



Commissioner's horizon scanning briefing

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1. Policy and Practice

[What next for fire reform? - 24th May 2016](#)

Home Secretary speech on Fire and Rescue Service reform highlights 'impressive' changes by the service over last decade but 'scope for savings' and 'much more to do'. Speech outlines key areas for reform, which include:-

- Governance – Establishing a 'rigorous and independent inspection regime'. Supporting greater oversight by PCCs – this should be looked at and not be viewed as a 'police takeover, or a top-down merger' of roles. In any case, a separation of roles and precepts would remain.
- Workforce diversity – The 96% white and 95% male workforce must modernise and become more diverse. Chief fire officers should not be allowed to leave one job and be rehired with benefits.
- Efficiency and transparency - Home Secretary announced plans to publish procurement data from each fire and rescue authority and highlighted the potential of closer working between emergency services.

[A New Sentencing Code for England and Wales: Transition – 19th May 2016](#)

Law Commission final report on transition to the new sentencing code proposes a "clean sweep" approach whereby all convictions that occur after the introduction of the new Code are sentenced under the new Code, no matter when the offence was committed. This will minimise the need for complex transitional arrangements.

[Police force pilot sites announced for GPS tracking of offenders – 18th May 2016](#)

The government announces the 8 police forces chosen for the piloting of offender GPS satellite tracking as Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire, Leicestershire, Northampton, Nottinghamshire, Staffordshire and West Midlands. Pilots will begin in September and are expected to pave the way for a national roll-out.

[Education in Youth Custody – 17th May 2016](#)

Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology briefing considering the provision and quality of education in youth custody in England and Wales in light of recent government policy announcements. A review of the youth justice system is due to be published in summer 2016

[Counter Extremism Policy](#) Commons briefing paper (overview) – 19th May 2016

[Troubled Families Programme](#) Commons briefing paper (overview) - 16th May 2016

[EU Referendum Purdah Guidance for UK Government Departments](#) – 26th May 2016

[Home Secretary speech to Police Federation Conference 2016](#) – 17th May 2016

[Home Secretary speech to Association of Police and Crime Commissioners](#) – 24th May 2016

2. Research, Development and Statistics

[Progress made in the fight against trafficking in human beings](#) – 25th May 2016

European Commission research report highlights sharp increases in the number of children trafficked to EU countries by gangs and ever younger children becoming victims. The report also highlights increases in girls from Nigeria being pressed into the sex trade and unaccompanied child asylum-seekers at risk of criminal exploitation. The top five EU countries of origin for victims were: Romania, Bulgaria, the Netherlands, Hungary and Poland, with non-EU victims mainly coming from Nigeria, China, Albania, Vietnam and Morocco.

[Firearms and Forensics in Europe](#) – 25th May 2016

Coventry University-led 'EFFECT' research project found inconsistencies in the way countries compile crime data which limit our ability to determine the extent of firearms offences across Europe. It also found legal loopholes that could be exploited by criminals to acquire guns and "considerable delays" in testing firearm residue and bullets found at crime scenes. The report makes 30 recommendations including the creation of "firearms focal points" for countries to gather, analyse and then share information.

[Use of virtual reality technology to recreate crime scenes](#) – 24th May 2016

Staffordshire University project explores use of virtual reality technology for juries

[Preliminary results from police Body-worn camera trial](#) – 17th May 2016

Preliminary findings from 10 randomised-control trials in eight UK and US police forces showed that rates of assault against officers was 15% higher when body-worn cameras are used. Researchers urge caution over the unexpected findings and call for more work to explore possible explanations. It could be that officers feel more able to report assaults once captured on camera or that camera monitoring makes officers less assertive and more vulnerable to assault. In contrast, a College of Policing randomised control trial involving the Metropolitan Police found cameras to have no effect on officer safety or use of force and a 33% reduction in allegations.

[Criminal justice system statistics to December 2015](#) – published 19th May 2016

The total number of individuals dealt with formally by the CJS in England and Wales reached a record low in 2015 (1.7 million) continuing the decline seen since 2007. Over the last year, use of out of court disposals has continued to fall while the number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates' courts increased by 2%. While the custody rate for indictable offences has continued the year on year increase seen since 2010, the number of defendants proceeded against has fallen and the overall custody rate has fallen from 7.6% in 2014 to 7.3% in 2015. The numbers of offenders convicted and sentenced both increased by 3%.

