



Commissioner's horizon scanning briefing

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1. Policy and Practice

[Additional £99,000 funding to tackle gang-related violence](#) – 12th July 2017

Minister for Crime, Safeguarding and Vulnerability announces funding for 15 new local area reviews in areas that are experiencing gang-related problems. An expert team will help selected local authorities and partner agencies to map gang problems, review effectiveness in dealing with them and receive tailored follow on support in helping to improve agency responses. The funding will also support several regional reviews to identify a common framework that the police, PCCs and partners can agree to tackle the county lines gangs

[£15m awarded to local councils from the Controlling Migration Fund](#) – 19th July 2017

Communities Secretary announces first round of grants from the CMF which will be available in 2017 and 2019 to 2020. The fund aims to ease pressures on local services in areas experiencing high and unexpected volumes of immigration. Bids are assessed on a rolling basis and there is no closing date for applications

[£1m additional funding to help communities support refugees](#) – 19th July 2017

Home Secretary announces £1m additional funding to help community groups support Syrian refugees as part of the [community sponsorship scheme](#) which was launched in 2016

[£7.5m awarded for new national police welfare service](#) – 12th July 2017

Home Secretary awards £7.5m police transformation funding to pilot and if successful, roll out an enhanced national police welfare support service over the next three years. The service will complement the support already delivered to serving police officers and staff at force level. The college of policing will be developing plans for the new service over the coming month, working closely with Police Federation. [NPCC blog](#)

[Further plans to tackle knife crime announced](#) – 18th July 2017

Home Secretary announces plans to consult on new legislation which would require anyone buying a knife online to collect it from the retailer in person in order to ensure age verification – and to consider whether the offence of possessing a knife in a public place and school premises should be extended to include other educational establishments. The government is also considering a series of new non-legislative measures to tackle knife crime and launch a new £500,000 fund for community projects tackling the issue

[Action plan to tackle acid attacks announced](#) – 16th July 2017

Home Secretary announces new government strategy to reduce the number and impact of acid attacks which will include reviews of CPS guidance to prosecutors and guidance to police on preventing attacks, searching potential perpetrators and responding to victims at the scene. Other measures include work with retailers to restrict sales, improving police recording of offences and ensuring victim impact statements are completed

[Government Drug Strategy 2017 – 14th July 2017](#)

Home Office publishes a new drug strategy which, building upon the 2010 strategy, aims to:

- Reduce demand by preventing people – particularly young people – from becoming drug users
- Restrict supply by targeting criminals seeking to profit from drug use and restricting the availability of drugs
- Support recovery - offering people with drug dependence support at every stage of their life; and
- Lead and drive action on a global scale by strengthening border control and improving intelligence sharing

The strategy introduces new measures to track the progress of those in recovery at 12 months to ensure they remain drug-free, introduce a new NPS intelligence system to help reduce the length of time between drug-related health harms emerging and effective treatment responses being prepared and to introduce a National Recovery Champion. The strategy also includes plans to develop new measures to foster joint ownership between the various agencies involved and to strengthen governance arrangements. The Home Secretary said the Government's 'tough law enforcement response' had to go hand in hand with prevention and recovery. The strategy draws attention to the economic and social cost of crime, estimating that drugs cost society £10.7bn a year in policing, healthcare and crime, with drug-fuelled theft alone costing £6bn a year

[First UK police drone unit launched – 14th July 2017](#)

Devon and Cornwall Police establish a permanent Drone Unit to aid operational policing as part of missing person searches, crime scene photography, road traffic collision and wildlife crime investigation and tracking and monitoring suspects during firearms or terrorist incidents. The Unit comprises 6 drones and 3 full-time staff, however the force aims to have 40 drone trained officers and up to 18 drones in operation by 2018

[19 terror-related offences added to the Unduly Lenient Sentence scheme – 15th July](#)

