

## Police and Crime Commissioner's Horizon Scanning Briefing

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## 1. POLICY AND PRACTICE

### [£18m awarded from the Controlling Migration Fund – 9<sup>th</sup> November 2017](#)

Communities Minister announces [recipients](#) from the second round of Controlling Migration Funding which aims to alleviate pressures on local services as a result of high, concentrated short-term migration. Projects include the provision English language lessons and education around British values and social norms.

### [Changes to Police Powers under Mental Health Act 1983 – 13<sup>th</sup> November 2017](#)

Commencement of s80-83 of The Policing and Crime Act 2017 (Commencement No 4 and Saving Provisions) Regulations 2017 will come into force from 11 December 2017 requiring police officers to obtain advice from a doctor, nurse, approved mental health professional or other approved person prior to exercising their powers of detention under this section, unless the officer judges it not to be practicable to do so. The provisions also prevent use of police cells as a place of safety in any circumstances where the detainee is under 18, change the maximum periods of detention in places of safety and change provisions around protective searches relating to individuals removed under s135 and s136 MHA 1983. [DoH and Home Office Guidance](#) is also published.

### [Safeguarding unaccompanied asylum seeking and refugee children – 1<sup>st</sup> November 2017](#)

New government strategy and [guidance](#) sets out plans for a review of first encounter standards for the police and comprehensive information for asylum seeking and refugee children on their rights and entitlements.

### [Working Together to Safeguard Children: A guide to inter-agency working - 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017](#)

Department for Education publishes draft guidance pending [changes in local safeguarding arrangements](#) alongside statutory guidance on [Child Death Reviews](#). See [LGIU/CSN Policy Briefing](#) for further details.

### [Concordat on children in custody – 30<sup>th</sup> October 2017](#)

Statutory guidance for police forces and local authorities on their responsibilities towards children in custody

### [Home Secretary and NPCC Chair speeches to APCC and NPCC Joint Summit 2017 – 1<sup>st</sup> November 2017](#)

**Recent Commons briefing papers** include: [Public sector employment by parliamentary constituency](#) (9<sup>th</sup> Nov), [Vehicle scrappage schemes](#) (9<sup>th</sup> Nov), [Impact of Universal Credit on Claimants](#) (8<sup>th</sup> Nov), [Public order legislation relating to family planning clinics](#) (6<sup>th</sup> Nov), [Safeguarding in English schools](#) (6<sup>th</sup> Nov), [Funding for community policing](#) (3<sup>rd</sup> Nov), [Use of temporary accommodation in England](#) (3<sup>rd</sup> Nov), [Support for care leavers](#) (2<sup>nd</sup> Nov), [Mental health education in schools](#) (2<sup>nd</sup> Nov), [Puppy smuggling](#) (31<sup>st</sup> Oct)

## 2. RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND STATISTICS

### [Vive la devolution: devolved public-services commissioning](#) – 1<sup>st</sup> November 2017

Reform paper argues for accelerated devolution to unitary authorities or combined authorities in England, replacing CCGs, NHS England and PCCs and giving commissioners power to meet local needs most effectively in healthcare, employment services, skills and offender management and achieve greater service integration. The paper recommends that Government devolve 95% of NHS England's budget, responsibility for commissioning employment-services programmes such as including Jobcentre Plus, commissioning of 12 skills and apprenticeships programmes, and the commissioning of probation and youth-justice services. The paper argues that devolution negotiations should be centred around 38 devolved commissioning areas based on their coterminosity and that the centre should take a light-touch approach by setting high-level outcomes for local commissioners to tailor to their areas. International moves to a more devolved state suggest that, with the right support, this could be completed in 15 years.

### [Analysis of the offer and take-up of Victim Personal Statements](#) – 8<sup>th</sup> November 2017

Victims' Commissioner publishes third annual review of VPS take up based on data obtained from the Crime Survey for England and Wales for the 12 months to March 2017. The analysis shows that, consistent with previous years, only 17% of victims are offered the opportunity to make a VPS. When offered the opportunity, 56% of victims made a VPS, however only 19% wanted it read out in court. More positively, 76% of victims who made a VPS felt that it had been taken into account by the Criminal Justice System, which marks an increase on previous years (57%-69%). There remains variation in rates across demographic groups suggesting that some victims are less likely to be offered their VPS entitlement than others.

