

Police and Crime Commissioner's Horizon Scanning Briefing

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1. POLICY AND PRACTICE

Autumn Budget 2017 – 22nd November 2017

The Chancellor, Philip Hammond's budget announcement makes no specific reference to policing, crime or criminal justice funding, but sets out government spending plans in the following areas:-

- £3 billion extra funding over the next two years to prepare for Brexit
- £6.3 bn new funding for the NHS to improve buildings and care (£3.5 bn) and A&E performance (£2.8 bn)
- £15.3 bn extra funding for house building over the next 5 years to establish 300,000 new homes a year
- Universal Credit claimants will be able to access a month's worth of support within 5 days from Jan 2018
- Business rates will switch to being increased by the CPI from April 2018 - 2 years earlier than planned
- Government departments will no longer have to reduce spending by £1.1 billion in 2019/20

Cyber Discovery training programme launched – 14th November 2017

Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport invites young people aged 14 to 18 to test their online skills in order to identify those with the potential of playing a role in the nation's cyber security as part of the £20m Cyber Discovery programme. Participants have until early January 2018 to take the assessment and will find out mid-January if they have been shortlisted to take a part in the first pilot year of the programme.

IPS drugs or alcohol dependency trial areas announced – 21st November 2017

Public Health England announces the 7 local authority areas selected to take part in a randomised controlled trial of individual placement and support (IPS) for people in or dependent on either drugs or alcohol in community treatment services. The local authority areas comprise Birmingham, Blackpool, Brighton and Hove, Derbyshire, Haringey, Sheffield and Staffordshire.

Police chief officer pay and remuneration measures announced – 17th November 2017

The Home Office and police set out a package of measures to increase transparency around chief officer employment which includes a standardised 35 days annual leave policy to be implemented following agreement between police leaders, introduction of a police-led system to scrutinise employment once chief officers leave their force and publication of a snapshot study of police chiefs' pay packages from 2015/16.

ACT for Youth: RUN HIDE TELL – 14th November 2017

Counter Terrorism Policing (CTP) publish terrorism safety advice for schools and youth organisations. The material includes an animated film aimed at 11 to 16 year olds designed to teach people how to react if caught up in an a gun or knife terror attack and what to do if they see suspicious behaviour or items.

Commissioner's e-Briefing: 27 November 2017

[Initiative launched: Why Me? Victims for Restorative Justice](#) – 23rd November 2017

Parole Board initiative launched as part of Restorative Justice week

[New THINK! Road Safety Campaign](#) – 24th November 2017

Department for Transport launches campaign and resources to reduce child fatalities

[Valuing Commissioning? Commissioning Value?](#) – 20th November 2017

Academy for Social Justice Commissioning – Conference Slide Pack

[Reform Blog: Applications of responsible AI: Opportunities for policing](#) – 23rd November 2017

Considers the transformative potential of Artificial Intelligence in policing following a Reform roundtable event which gathered experts from across policing, policy and academia

Recent Commons briefing papers include: [Devolution to local government](#) (24th Nov), [City Deals](#) (22nd Nov), [Provision of legal aid](#) (22nd Nov), [The human and financial costs of drug addiction](#) (21st Nov), [Reductions in sentence for a guilty plea](#) (15th Nov), [Universal Credit roll-out: Autumn/Winter 2017](#) (15th Nov), [Youth unemployment statistics](#) (15th Nov), [Communicating Risk](#) (13th Nov)

Recent Parliamentary debates include: [Drug Dealing Telecommunications](#) (21st Nov), [Police Funding Formula](#) (20th Nov), [Knife Crime](#) (20th Nov), [Regional Organised Crime Units](#) (20th Nov), [Football: Policing Costs](#) (16th Nov), [Online Abuse: Prosecution Rates](#) (16th Nov), [Road safety: Hand held devices](#) (13th Nov)

2. RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND STATISTICS

[Domestic abuse in England and Wales to March 2017](#) – Published 23rd November 2017

ONS publish compilation of statistics relating to the prevalence and response to domestic abuse. Estimates based on the Crime Survey for England and Wales indicate that there were in the region of 1.9 million adult victims of domestic abuse in 2017/16 (1.2 million women, 713,000 men), a figure which has been in gradual long-term decline (-7%) since 2012. Police recorded 488,049 domestic abuse related crimes in 2016/17, which while marking a 16% increase on the previous year, has been significantly affected by improvements in crime recording practices. There were 46 arrests per 100 domestic abuse-related crimes in the year ending June 2017. A decision to charge was made for 72% of domestic abuse-related cases referred to the CPS by the police, and of those that proceeded to court, convictions were secured for 76% of domestic abuse-related prosecutions. There were 305 refuge services operating in England and Wales in 2017 and a total of 83,136 high-risk cases were discussed at multi-agency risk assessment conferences. [Data available at force level.](#)

[Football-related arrests and banning order statistics: 2016 to 2017](#) – Published 23rd November 2017

1,929 football banning orders were in force as of August 2017, marking a decrease of 7% (-156) compared to August 2016 and continuing the steady reduction seen since November 2011 (3,174). Supporters of Championship clubs continue to account for the largest proportion of banning orders (32%). The data also highlights reduction in football-related arrests (1,638) in 2016-17 of 14% (-257) on the previous year and 47% on the 2010-11 season. [Statistics](#) are available by club, league, competition and offence type.

