



Commissioner's horizon scanning brief:

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1. Legislation

Immigration Bill Lords Report stage – 9th 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. [Lords Committee Stage](#) – 9th Feb

Enterprise Bill Commons Committee Stage – 23rd February 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. [Commons Committee Stage](#)
[Minister launches '100 apprenticeships in 100 days' campaign](#) – 11th February 2016

Riot Compensation Bill 2015-16 Second Reading in Lords – 26th February 2016

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. [First Reading in Lords](#) - 8th February 2016

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.

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

Road Traffic Act 1988 (Alcohol Limits) (Amendment) Bill 2015-16 Lords Committee Stage - TBC

Private Members' Bill to lower prescribed limit of alcohol in breath, blood and urine by 37%

[Convicted Prisoners Voting Bill 2015-16](#) Second reading in Commons- 26th February 2016

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

[Illegal Immigrants \(Criminal Sanctions\) Bill 2015-16](#) Second reading in Commons - 4th March 2016

[Victims of Crime Etc \(Rights, Entitlements\) Bill 2015-16](#) Second reading in Commons - 11th Mar 2016

Bill to make further provision in relation to the duties and responsibilities of the Victims' Commissioner; the Victims' Code; require victims' services plans for each police service area; 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?](#)' Published 9th February

[Child Victims of Human Trafficking Bill 2015-16](#) Second reading in Commons - 11th Mar 2016

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

[Foreign National Offenders Exclusion Bill 2015-16](#) Second reading in Commons - 11th March 2016

[Criminal Driving \(Justice for Victims\) Bill](#) Second reading in Commons - 11th March 2016

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

[Rehabilitation of Offenders Bill](#) Second reading in Lords TBC

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

[Draft Investigatory Powers Bill](#) Joint Select Committee concludes its work – 11th February 2016

Draft Bill bringing together provisions governing intrusive powers, including provisions for the interception, retention and acquisition of communications data, the use of equipment interference and the acquisition of bulk data for analysis. [Joint Select Committee](#) supports the intention of the Bill, but found that it lacks clarity in a number of areas (definitions, cost and other practical implications and the need to publish the Codes of Practice alongside the Bill. Clarity regarding encryption, the justification for bulk powers, the case for Internet Connection Records (ICRs) and a joint committee to be established to review the impact of the Bill five years after its enacted. 86 detailed recommendations aimed at ensuring that the powers are workable, can be clearly understood by those affected by them and have proper safeguards.

[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.

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

[Speed Limits on Roads \(Devolved Powers\) Bill](#) Withdrawn – 5th February 2016

Private Member's Bill to make provision about the powers and duties of parish and town councils in relation to applying for speed limit orders and provide for the conduct of local referendums to determine whether such applications should be made. Bill was withdrawn after [second reading in Commons](#).

Policing and Crime Bill – Introduced to House of Commons on 10th February 2016

[Explanatory information](#) and [overarching documents](#) published 11th Feb 2016. Bill makes provision for:-

