

Police and Crime Commissioner's Horizon Scanning Briefing

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1. POLICY AND PRACTICE

[New powers to tackle littering and graffiti to come into force](#) – 1st April 2018

Changes to penalties following the launch of England's first ever Litter Strategy in April 2017 see the maximum on-the-spot fine for littering and graffiti increased from £80 to £150 and extension of penalties to vehicle owners if it can be proved that litter was thrown from their car. New Government guidance is also available

[Further three PCCs take on governance of local fire and rescue services](#) – 26th March 2018

Home Secretary announces a further three PCCs (West Mercia, Staffordshire and Cambridgeshire) to take on responsibility for local fire and rescue services under provisions set out in the Policing and Crime Act 2017. This follows Essex PCC, Roger Hirst who became the first Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner in October 2017. The PCCs successfully demonstrated that a transfer of governance would be in the interests of the local economy, efficiency and effectiveness, without having an adverse effect upon public safety. This was supported by [independent assessments](#) undertaken by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy. Work is underway to progress business cases in North Yorkshire and Hertfordshire. [Policing insight analysis](#)

[Home office seeks partners to deliver its super-complaints system](#) – 26th March 2018

Home Office sets out how organisations can apply to become 'designated bodies' and raise concerns on behalf of the public about patterns in policing which appear to be significantly harming the interests of the public. Organisations who feel they can contribute will have 6 weeks from 3 April to apply, and must demonstrate that they fulfil the 9 criteria set out in regulations. The new system will be operational later this year.

[Projects benefiting from £15m tampon tax announced](#) – 26th March 2018

Government announces the 10 projects tackling sexual violence, social exclusion among BAME women and needs in relation to mental health and wellbeing which will receive benefit from the latest round of Tampon Tax. Projects include Rape Crisis' digital transformation project (£1,400,000) and the Women's Aid Federation of England's 'Ask Me' project (£1,509,850) to improve the community response to domestic abuse. Grants will also be issued to smaller organisations supporting vulnerable and disadvantaged women and girls in the UK.

[Home Office launches anti-knife crime campaign](#) – 23rd March 2018

The £1.35m #knifefree campaign targets 10 to 21 year olds through media channels such as Snapchat, Twitter, TV on demand, Spotify and through posters in cities where knife crime is more prevalent. The campaign aims to challenge perceptions that carrying a knife is normal and highlight the consequences of carrying a knife.

[New government initiative to reduce rough sleeping](#) – 30th March 2018

Communities Secretary sets out further measures to reduce rough sleeping which include a new specialist Team made up of rough sleeping and homelessness experts; a £30m fund for 2018 to 2019 targeted at local authorities with high numbers of people sleeping rough and; £100,000 funding to support frontline Rough Sleeping workers across the country. The government is also working with the National Housing Federation to provide additional, coordinated move-on accommodation for rough sleepers across the country. The announcements come ahead of the Homelessness Reduction Act comes into force in April.

[Housing support for young people](#) – 29th March 2018

Government announces plans to amend regulations to ensure all 18 to 21-year-olds are entitled to claim support for housing costs within Universal Credit. Alongside the Youth Obligation, this will mean young people get comprehensive and intensive work-focussed support, whether they are 'learning' or 'earning' and will be entitled to receive support towards their housing costs if they secure a tenancy.

[College of Policing 2018 Bursary Scheme opens for applications](#) – 27th March 2018

Bursary scheme will offer around 25 police officers and staff up to £3,000 per year towards tuition fees for up to two years of study. The closing date for applications is 23rd April 2018.

