

Police and Crime Commissioner's Horizon Scanning Briefing

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To be included on our mailing list, please contact [Dan Howitt](#), Nottinghamshire OPCC

1. POLICY AND PRACTICE

[£163,000 awarded to charity supporting pupils affected by domestic abuse](#) – 21 September 2018

Home Office awards £163,000 to Operation Encompass to extend a scheme which ensures police contact the school of pupils exposed to domestic abuse before the next school day. The scheme is already in operation in 33 forces and enables schools to ensure that the appropriate support is in place. The funding will be used to support further roll out and an audit of the systems and effectiveness of interventions in place.

[£2.4m awarded to charitable prison and probation projects](#) – 27 September 2018

Ministry of Justice announces 13 charities and social enterprises receiving HMPPS funding over 2 years to improve rehabilitation, reduce reoffending and promote wellbeing among people in contact with the CJS.

[Principles for tackling modern slavery in supply chains](#) – 25 September 2018

The UK, alongside the US, Canada, New Zealand and Australia, develops four key principles for nations to adopt in order to tackle modern slavery in global supply chains. The principles invite governments to:-

- Take steps to prevent and address human trafficking in procurement practices, particularly in implementing measures and incentives to identify, prevent and reduce the risk of trafficking
- Encourage the private sector to prevent and address human trafficking in its supply chains, particularly via work in partnership with business, workers and survivors to set clear expectations on responsibilities
- Advance responsible recruitment policies and practices, including those that incentivise responsible practice such as the 'Employer Pays Principle' and contribute to the knowledge base of promising practice
- Strive for harmonisation by making reasonable efforts to share information and work with other committed governments to align laws, regulations and policies to combat trafficking in global supply chains

[Announcement of phased implementation of the Emergency Services Network](#) – 21 September 2018

Home Office announces new phased approach to rolling out the new Emergency Services Network (ESN) following an in-depth [review](#) earlier in the year. Police, fire and rescue services and ambulance services will be able to use data services over the network from early 2019, with voice capabilities following soon after. The Home Office is engaging with its commercial partners, EE and Motorola to extend the Airwave contract to 2022 and extend the ESN agreement to 2024 in order to enable phased implementation.

[National County Lines Coordination Centre becomes fully operational](#) – 21 September 2018

[Criminal exploitation of children and vulnerable adults: county lines](#) – 17 September 2018

Updated guidance for frontline professionals on dealing with county lines.

Commissioner's e-Briefing: 1 October 2018

Announcement on scheduling of cannabis-derived medicinal products – 21 September 2018

Home Secretary announces definition for medicinal cannabis-based products for prescription by specialist doctors. The prescribed cannabis, cannabis resin, cannabidiol or cannabidiol derivative products must be produced for medicinal use in humans and be regulated as a medicinal product. Patients will not be able to obtain cannabis-based products from their GP and recreational use of cannabis will not be legalised.

Recent Parliamentary briefings: [Victims Strategy](#) (20 Sep), [Missing persons and the presumption of death](#) (20 Sep), [Transgender Prisoners](#) (19 Sep)

Recent Parliamentary debates: [Anti-Semitism](#) (13 Sep), [Abortion Clinic Protest Review](#) (13 Sep), [Children: Covert Human Intelligence Sources](#) (13 Sep), [Islamophobia](#) (13 Sep)

2. RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND STATISTICS

Internet Organised Crime Threat Assessment (IOCTA) 2018 – 25 September 2018

Europol annual assessment of the emerging threats and developments in cybercrime highlights:-

