



Commissioner's horizon scanning briefing

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1. Policy and Practice

[Successful bids for Police Transformation Fund announced](#) – 5th August 2016

Home Secretary announces 14 successful projects which will collectively receive £23m from the Police Transformation Fund 2016/17. Projects include work to support transfer of digital information between forces (West Yorks, Hamps, Surrey, Sussex, Thames Valley), combat child sexual exploitation (Norfolk) and improve procurement and collaboration (Notts, Leices, Northants). Bidding for September round of PTF is now open.

[Powers to cut off mobile phones used illicitly in prisons](#) – Serious Crime Act 2015 - 11th August 2016

New measures introduced giving police and prison officers powers to apply for Telecommunications Restriction Orders (TRO) where there is evidence of mobile phones being used illicitly by inmates for criminal activity. TROs can be used to instruct mobile networks to remotely disconnect phones, rendering them unusable.

[Maritime enforcement – Modern Slavery Act 2015 \(Statutory instrument\)](#) - 8th August 2016

New powers introduced by the Modern Slavery Act come into effect which enable Border Force, police forces and the National Crime Agency (NCA) to board and search vessels in UK waters, seize evidence and arrest offenders, where modern slavery is suspected to be taking place.

[‘Zombie knives’ ban – Criminal Justice Act 1988 \(Amendment\)](#) (Statutory instrument) – 18th August 2016

New order comes into force banning the sale, manufacture, rental or importation of ‘zombie knives’. The knives often have serrated edge cutting blades of up to 25 inches and words and images that glamorise violence.

[Apprenticeships: proposals for funding from May 2017](#) – 12th August 2016

Further Education and Skills policy paper outlines proposals for how the apprenticeships support package for employers will work from May 2017. The final support package will be confirmed in October 2016. Guidance and information relating to the [Apprenticeship levy](#) has also been updated.

[NSPCC provides new guidance for parents and young people on ‘sexting’](#) – 16th August 2016

[College Digest – August Edition](#) – 17th August 2016

Recent Commons briefing papers include [Age of criminal responsibility](#) (16th August), [Dangerous Dogs](#) (11th August), [Harassment: “Police Information Notices”](#) (10th August 10), [Taxi and private hire vehicle licensing](#) (10th August), [Troubled Families programme](#) (9th August)

2. Research, Development and Statistics

[Police use of Taser statistics 2015](#) - Published 11th August 2016

Home Office statistics show that police use of Taser increased by 2% in 2015 to 13,329 - a level broadly similar to 2013. Cases in which Tasers were discharged fell by 3% while cases which did not result in the Taser being discharged (i.e. drawn, aimed, red-dot) increased by 4%. [Data available at police force level](#)

[Criminal Justice Statistics quarterly – March 2016](#) – Published 18th August 2016

Ministry of Justice statistics show that the number of people being dealt with formally by the CJS (1.7m) is now at a record low, having been in decline since 2007. Use of out of court disposals (-22%), police cautions (-19%) and people proceeded against for indictable offences (-17%) continued to fall in 2015/16. Summary offences increased by a further 10% driven by an increase in those prosecuted for TV licence evasion, common assault and failing to pay for a vehicle licence. Sexual offence prosecutions rose by 4% to the highest in a decade. The average custodial length for all offences has increased by 0.4 months over the last year to 16.3 months. Juvenile first time entrants into the criminal justice system has continued to fall, having halved since 2013.

[Criminal court statistics: January to March 2016](#) - Published 10th August 2016

Ministry of Justice statistics showing magistrates' and Crown Court activity during the first quarter of 2016. Following a decrease in receipts and an increase in disposals, Magistrates' court caseloads fell to the lowest level since Q1 2014, while outstanding cases in the Crown Court have been decreasing since Q4 2014.

[Court efficiency and effectiveness data available at regional level](#)

[Outcome of unduly lenient sentence referrals – May 2016 to date](#) - Published 16th August 2016

Attorney General's Office statistics showing the number and outcome of 'unduly lenient sentence' referrals made by the public by area, offence and original/revised sentence.