[Youth Panel established to increase confidence in the police complaints system](#) – 27th March 2018

IOPC and Leaders Unlocked establishes a youth panel to help improve awareness of the IOPC and confidence in the police complaints system among young people

[Guidance: Appointing Chief Officers](#) – 23rd March 2018

College of Policing publishes updated guidance which incorporates legislation and eligibility requirements and good practice in selection and assessment of chief officers

[New definitive guideline on terrorism offences](#) – 28th March 2018

Sentencing Council issue new guideline for courts which will come into effect on 27th April 2018

Recent Parliamentary briefings: [Sustainability of the UK Public Finances: A Long-Run Perspective](#) (29th Mar), [Opposition Day debate: Local government funding](#) (27th Mar), [Police funding in England & Wales: Social Indicators page](#) (27th Mar), [Police funding](#) (27th Mar), [Police service strength](#) (27th Mar), [Court closures and reform](#) (26th Mar), [Homelessness in England: Social Indicators page](#) (23rd Mar), [Statutory Homelessness in England](#) (22nd Mar), [Effect of Welfare Reform and Work Act 2016](#) (19th Mar)

Recent Parliamentary debates: [Fire Reform](#) (26th Mar), [Police: Emergency Calls](#) (22nd Mar), [Crimes against Disabled People: Prosecutions](#) (22nd Mar), [Support for Victims of Crime](#) (22nd Mar), [Domestic Abuse: Victim Withdrawal](#) (22nd Mar), [Police Recruitment and Overtime](#) (21st Mar), [Police: Undercover Officers](#) (21st Mar), [Draft Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 \(Powers of Seizure\) Order 2018](#) (20th Mar), [Money Laundering](#) (19th Mar), [Secure Tenancies \(Victims of Domestic Abuse\) Bill](#) (19th Mar)

2. RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND STATISTICS

[Violence at work: findings from 2017/18 Crime Survey for England and Wales](#) – 28th March 2018

Findings from the Crime Survey for England and Wales indicate that the number of violent incidents at work has remained broadly stable over the last decade with annual fluctuations. An estimated 1.3% of working adults (326,000) have been victims of an estimated 642,000 incidents of violence at work over the last year. This comprised of 269,000 assaults and 372,000 threats. Risk of victimisation appears evenly distributed between women (1.3%) and men (1.3%). Strangers were the offenders in 55% of cases of workplace violence. 64% per cent of violence at work resulted in no physical injury. Of the remaining 36% of cases, minor bruising or a black eye accounted for the majority of the injuries recorded.

[Crime and information: using data and technology to transform CJ services](#) – 21st March 2018

Reform paper highlights how better access to data for police forces, the CPS, courts, prisons and probation providers is crucial for speeding up services and tailoring rehabilitation to offenders. The report notes that green shoots of best practice exist, particularly within police forces, which could be scaled across the England and Wales. It is argued that prisons and probation services require better information to protect the public and deliver truly transformative rehabilitation services. The paper highlights innovative practice including an intelligence tool to capture online information automatically and share with courts (Durham), the "Analytics Lab" built by West Midlands Police to comb large data sets and identify criminal networks, video links to courts and the use of smartphones and apps to collect evidence at crime scenes. The paper is sponsored by Sopra Steria.

[Unconscious bias training: an assessment of the evidence for effectiveness](#) – 23rd March 2018

Equality and Human Rights Commission publish research report on the effectiveness of unconscious bias training (UBT). UBT was found to be effective for raising awareness of the existence and impact of unconscious bias and can be effective in reducing unconscious bias, but it is unclear how permanent this reduction can be in changing individual behaviour and organisational culture and practices. The report identifies a number of ways in which UBT can be strengthened, which include analysis to improve understanding of the problem, being clear on the aim of UBT and evaluating afterwards and seeing UBT part of a wider solution.

[Prevent strategy and Channel Programme statistics](#) – Published 27th March 2018

Home Office release statistics showing that 6,093 individuals were referred to the government's Prevent programme during 2016/17 marking a 20% reduction on the [previous year](#) (7,631). Around 19% (1,158) of referrals went on to be discussed at the multi-agency Channel panel, which compares to 14% (1,072) in 2015/16. Of these, 29% (332) went on to receive Channel support, marking a reduction on levels in 2015/16 (36% or 381). Of the 332 that received Channel support, around 33% (110) were as a result of far-right concerns, compared to around 25% (approx. 95) in 2015/16. 54% (3,290) of all referrals in 2016/17 were signposted to other forms of support and 79% people left with no further terrorism-related concerns.