### [Everyone deserves to be happy and safe: Online and offline Child Sexual Abuse](#) – 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2017

NPCC-led study of experience and impact of online and offline sexual abuse involving young people and organisational responses to it, found that online abuse is sometimes perceived as having less impact and being of less immediate concern than offline abuse by professionals. 'Technology-assisted child sexual abuse' (TA-CSA) was found to be no less impactful than offline-only sexual abuse. Technology provides additional routes both to access young people to abuse, and to manipulate and silence them. With TA-CSA, there are additional elements for young people to contend with, related to control, permanence, blackmail, repeat victimisation and self-blame. Some professionals noted that victims are more often 'blamed', seen as participating in the abuse or do not see it as abuse when it is online.

### [Children's Voices: The Wellbeing of Children involved in Gangs in England](#) – 7<sup>th</sup> November 2017

Rapid research review undertaken on behalf of the Children's Commissioner explores young people's perception of gangs, experience of gang involvement, experiences of violence and indicators of wellbeing.

### [Children's Voices: The Wellbeing of Children excluded from Schools](#) – 13<sup>th</sup> November 2017

Rapid research review undertaken on behalf of the Children's Commissioner explores children's perceptions and experiences of being excluded and indicators of wellbeing.

### [Police recorded 'sexting' statistics](#) – published 6<sup>th</sup> November 2017

NPCC reports data from police forces showing the rising trend in children taking, sharing and possessing sexual images of others. 6,238 sexting offences were recorded in 2016/17 marking a 33% increase on 2015/16 (4,681) and 131% increase on 2014/15 (2,700). In line with College of Policing guidance, the number of young people charged with offences dropped from 150 in 2014/15 to 63 in 2016/17, as the use of the Home Office Crime outcome 21 rose from 34 to 2,079. Outcome 21 involves police recording a crime but no formal criminal justice action being taken as the issue is considered not in the public interest. Analysis shows that reports come from children as young as 10 and peak in cases involving 14 year olds. Boys are as likely as girls to be recorded as suspects or perpetrators (50:50), but girls are more likely to be recorded as victims (75%). 'Sexting' offences were also shown to reduce markedly during August, coinciding with school holidays.

## **[Seizures of drugs in England and Wales, 2016/17](#) – Published 9<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

ONS report on drug seizures made by police highlights a 6% reduction in seizures in 2016/17 (138,955) compared to the previous year (148,553). This marks the fifth consecutive annual reduction and the lowest number recorded since 2004 (107,359). Border Force seizures increased by 26% (from 5,305 to 6,672), while seizures by police forces decreased by 8% from 143,248 to 132,283. While only 5% of seizures were undertaken by Border Force, these were generally for higher quantities and accounted for 96% of anabolic steroid, 82% of cocaine, 76% of all cannabis resin, 71% of herbal cannabis and 69% of heroin seizures. Seizures of Class A drugs remained relatively stable in 2016/17 (29,807) and while cocaine seizures fell by 4%, the quantity seized increased by 30% to 5,516 kilograms. Seizures of Class B drugs (104,236) fell by 9%, the majority of which were for cannabis (99,779). The number of seizures of herbal cannabis fell by 10%, however this comparison is skewed by a high number of border force seizures in 2015/16 (27,132). Police force seizures of herbal cannabis (3,492 kilograms) increased by 4%. Seizures of cannabis resin (5,838 kg) fell by 17%, while the number of cannabis plants seized (318,988) fell by 19%. Data available at [police force level](#).