The Unduly Lenient Sentence scheme, which allows victims and the public to query the sentences handed out by the courts, will be extended to include additional terror-related offences such as supporting extremist organisations, failing to disclose information about a terrorist attack and disseminating terrorist publications

[Victims' Commissioner's Annual Report 2016-17 – Published 19th July 2017](#)

Report considers the landscape of victims' services following the devolution of responsibility for many services to PCCs in 2015. Highlights examples of innovation and good practice and argues for greater year to year certainty with regard to Ministry of Justice funding allocations

[Probation reform: open letter from the Secretary of State for Justice – 19th July 2017](#)

Secretary of State for Justice praises the hard work of practitioners during a period of fundamental change, recognises the financial and operational pressures the service has encountered and pledges to take a 'close and careful look' at overall performance over the coming months

[Camera Surveillance Passport to compliance launched – 18th July 2017](#)

Surveillance Camera Commissioner launches a new passport for compliance document for local authorities and other organisations intending to use or expand public space CCTV surveillance systems. The document aims to help organisations meet the 12 guiding principles in the Surveillance Camera Code of Practice

[Criminal exploitation of children and vulnerable adults: county lines – 11th July 2017](#)

Home Office publishes new guidance for frontline professionals on dealing with county lines

[Internet safety resources for parents – 12th July 2017](#)

UK Safer Internet Centre highlights free resources to help parents and carers ensure children stay safe online

Recent Commons briefing papers include: [Sexual Offences Act 1967: 50th Anniversary](#) (19th Jul), [Drugs policy](#) (17th Jul), [Acid attacks](#) (14th Jul), [Youth unemployment statistics](#) (12th Jul), [Dealing with civil contingencies](#) (11th Jul), [Alcohol: mandatory licensing conditions](#) (11th Jul), [Public sector pay](#) (10th Jul)

2. Research, Development and Statistics

[Public views of policing in England and Wales 2016/17 – 13th July 2017](#)

HMIC's 2016 follow-up public survey of 16,865 people (around 400 per police force area) revealed that:-

- Around 25% felt crime and ASB is a big problem and feel unsafe to walk alone at night
- 70% did not think that levels of crime or ASB had changed in the last year
- 57% were satisfied overall with local policing compared to 17% that were dissatisfied
- 66% perceived no change overall in local policing over the past year
- 83% felt that it was important to have a regular uniformed local police presence, however only 18% felt that there was a regular police presence in their local area
- Policing priorities for the public included emergency response, tackling all crime, dealing with terrorism and extremism and local policing. Few prioritised commercial crime (2%), online abuse (4%) or fraud (5%)

[Police workforce statistics as at 31st March 2017 – published 20th July 2017](#)

Latest official national statistics show a 1% reduction in the police workforce of over the last year to the lowest number since 2003. Police officer numbers also fell by 1% reaching the lowest level since 1985 – although it should be noted that directly comparable data has only been available since 1996. The number of officers in local policing roles fell by 1.7%, however, the proportion of officers in these roles (50%) remained stable. The proportion of officers that are new joiners increased to 6% of the workforce, however leaver rates have also increased to 7%, continuing an upward trend seen since 2012/13. The proportion of officers receiving promotions (3%) reached the highest level since 2008/09. BAME (6%) and female (29%) representation within the police workforce have reached the highest levels on record. The proportion of officers on long-term sick leave fell by 2% as at 31st March 2017 to 2%. [Data tables](#) available at Police Force level

[Crime in England and Wales to March 2017 – published 20th July 2017](#)