- **Cyber-dependent crime:** Sustained threat of Ransomware, with cryptomining malware expected to become a regular, low-risk revenue stream for cybercriminals. New legislation relating to data breaches will likely lead to greater reporting of breaches to law enforcement and increasing cases of cyber-extortion
- **Online Child sexual exploitation** material detected online continues to grow, with anonymisation and encryption tools creating serious challenges for investigations. With younger children increasingly having access to the internet, there has been a growing number of cases of online sexual coercion and extortion of minors, while streaming of self-generated material has also significantly increased
- **Payment fraud:** The threat from skimming continues and the abuse of PoS terminals is taking on new forms. Telecommunications fraud is a well-established crime but a remains a new challenge for law enforcement
- **Online criminal markets:** The Darknet is extremely unstable as a result of marketplaces being shut down, closing spontaneously or administrators absconding with the market's stored funds. This has led to an increase in the number of smaller vendor shops and secondary markets catering to specific nationalities.
- **Convergence of cyber and terrorism:** Islamic State continues to use the internet to spread propaganda and to inspire acts of terrorism, with sympathisers increasingly using encrypted messaging apps.
- **Cross-cutting crime factors:** West African fraudsters have evolved to adopt more sophisticated techniques. Phishing continues to increase and while only a small proportion click the bait, one successful attempt can be significant. Advanced fee fraud and romance scams still result in a considerable numbers of victims. Legislative and technological developments, such as 5G, will significantly inhibit the ability of law enforcements and security researchers to identify suspects.

CPS Annual Violence against Women and Girls report – 26 September 2018

Latest CPS statistics on prosecutions for crimes involving Violence against Women and Girls shows an overall decrease in the number of VAWG referrals from the police (-0.7%), and the number of completed prosecutions (-5.9%) and convictions (-4.9%). The number of police referrals for rape in particular fell by 9.1%, with the number of suspects charged falling by 23.1%. These figures are in the context of a 10% overall fall in the volume of CPS cases prosecuted in 2017-18. The number of stalking and harassment prosecutions (1,616), however, increased by 68%, while over 17,000 prosecutions were begun for breaches of restraining orders. The number of police referrals for human trafficking rose by 31% to 355, while the number of suspects charged rose by 27% to 239. Prosecutions for modern slavery, however, saw a marginal (4%) decrease to 284. Crimes of violence against women and girls continue to make up a fifth of the CPS case load. Work continues with the police to drive improvements in case quality at early stages of rape cases and to help prosecutors improve their understanding of the impact that advancing technology on prosecutions. [APCC response](#)

[Machine Learning Algorithms and Police Decision-Making](#) – 21 September 2018

RUSI Whitehall Report assessing the use of machine learning algorithms to inform predictive analytics in policing makes recommendations for limited, localised trials to build the evidence base for their effectiveness. The report also recommends that clear guidance and codes of practice are developed as a matter of urgency to enable forces to trial new technologies in accordance with data protection legislation, respect for human rights and administrative law principles. The report argues that a new regulatory framework is needed along with a more formal scrutiny and oversight from HMICFRS and others. The report also notes the importance of ensuring that officers using the technology are sufficiently trained to do so in a fair and responsible way and are able to act upon algorithmic predictions in a way that maintains their discretion and professional judgement.

[Gaps in government data](#) – 21 September 2018

Institute for Government briefing note identifies five important gaps in the data that government gathers to demonstrate effectiveness and hold bodies to account. This includes a call for better data on police activity, particularly non-crime-related incidents that demonstrate current pressures on the police.

[Criminal court statistics \(quarterly\): April to June 2018](#) – Published 27 September 2018

The number of outstanding magistrates' cases decreased (-1%) for a second consecutive quarter, while outstanding Crown Court (-5%) cases also continued to fall. Violence against the person continues to have the highest number of outstanding cases in the Crown Court, despite falling by 4% in the last quarter. The numbers of outstanding sexual offence cases have been decreasing since early 2016.

[Reported road casualties Great Britain, annual report: 2017](#) – Published 27 September 2018

Department for Transport Annual Report shows no significant change in the overall number road deaths (1,793) in Great Britain over the last year, but a 39% on levels a decade ago. This continues the broadly flat trend seen since 2010. While pedestrian fatalities increased from 448 to 470 in 2017, it is not yet possible to assess whether this represents an increasing trend. There were 24,831 seriously injured casualties in 2017, however, this figure is not comparable to data collected in 2016 (24,101) due to changes in some police severity reporting systems. The number of slight injuries recorded in 2017 (144,369) has also been affected by changes in recording practices. When adjusted to assume all forces are using an injury-based severity reporting system, it is estimated that the number of slight injuries in 2017 (141,912) have continued to fall in the long term since 2014. The overall number of casualties (170,993) fell to the lowest level on record. Overall child fatalities show no clear trend having fallen from 69 to 48 in 2017. [Data available](#) by road type/condition, local authority, [casualties involved](#), [contributory factors](#) and [drink driving](#) [APCC response](#)