## **[Individuals referred to and supported through the Prevent Programme](#) – Published 9<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

Home Office publishes overview of the number and composition of vulnerable individuals referred to and supported by the Prevent programme between April 2015 and March 2016. A total of 7,631 individuals were referred to the scheme due to concerns that they were vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism, with the education sector accounting for 33% of referrals (2,539) and police accounting for 31% (2,377). Of the 7,631 individuals referred in, 36% (2,766) left the process requiring no further action, 50% (3,793) were signposted to alternative services and 14% (1,072) were assessed as suitable for referral to a Channel panel. During the year, 381 people received Channel support following a Channel panel. Of the 365 (96%) which subsequently left the Channel process, 302 (83%) did so with their vulnerability to being drawn into terrorism judged as having been successfully reduced. The remaining 63 (17%) individuals withdrew from the Channel process, although in some cases support from other services may still be in place and any terrorism risk they might present is managed by the police. Data available at [regional level](#)

## **[Fire and rescue incident statistics: July 2016 to June 2017](#) – Published 9<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

Home Office statistics showing that for the 12 months to June 2017, FRSs attended 574,659 incidents, marking a 7% increase on the previous year, but a 33% decrease compared with ten years ago. Fire attendances (31%) accounted for 175,673 of call outs, marking an increase of 14% and bucking the broadly stable trend seen since 2012/13. FRSs attended 225,454 fire false alarms (39%) during the year marking a 4% increase on the previous year, but down 36% compared with ten years ago. FRSs also attended 173,532 non-fire incidents (30%) during the year, up 6% on the previous year and continuing the upturn seen since 2014/15, largely due to a rise in medical incidents attended. The number of fire-related fatalities (346) increased by 20% during the year, however this has been skewed by 80 fatalities relating to Grenfell Tower. The general trend in fatalities has been downward since 1981/82. Non-fatal casualties requiring hospital treatment (3,350) increased by 6%, however this too has been affected by 77 casualties as a result of the Grenfell Tower fire. Overall causality figures remain 22% lower than in 2011/12 (4,299).

## **[Outcome of unduly lenient sentence referrals](#) - Attorney General's Office – Published 8<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

## **[Youth Custody data to September 2017](#) – Ministry of Justice - Published 10<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

## **[Road Accident Statistics](#) – Commons Briefing – 8<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

## **[Local Authority Homelessness Statistics](#) – Commons Briefing – 27<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

## 3. AUDITS AND INSPECTIONS

### [HMICFRS PEEL Efficiency Reports 2017](#) – Published 9<sup>th</sup> November 2017

HMICFRS publish their third annual police efficiency report showing how well police forces understand demand, use their resources and plan for the future. 2 forces (Durham and Thames Valley) were graded 'outstanding', 30 forces were graded 'good' and 10 forces were assessed as 'requiring improvement'. No forces were graded 'inadequate'. Most forces have an adequate understanding of current demand but the majority could do more. Few forces have taken sufficient steps to understand the skills they have or need in their workforce and most still focus on current skills, rather than the skills they are likely to need in the future. An increasing number of forces are using risk-based analysis to inform resource allocation, but few have carried out sufficient analysis to be confident of the overall effect of moving resources from one area of operation to another. This is particularly true within force control rooms, where some are struggling to meet demand in relation to 101 non-emergency calls and have found it difficult to retain staff. Only a small number of high-performing forces can demonstrate the effectiveness of online tools to better manage demand. The report concludes that reductions in the police workforce have resulted in a better use of resources and a more efficient policing model. While most police forces have risen impressively to the challenges they face, policing remains under significant stress and forces need to be more ambitious and innovative in planning for the future. Reports available at [police force level](#)

### [HMICFRS Police response to domestic abuse](#) – Published 14<sup>th</sup> November 2017

HMICFRS's third thematic report based on inspections undertaken in 2016 concludes that the police service to victims of domestic abuse has improved markedly since inspections undertaken in 2014 and 2015. Victims are being better supported and better protected, however there remains room for improvement with regard to the effectiveness and consistency of risk assessment practices and removing ambiguity as to what positive action involves. HMICFRS notes that there are opportunities for investigators to build a sound case against the perpetrator whether the victim supports a prosecution or not, and raises concerns regarding reductions in use of arrest, charges, referrals to CPS and a high and increasing number of cases that are closed due to 'evidential difficulties'. In addition to recommendations for continued scrutiny by the National Oversight Group and further expansion of the data available nationally to inform analysis of how forces are dealing with domestic abuse, the report recommends that every police force should:-