Latest estimates from the Crime Survey for England and Wales show a 7% reduction in crimes against adults over the last year when new estimates on fraud and computer misuse are excluded. This has been largely driven by reductions in theft offences (-10%), with violent crime having seen no significant change (-2%). Victim-based crime recorded by the police, meanwhile, rose by 10% over the same period, marking the largest annual rise in a decade. While improvements in crime recording practices, an expansion in offence categories recorded and an increased willingness among victims to report crimes of domestic and sexual abuse are believed to account for a significant proportion of this increase, genuine increases in some crime types are also likely. This includes for example, rises in [homicide](#) (+9% excluding 96 cases resulting from the historic Hillsborough verdict), [burglary](#) (3%), [robbery](#) (+16%) and [vehicle crime](#) (11%) which are less likely to have been impacted by artificial or administrative changes. Police recorded [knife crime](#) and firearms offences have increased by 20% and 23% respectively, continuing the trend seen over the last 2 years. The crime survey also estimates that around 3.4 million fraud and 1.8 million computer misuse offences were experienced in the last year, marking a marginal reduction on the previous year's survey. Valid year on year comparisons will be published in January 2018. Crime data available at [police force](#) and [CSP](#) level

[Crime Outcomes to March 2017 published – 20th July 2017](#)

Police forces closed 48% of offences with no suspect being identified in 2016/17, however this varies by crime type with 68% of criminal damage offences and 6% of rape offence being closed with no suspect identified. 11% of offences resulted in a charge or summons, marking a reduction from 14% compared to the previous year. In 13% of offences the victim did not support police action despite a suspect being identified, and around 26% of offences did not progress on account of evidential difficulties. Police forces took an average of 8 days to assign the outcomes they recorded – a decrease of 3 days compared to the previous year [Force level data](#)

[Youth Custody Data: May 2017 – published 14th July 2017](#)

MoJ statistics showing steady increases in the number of children and young people in the secure estate (927 or 1,023 including 18 year olds) over the last year, following a long-term period of decline since 2009/10

[Speed cameras to reduce speeding traffic and road traffic injuries](#) – 13th July 2017

Systematic review as part of the College of Policing's 'What Works' series considers evidence from 51 studies to conclude that speed cameras bring about consistent reductions in both speed and collision outcomes. Speed camera programmes were found to be associated with a 7% reduction in average speed, 52% reduction of vehicles exceeding the speed limit, 19% reduction in collisions, 18% reduction in collisions resulting in injuries and a 21% reduction in severe or fatal collisions. There was no evidence that the effect of speed cameras differed by whether the camera was overt or covert. Cost-benefit ratios estimated that the benefits exceed the estimated costs of speed camera programmes by at least 3:1

[Effective interventions to prevent child sexual abuse and CSE](#) – 11th July 2017

Public Health England (PHE) literature search identifying the latest international research

Upcoming [Crime Reduction Systematic Reviews](#):

- [The effectiveness of electronic monitoring of offenders](#) TBC
- [Effectiveness of asset-focussed interventions against organised crime](#) TBC
- [Personal security alarms for the prevention of assaults](#) TBC
- Police responses to people with mental health problems TBC
- The impact of police pre-arrest diversion – systematic review TBC

3. Audits and Inspections

[HMIC extend inspection remit to fire and rescue services](#) – 19th July 2017

Minister for Policing and the Fire Service [announces](#) extension of HMIC responsibility to the inspection of fire and rescue services in England. HMIC will change its name to HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) and have a new logo to reflect its new identity

[HM CPSI Chief Inspector's Annual Report 2016-17](#) – Published 11th July 2017

Recent inspections highlight good leadership, including at strategic level and evidence of the CPS and police working together in a more joined up way at an operational level. Budgetary controls are generally good, however no Area was assessed as better than fair in delivering high quality casework

[HM Prisons Chief Inspector's Annual Report 2016-17](#) – Published 18th July 2017

Findings from 86 inspection reports on prisons, police custody suites, immigration removal centres and other custodial establishments in 2016/17. Chief Inspector warns that prison reform will not succeed unless the violence and prevalence of drugs in jail are addressed and prisoners are unlocked for more of the working day

[Prisons and Probation Ombudsman's Annual Report 2016-17](#) – Published 13th July 2017