[Vehicle speed compliance statistics for Great Britain: 2017](#) – 27 September 2018

Overall vehicle compliance with speed limits has remained broadly consistent since 2011, although between 2016 and 2017 there were minor increases in vehicles exceeding the speed limit. On motorways, 48% of cars exceeded the speed limit in 2017, while on 30mph roads and 20 mph roads, around 52% and 86% of cars exceeded the speed limits respectively. Single carriageway roads had the highest levels of compliance, with only 9% of cars exceeding the speed limit. [Data available](#) by local authority and police force area

[Police use of force data](#) – 14 September 2018

NPCC published list of links to latest use of force data at police force level

[Police Foundation Data driven policing project announced](#) – 21 September 2018

Includes blogs relating to blockchain in the context of crime and policing – [part 1](#) and [part 2](#)

3. AUDITS AND INSPECTIONS

[Criminal Justice Joint Inspection Business Plan 2018/19](#) – Published 21 September 2018

Plan setting out the programme of Criminal Justice System inspections in which two or more CJ inspectorates will be working together. In addition to rolling **core inspections** of Prison Offender Management, Police and UK Borders Authority custody, child protection and Youth Offending Teams, the programme includes:-

Thematic inspections, some of which started in 2017/18 and will continue into 2018/19, of:-

- Hate crime – how police forces understand and respond to hate crimes: Commenced February 2018
- Domestic abuse: Evidence-led prosecutions: Focus on effectiveness of non-victim-led prosecutions
- Crimes against older people: Police and CPS responses to offences affecting older people
- Released under investigation: Investigate impact of changes to police bail procedures following PCA 2017
- Integrated Offender Management: Follow-up to explore how IOM operates in the new TR environment

Collaborative inspections involving collaborative work between inspectorates include:-

- Social care in prisons: exploring preparedness for LAs to deliver social care in prisons under Care Act
- Sex offenders: focusing on the work of the NPS and the Prison Service with convicted men

Scoping and feasibility studies, which may lead to full inspections in 2018/19 include:

- Ethnic disproportionality in the CJS – starting with a review of data held by each of the inspectorates
- Compliance with the Victim's Code of Practice: including CSA focus, following recommendation from IICSA

[Domestic abuse: the work undertaken by Community Rehabilitation Companies](#) – 25 September 2018

HMI Probation thematic inspection finds a lack of strategic approach, both nationally and at CRC level to drive the quality of CRCs' domestic abuse practice and ensure the right range and volume of domestic abuse interventions are provided. Furthermore, contractual targets have led to CRCs prioritising process deadlines above good quality and safe practice. Overall, practitioners were not empowered to deliver a good-quality domestic abuse service and had unmanageable workloads, with many lacking training and oversight. This led to considerable shortfalls in the quality of case management. The inspectorates found many assessments to be superficial, which led to gaps in understanding of the context of the domestic abuse and the factors linked to the behaviours in the case. There were also 'indefensible delays' in starting BBR and RARs and some of the CRCs' work to protect victims, and children especially, was of grave concern. Many probation workers did not fully understand the effect of domestic abuse on families or the relevance of an integrated approach to managing risk of harm, and as such, focused their work solely on the individual. Often relying on the safeguarding decisions of other agencies, caseworkers were not always able to make effective decisions about how to protect victims and children and often failed to see the monitoring of external controls, such as restraining orders, or undertaking home visits, as an integral part of their work. CRCs were, however, found to be working well with partners at a strategic level and play an integral role in Community Safety Partnerships, Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences and Integrated Offender Management arrangements. The report makes a range of recommendations for the MOJ, HM Prisons and Probation Service and CRCs to improve the strategic and operational response to domestic abuse, and better protects victims and children. [APCC response](#)

Upcoming reports and inspection activity

- HMICFRS: Hate Crime thematic inspection 2017/18
- HMICFRS: Counter Terrorism thematic inspection 2017/18
- HMICFRS: Independent study of police air support
- HMICFRS: Police response to county lines (Thematic)

4. REVIEWS AND INQUIRIES

[Commission for Countering Extremism publishes plans for study](#) – 21 September 2018

The independent Commission for Countering Extremism publishes terms of reference for its study of: the public's understanding of extremism; the scale of extremism; extremist objectives and tactics; harms caused by extremism and; the current response to extremism.

