

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

[£5m fund launched to deter young people from gang and knife crime](#) – 20 October 2018

Government announces a new £5m Supporting Families Against Youth Crime fund to support children and families vulnerable to the effects of knife crime and gang culture as part of the government's 'public health' approach to tackling root causes. The funding aims to enable key workers, community groups, teachers and other professionals to intervene earlier, develop personal resilience among young people and support more in-depth work with parents and carers to help them understand the risk factors. Bidding is open to councils in high-risk areas as part of the Troubled Families programme, with a deadline for bids of 7 December 2018.

[Hate Crime Community Projects Fund reopens for bids](#) – 19 October 2018

Home Office launches third round of Hate Crime Community Projects Funding which enables community groups to secure up to £75,000 for innovative solutions to counter hatred and prejudice. The deadline for applications is 7 December 2018 and successful project are expected to finish delivery by March 2020.

[£5.3m awarded to community groups to fight extremism](#) – 18 October 2018

Minister for Countering-Extremism awards £5.3m in grants of up to £200,000 to community organisations as part of the Building a Stronger Britain Together programme. The funding aims to tackle social exclusion, protect communities and empower them to challenge extremism. The funding supports more than 100 groups with and is estimated to reach around 175,000 people across the UK.

[£4.6m funding announced to support anti-corruption initiatives abroad](#) – 22 October 2018

UK International Development Secretary announces £2.6m funding for the International Budget Partnership to report on the transparency of government budgets, and a £2m contribution to the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions Development Initiative to help strengthen government audit institutions.

[£2m investment in safeguarding awareness in the charity sector](#) – 22 October 2018

Government invests £2m in projects to raise awareness of safeguarding and improve incident handling within the charity sector, including the develop digital solutions for charities to confidentially report concerns, free training and better access to clear and consistent guidance on reporting and whistle-blowing.

[Real-time tracking for firefighter safety: apply for contracts](#) – 15 October 2018

Commissioner's e-Briefing: 29 October 2018

[Government refreshes Hate Crime plan – 16 October 2018](#)

Updated government hate crime plan details action taken since 2016 alongside new measures to:-

- Undertake a wide-ranging review into hate crime legislation and consider whether additional protected characteristics, such as misogyny and age should be included
- Launch a nationwide public awareness campaign in the autumn to educate on what constitutes hate crime
- Release over £1.5m of further funding for groups supporting young people to challenge prejudice and hatred
- Provide over £480,000 for 11 new projects to tackle religion-based hate crime via the Office for Students
- Extend the Home Office Places of Worship Scheme for a further year
- Revamp the True Vision reporting website
- Host anti-Semitism and anti-Muslim roundtables to discuss responses to these issues
- Improve police response by offering call handlers specialist training on how to support hate crime victims
- Enhance police training and examine the provision of victims services for LGBT victims of hate crime
- Update the CPS hate crime resource pack for schools to help teachers engage pupils on intolerance
- Provide further funding for anti-bullying interventions in schools via the Government Equalities Office
- Further government engagement with disabled people to better understand the impact of these crimes

[Pregabalin and gabapentin to be controlled as class C drugs – 16 October 2018](#)

Government announces plans to reclassify the prescription drugs pregabalin and gabapentin as class C controlled substances under the Misuse of Drugs Act from April 2019 following rises in fatalities

[Government tightens rules on those eligible to stand for elected office – 18 October 2018](#)

Rishi Sunak MP announces new rules which will prohibit anyone who is subject to an Anti-Social Behaviour Injunction, a Criminal Behaviour Order or a Sexual Risk Order - or is on the Sex Offenders' Register from standing for elected office in their community. This extends the current conditions which prohibit anyone convicted of an offence carrying a prison sentence of more than 3 months from serving as a local councillor.

[Updated Slavery and Trafficking Survivor Care Standards 2018 – Published 15 October 2018](#)

The Human Trafficking Foundation publishes updated Slavery and Trafficking Survivor Care Standards which will be adopted in future NRM victim care contracts. The standards draw on the expertise of 32 organisations from across the anti-slavery sector including care providers, law enforcement, lawyers and medical experts.