[Safety in prisons analysis](#) – 18th May 2016

Commons Library briefing paper setting out current concerns about prison safety in England and Wales and how the Ministry of Justice is addressing them

[Police and Crime Commissioner Elections: 2016](#) – 19th May 2016

Commons briefing paper examining results and turnout for the second cycle of elections held on 5th May 2016

[Police Disclosure and Barring Service Statistics to March 2016](#) – published 20th May 2016

Force level statistics to March 2016 including volume, performance and response times

[27% reduction in dedicated roads policing officers between 2010 and 2015](#) – 24th May 2016

[Prison population figures 2016](#) – published 20th May 2016

[Fraud and error in the benefit system – Preliminary estimates 2015/16](#) – 19th May 2016

3. Inspections

[Transforming Rehabilitation](#) – 26th May 2016

Final report on the implementation of the Transforming Rehabilitation programme identifies that 15 months after implementation, the National Probation Service (NPS) and Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRC) are working better together, offenders were generally allocated quickly to a CRC responsible officer and NPS are working well to reduce reoffending and risk of harm. NPS work with high-risk offenders is generally good, including effective joint working with specialists, good use of Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) and an active contribution to child protection procedures. CRC arrangements to return an offender to court also appear to have improved. Despite these positive findings, advice given to courts was seen as less reliable in some cases and work to prepare prisoners on release needs a greater focus. Inspectors were concerned to find that written and oral reports provided to the courts by NPS staff varied in quality and some staff preparing those reports had not received sufficient training. Furthermore, over two-thirds of offenders released from prison had not received enough help from the CRC pre-release in relation to accommodation, employment or finances and in some areas, a shortage of probation officers meant that CRC agency staff were allocated medium risk of harm cases for which they felt insufficiently trained.

[Desistance and young people](#) – 24th May 2016

HMI Probation report on the effectiveness of Youth Offending Team (YOT) practice in supporting routes away from offending has found that in many cases continuity of staff has been an issue over recent years as YOT workloads and funding have reduced. Inspectors found some case managers had an excellent grounding and understanding of desistance theory, but most staff were unclear about how key approaches could be applied. Inspectors were concerned to find ambivalence about reparation work among some case managers and that children were sometimes slotted into existing projects that case managers thought unlikely to prove effective. Inspectors were pleased to find that YOT workers generally worked hard at building relationships and young people who were successful in turning away from crime laid great store on a trusting, open and collaborative relationship with their YOT worker.

[HMI Prisons Strategic Objectives and Business Plan 2016/17](#) – 19th May 2016

Inspection Programme

- HMIC PEEL: Efficiency, Legitimacy and Leadership have commenced
- HMI Probation has begun a new inspection programme and will shortly be publishing a series of reports on the quality and impact of probation work, supplemented by thematic inspections
- [JTAI Missing and absent children & child sexual exploitation \(thematic\)](#) – Summer 2016
- HMIC PEEL: Effectiveness (prevention, investigations, vulnerability, SPR, ROCUs) – Fieldwork Autumn 2016
- HMIC Thematic Inspections: crime recording, counter-terrorism - unannounced visits
- Joint Inspections of Stalking and Harassment (HMIC-led)
- Joint targeted [Child Protection Inspection](#) (Ofsted-led) – Rolling programme
- Joint inspection of Police Custody Arrangements (HMI Prisons-led) – Rolling programme

4. Reviews and Inquiries

[In Care, Out of Trouble - 22nd May 2016](#)

Independent review by the Prison Reform Trust finds that around half of the 1,000 children currently in custody in England and Wales have experience of the care system. The review calls for a programme of reform to help improve the life chances of looked after children and recommends establishing a cross-departmental cabinet sub-committee to provide leadership. Recommendations also include a multi-agency concordat on protecting looked after children from criminalisation, better early support for children and families at risk, stronger joint working between children's social care services and criminal justice agencies, improvements in police practice to reduce the prosecution of young people in care and a greater emphasis on the importance of good parenting.

[Police Diversity inquiry Report \(21st May 2016\)](#)

The Home Affairs Committee report concludes that "urgent and radical action" is needed to tackle the gross under-representation of black and minority ethnic (BME) people in policing. No force in England and Wales has BME representation which matches its local demographic profile and 11 forces have no BME officers above the rank of Inspector. The Committee calls for the appointment of a national "Diversity Champion" to provide leadership nationally and oversee diversity leads in each police force. Steps should be taken in each force to introduce coaching and mentoring for BME officers and provide selection panels with diversity training. A BME senior leaders' forum should also be established to provide support to BME officers seeking promotion.