- **Emergency Services Collaboration**:- places a duty on all three emergency services to collaborate where it would improve efficiency or effectiveness; introduces [police and fire reforms](#) to [enable PCCs to take on the functions of fire and rescue authorities \(FRAs\)](#) where a local case is made – create a single employer or enable PCCs to be represented on FRAs with voting rights where the FRA agrees.
- **Police complaints, discipline and inspection**:- [Police complaints reform](#) - enable PCCs to determine how complaints are dealt with and take on responsibility for appeals suitable for local resolution; extend definition of 'complaint' to cover policing practices and service failure; simplify and extend complaints system; [new powers for IPCC](#) to require re-investigation and investigate whistleblower's concerns, new powers for bodies to make [super-complaints](#) about policing and raise systemic issues; [police discipline reforms](#) which extend to former officers; requires police forces to report dismissals to the College of Policing who will maintain and publish a 'struck-off list'; [strengthen the independence of HMIC](#); enabling HMIC to gain access to PCC and private sector information where they are delivering policing functions; require PCCs to publish a response to HMIC recommendations within 56 days.
- **Police workforce and representative institutions**, including discretion to [expand the powers of police staff](#) (subject to appropriate selection/training); enable volunteers to be designated with powers without becoming a special constable (PCSV); removes police powers to appoint traffic wardens under the Road Traffic Acts; creates a core list of powers reserved for police officers; enables Home Secretary to [alter police ranks](#) (excl. PC and CC); [strengthen accountability and transparency of the Police Federation](#) by extending its purpose to cover public interest and making it subject to the FOI Act 2000; [amending references to ACPO in legislation following formation of NPCC](#).
- **Police powers and PCCs**:- [Measures to limit pre-charge bail](#) to 28 days and tighten authorisation requirements; improve use of video link technology at police stations; stop and [restrict use of police cells for those experiencing a mental health crisis](#) ([amendments to s135 and s136 of the Mental Health Act 1983](#)); ensure 17-year-olds detained in police custody are treated as children ([amendments to PACE Act 1984](#)); [extends police powers to certain maritime environments](#); clarifies terms of office for [deputy police and crime commissioners](#); [enables police area names to be changed](#) where there are changes to force boundaries
- **Firearms and alcohol licensing**:- [closing loopholes in the Firearms Acts](#) that can be exploited by criminals and terrorists, powers to introduce [statutory guidance](#) for the police on assessing suitability to hold a firearms licence or shotgun certificate and amending licensing fees; [amendments to the Licensing Act 2003](#) that give licensing authorities powers to revoke/suspend personal licences; add a range of sexual and violent offences to the list of offences against which licensing decisions are made; amends the definition of alcohol to include powdered and vaporised alcohol.
- **Other Miscellaneous provisions include:** amendments to and alignment of [financial sanctions](#); collaboration and enabling legislation for the [National Crime Agency](#); ensuring Sexual Offences Act 2003 covers the [live streaming of images of child sex abuse](#); legislation requiring [foreign national offenders](#) to provide details of their nationality.

- Westminster Hall debate on [Emergency Services: Working Closer](#) – 9th February 2016

2. Reviews and Inquiries

[Police and Crime Commissioners](#) – 23rd February 2016 (3:30pm)

Home Affairs Committee one-off evidence session to question PCC's on their work

[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 concludes that the Government does not have a strong understanding of the impacts of [fire service funding](#) cuts and there is no clear plan as to whether mergers and expansion of roles would be effective or represent value for money. The report also raises concerns regarding [governance and the lack of an independent inspectorate](#). The report recommends a 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

[Transgender Equality Inquiry Report \(14th January 2016\)](#)

Commons Women and Equalities Committee (WEC) report makes 30 recommendations for change

[Countering extremism inquiry](#) Receiving evidence 2nd February 2016

Inquiry into the Government's new five year strategy into countering extremism is now taking oral evidence

[Young adult offenders inquiry](#) Receiving evidence 2nd February 2016

Justice Committee considering the Harris Review and evidence on treatment of young adults through the CJS

[Cyber security: Protection of personal data online inquiry](#) Receiving evidence 27th January 2016

Culture, Media and Sport Committee inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the TalkTalk data breach

[Inquiry into the Comprehensive Spending Review](#) Receiving evidence 9th December 2015

Treasury Committee Inquiry into CSR and Autumn Statement

[Role of the magistracy inquiry](#) Accepting written submissions

Justice Committee Inquiry into the current and future role of the magistracy

[Restorative justice inquiry](#) Accepting written submissions

Justice Committee Inquiry into use of restorative justice in criminal justice system

[Prostitution inquiry](#) Accepting written submissions

Home Affairs Committee inquiry into the way prostitution is treated in legislation

[Proceeds of crime inquiry](#) Accepting written submissions

Home Affairs Committee inquiry into the effectiveness of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002

[Child Sexual Abuse Inquiry \(Goddard\)](#) Ongoing

Independent Inquiry into institutional failures in protecting children against sexual abuse

3. Inspections

[HMIC PEEL Assessment: Police Effectiveness](#) – 18th February 2016

Annual Police Effectiveness report finds that most police forces are good at preventing crime and anti-social behaviour, however the quality of investigations remains disappointing and there are notable backlogs and delays in the units which extract and analyse evidence from digital devices. 24 out of 43 police forces were graded as 'good', one achieved 'outstanding' (Durham), and 18 'require improvement'. While HMIC found major improvements in force responses to domestic abuse victims HMIC's Zoë Billingham highlighted that "*Frontline neighbourhood police officers...are being pulled from their vitally important preventative work in communities to fulfil other duties. Police leaders need to take heed of HMIC's early warning and make sure that neighbourhood policing is preserved for future generations*".