[Criminal justice system statistics to June 2017](#) – published 16th November 2017

Ministry of Justice statistics show continuing (-7%) reduction in the number of individuals being dealt with by the criminal justice system over the last year with the figure reaching a record low of 1.69m. The number receiving out of court disposals (263,200) has fallen by 15%, while the number prosecuted in the magistrates' courts has fallen by 5% to 1.43 million. The overall conviction ratio has increased from 84% to 86%. The average custodial sentence length (19.5 months) has continued to increase steadily since 2007 (15.3 months)

Commissioner's e-Briefing: 27 November 2017

[Cambridge Journal of Evidence-Based Policing](#) – 14th November 2017

Latest issue Includes research articles in relation to the impact of gang injunctions (Liverpool), a new approach to identifying 'hot cars' via ANPR (West Midlands), improving the efficiency of hot spot patrols (Liverpool and London) and impact of diversity focused recruitment training on police attitudes

[Falling through the gaps in education](#) – 14th November 2017

Children's Commissioner briefing highlights gaps in understanding of how the needs of children educated outside mainstream or special schools are being met. The report notes that while official exclusions are rising, teacher surveys indicate that many children are also being excluded through 'hidden' or unofficial exclusions.

[Drink-drive rehabilitation scheme data to September 2017](#) – updated 17th November 2017

[HM Prison and Probation Service workforce: September 2017](#) – published 16th November 2017

3. AUDITS AND INSPECTIONS

[HMICFRS 2017 Value for Money Profiles](#) – Published 16th November 2017

Individual force level profiles published providing comparative data on a wide range of policing activities. It is important to note that the profiles highlight what these differences are, but not why they exist. Forces and police and crime commissioners are expected to review the profiles help inform their strategic plans

[HMICFRS Hate Crime Scoping Study](#) – Published 23rd November 2017

HMICFRS publishes a review of existing knowledge of the police role in responding to hate crime and proposes priority areas of focus for HMICFRS' forthcoming inspection. These include exploration of whether:

- Forces have effective strategies in place to deal with hate crime in order to protect victims and communities;
- There are effective national and local partnership arrangements to improve reporting and recording;
- Police understand and respond to the needs of specific communities, incl. through innovative approaches;
- Police refer and encourage victims of hate crime to access appropriate support from local partner agencies;
- Police identify and assess risks to victims and communities and effectively identify and record hate crimes;
- Training and awareness provision for staff dealing with hate crime cases is effective;
- There has been an effective police response to the government's [hate crime action plan](#);
- Victims receive appropriate care and support from partner agencies.

[Children in Custody 2016/17](#) – Published 22nd November 2017

Annual HMI Probation analysis of 12–18 year olds' experiences in secure training centres (STCs) and young offender institutions (YOIs) highlights that there has been no significant change in the in profile of children in since 2015/16, with 48%-49% being from a black or other minority ethnic background, 12%-22% identifying as Muslim and 7-10% being from a Gypsy, Romany or Traveller background. Of those surveyed in STCs:-

- 22% of children had felt unsafe at some point since arriving and 6% felt unsafe at time of inspection
- 25% of children reported being victimised by other children by being shouted at through windows
- 67% of children reported having a key worker on the unit, a figure which has fallen from 89% in the last year
- Children were significantly less likely to say that their key worker helped them (74%) than last year (90%)

In relation to boys surveyed in YOIs during 2016–17, the report highlights that:

- 39% had felt unsafe at some point, having fallen from 46%, and 16% felt unsafe at time of inspection
- The proportion of boys who said they could have a shower every day fell significantly from 88% to 71%
- The proportion of boys who could use the phone every day had fallen from 80% to 68%
- The proportion saying that their caseworker helped them prepare for release increased from 41% to 49%
- The proportion saying that it was easy to see health professionals has increased significantly

[Approved Premises – substance misuse](#) - 14th November 2017

Prisons and Probation Ombudsman (PPO) bulletin highlights weakness of drug testing regimes in Approved Premises for people released from prison or on bail or court orders and the need to improve information sharing and welfare checks. The report also notes that the implications of New Psychoactive Substances for the Approved Premises estate are not yet fully understood or addressed by the National Probation Service. Recommendations include tests for all suspected drugs, and opiates in particular, if the resident is a previous user for all who are at high risk of substance misuse. The report also recommends routine and targeted room searches by staff in APs, greater information sharing among appropriate agencies and provision of advice and information on the dangers of using NPS.