- Update their domestic abuse action plans by April 2018 and determine how they can improve their response
- Ensure domestic abuse crimes including coercive control are being correctly identified and recorded
- Ensure arrangements for assessing and managing risk are well understood by officers and staff, and decision making about the grading of, and attendance at, domestic abuse incidents is supervised effectively
- Monitor processes to ensure they are taking positive action such as arrest, and making effective use of powers, such as DVPOs and DVDS and taking action where orders or bail conditions are breached
- Ensure there are clear standards and expectations for building the best possible case for the victims
- Work with the CPS to understand whether improvements are required in securing referrals and charges
- Chief Officers should continue to oversee action plans and offer regular feedback on progress to their PCCs

### [Reporting and Offender Management processes](#) – 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2017

Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration report on the efficiency and effectiveness of the Home Office's Reporting and Offender Management (ROM) system concludes that it is hampered by poor communication and coordination within the Home Office and inconsistent recording and treatment of non-compliance with reporting restrictions. There was little evidence of effective action to locate absconders. The report makes 6 recommendations for delivering the aims of the scheme, concluding cases and managing non-compliance.

### [Management of non-detained Foreign National Offenders](#) – 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2017

Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration report on the Home Office's management of non-detained Foreign National Offenders (FNOs) concludes that the process is under strain resulting in difficulties for staff at Reporting Centres in encouraging voluntary departures or resolving barriers to removal. Removal of FNOs is regularly frustrated by last minute legal challenges, and difficulties in effectively monitoring non-detained FNOs raises public protection concerns. 8 recommendations include completion of improvement work begun in 2016.

## 4. REVIEWS AND INQUIRIES

### **Deaths and Serious Incidents in Police Custody – 30<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

Independent review undertaken by Dame Elish Angiolini makes 110 recommendations, including work to:-

- Improve independence of the IPCC, phasing out the use of ex-police officers as lead investigators;
- Ensure IPCC is sufficiently resourced to attend scenes - create a specialist Deaths and Serious Injuries Unit
- Ensure police policy and practice make clear the risks of use of force against anyone in mental health crisis
- Ensure police officers involved in a death in custody or serious incident do not confer with each other
- Further roll out availability and use of body worn cameras for police and CCTV cameras in police vans
- End use of police custody for children detained under s136 of the Mental Health Act 1983
- Reinstate and implement the policy of NHS commissioning of healthcare in police custody – which was due to commence in April 2016, but was halted earlier in the year. The report highlights a lack of consistency in the profile of medical staff within police stations, as responsibility currently falling on individual PCCs
- Explore governance of the Independent Custody Visitor Scheme to consider whether arrangements under PCCs provide the necessary distance and independence from police - may be better situated under HMI
- Policy makers should consider ways to encourage more ICVA visits in the early hours of the morning
- PCCs should report annually on deaths and serious incidents in police custody in their jurisdictions

The [government response](#) commits to review existing guidance by the end of the year to ensure that the bereaved are made aware of their rights following a suspicious death or suicide in custody and ensure that, from December, police cells are not be used as places of safety for those under 18 detained under the MH Act. The government note that the procurement and deployment of Body Worn Video and CCTV in police vans are matters for PCCs and chief officers. The response also highlights the following work currently in progress:-

- A cross-government ministerial council to consider recommendations for healthcare and support for families
- Providing £30m to the NHS to ensure sufficient provision of alternative and health-based places of safety
- Publishing the Concordat on Children in Custody which has been signed by all police forces and most LAs
- Improving transparency and accountability in police use of force through better data collection
- Reforming the IPCC, which will become the Independent Office for Police Conduct from January 2018

### **Inquiry into Offender-monitoring tags – Announced 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2017**

Public Accounts Committee asks the Ministry of Justice about its attitude to risk, why it contracted the Offender-monitoring tagging project in the manner they did, why it went wrong, and what is being done to assure the success of the tagging programme in the years ahead. [Session](#) held on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2017

### **Emergency Services Network: Progress Review – Announced 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2017**

Public Accounts Committee examines project for a third time, asking officials from the Home Office about recent progress against recommendations, and whether they are now confident that the project can be delivered safely and punctually. [Session](#) held on 13th November 2017

### **Inquiry into the spread of so-called 'pop-up' brothels – Launched 25<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

The All-Party Parliamentary Group on prostitution launches an inquiry into growing reports of organised crime groups establishing 'pop-up' brothels to sexually exploit women. The APPG on Prostitution will gather evidence on the scale of the practice, who is involved, and what action the Government should take.

