



## Commissioner's horizon scanning briefing

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## 1. Policy and Practice

### [Sentencing Guideline for guilty pleas: the risks](#) – 14<sup>th</sup> June 2016

Justice Committee report warns that the Sentencing Council's guideline on reducing sentences for guilty pleas could lead to longer prison terms in some cases which would impact upon the prison population. Given the difficulties in estimating the resource implications, the Council proposes to conduct an impact assessment in 2017. The report also highlights the impact of systemic and personal pressures to plead guilty which are capable of extending to the factually innocent and vulnerable defendants – such as those with learning difficulties or mental health conditions.

### [Children and young people's mental health – policy, services, and funding](#) – 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2016

Commons briefing paper outlines government strategy and funding relating to mental health for young people

### [Financial sustainability of local authorities: Capital expenditure and resourcing](#) – 15<sup>th</sup> June 2016

National Audit Office report concludes that local authorities have kept up levels of capital spending but face pressure to meet debt costs and maintain investment in existing assets.

### [Guide to business rate retention: What localised business rates mean for your council](#) – 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2016

LGA briefing explores Government policy to enable councils to retain 100% of business rates by 2020 and work to explore a needs-led system of redistribution across the whole of local government.

### [New procurement e-learning package developed to help tackle bid-rigging](#) – 20<sup>th</sup> June 2016

The Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) and the Crown Commercial Service have developed a new [tool](#), [60-second summary](#) and [video](#) to help procurers understand why bid-rigging is harmful, spot signs that suggest a bid may be illegal and deal with suspected rigged bids.

### [IPCC 'Focus' - Issue Nine](#) - 20<sup>th</sup> June 2016

IPCC practical guidance on handling complaints and conduct matters within the Police Reform Act 2002. [Latest issue](#) outlines statutory guidance on making a referral, death or serious injury matters, serious corruption, serious assault, discrimination and voluntary referrals.

## 2. Research, Development and Statistics

### [Study demonstrates the value of investing in proactive foot patrols in hotspot areas](#) – 15<sup>th</sup> June

A year-long University of Cambridge criminology study in Peterborough found that targeting 34 crime 'hot spot' areas with 21 minutes extra PCSO foot patrol per day is likely to have prevented 86 assaults a year, or incidents of the equivalent crime 'harm value', saving potential costs to the public of eight years of imprisonment. The study applied the Cambridge Crime Harm Index to measure harm caused to victims based on the severity in sentencing for different offences and also made use of GPS devices embedded in the radios of PCs and PCSOs to track time spent in each location. The findings, published in the Journal of Experimental Criminology, indicate that investing in proactive PCSO foot patrols in crime 'hot spots' could yield a more than five-to-one return: with every £10 spent saving £56 in prison costs.

### [Examination of the impact of online pornography on children and young people](#) – 15<sup>th</sup> June 2016

Middlesex University-led examination of the impact of online pornography on the values, attitudes, beliefs and behaviours of children and young people, commissioned by the Children's Commissioner for England and the NSPCC. Report identifies a marked increase experience of viewing online pornography between the ages of 11-12 (28%) and 15-16 (65%), with some older children wanting to act out the pornography they have seen.

### [Child sex offences involving the internet](#) – 21<sup>st</sup> June 2016

NSPCC findings based on police recorded crime data highlights that the internet was used as a gateway by offenders to commit more than 3,000 sex crimes against children over the last year. NSPCC also found that the number of offences cyber-flagged by police varies wildly across the country - an average of 8 crimes were reported a day with some forces recording hundreds of crimes over the space of a year, while others recorded fewer than 10. A small number of forces said they were not using, or were not aware of the cyber-flag.

### [How safe are our children?](#) – 21<sup>st</sup> June 2016

NSPCC report compiles up to date UK child protection data. The report shows that child cruelty and neglect cases recorded by police have increased by 75% over the last decade to around 8,500 a year. Greater public awareness and improvements in how police record offences are highlighted as potential influencing factors.

### [The true cost of dimming street lights](#) – 16<sup>th</sup> June 2016

Article considers available research on the community safety impact of reducing street lighting

### [New tool developed by Commons Library to profile police force level statistics](#) – 17<sup>th</sup> June 2016

The new [tool](#) enables Police Force Area crime statistics to be compared to regional and national averages.