Prisons and Probation Ombudsman Nigel Newcomen publishes annual report remarking that a 19% increase in PPO investigations into deaths, 11% increase in investigations into self-inflicted deaths and continued high levels of violence and disorder over the last year indicate a prison system still very much in crisis

[Probation Hostels' Contribution to Public Protection, Rehabilitation and Resettlement](#) – 13th July 2017

HMI Probation report concludes that probation hostels do a good job overall at protecting the public and preparing individuals to move back into the community once they have left prison, however, the quality of resettlement and rehabilitation services is mixed, and was noticeably better for women than for men. Inspectors concluded that there are not enough hostels in the right places, which reduces the chance that rehabilitation and resettlement work will be effective. A shortage is leading to more people being sent to wherever a place is available. Residents that have spent years in prison can have complex rehabilitation needs that in most cases would be best addressed in the community in which they intend to live – this is particularly the case for women

The new generation electronic monitoring programme – 12th July 2017

National Audit Office report criticises the Ministry of Justice for pursuing an overly ambitious and high risk strategy of GPS electronic monitoring expansion which lacked evidence and has ultimately not been delivered. The report highlights a 5 year delay, poor planning and contract management and a catalogue of errors stating that project 'has so far failed to achieve value for money'. The report recommends that the Ministry of Justice:-

- Develop a robust evidence base on the effectiveness of the new GPS-enabled tags
- Keep sufficient technical and programme management capability in place for the project
- Actively promote appropriate take up of the new GPS-enabled monitoring services by the courts
- Ensure clarity of evidence and understanding of the complexity of such projects going forward
- Develop a long-term strategy to build upon the Ministry-wide project delivery function
- Improve understanding of and approach to using small / medium size enterprises (SME)

Making it fair – Disclosure of unused material in volume crown court cases – 18th July 2017

HMCPSP / HMIC joint inspection into compliance with disclosure of unused material provisions found extensive issues in the way unused non-sensitive disclosure material is recorded by the police, with 22% of schedules found to be wholly inadequate. Often officers were just compiling lists, rather than explaining their contents to assist the prosecutor. Prosecutors, in turn, were not requesting a description of the items, preventing them from making any meaningful review. The lack of proper case supervision by the police was a significant cause for concern and 78% of the files examined were marked either poor or fair. Recommendations include:-

- Police or CPS to ensure all disclosure issues relating to unused material are identified at charging stage
- College of Policing produce guidance on recommended training requirements for forces
- Police forces improve supervision of case files with supervisors signing Disclosure Officer's Reports
- Police forces establish the role of dedicated disclosure champion
- Police and CPS review digital case management systems to in respect of digital unused material
- Police and CPS develop effective communication processes to enable officers to better resolve issues

Upcoming reports and inspection activity

- [JTAI Partnership response to children affected by domestic abuse](#)
- [HMIC: Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking - Phase 1 report](#)
- [HMIC: Crime data integrity \(individual force reports\)](#)
- HMI Prisons: Joint inspection of Police Custody Arrangements
- PEEL Vulnerability Revisits
- HMIC: National Child Protection Inspection (HMIC-led)
- HMIC: Hate Crime scoping study
- HMIC: Domestic abuse update thematic report
- Ofsted: Joint targeted [Child Protection Inspection](#) Overview report
- Ofsted: Joint Targeted Area Inspection thematic overview report
- PEEL: Effectiveness fieldwork - incl. prevention, investing, offender mgmt. Autumn 2017
- Force Management Statement completion deadline October 2017
- HMIC: Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Phase 2 fieldwork Jun 2017 - Mar 2018
- PEEL 2017/18: Overall findings report published March 2018
- Joint inspection of Youth Offending Teams Rolling programme

4. Reviews and Inquiries

Evidence in progress:

- [Child Sexual Abuse Independent Inquiry](#) – preliminary hearings held for [protection of children outside the UK](#) (9th May), [Cambridge House, Knol View and Rochdale](#) (10th May) and [Children in the Care of Nottinghamshire Councils](#) (11th May)
- [Independent Review into child abuse allegations in football](#) (ongoing),
- [Pitchford Undercover Policing inquiry](#) – [New panel member appointed](#) – 31st May 2017