[Policing for the future inquiry](#) – Home Affairs Committee - Latest evidence published 15<sup>th</sup> November 2017

[Prison Population 2022: Planning for the Future inquiry](#) – Justice Committee - Accepting submissions

[Transforming Rehabilitation inquiry](#) – Justice Committee - Accepting submissions

[Mental Health in Prisons](#) - Public Accounts Committee – Open

[Growing Threat of Online Fraud](#) – Public Accounts Committee – Open

[Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse](#) – Ongoing

[Pitchford Undercover Policing inquiry](#) - Ongoing

## 5. LEGISLATION

### [Data Protection Bill](#) - Lords Committee Stage – 15<sup>th</sup> November 2017

[Lords briefing](#)

The Bill to modernise and make data protection laws fit for the digital age by empowering people to take control of their data; supporting UK businesses and organisations through change and ensuring that the UK is prepared for the future after leaving the EU. The Bill will: update regimes for data processing by law enforcement agencies; introduce a new Digital Charter to ensure that the UK is “the safest place to be online”; make it simpler to withdraw consent for the use of personal data; allow people to ask for their personal data held by companies to be erased; require ‘explicit’ consent to be necessary for processing sensitive personal data; expand the definition of ‘personal data’ to include IP addresses, internet cookies and DNA and ensure an effective regulatory framework is in place. New criminal offences will be created to deter organisations from intentionally or recklessly enabling someone to be identified from anonymised data

[Government fact sheets](#)

### [European Union \(Withdrawal\) Bill](#) – Commons Committee Stage – 15<sup>th</sup> Nov 2017

[Commons briefing](#)

Bill to repeal the European Communities Act 1972 and other provisions relating to UK withdrawal from the EU

### [Assaults on Emergency Workers \(Offences\) Bill](#) - Commons Committee Stage – 15<sup>th</sup> November 2017

Private Members’ Bill to make certain offences aggravated when perpetrated against emergency workers

[Commons briefing](#)

### [Sanctions and Anti-Money Laundering Bill](#) – Lords Committee Stage – 21<sup>st</sup> Nov 2017

[Lords Briefing](#)

Government Bill to give the UK the necessary legal powers to maintain existing sanctions regimes currently imposed through EU law and introduce new measures against countries, organisations and individuals who threaten our security or undermine international law following Brexit. The bill will make amendments to a range of acts including: Immigration Act 1971; Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000; Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005; Serious Crime Act 2007; Crime and Courts Act 2013; Investigatory Powers Act 2016; and Policing and Crime Act 2017.

[Further information](#)

### [Age of Criminal Responsibility Bill](#) – Lords Committee Stage – TBC

[Lords briefing](#)

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

### [Modern Slavery \(Victim Support\) Bill](#) - Lords Committee Stage – TBC

[Lords briefing](#)

Private Members’ Bill to make provision about identifying and supporting victims of modern slavery

### [Asset Freezing \(Compensation\) Bill](#) – Lords Committee Stage – TBC

Private Members’ Bill to make provision for the imposing of restrictions on assets owned by persons involved in supplying terrorist organisations in the United Kingdom with arms, for the purpose of securing compensation for citizens of the United Kingdom affected by the supply of such arms

### [Mental Health Units \(Use of Force\) Bill](#) – Public Bill Committee - TBC

[Commons Briefing](#)

Private Members’ Bill to make provision about the oversight and management of use of force in mental health units and the use of body cameras by police in the course of duties in relation to people in mental health units

### [Prisons \(Interf. with Wireless Telegraphy\) Bill](#) - Commons 2<sup>nd</sup> reading – 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017

Private Members’ Bill to make provision about interference with wireless telegraphy in prisons

### [Stalking Protection Bill](#) - Commons 2<sup>nd</sup> reading – 19<sup>th</sup> January 2018

Private Members’ Bill to make provision for protecting persons from risks associated with stalking