### [NEET: Young People Not in Education, Employment or Training](#) – published 21<sup>st</sup> June 2016

Commons Library analysis profiling NEET trends and statistics by type, demographic composition and region

#### Upcoming [Crime Reduction Systematic Review](#) publications:

- Mediation, mentoring and peer support to reduce youth violence June 2016
- Criminal justice interventions in domestic violence June 2016
- Motivational approaches for domestic violence perpetrator programmes June 2016
- Domestic violence perpetrator programmes: A review of reviews June 2016
- Police responses to people with mental health problems July 2016
- The impact of police pre-arrest diversion July 2016
- Speed cameras to reduce speeding traffic and road traffic injuries July 2016
- Effectiveness of asset-focussed interventions against organised crime July 2016

## 3. Inspections

### HMIC Inspection Programme

- PEEL: Efficiency, Legitimacy and Leadership Fieldwork has commenced
- [JTAI Missing and absent children & child sexual exploitation \(thematic\)](#) Summer 2016
- PEEL: Effectiveness - prevention, investigation, vulnerability, SPR, ROCU Fieldwork Autumn 2016
- HMIC Thematic Inspections: crime recording, counter-terrorism Unannounced visits
- 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

### [The Carlile Inquiry 10 years on](#) 20<sup>th</sup> June 2016

Howard League report examines progress against recommendations from an independent inquiry into the use of restraint, solitary confinement and strip-searching on children which was led by Lord Carlile in 2006. The report concludes that while reductions in the number of children in custody have been positive, the majority of children are still detained in institutions where restraint is routinely used. There have been some improvements in the use of restraint, solitary confinement and strip-searching, however fundamental concerns remain and progress in implementing the recommendations of the 2006 inquiry has been slow and piecemeal.

### [Reform of the Police Funding Formula inquiry](#) [Report published](#) 11<sup>th</sup> December 2015

Commons Home Affairs Committee report recommendations awaiting government response

### [Police Diversity inquiry](#) [Report published](#) 21<sup>st</sup> May 2016

Home Affairs Committee report recommendations awaiting government response

### [Efficiency in the Criminal Justice System](#) [Report published](#) 27<sup>th</sup> May 2016

Public Accounts Committee report recommendations awaiting government response

- [Countering extremism inquiry](#) – Report in preparation  
Home Affairs Committee inquiry into Government's new five year counter extremism strategy
- [Prostitution inquiry](#) – Report in preparation  
Home Affairs Committee inquiry into the way prostitution is treated in legislation
- [Restorative justice inquiry](#) – Report in preparation  
Justice Committee Inquiry into use of restorative justice in criminal justice system
- [Proceeds of crime inquiry](#) – Report in preparation  
Home Affairs Committee inquiry into the effectiveness of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002
- [The College of Policing inquiry](#) – Report in preparation  
Home Affairs Committee follow up to 2015 [report](#) will consider policing education and qualifications
- [Role of the magistracy inquiry](#) – Report in preparation  
Justice Committee Inquiry into the current and future role of the magistracy

- [Support for ex-offenders inquiry](#) Latest evidence 15<sup>th</sup> June 2016  
Work and Pensions Committee Inquiry into benefits and support available to offenders leaving prison
- [Sexual Violence in Schools inquiry](#) – Latest evidence 14<sup>th</sup> June 2016  
Women and Equalities Committee inquiry concerns over the scale and impact of the issue
- [The rise of anti-Semitism inquiry](#) – Latest evidence 14<sup>th</sup> June 2016  
Home Affairs Committee to explore prejudice against the Jewish community dangers arising from terrorism
- [Treatment of young adult offenders inquiry](#) Final evidence session 26<sup>th</sup> April 2016  
Justice Committee considering the Harris Review and evidence on treatment of young adults within CJS
- [Lammy Review of BAME representation in the CJS](#) Accepting [evidence](#) until 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016  
Review into the over-representation of BAME groups at most stages of the criminal justice system
- [Forensic Science Strategy inquiry](#) Latest evidence – 12<sup>th</sup> April 2016  
Science and Technology Committee exploring extent to which previous concerns have been met
- [Child Sexual Abuse Inquiry \(Goddard\)](#) Ongoing  
Inquiry comprising 13 investigations into institutional failures in protecting children against sexual abuse  
19<sup>th</sup> May 2016: Commencement of the Inquiry's '[Truth Project](#)' in the north west of England  
July 2016: Further preliminary hearings for [Lord Janner](#), [Anglican Church, Rochdale](#) and [Lambeth Council](#)
- [Sharia Law](#) - Announced 26<sup>th</sup> May 2016  
Independent review to understand whether and the extent to which Sharia is being misused or applied in way that is incompatible with the law. Review will also examine the ways in which Sharia may be being misused, or exploited, in a way that may discriminate against certain groups or cause social harms