[Youth Justice Board Business Plan 2017-18](#) – Published 16th November 2017

Plan reflects changes to YJB's functions since September 2017 and sets out how it will be reviewing how it carries out its functions and works with the government on its [youth justice reforms](#) during 2017/18.

4. REVIEWS AND INQUIRIES

[Public Value Review: Practical steps for unlocking public value](#) – 17th November 2017

Sir Michael Barber's independent report into how central government can ensure it is delivering maximum sustainable value for money in public sets out a new approach to understanding public sector productivity and advises on the best ways to encourage ongoing improvement. Recommendations include:-

- Introducing a new Public Value Framework to help demonstrate service impact. This is based on four pillars: outcomes expected, management of inputs, engaging service users and achieving long-term sustainability
- Improvements in data systems to enable departments to better monitor the impact of public expenditure
- Embedding incremental improvement or marginal gains in the way government works
- Encouraging departments to put forward innovations that could improve outcomes at no extra cost

[Homelessness Reduction Act inquiry](#) – Scheduled 27th November 2017

Communities and Local Government Committee one off session to examine the guidance issued to local authorities ahead of the Homelessness Reduction Act coming in to force in April 2018

[Business rates retention inquiry](#) - Launched 2nd November 2017

Communities and Local Government Committee inquiry to assess implications of extended implementation period for business rates retention, how it is affecting councils' financial planning and the consequences of implementing the Fair Funding Review. Accepting written submissions until 14th December 2017

[Transforming Rehabilitation inquiry](#) – Justice Committee Inquiry - Announced 12th October 2017

Accepting written submissions

[Prison Population 2022: Planning for the Future](#) – Justice Committee Inquiry

Accepting written submissions until 4th December 2017

- [Policing for the future inquiry](#) – Home Affairs Committee – [last evidence session](#) 14th November 2017
- [Emergency Services Network](#) – Public Accounts Committee - [last evidence session](#) 13th November 2017
- [Offender-monitoring tags](#) – Public Accounts Committee – [last evidence session](#) 13th November 2017
- [Growing Threat of Online Fraud](#) – Public Accounts Committee Inquiry – Open
- [Mental Health in Prisons](#) - Public Accounts Committee Inquiry – Open
- [Spread of so-called 'pop-up' brothels](#) – APPG on prostitution – Open
- [Cycle safety Review](#) – Department for Transport – Open
- [Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse](#) – Ongoing
- [Pitchford Undercover Policing inquiry](#) – Ongoing

5. LEGISLATION

[Data Protection Bill](#) - Lords Report Stage – 11th December 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](#)

[Assaults on Emergency Workers \(Offences\) Bill](#) - Commons Report Stage – 17th April 2018

Private Members’ Bill to make certain offences aggravated when perpetrated against emergency workers
[Commons briefing](#)

[European Union \(Withdrawal\) Bill](#) – Commons Committee Stage – 4th Dec 2017

[Commons briefing](#)

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

[Sanctions and Anti-Money Laundering Bill](#) – Lords Committee Stage – 29th 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 2nd reading – 1st December 2017

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

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

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

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 2nd 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 2nd 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 2nd 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 2nd 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 2nd 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 2nd reading – TBC

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

- **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 – 16th 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

[Modernisation of courts and tribunals](#)

HM Courts & Tribunals Service Roadshow events seeking views from providers and legal professionals on the £1 billion modernisation programme which is due to be completed in 2022. First dates to be announced include:

27/11/2017 - 5.30pm to 7pm - Newcastle Combined Court

29/11/2017 - 5pm to 6.30pm - Manchester Civil Justice Centre

11/12/2017 - 5.30pm to 7pm - London Royal Courts of Justice

[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: 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 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

[Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000: draft codes of practice](#)

Home Office consultation on draft revised codes of practice under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) in relation to investigation of protected electronic information, covert surveillance, property interference and covert human intelligence

Open date: 16/11/2017

Close date: 28/12/2017

[Pregabalin and gabapentin: proposal to schedule under the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001](#)

Home Office consultation seeks views on options whether, and how, to classify pregabalin and gabapentin as Class C drugs under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 following recommendations by the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD)

Open date: 16/11/2017

Close date: 28/12/2017

[Working Together to Safeguard Children: changes to statutory guidance](#)

Open date: 25/10/2017

Close date: 31/12/2017

[Improving access to social housing for victims of domestic abuse](#)

Open date: 30/10/2017

Close date: 05/01/2018

[The Sentencing Code](#)

Open date: 27/07/2017

Close date: 26/01/2018

[Data Retention](#)

Consultation pending on the government's response to Court of Justice of the European Union judgment

Open date: TBC