### [Freedom of Information \(Extension\) Bill](#) – Commons 2<sup>nd</sup> reading – 15<sup>th</sup> June 2018

Private Members’ Bill to extend Freedom of Information Act 2000 in respect of public authorities and extend powers of the Information Commissioner

## **Policing Resources Bill - Lords 2nd reading - TBC**

Private Members' Bill to make provision for ensuring that police forces in England and Wales have sufficient resources to deliver police services. Proposes the appointment of an independent body to report annually on adequacy of police grant funding. Places duty on Secretary of State to ensure grant recipients have sufficient resources to prevent crime, bring offenders to justice, keep the Queen's Peace and protect, help and reassure the community. Also places duty on Secretary of State to consider PCC police and crime plans, latest adequacy of funding report and the need for contingency funding for police forces to deal with exceptional major incidents

## **Victims of Crime (Rights, Entitlements, Notification of CSA) Bill – Lords 2<sup>nd</sup> reading – TBC**

Private Members' Bill to make provision for specifying new statutory rights and entitlements for victims of crime under the Victims Code of Practice; require PCCs to assess victims services; increase duties of the Victims and Witnesses Commissioner; grant victims the right to request a review of a decision not to prosecute; establish reviews in homicides where no criminal charge has been made; create an obligation on professions to notify cases of possible victims of child sexual abuse.

## **Criminal Records Bill - Lords 2<sup>nd</sup> reading - TBC**

Private Members' Bill to amend the length of time for which an individual may have a criminal record under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974

## **Children Act 1989 (Amendment) (FGM) Bill – Lords 2<sup>nd</sup> reading - TBC**

Private Members' Bill to state that proceedings under Section 5A of, and Schedule 2 to, the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 are family proceedings

## **Anonymity (Arrested Persons) Bill - Lords 2<sup>nd</sup> reading – TBC**

Private Members' Bill to prohibit the publication of certain personal information until an arrested person has been charged with an offence / set out circumstances where such information can be published

## **Road Traffic Offenders (Surrender Driving Licences) Bill - Lords 2<sup>nd</sup> reading - TBC**

Private Members' Bill to make provision about the provision and surrender of driving licences or certificates in relation to certain offences; make provision in relation to identifying persons in connection with FPNs etc.

## **Modern Slavery (Transparency in Supply Chains) Bill – Lords 2<sup>nd</sup> reading – TBC**

Private Members' Bill to make further provision for transparency in supply chains in respect of slavery and human trafficking

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## **Bills announced in the Queen's Speech**

- **Domestic Violence and Abuse Bill** to ensure victims have the confidence to come forward and report their experiences. The Bill includes proposals to establish a Domestic Violence Abuse Commissioner to hold the justice system to account in tackling domestic abuse, define domestic abuse in law, create new domestic abuse civil prevention and protection order regime, ensure that sentencing of abusive behaviour involving children reflects the life-long impact that this abuse can have, [ratify the Istanbul Convention](#) to allow certain offences committed by British citizens anywhere in the world to be prosecuted in UK courts and to make it easier for domestic abuse survivors to [register to vote anonymously](#)
- **Courts Bill** to modernise and improve the efficiency and accessibility of the courts system. The Bill will include provisions to end the direct cross examination of domestic abuse victims by alleged perpetrators in the family courts, enable more victims to participate in trials through virtual hearings and enable those charged with some less serious criminal offences to opt to plead guilty, accept a conviction and pay a statutory fixed penalty online in order to free up court time for more serious cases

## 6. CONSULTATIONS

### [Internet Safety Strategy green paper](#)

Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport consultation on proposals set out in the Internet Safety Strategy green paper, which include the introduction of a social media code of practice, transparency reporting and a social media levy, technological solutions to online harms, developing children's digital literacy, support for parents and carers, adults' experience of online abuse, and young people's use of online dating websites.

**Open date: 11/10/2017**

**Close date: 07/12/2017**

### [The impact of Social Media on the Administration of Justice](#)

Attorney General's Office Call for Evidence which aims to establish whether the risks to justice posed by social media are increasing, and whether any further action needs to be taken. Evidence is sought from judges, solicitors and victims' groups with experience of trials being affected by social media commentary or orders and reporting restrictions being breached on social media.