[Youth custody data to June 2016](#) - 12 August 2016

Ministry of Justice and YJB statistics show an 8.4% reduction in the youth custody population (incl. 18 yr olds) over the last year to 986. The overall occupancy rate for the secure estate has risen slightly to 80% following a 7% reduction in the number of beds commissioned and a 2% reduction in beds available. [Additional trend data](#)

Upcoming [Crime Reduction Systematic Reviews](#):

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| • Criminal justice interventions in domestic violence | Pending |
| • Motivational approaches for domestic violence perpetrator programmes | Pending |
| • Domestic violence perpetrator programmes: A review of reviews | Pending |
| • Police responses to people with mental health problems | Pending |
| • The impact of police pre-arrest diversion | Pending |
| • Effectiveness of asset-focussed interventions against organised crime | Pending |
| • Tagging as a method to reduce theft in retail environments | Pending |
| • Red light enforcement cameras to reduce traffic violations and injuries | Pending |
| • Diversity and organisational outcomes | Pending |
| • The effectiveness of electronic monitoring of offenders | September 2016 |
| • Personal security alarms for the prevention of assaults | November 2016 |

3. Inspections

[Joint inspections to examine partnership working in response to domestic abuse](#) – 10th August 2016

Ofsted, Care Quality Commission, HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and HM Inspectorate of Probation have announced that the next joint targeted area inspections will focus on [children affected by domestic abuse](#). JTAs examine how well local partners, including local authorities, police, probation, and health services, work together to help and protect children the welfare of children. The inspections which will take place between September 2017 and March 2018 will include a 'deep dive' evaluation of children and young people's experiences and evaluate the effectiveness of local partner interventions to safeguard children.

HMIC Inspection Programme

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| • PEEL: Efficiency, Legitimacy and Leadership | In progress |
| • JTAI Missing and absent children & child sexual exploitation (thematic) | Summer 2016 |
| • JTAI Partnership response to children affected by domestic abuse | Fieldwork Autumn 2016 |
| • PEEL: Effectiveness - prevention, investigation, vulnerability, SPR, ROCU | Fieldwork Autumn 2016 |
| • HMIC Thematic Inspections: crime recording, counter-terrorism | Unannounced visits |
| • HMIC Modern Slavery | TBC |
| • Joint Inspections of Stalking and Harassment (HMIC-led) | TBC |
| • Joint targeted Child Protection Inspection (Ofsted-led) | Rolling programme |
| • Joint inspection of Police Custody Arrangements (HMI Prisons-led) | Rolling programme |

4. Reviews and Inquiries

[Professor Alexis Jay to lead independent the inquiry into child sexual abuse](#) – 11th August 2016

Professor Alexis Jay will Chair the inquiry following Justice Goddard's resignation on 4th August. A [Commons briefing](#) has been published which provides further background to the inquiry which formally opened in July 2015 to replace a non-statutory inquiry established in July 2014.

- **Reports in preparation:** [Countering extremism inquiry](#) (Home Affairs Committee), [Restorative justice inquiry](#) (Justice Committee), [Future role of the magistracy inquiry](#) (Justice Committee), [The rise of anti-Semitism inquiry](#) (Home Affairs Committee), [Sexual Violence in Schools inquiry](#) (Women and Equalities)
- **Evidence in progress:** [Female Genital Mutilation inquiry](#) (12th July 2016), [Forensic Science Strategy inquiry](#) (6th July 2016), [Transforming Rehabilitation inquiry](#) (4th July 2016), [Apprenticeships inquiry](#) (29th June 2016), [Support for ex-offenders inquiry](#) (15th June 2016), [Child Sexual Abuse Independent Inquiry](#) (investigations Ongoing), [Lammy Review of BAME representation in the CJS](#) (Ongoing), [Treatment of young adult offenders inquiry](#) (26th April 2016).
- **Accepting written submissions:** [Hate crime and its violent consequences inquiry](#) (deadline 1st September 2016), [Prison Reform inquiry](#) (deadline 30th September 2016), [Sharia Law](#)
- **Reports awaiting government response:** [Reform of the Police Funding Formula](#) ([Report published](#) 11th December 2015), [Efficiency in the Criminal Justice System](#) ([Report published](#) 27th May 2016), [Prostitution inquiry](#) ([Report published](#) 1st July 2016)

5. Legislation

[Investigatory Powers Bill](#) - Lords Committee stage continues on 5th September 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. Due to be enacted 2016.

See [Lords briefing paper](#) (21st June 2016) and [Joint Select Committee recommendations](#) for further information

[Policing and Crime Bill](#) – Lords Committee stage to start on 14th September 2016

- 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 briefing](#) (5th July 2016), [supporting documents](#) and [running list of amendments](#) (27th July 2016)
- [Amendments to be moved in Committee](#) on 14th September 2016

[Children and Social Work Bill](#) – Lords Report stage – 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.

[Modern Slavery \(Transparency in Supply Chains\) Bill](#) – Lords Committee stage – 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 available](#)

[Digital Economy Bill](#) – Commons 2nd reading - TBC

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.