[Home Office Guidance: Child Trafficking advocates: early adopter sites – 22 October 2018](#)

Guidance on roles and responsibilities of Independent Child Trafficking Advocates

[Home Office Guidance: National referral mechanism reform – 16 October 2018](#)

Home Office guidance document outlining the 4 main objectives of the reform of the national referral mechanism which was announced in October 2017

[College of Policing publishes latest Police Barred List statistics – 17 October 2018](#)

[Joint NPCC and APCC statement on proposed pension changes – 25 October 2018](#)

[David Lidington speech 'why cyber security matters', National Cyber Security Centre - 16 October 2018](#)

Recent Parliamentary briefings: [Autumn Budget 2018: Background briefing](#) (23 Oct), [Drugs policy](#) (22 Oct), [The future of legal aid](#) (22 Oct), [Ending exploitation in supermarket supply chains](#) (18 Oct), [Adult Social Care Funding](#) (16 Oct), [Road Safety](#) (16 Oct), [Cyber Security](#) (11 Oct)

Recent Parliamentary debates: [Data Retention and Acquisition Regulations 2018](#) (24 Oct), [Religious Intolerance and Prejudice](#) (17 Oct), [Regulation of Investigatory Powers \(Juveniles\) Order 2018](#) (16 Oct), [Police and Crime Commissioners](#) (15 Oct), [Victims Strategy](#) (11 Oct)

2. RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND STATISTICS

[Hate crime in England and Wales, 2017/18](#) – Published 16 October 2018

Latest Home Office and ONS statistics highlight a 17% increase in police recorded hate crime offences in 2017/18, continuing the upward trend seen since 2012/13. The increase is thought to be largely driven by improvements in police recording, although spikes in hate crime were recorded following events such as the EU Referendum and the terrorist attacks in 2017. The majority of hate offences relate to race (76%), followed by sexual orientation (12%), religious (9%), disability (8%) and transgender hate crime (2%). Combined estimates from the 2015/16 to 2017/18 Crime Survey for England and Wales indicate that the underlying number of hate crimes has fallen by 40% since the 2007/08 and 2008/09 surveys. Overall, 53% of hate crime incidents came to the attention of the police. 36% of hate crime victims said they were 'very much' affected by the offence compared with 13% for all CSEW crime. Around half (51%) of victims of hate crime were very or fairly satisfied with how the police handled the incident, which is markedly lower than that of all crime (69%).

[The experiences of victims of hate crime](#) - 16 October 2018

NatCen publishes their report commissioned by HMICFRS which examines the experiences of victims of hate crime and their decision-making, motivations for and barriers to reporting these crimes. The study found that:

- Victims' understanding of the types of incident that could be categorised as hate crime varied with particular confusion over online hate crime whether incidents needed to have a physical element
- Motivations for reporting hate crimes included finding relief, wanting the perpetrator to be held to account, wanting to prevent repeat offending and contributing to accurate recording of hate crime
- Reasons for not reporting included feeling that the incident was not sufficiently serious, that there was little supporting evidence or reluctance due to previous poor experiences with the police
- Practical barriers, meanwhile, included feelings of shame and blame and inaccessible reporting facilities
- Victims cited both positive and negative experiences of the police which ranged from being regularly updated and having expectations clearly set out to officers having a lack of empathy or relevant knowledge
- Barriers to accessing support included having limited awareness of support provision and, perceptions that relevant support organisations were either not available or were inaccessible to participants.
- The research identifies some important areas of policing that victims tell us need to be improved, which include improving the recognition of hate crime, better training and clearer information to victims.