Report in preparation: [Lammy Review of BAME representation in the CJS](#) (Spring 2017)

Awaiting government response: [Countering extremism inquiry](#) (Report published 25th Aug 2016), [Implications of Brexit for the justice system inquiry](#) (Report published 17th Mar 2017), [Apprenticeships inquiry](#) (Report published 30th March 2017), [Hate crime and its violent consequences inquiry](#) (Report published 1st May 2017)

5. Legislation

[Age of Criminal Responsibility Bill](#) – Lords 2nd reading – 8th September 2017 Introduced 26th June
Private Members' Bill to raise the age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12

[Modern Slavery \(Victim Support\) Bill](#) - Lords 2nd reading – 8th September 2017 Introduced 26th June
Private Members' Bill to make provision about identifying and supporting victims of modern slavery

[Assaults on Emergency Workers \(Offences\) Bill](#) - Commons 2nd reading – 20th Oct 2017 Introd 19th July
Private Members' Bill to make certain offences aggravated when perpetrated against emergency workers and connected purposes

[Prisons \(Interf. with Wireless Telegraphy\) Bill](#) - Commons 2nd reading – 1st Dec 2017 Introd 19th July
Private Members' Bill to make provision about interference with wireless telegraphy in prisons

[Stalking Protection Bill](#) - Commons 2nd reading – 19th January 2018 Introduced 19th July
Private Members' Bill to make provision for protecting persons from risks associated with stalking

[Freedom of Information \(Extension\) Bill](#) – Commons 2nd reading – 15th June 2018 Introduced 19th July
Private Members' Bill to extend Freedom of Information Act 2000 in respect of public authorities and extend powers of the Information Commissioner

[Asset Freezing \(Compensation\) Bill](#) – Lords 2nd reading – TBC Introduced 26th June
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

[Criminal Records Bill](#) - Lords 2nd reading - TBC Introduced 29th June
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 2nd reading - TBC Introduced 3rd July
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 2nd reading – TBC Introduced 4th July
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

[Policing Resources Bill](#) - Lords 2nd reading - TBC Introduced 6th July
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 2nd reading – TBC Introduced 6th July
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

[Road Traffic Offenders \(Surrender Driving Licences\) Bill](#) - Lords 2nd reading - TBC Introduced 11th July
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 2nd reading – TBC Introduced 12th July
Private Members' Bill to make further provision for transparency in supply chains in respect of slavery and human trafficking

[Bills announced in the Queen's Speech](#) – 21st July 2017

- **Draft 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 and [measures to ratify the Istanbul Convention](#) to allow certain offences committed by British citizens anywhere in the world to be prosecuted in UK courts
- **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
- **Data Protection Bill** will aim to ensure that UK data protection is suitable for the “new digital age”, whilst also modernising and updating regimes for data processing by law enforcement agencies. Furthermore, proposals for a new Digital Charter will be developed alongside technology companies, charities, communities and international partners to ensure that the UK is “the safest place to be online”. This will be underpinned by an effective regulatory framework

6. Consultations

[Draft Sentencing Guidelines for Child Cruelty](#)

Sentencing Council consultation on sentencing guidelines for the offences including cruelty to child (Children and Young Persons Act 1933), causing or allowing a child to die or suffer serious physical harm (Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004) and failing to protect a girl from the risk of female genital mutilation (Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003)

Open date: 13/06/2017

Close date: 13/09/2017

[Draft Sentencing Guidelines for Manslaughter](#)

Sentencing Council consultation on new sentencing guidelines for four types of manslaughter which comprise unlawful manslaughter, gross negligence, manslaughter by reason of loss of control and manslaughter by reason of diminished responsibility

Open date: 04/07/2017

Close date: 10/10/2017