[HMIC PEEL Assessment: Police Legitimacy](#) – 11th February 2016

Annual Police Legitimacy report finds that the majority of forces are treating people fairly and ethically, however, use of stop and search and the way minority ethnic officers and staff are treated in disciplinary matters presents a mixed picture. 37 out of 43 police forces were graded as 'good', one achieved 'outstanding' (Kent), and five 'require improvement'. HMIC's Stephen Otter said "*we found that police use of stop and search was declining: police officers need to be given the confidence to use this policing tactic correctly. Additionally, too many forces are still not recording the reasonable grounds for stopping a person*". HMIC have made recommendations for forces to take action regarding stop and search within three months and assess whether bias exists in the way that minority ethnic officers and staff are treated in disciplinary matters and, if so, take action to address this.

- State of Policing: Annual Assessment of Police Leadership – 25th February 2016
- [HMIC National Crime Agency Inspection](#) – Expected March 2016
- 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
- Police Custody – Rolling programme

4. Research, Development and Statistics

[IPCC Learning the Lessons Bulletin 25](#) – February 2016

Covers issues including claiming expenses, policing protests, working with nightclub door staff, sharing intelligence on vulnerable people, issuing Tasers, use of appropriate adults in custody, roads policing and valuing seized property.

[Prisons and Probation Learning Lessons Bulletin: Fatal incidents issue 10](#) – 17th February 2016

Ombudsman bulletin re-enforces key lessons for prison staff in identifying, recording and acting on clues and known risk factors in relation to prisoner suicide.

[The Cost of Prison Suicide](#) - 12th February 2016

Howard League for Penal Reform estimates the financial cost to taxpayers of suicide in prison to be as much as £300 million per year. Staff cuts and overcrowding are believed to be having a negative effect on suicide training and prevention. Report calls for a "holistic approach" to improving the mental well-being of all prisoners and reductions in the prison population. The report will be reviewed by the Ministerial Board on Deaths in Custody on 1st March 2016.

[Building prisons in England and Wales: the bigger, the better?](#) – 12th February 2016

House of Commons Briefing Paper

[Crime Statistics: Focus on violent crime and sexual offences 2015](#) – 11th February 2016

CSEW reports 66% reduction in violent crime since the mid-1990s, but no significant change over the previous year. Improvements in crime recording are thought to have driven 23% rise in recorded violence in 2014/15. Police recorded sexual offences reached their highest on record in 2014/15 - reflecting improvements in recording practices and a greater willingness amongst victims to report. The CSEW showed no significant change in levels of sexual assault. Homicides reached their lowest level since 1983 following a downward trend since the early 2000s. Police recorded the first increase in offences involving firearms for 10 years. Offences involving knives or sharp instruments also rose by 2% between 2013/14 and 2014/15. The percentage of respondents experiencing domestic abuse reached the lowest on record in the last year at 6.1%.

5. Policy and Practice

[Child Abuse Whistleblowing helpline launched](#) – 13th February 2016

Providing advice to employees who feel unable to raise concerns about suspected child abuse

[Court and tribunal estate closures confirmed](#) – Govt. Response to Consultation – 11th February 2016

Having considered carefully all responses to the consultation, we have made a decision to close 86 court and tribunals are to close (64 as per consultation proposal and 22 with changes to original proposals – predominantly changes to alternative venues. Response includes [potential implementation dates](#).

[New Joint Fraud Taskforce](#) – Home Secretary Speech – 10th February 2016

Home Secretary announces plans for a new Joint Fraud Taskforce between government, law enforcement agencies and the banking sector. It will work to understanding the threat, develop a collective response, identify and reduce risk to vulnerable victims, influence behaviour change and tackle systemic vulnerabilities

[Review of the Youth Justice System](#) – Interim Report – 9th February 2016

Interim findings from the Taylor Review of the youth justice system see proposals for the youth estate to be re-designed with education being placed at the centre of youth custody. Youth prisons would be replaced with smaller secure schools providing basic English and maths education and high quality vocational education in a more therapeutic environment. Responsibility for deciding how children are managed would also be devolved.