## 5. Legislation

### **[Investigatory Powers Bill](#) - Lords 2<sup>nd</sup> reading – 27<sup>th</sup> June 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 in 2016 See [Lords briefing paper](#) (21<sup>st</sup> June 2016) and [Joint Select Committee recommendations](#) for further information

### **[Policing and Crime Bill](#) – Lords 1<sup>st</sup> reading - TBC**

Make provision for Emergency Services Collaboration; Police complaints, discipline and inspection reform; changes affecting the police workforce, ranks and representative institutions; police powers, use of modern technology and PCCs; Firearms and alcohol licensing; system for pre-charge bail, combatting the sexual exploitation of children and other miscellaneous provisions. [Supporting documents](#) [Commons analysis paper](#)

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### **[On-line Safety Bill](#) – Lords 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

### **[Rehabilitation of Offenders \(Amendment\) Bill](#) - Lords 2<sup>nd</sup> reading - TBC**

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

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### **[Prison and Courts Reform Bill](#) - Announced 18<sup>th</sup> May 2016**

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 - Announced 18<sup>th</sup> May 2016**

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 - Announced 18<sup>th</sup> May 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 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

### [BAME representation in the Criminal Justice System](#)

Call for evidence from victims, witnesses, offenders, Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities, staff and other stakeholders on their views, experience and insights into BAME representation in the CJS. Evidence will be used to inform the Lammy Review into the over-representation of BAME groups at most stages of the criminal justice system, considering issues arising from the CPS involvement onwards - including the court system, in prisons and rehabilitation in the wider community. Consultation is also inviting more informal contributions via the Twitter hashtag #lammyreview

**Open date: 21/03/2016**

**Close date: 30/06/2016**

### [Media Relations](#)

College of Policing consultation on proposed content for authorised professional practice (APP) on media relations. Consultation seeks feedback from the wide range of individuals and organisations who have an interest in supporting professional, transparent and legitimate relationships between the police and the media.

**Open date: 25/05/2016**

**Close date: 08/07/2016**

### [A new corporate offence of failure to prevent the criminal facilitation of tax evasion](#)

HM Revenue and Customs consultation considers on draft legislation and guidance for the new corporate criminal offence of failure to prevent the criminal facilitation of tax evasion. This consultation seeks stakeholder views to ensure that the offence is both effective at meeting the stated objectives, and not unduly burdensome.

**Open date: 17/04/2016**

**Close date: 10/07/2016**

### [Advanced Practitioner Police Constable](#)

The College of Policing is inviting feedback on the draft model for Advanced Practitioners for Constables which, following a pilot in early autumn, will be applied to both officer and staff Advanced Practitioners more widely across the service. The model has been developed in response to recommendations from the Police Leadership Review in June 2015 which called for greater opportunities for professional development to ensure expertise and leadership are rewarded and recognised.

**Open date: 21/06/2016**

**Close date: 13/07/2016**

### [Sentencing youths: principles and guidelines on sexual offences and robbery](#)

Sentencing Council consultation on the production of up to date consolidated youth sentencing guidelines in respect of sexual offences and robbery

**Open date: 12/05/2016**

**Close date: 03/08/2016**

### [Magistrates' Court Sentencing Guidelines](#)

Sentencing Council consultation on draft revised guidelines for 27 summary offences in the Magistrates' Court which include motoring offences, drug and alcohol related offences, football-related offences, animal cruelty, school non-attendance and licencing-related offences. The draft guidelines use the Sentencing Council methodology of determining the seriousness of an offence which assesses both the culpability of the offender and the impact of the harm caused by their offending.

**Open date: 19/05/2016**

**Close date: 11/08/2016**