**Open date: 15/09/2017**

**Close date: 08/12/2017**

### [Homelessness code of guidance for local authorities](#) – 16<sup>th</sup> October 2017

DCLG seek views on draft guidance for how local councils should implement the Homelessness Reduction Act which is due to come into effect in April 2018. The Act requires councils to provide services to all at risk of homelessness, on top of those with a priority need, make information and advice about homelessness available to all residents free of charge and tailoring advice to meet the particular needs of vulnerable groups, including victims of domestic abuse and young adults leaving care

**Open date: 16/10/2017**

**Close date: 11/12/2017**

### [Terrorism Guideline](#)

Sentencing Council consultation seeks views on proposals to revise terrorism-related sentencing guidelines in relation to Preparation of Terrorist Acts, Explosive Substances, Encouragement of Terrorism, Membership of a Proscribed Organisation, Support of a Proscribed Organisation, Funding Terrorism, Failure to Provide Information about Acts of Terrorism, Possession for Terrorist Purposes and Collection of Terrorist Information.

**Open date: 12/10/2017**

**Close date: 22/11/2017**

### [Revisions to PACE Codes C, H, E and F](#)

Home Office consultation on the following revised draft versions of PACE Codes: C - detention, treatment and questioning of persons detained under PACE; H - persons detained under terrorism provisions; E - audio recording of suspect interviews; and F - visual recording with sound of suspect interviews. Amendments will enable officers to use their body worn video to record interviews with suspects away from a police station

**Open date: 25/10/2017**

**Close date: 06/12/2017**

### [Criteria for designating bodies in the police super-complaints system](#)

Home Office consultation on the criteria an organisation will need to meet in order to be eligible for designation as a super-complainant. The super-complaint system will enable organisations to raise issues on behalf of the public about patterns or trends in policing that are significantly harming the interests of the public

**Open date: 16/10/2017**

**Close date: 08/12/2017**



## Offensive and dangerous weapons

Home Office consultation on primary legislation to create offences to: prevent knives sold online being delivered to a private residential address, and ensuring the age and identity of the purchaser are checked; make it an offence to possess certain weapons in private; introducing an offence of having an offensive weapon on education institutions other than schools; amending the existing offences of threatening with an article with blade or point or offensive weapon and updating the definition of a flick knife.

**Open date: 14/10/2017**

**Close date: 09/12/2017**

## Legislation to define antique firearms

Home Office consultation on regulations under the Policing and Crime Act to establish a new statutory definition for antique firearms and introduce a process to continually review the regulations. The proposals follow recommendations from the Law Commission's independent review in 2015 and aim to close loopholes currently being abused by criminals and posing a risk to public safety

**Open date: 19/10/2017**

**Close date: 14/12/2017**

## Force Management Statements

HMICFRS consultation seeking views of PCCs on proposals and template for Force Management Statements.

**Open date: 29/09/2017**

**Close date: 18/12/2017**

## Working Together to Safeguard Children: changes to statutory guidance

Department for Education consultation seeking views on revisions to 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' statutory guidance in light of legislative changes introduced via the Children and Social Work Act 2017 and new 'child death review' guidance.

**Open date: 25/10/2017**

**Close date: 31/12/2017**

## Improving access to social housing for victims of domestic abuse

DCLG consultation setting out proposals for new statutory guidance for local authorities to assist victims of domestic abuse living in refuges and other forms of safe temporary accommodation to access social housing.

**Open date: 30/10/2017**

**Close date: 05/01/2018**

## The Sentencing Code

Law Commission consultation seeking scrutiny of and feedback on the draft Sentencing Code which aims to provide a single reference point for sentencing, simplify many complex provisions and remove the need to refer to historic legislation. Consultees are invited to feedback on any aspect of the Code, including its structure and wording, but reminded that substantive policy changes to the law on sentencing are outside the project's remit.

**Open date: 27/07/2017**

**Close date: 26/01/2018**

## Data Retention

Consultation pending on the government's response to the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) judgment on data retention