[Prison Safety Inquiry Report \(16th May 2016\)](#)

Justice Committee report concludes that the Ministry of Justice and the National Offender Management Service must produce an action plan for improving prison safety, addressing the factors underlying the rises in violence, self-harm and suicide. The plan should set out the action NOMS is taking with regard to recruitment and retention of prison staff as well as the implementation of the Corruption Prevention Strategy

[Efficiency in the Criminal Justice System Report \(27th May 2016\)](#)

Public Accounts Committee report concludes that the criminal justice system is close to breaking point. A lack of shared accountability and resource pressures mean that costs are being shunted from one part of the system to another and there are too many delays and inefficiencies. There is insufficient focus on victims, who face a postcode lottery in their access to justice due to the significant variations in performance in different areas of the country. "The system is already overstretched and we consider that the Ministry of Justice has exhausted the scope to make more cuts without further detriment to performance"

[Safeguarding of 'Absent' Children Report 'It is good when someone cares' \(26th May 2016\)](#)

All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) Inquiry report suggests at least 10,000 children a year could be at significant risk due to being classed as 'absent' as opposed to 'missing' under the current two tier system used by police. The group recommend that the separate absent category is scrapped and all missing children receive a response proportionate to risk. The group also recommend joint assessments between police and children's services in all cases, jointly commissioned return home interviews for every missing child and no child being classified as low risk without prior joint assessment by the police and children's services.

[Unlocking potential: a review of education in prison – 18th May 2016](#)

Dame Sally Coates independent review into prison education highlights the value of education and employment in reducing reoffending and makes a series of recommendations which have, in principle, been [agreed by the Ministry of Justice](#). These include giving Governors complete control of the education budget and freedom to tailor the curriculum, ensuring every prisoner has a personalised learning plan and introducing a new fast-track training scheme to attract top-quality graduates to the prison system. Implementation plans are in development.

[Independent review of Sharia Law - Announced 26th May 2016](#)

The review will seek to understand whether and the extent to which Sharia is being misused or applied in way that is incompatible with the law.

5. Legislation

[Psychoactive Substances Act 2016](#) – Came into force on 26 May 2016.

The Act introduced a blanket ban on the production, supply, importation and exportation of what were formally referred to as 'legal highs' for human consumption. The Act also introduces a range of new criminal and civil sanctions and new enforcement powers for police. Sanctions under the act include:-

- up to 7 years in prison for the supply, production, possession with intent to supply, importation or exportation of a psychoactive substance for human consumption
- up to 2 years in prison for possessing a psychoactive substance in a custodial institution
- prohibition and premises orders allowing police to shut down head shops and online dealers in the UK, with up to 2 years in prison for those who fail to comply
- police powers to seize and destroy psychoactive substances, search people, premises and vehicles, and to search premises by warrant if necessary
- The UK will also be the first country to put in place a rigorous system of testing to demonstrate that a substance is capable of having a psychoactive effect.
- For further information, see [College of Policing Briefing Note](#) and [HO/NPCC Communications Toolkit](#)

[Immigration Act 2016](#) - Received Royal Assent on 12th May 2016

Makes 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.

[Enterprise Act 2016](#) – Received Royal Assent on 4th May 2016

Makes 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.

[Investigatory Powers Bill](#) - Commons Report stage – TBC

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 [Commons Briefing Paper](#) and [Joint Select Committee recommendations](#) for further information

[Policing and Crime Bill](#) - Commons Report stage – 3rd reading TBC

Make 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 documents](#) [Commons analysis paper](#)

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.

Bill of Rights

Measures to reform and modernise the UK human rights framework - based on those set out in the European Convention on Human Rights, but taking into account the UK's common law tradition

Local Growth and Jobs Bill

Allow Local Authorities to retain 100% of the business rates collected in their area, estimated to involve the transfer of up to £13 billion from central to local government and therefore have more freedom to invest in local communities

Modern Transport Bill

Provisions relating to new forms of transport including autonomous and electric vehicles and new regulations to achieve safe commercial and personal drone flights

Neighbourhood Planning and Infrastructure Bill

Reform planning and give local communities more power and control to shape their own area

Children and Social Work Bill

Better protect children by ensuring lessons are learned from serious child safeguarding cases; and support innovation in children's social care by allowing Local Authorities to pilot new, innovative approaches.

6. Consultations

[Anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist finance - legislative proposals](#)

Home Office consultation on the change in focus of the suspicious activity reports (SARs) regime to entities responsible for money laundering and terrorist financing following publication of the action plan for anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist finance. Proposals include new ways to improve data sharing between private sector organisations, the creation of new powers to allow money to be seized and the requirement for individuals to declare their sources of wealth.

Open date: 21/04/2016

Close date: 02/06/2016

[Changes to NOMS publications](#)

Ministry of Justice consultation on proposals to create 2 new reports – the Annual Prison Digest and the Annual Probation Digest which would incorporate information from the Official Statistics bulletin on Accredited Programmes and other statistics. This would result in the current MI Addendum to the NOMS Annual Report and Accounts being merged with the Prison Performance Digest.

Open date: 28/04/2016

Close date: 09/06/2016

[Definition of missing](#)

College of Policing follow up to 2015 consultation on Authorised Professional Practice (APP) on missing persons. Consultation on proposals to reposition the absent category within the spectrum of risk, with the new guidance being much clearer about when this category can be used.

Open date: 26/05/2016

Close date: 16/06/2016

[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

[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

[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