[Crime in England and Wales: year ending June 2018](#) – Published 18 October 2018

ONS publishes latest findings from the Crime Survey for England and Wales which shows a 6% increase in the self-reported experience of crime over the previous year when fraud and computer misuse offences are excluded. The increase follows significant reductions in crime over the previous two decades. The report highlights rises in self-reported theft offences (+8%) which were reflected in police recorded crime statistics. Police recorded crime and hospital admissions data shows increases in offences involving knives or sharp instruments, while recorded homicides have begun to show an increase following a long-term period of decline. The low-volume, higher-harm crime types tend to be concentrated in London and other metropolitan areas. Police recorded [crime](#) and [outcomes](#) data is available at police force and CSP level

[Institute for Government Performance Tracker 2018](#) – 10 October 2018

Institute for Government and Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy report warns that important choices and trade-offs between spending and performance have not been made explicit to the public. The report includes a '[concern rating](#)' across nine public services based on cost and performance which flags extensive concerns across Adult Social Care and Prisons. Significant concern is also highlighted in terms of anticipated future demand on the criminal courts and the lack of credible plans to control spending within the police service. The report says that public sector efficiency has risen since 2010, helped by the public sector pay cap. But productivity has gone up mainly by doing 'more of the same' rather than through reform. The report concludes that governments will need to make tough decisions on whether tax increases, lower expectations of services, more individual contributions or radical service changes are undertaken.

[Police powers and procedures, England and Wales, 2017/18](#) – Published 25 October 2018

Latest Home Office statistics show an 8% reduction in arrests made by police in the 2017/18 financial year, continuing the downward trend seen since 2017/08. The proportion that were arrests for violence against the person rose from 25% to 38% in 2017/18, while the proportion that were theft offences fell from 36% to 20%. As in previous years, Black (or Black British) people were over 3 times as likely to be arrested as those who identified themselves as White. The number of stop and searches fell by 7% compared with the previous year to the lowest level since comparable records began (2001/02). 17% of stop and searches led to an arrest, which was similar to the previous year. Individuals from BME groups are 4 times as likely to be stopped and searched compared with those who are White. The outcome of the search was linked to the initial reason for the search in 22% of cases, with 70% resulting in 'no further action'. Where comparable data are available, the number of detentions under section 136 of the Mental Health Act increased by 5% in 2017/18 and, similar to 2016/17, a police vehicle was used to transport the person being detained to a place of safety in 52% (12,367) of cases. Use of a police station as a place of safety following a section 136 detention fell from 4% to 2% in 2017/18. Of these, 40% were taken there because there was no capacity at the Health Based Place of Safety Data available at police force level.

[The Colour of Injustice: 'Race' drugs and law enforcement in England and Wales](#) – 14 October 2018

Report from the campaign group Stopwatch examines statistics on police stop and search, noting the decline in use but increasing levels of disproportionality, indicating that the powers have become more heavily concentrated on black and minority ethnic groups. The report also notes that the 'find' rate for drugs is lower for black than white people, suggesting drug searches on black people may be based weaker grounds.

[Livestreaming and video-chat risks](#) – 17 October 2018

NSPCC report on findings from a survey of almost 40,000 children and young people aged 7 to 16 on the risks they face when using the internet. Findings show that almost a quarter have livestreamed and almost 1 in 8 have video-chatted with someone they've never met in person. Over 1 in 10 children who had video-chatted and over 1 in 20 who had livestreamed had been asked to remove clothes.

[1,800,000 opportunities](#) – 17 October 2018

Report from the Revolving Doors Agency finds that around 60,000 police cautions or convictions for minor offences in 2017/18 were given to people who had offended 11 or more times. The report also highlights the combined impact of childhood trauma, poverty and structural disadvantages on causing and perpetuating this negative cycle. A new [podcast](#) was also launched coinciding with the charity's 25th anniversary.

[Offender management statistics for January to March and April to June 2018](#) – 25 October 2018

Statistics relating to offenders who are in prison or under National Probation Service and community rehabilitation companies' supervision in England and Wales, **including**

- [Community performance update to June 2018](#) - NPS, CRC and Electronic Monitoring Service
- [Proven reoffending statistics: October to December 2016](#)
- [Payment by results statistics: October 2015 to December 2017](#)
- [Prison performance statistics 2017/18](#)
- [Prison Population figures 2018](#)
- [Safety in custody quarterly: update to June 2018](#)
- [Deaths of Offenders in the Community 2017/18](#)