Inquiries

[Financial sustainability of police forces inquiry](#) – Public Accounts Committee – Open

Deadline for written evidence is 2 October 2018

[Modern Slavery](#) – Home Affairs Committee - Open

[Serious Violence Strategy](#) - Home Affairs Committee – Open

[Domestic Abuse](#) – Home Affairs Committee – latest evidence 4 September 2018

[Prison Population 2022: Planning for the Future](#) – Justice Committee - latest evidence 11 Sep 2018

[Digital currencies inquiry](#) – Treasury Committee – latest evidence 4 July 2018

[Economic crime inquiry](#) – Treasury Committee - latest evidence 4 July 2018

[Policing for the future](#) – Home Affairs Committee – latest evidence 19 June 2018

[Emergency Services Network](#) – Public Accounts Committee – latest evidence 21 February 2018

[Counter-terrorism](#) - Home Affairs Committee – Open

[Young victims of financial crime inquiry](#) – APPG on financial crime - Open

[Spread of so-called 'pop-up' brothels](#) – APPG on prostitution – Open

[Pitchford Undercover Policing inquiry](#) - Open

[Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse \(IICSA\)](#) comprising 13 independent investigations

5. LEGISLATION

[Mental Health Units \(Use of Force\) Bill](#) – Lords Committee Stage – TBA

[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

[Counter-Terrorism and Border Security Bill](#) – Lords 2nd reading – 9 October 2018

[Briefing](#)

Government Bill to close gaps in existing counter-terrorism legislation, including provisions to:- extend the [offence](#) of inviting support for a proscribed organisation to cover reckless expressions of support, update the [offence](#) of obtaining information likely to be useful to a terrorist to cover material that is just viewed or streamed over the internet, [increase the maximum penalty](#) for certain preparatory terrorism offences to 15 years'

[Voyeurism \(Offences\) Bill](#) – Lords 2nd reading – 23 October 2018

[Briefing](#)

Government Bill to insert a new offence under Section 67 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 to include instances of 'upskirting' where the purpose is to obtain sexual gratification or cause humiliation, distress or alarm. A summary conviction would carry a sentence of up to one year in prison and/or a fine.

[Prisons \(Interf. with Wireless Telegraphy\) Bill](#) – Lords 2nd reading – 26 October 2018

[Briefing](#)

Private Members' Bill includes provisions to create a new power for the Secretary of State to authorise public communications providers, such as mobile network operators, to interfere with systems in order to disrupt the unlawful use of mobile phones in prisons. Amend existing Prisons (Interf. with Wireless Telegraphy) Act 2012.

[Asset Freezing \(Compensation\) Bill](#) – Commons 2nd reading – 26 October 2018

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

[Modern Slavery \(Victim Support\) Bill](#) – Commons 2nd reading – 23 November 2018

[Briefing](#)

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

[Offensive Weapons Bill](#) – Commons Report Stage – 15 Oct 2018 [Overarching documents](#) [Briefing](#)

Government Bill to ban the sale of the most dangerous corrosive products to under-18s, make it a criminal offence to possess corrosive substances in a public place without good reason, introduce restrictions on online sales of knives and make it illegal to possess certain offensive weapons like zombie knives and knuckle-dusters in private. Scheduled 13 September 2018

[Courts and Tribunals \(Judiciary and Functions of Staff\) Bill](#) – Lords Report Stage – 16 Oct 2018 [Briefing](#)

Government Bill to increase efficiency by allowing greater flexibility to deploy the right judge to the right case. Appropriately qualified and experienced court and tribunal staff will also be able to deal with routine matters - such as issuing a summons, taking a plea - freeing up judges' time to focus on matters that need it most.