[Plans for prison reform](#) - Prime Minister Speech – 8th February 2016

Prime Minister sets vision for prison reform comprising six new 'reform prisons' in 2016 via a Prisons Bill, with full autonomy over their budget and operation; transformation of the prison education system with full control given to 'reform prison' governors; 9 new reform prisons to replace prisons no longer fit for purpose; publishing new performance metrics which will include Prison League Tables and healthcare information; developing a new prison-based programme to counter extremism and radicalisation; applying the school academies model to the prison system and establishing 'secure alternative academies' for young offenders; [developing problem-solving courts](#); expanding the use of tags and satellite tracking following pilots later this year; [making changes to the way pregnant women are treated in prison](#). The £130m annual budget will be protected.

[Local Government Finance Settlement 2016/17](#) – Govt. Response to Consultation – 8th February 2016

Provisional settlement for 2016/17 and indicative 4 year budget. Dedicated social care precept of 2% a year and a Better Care Fund of £1.5 billion per year to address pressures on care. Further phasing out of Revenue Support Grant and a £150 million a year transitional grant as part of the move to business rates retention.

6. Consultations

[Imposition of community and custodial sentences](#)

Sentencing Council are seeking views from a range of criminal justice professionals on proposals to replace the outdated 'New Sentences Guideline - Criminal Justice Act 2003' with a more concise, technical guideline covering the process for deciding when a community or custodial sentence/suspended custodial sentence should be imposed.

Open date: 14/01/2016

Close date: 25/02/2016

[Introducing a stalking protection order](#)

Home Office consultation seeking views on the introduction of new measures to offer better protection to victims of 'stranger stalking'

Open date: 14/01/2016

Close date: 25/02/2016

[HMIC's 2016/17 inspection programme](#)

HMIC are seeking views on the proposed inspection programme for 2016/17 which will comprise the PEEL assessment; national thematic inspections (crime recording [unannounced], counter terrorism [thematic]); joint inspections (stalking and harassment, child protection, police custody); inspections of other national law enforcement agencies; and commissions from the Home Secretary and police and crime commissioners.

Open date: 05/02/2016

Close date: 26/02/2016

[Public sector apprenticeship targets](#)

The Enterprise Bill sets requirements for public sector bodies to employ apprentices based on targets set by the Secretary of State. This consultation seeks views on the proposal that public bodies in England with a headcount exceeding 250 should be subject to the requirement. It also consults on the rationale for using workforce headcount to set a 2.3% annual target for new apprenticeships amongst public sector bodies.

Open date: 25/01/2016

Close date: 04/03/2016

[Identifying children who are missing education](#)

Department for Education consultation on plans to require schools to report when they add or remove a pupil's name from their pupil admissions register. HM Chief Inspector of Schools believe this gap poses serious safeguarding issues, potentially exposing children to the risk of harm, exploitation or extremism. The proposed changes would amend to the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006.

Open date: 19/01/2016

Close date: 07/03/2016

[Changes to Police and Crime Commissioners complaints system](#)

Home Office proposals to clarify through non-statutory guidance what constitutes a complaint and ensure PCPs take forward complaints about a PCC's conduct rather than their policy decisions; provide PCPs with greater investigatory powers to seek evidence about allegations; clarify, through non-statutory guidance, the parameters of "informal resolution" and setting out that, where agreement cannot be reached, it is open to PCPs to make recommendations on the expected level of behaviour of a PCC, and that they have powers to require the PCC to respond.

Open date: 17/12/2015

Close date: 10/03/2016

[Statutory definition of child sexual exploitation](#)

Government consultation seeking views on proposed changes to the statutory definition of child sexual exploitation which would provide clarity on CSE as a form of child sexual abuse.

Open date: 12/02/2016

Close date: 11/03/2016

[DfT Hand-held mobile phones: changes to penalties for use whilst driving](#)

This consultation seeks feedback on proposals to increase the fixed penalty notice level from £100 to £150 for using a hand-held mobile phone whilst driving. Also invites views on increasing the penalty points for non-HGV drivers (from 3 to 4) and HGV drivers (from 3 to 6).

Open date: 26/01/2016

Close date: 15/03/2016

[Law Commission's Review of Common Law Offence Misconduct in Public Office](#)

The Law Commission consultation to explore whether the common law offence of misconduct in public office should be abolished, retained, restated or amended. Law Commission will publish further consultation options for reform later in spring 2016 and issue a final report on any proposals for legislative change in 2017.

Open date: 20/01/2016

Close date: 20/03/2016

[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

[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 relating 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