[Fire prevention and protection statistics, 2017/18](#) –18 October 2018

[Fire statistics incident level datasets](#) –18 October 2018

[Fire and rescue workforce and pensions statistics 2017/18](#) –18 October 2018

[Alcohol and late night refreshment licensing statistics: 31 March 2018](#) – 25 October 2018

[Youth custody data](#) – 12 October 2018

Commissioner's e-Briefing: 29 October 2018

[Multi-agency public protection arrangements \(MAPPA\) annual report 2017/18](#) – 25 October 2018

[2018 UK annual report on modern slavery](#) – 18 October 2018

Home Office publishes annual report providing an assessment of modern slavery in the UK and the UK's existing and future response to the threat

[How online technologies are transforming transnational organised crime](#) – 24 October 2018

Experts from Cardiff University are leading on a major new research project which will assess how new technologies are influencing transnational organised crime (Cyber-TNOC). Their work will focus on modern slavery, the sale of illicit drugs, the propagation of malware and money laundering, including 'money muling'. The team begin their research in January 2019 with their first findings expected to be published in 2020/21.

['College Registered Pilots' scheme announced](#) – 24 October 2018

College of Policing outlines plans for a 'College registered pilots' scheme enabling forces to register with the College to test new and innovative approaches to tackling crime. The scheme will act as a mark of reassurance to the public that a trial has legitimacy and the potential to improve policing. Forces registering may receive research advice and quality assurance from the College, alongside access to independent academic experts.

3. AUDITS AND INSPECTIONS

[Social care in prisons in England and Wales](#) – 16 October 2018

HMI Prisons thematic inspection report highlights the need to address the 'postcode lottery' in social care provision in prison, the consistency of care for elderly prisoners and planning for an ageing population. The report notes that where prisons establish good working arrangements with local authorities early on, services can develop well. Recommendations include:-

- Co-ordinated cross-governmental work to develop a strategy for delivering social care in prisons
- All prisons and local authorities to develop a MOU to ensure social care needs of prisoners are met and implement prompt, ongoing and effective systems for identifying the social care needs
- All prisons should make reasonable and appropriate physical adaptations to meet the social care needs of prisoners, or have arrangements to transfer prisoners to appropriate establishments

4. REVIEWS AND INQUIRIES

[Domestic abuse Inquiry – Home Affairs Committee Report](#) – Published 22 October 2018

Home Affairs Committee report urges the Government to recognise the gendered nature of domestic abuse by widening the upcoming Bill to a 'Violence Against Women and Girls and Domestic Abuse Bill'. The report identifies persistent problems with lack of refuge and advice support for victims, weaknesses in the police and court response, and inadequate action to prevent abuse of all kinds. The report recommends that

- Refuge provision should be a statutory obligation, backed by national ring fenced funding
- Single household payments under Universal Credit should be split for couples as standard
- A national register of serial stalkers and serial domestic violence perpetrators should be introduced, with individuals being managed through multi-agency public protection arrangements (MAPPA).
- The Government should consult on introducing paid domestic violence leave for victims of abuse
- The long term impact on children who experience domestic abuse should be recognised explicitly in legislation and a strategy developed to ensure adequate protection and support
- The Government must also, without further delay, make provision in the draft bill to prohibit the cross-examination of a victim by a perpetrator of domestic abuse in the family court.

Policing for the future Inquiry – Home Affairs Committee Report – Published 25 October 2018

Home Affairs Committee report examining the changing demands on policing and extent to which the service is able to meet them concludes that, with rises in traditional volume crime, new digital challenges, falling staff numbers and reducing levels of arrests and charges, the service 'under serious strain and...badly overstretched'. The Committee recommends that:

- Police funding is prioritised in the Autumn Budget and Comprehensive Spending Review and the current police funding model, which is not fit for purpose, is reformed to recognise the true cost of policing
- Improvements in coordination and leadership from the Home Office to drive national partnerships with organisations such as the NHS or with global internet companies and improve digital capability
- The Government should urgently cost and scope a prestigious national digital exploitation centre for serious crime, in time to account for the required funding in the next Comprehensive Spending Review
- A fundamental restructure of the way in which online fraud cases are ever investigated and responded to locally, nationally and regionally. Forces currently focus largely on victim support for these offences
- The private sector must do much more to reduce demand on policing from online fraud and child sexual abuse, which should include regulation of internet companies that do not take sufficient action
- Police forces should be better resourced to undertake the increasing number of online child abuse investigations and the demands created by the management of registered sex offenders
- The Government should appoint a Commissioner for the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse to work across departments and agencies, and produce a bold and comprehensive cross-Government strategy
- Mandate forces to provide a minimum 2 day training course on mental health to all officers and PCSOs
- The Government should use the NHS funding uplift reduce police involvement in mental health crisis work.
- Home Office should launch a transparent, root-and-branch review of local, regional and national policing capability and responsibilities before the end of November and publish proposals by the end of February
- The Government should also set up a National Policing Council - a transparent, policy-making body chaired by the Home Secretary—and a National Policing Assembly, comprising all PCCs and chief constables.

Sexual harassment of women & girls in public places – Women & Equalities Committee – 23 Oct 2018

Women and Equalities Committee report concludes that harassment in public is relentless and becomes 'normalised' as girls grow up, contributing to a wider negative societal effect. The committee recommends:-

- The upcoming refresh of the Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy to sets out a plan of action, informed by central data collection, to make all public places safe for all women and girls
- The Government should commission further research to inform its work on the causes of sexual harassment and how to prevent it. This work should include a long-term, evaluated programme of public campaigns
- A new law on image-based sexual abuse to criminalise all non-consensual creation and distribution of intimate sexual images, on the basis of the victim's lack of consent rather than perpetrator motivation
- Government take an evidence-based approach to addressing the harms of pornography, similar to the level of investment there has been over many years in tackling road safety and smoking
- Train operators should be required through Franchise Agreements to have a robust policy on preventing and tackling sexual harassment and to block access to pornography on buses
- Amend the Licensing Act 2003 guidance to ensure that licensees take action on sexual harassment
- Ensure local authorities consult local women's groups and sexual violence specialists when deciding policies on licensing strip clubs and lap-dancing clubs
- Place a legal obligation on universities to have policies outlawing sexual harassment, including collecting and publishing data on the effectiveness of those policies

5. LEGISLATION

[Mental Health Units \(Use of Force\) Bill](#) – Lords 3rd reading – 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 Committee Stage – 29 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 Committee Stage – TBC [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. And a more serious offence, tried in the Crown Court, would carry a sentence of up to 2 years in prison

[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

[Courts and Tribunals \(Judiciary & Functions of Staff\) Bill](#) – Lords 3rd reading – 13 Nov 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.

[Offensive Weapons Bill](#) – Commons Report Stage – 15 October 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

[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](#)

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

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

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

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

Private Members' Bill to protect drivers of emergency vehicles responding to emergencies from civil liability and criminal prosecution in specified circumstances and related provision about criminal proceedings

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

Private Members' Bill to increase the minimum custodial sentence on conviction for possession of a knife or other offensive weapon for an offender aged 18 or over and to increase the minimum period of detention and training order for a person aged 16 or 17; set a minimum custodial sentence on conviction for an offender in possession of a knife and intending to commit an offence or having a weapon to use in committing murder

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

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

[Criminal Fraud \(Private Prosecutions\) Bill](#) - Commons 2nd reading – 23 November 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

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- **[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

[British citizenship reform](#)

Home Secretary announces plans for citizenship reforms which would include tougher English language requirements for people applying for British citizenship changes to the Life in the UK test to give greater prominence to the British values and principles expected and powers to deprive individuals convicted of the most serious criminal offences of their British citizenship. A public consultation will be brought forward.

Open date: Pending

Close date: TBC

[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

[Local government pension scheme: technical amendments to benefits](#) **NEW**

Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government consultation on proposals to make amendments to the statutory local government pension scheme to accommodate judgements already made, give some flexibility to respond to potential future developments and make a technical amendment required to an earlier Scheme.

Open date: 04/10/2018

Close date: 29/11/2018

[Establishing an Independent Public Advocate](#)

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