[Stalking Protection Bill](#) - Commons Report Stage – 23 November 2018

[APCC response](#)

Private Members' Bill (with Government support) to make provision for protecting persons from risks associated with stalking, including the introduction of new civil Stalking Protection Orders (SPOs)

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

[Briefing](#)

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

[Criminal Records Bill](#) - Lords Committee Stage – TBA

[Lords Briefing](#)

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 Committee stage – TBA

[Commons briefing](#)

[Freedom of Information \(Extension\) Bill](#) – Commons 2nd reading – 26 October 2018

[Emergency Response Drivers \(Protections\) Bill](#) - Commons 2nd reading – 23 November 2018

[Violent Crime \(Sentences\) Bill](#) – Commons 2nd reading – 26 October 2018

[Youth \(Services and Provisions\) Bill](#) – Commons 2nd reading – 26 October 2018

[Criminal Fraud \(Private Prosecutions\) Bill](#) - Commons 2nd reading – 26 October 2018

[Licensing of Taxis and Private Hire Vehicles Bill](#) – Lords 2nd reading – 26 October 2018

[Discarded Needles \(Offences\) Bill](#) - Commons 2nd reading – 23 November 2018

[Human Trafficking \(Child Protection\) Bill](#) - Commons 2nd reading – 18th January 2019

[Foreign Nationals \(Criminal Offender & Prisoner Removal\) Bill](#) - Commons 2nd reading – 22nd Feb 2019

[Service Animals \(Offences\) Bill](#) - Commons 2nd reading – TBA

[Policing Resources Bill](#) - Lords 2nd reading - TBA

[Victims of Crime \(Rights, Entitlements, Notification of CSA\) Bill](#) – Lords 2nd reading – TBA

[Anonymity \(Arrested Persons\) Bill](#) - Lords 2nd reading – TBA

[Road Traffic Offenders \(Surrender Driving Licences\) Bill](#) - Lords 2nd reading - TBA

[Modern Slavery \(Transparency in Supply Chains\) Bill](#) – Lords 2nd reading – TBC

[Draft Domestic Abuse Bill](#) to better prevent domestic abuse by promoting awareness, protecting and supporting victims, pursuing and deterring and rehabilitating perpetrators and improving performance across all local areas, agencies and sectors. The Bill aims to ensure victims have the confidence to come forward and report their experiences and 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 [ratify the Istanbul Convention](#) to allow certain offences committed by British citizens anywhere in the world to be prosecuted in UK courts

6. CONSULTATIONS

[Revising PACE Codes C and H – Female Detainees](#)

Home Office statutory consultation on revising PACE Codes C (detention) and H (detention – terrorism) to improve standards in relation to female detainees and ensure the dignity of menstruating detainees in police custody is considered. Revisions will require the police to ensure arrangements are in place for all female detainees to speak to a female member of staff if requested and be asked at the earliest opportunity if they are likely to require any menstrual products while in police custody – which are provided free of charge.

Open date: 21/08/2018

Close date: 01/10/2018

[Police 'stop and search' powers](#)

Home Office consultation on proposals to extend the police power of reasonable grounds to 'stop and search' to carrying a corrosive substance in a public (Offensive Weapons Bill 2018), the misuse of laser pointers (Laser Misuse Act 2018) and misuse of drones to commit certain offences (Air Navigation Order 2016). It is anticipated that the proposed extension would enable officers to take better preventative action.

Open date: 09/09/2018

Close date: 22/10/2018

[Crimes against older people policy guidance](#) **NEW**

CPS public consultation on revised policy guidance for crimes against older people. The guidance has been developed with input from National Scrutiny Panels, which consists of members with experience and expertise from a community and academic perspective.

Open date: 10/09/2018

Close date: 29/10/2018

[New cycling offences: causing death or serious injury when cycling](#)

Department for Transport consultation seeks views on government proposals to introduce new offences of causing death or serious injury while cycling and changes to the existing offences of dangerous and careless cycling. The consultation recognises the difficulties of trying to create general parity between cyclists and drivers in terms of licensing and insurance, for example, but seeks to more closely align penalties for offences that result in death or serious injury.

Open date: 12/08/2018

Close date: 05/11/2018

[Establishing an Independent Public Advocate](#) **NEW**

Ministry of Justice consultation setting out proposals for the role of the Independent Public Advocate to support bereaved families and enable them to fully understand and engage in the investigation following a disaster. Consultation seeks views on when the support should be available and who will be eligible for support.

Open date: 10/09/2018

Close date: 03/12/2018