[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 excludes adult-only content; require information to be provided about online safety; make provision for parents to be educated about online safety; make provision for the regulation of harmful material through on-demand programme services; to introduce licensing of pornographic services

Sexual Offences (Pardons Etc.) Bill – Commons 2nd reading – 21st Oct 2016

Private Members' Bill to make provision for the pardoning, or otherwise setting aside, cautions and convictions for specified sexual offences that have now been abolished

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

New legislation announced as part of the Queens Speech – 18th May 2016:

Prison and Courts Reform Bill

Make 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 and new arrangements for [women offenders with children](#). Reform Courts and Tribunals to ensure delivery of faster and fairer justice for users by making better use of technology and modernising working practices.

Counter-Extremism and Safeguarding Bill

Prevent radicalisation, tackle extremism in all its forms, and promote community integration. Provide stronger powers to disrupt extremists and protect the public, ensure better mental health provision for individuals in the criminal justice system. Introduce a new civil order regime to restrict extremist activity, safeguard children from extremist adults through powers to intervene in intensive unregulated education settings which teach hate and drive communities apart, stronger powers for the Disclosure and Barring Service; close loopholes so that Ofcom can continue to protect consumers who watch internet-streamed television content from outside the EU on Freeview; consultation on powers to enable government to intervene where councils fail to tackle extremism. The Government will consider the need for further legislative measures following Louise Casey's review

Criminal Finances Bill

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.

6. Consultations

[Hate crime and its violent consequences – Call for Evidence](#)

Home Affairs Committee inquiry call for evidence seeking views on the effectiveness of legislation and law enforcement policies, barriers that prevent individuals from reporting, the role of social media companies and other online platforms in helping to identify and prevent hate crime online, the role of the voluntary sector, community representatives, and other frontline organisations in challenging attitudes, how recording, measurement and analysis of hate crime can be improved and support available to victims and their families.

Open date: 04/07/2016

Close date: 01/09/2016

[Apprenticeship Funding Proposals](#)

Department for Education consultation on the Government proposals for funding apprenticeships, which includes how much employers will be able to spend on each apprenticeship, the rules employers will need to follow and proposed funding bands that will apply from May 2017. Consultation is open to all employers and training providers who operate in the United Kingdom.

Open date: 12/08/2016

Close date: 05/09/2016

[Review of methodology for addressing high frequency repeat victimisation in CSEW estimates](#)

Office for National Statistics is seeking feedback on alternative methods for handling high frequency repeat victimisation in Crime Survey for England and Wales estimates following agreement by the Government Statistical Service Methodology Advisory Committee that the current methodology should be reviewed. Feedback obtained through this consultation will be used to inform final recommendations which will be made to the National Statistician's Crime Statistics Advisory Committee in late September 2016.

Open date: 06/07/2016

Close date: 13/09/2016

[Fingerprint development and image capture: codes of practice](#)

Forensic Science Regulator's consultation on draft appendix to the codes of practice and conduct for fingerprint development/enhancement which were revised in February 2016.

Open date: 27/07/2016

Close date: 16/09/2016

[Self-sufficient local government: 100% business rates retention](#)

DCLG consultation seeking to identify issues that should be kept in mind when designing reforms that will allow local government to retain 100% of the business rates they raise locally. The government has also issued a [call for evidence](#) on needs and distribution to inform a fair funding review of what the needs assessment formula should be following the implementation of 100% business rates retention.

Open date: 05/07/2016

Close date: 26/09/2016

[Prison Reform – Call for Evidence](#)

Justice Committee inquiry seeking views on the purpose of prisons, modernisation, reform prisons, stakeholder roles and responsibilities, outsourced services, measures of performance, mechanisms for regulation and scrutiny and interdependent government agendas

Open date: 27/07/2016

Close date: 30/09/2016

[Reporting and acting on child abuse and neglect](#)

Home Office and Department for Education consultation on plans to improve outcomes for vulnerable children in line with the aims of the [Serious Crime Act 2015](#) and 2015 [tackling child sexual exploitation report](#). Seeks views on the introduction of either a mandatory reporting duty for organisations and practitioners to report suspected child abuse or a duty to take appropriate action in response to suspected child abuse or neglect.

Open date: 21/07/2016

Close date: 13/10/2016

[What next for devolution? A discussion paper](#)

LGA are inviting responses to a [green paper](#) which aims to encourage local debate and generate wider scrutiny of the devolution process. It sets out some ideas and a series of big questions which will help to structure the conversations that are already happening in local areas.

Open date: 05/07/2016

Close date: TBC

[College of Policing Survey 2016](#)

College of Policing are inviting views and feedback from POLKA-registered members (policing professionals) on a range of work that the College is undertaking, including the Police Education Qualifications Framework, the Leadership Review, Direct Entry and demand analysis. The survey also provides the opportunity to provide views on what the College should focus on in the future.

Open date: 16/08/2016

Close date: TBC