty plea sentence reductions to clarify the levels of reduction appropriate for the different stages at which the plea is entered. This follows data suggesting that levels of reductions in some cases appear to be higher than those recommended by the guideline.

Open date: 11/02/2016

Close date: 05/05/2016

[Independent review of deaths and serious incidents in police custody](#)

Home Office consultation seeking views from stakeholders and members of the public on deaths and serious incidents in police custody, including the lead up to incidents, the immediate aftermath and the conclusion of official investigations. Findings will be used to inform an independent review of the procedures and processes surrounding deaths and serious incidents in police custody which is scheduled to be published summer 2016.

Open date: 26/02/2016

Close date: 06/05/2016

[Revised CPS Guidelines on Prosecuting Social Media Cases](#)

CPS consultation on revised guidelines for the prosecution of cases covering a range of current, new and emerging social media related offences committed online, including setting up fake online profiles and websites in order to abuse others, offences involving revenge pornography and controlling or coercive behaviour. The new guidelines aim to provide clear advice to help prosecutors deal with cyber-enabled crime.

Open date: 03/03/2016

Close date: 12/05/2016

[Police use of force](#)

IPCC consultation seeking feedback on the research study 'Police use of force' aims to help the organisation understand how people are using the research.

Open date: 08/03/2016

Close date: TBC