[Criminal court statistics: October to December 2017](#) – Published 29th March 2018

Latest Ministry of Justice statistics highlight a second consecutive quarterly rise in outstanding cases in the magistrates' courts (+5%) as receipts, despite falling, continue to exceed disposals. Outstanding cases in the Crown Court continue to fall, however the average number of days from first listing to completion (176 days) has seen the first increase since 2016. The proportion of effective trials in the Crown Court (51%) remains stable with 35% cracked and 15% ineffective.

[Home Office funds University of Bristol research into prostitution](#) – 28th March 2018

Home Office grants £150,000 to the University of Bristol carry out a new research project to help government and law enforcement better understand the nature and prevalence of sex work in England and Wales.

[Literature review: Home Office treatment of unaccompanied asylum seeking children](#) – 28th March 2018

3. AUDITS AND INSPECTIONS

[HMICFRS fire and rescue service inspection programme 2018/19](#) – Published 29th March 2018

HMICFRS publishes framework for new inspections to assess the efficiency and effectiveness of England's 45 fire and rescue services in terms of preventing, protecting against and responding to fire and other risks, providing value for money, looking after its people and ensuring fairness and diversity. Suffolk, Staffordshire and West Yorkshire fire and rescue services will participate in the first pilot inspections during spring 2018.

[HMICFRS PEEL: Police Effectiveness Inspection Report 2017](#) – Published 22nd March 2018

National overview of the 2017 Police Effectiveness inspections finds 30 forces to be assessed as 'good' at keeping people safe and reducing crime, with one force (Durham) being graded 'outstanding' for the third consecutive year. No forces were found to be 'inadequate' overall. The inspections found that:-

- Improvements in the way the police treat vulnerable people - with 23 forces now graded 'good'
- Improvements in understanding of 'hidden harm' such as modern slavery and human trafficking
- Nearly half of all forces have increased or maintained neighbourhood policing officer numbers
- Two-thirds of forces are increasingly working with other agencies to tackle serious and organised crime
- More forces have invested in digital forensic facilities and backlogs from 2016 have been reduced by 17%
- Front line police officers are more aware of domestic abuse and have better systems for identifying cases

The inspection also found, however:-

- A lack of progress in understanding why a large number of crimes are written off
- Many forces rarely evaluate their approach to problem solving and tackling crime and adopt best practice
- Almost half forces are not using the Police National Computer to proactively locate and arrest suspects
- Some forces are struggling to evaluate risk from registered sex offenders / undertake timely assessments
- Financial pressures creating backlogs in emergency jobs and officers not attending incidents promptly
- An ongoing shortfall (-5,000) in investigators which is placing strain on existing detectives.

[Out-of-court disposal work in youth offending teams](#) – Published 28th March 2018

HMI Probation and HMICFRS thematic inspection finds that YOTs are often doing good and effective work to make it less likely that children will re-offend, however inspectors found that:-

- Victims are not always as engaged in the process as they should be, with assessment and planning sometimes giving insufficient attention to the risk of harm to victims.
- More attention could be given to the views of the child offender – noting insufficient evidence of children or parents/carers being asked for and expressing their views on causes and solutions to offending
- Difficulty in empirically proving success in diversion due to a lack of systematic monitoring, beyond considerable and consistent reductions in first time entrants into the youth justice system

[Incentivising and promoting good behaviour - a thematic report](#) – Published 21st March 2018

HMI Prisons thematic inspection report based on a review commissioned by the Youth Justice Board finds that despite reductions in youth custody, current behaviour management schemes for those that remain appear ineffective – particularly in reducing violence which is at a historic high across all institutions. The report notes:-

- Inconsistency in behaviour management approaches – often as a result of high staff turnover
- Rewards and sanctions often being focused on punishment rather than incentive
- Many young people spending long periods of time in their cells with little to occupy them
- Institutions which accept poor behaviour as unavoidable rather than setting high standards
- Witnessing or experiencing bullying and violence are part of everyday life for young people in custody
- Young people from BAME backgrounds being less likely to report being treated fairly

Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration inspection reports published - 28th March 2018

- [Re-Inspection: Identification and treatment of Potential Victims of Modern Slavery](#)
- [The Home Office's Exit Checks Programme](#)
- [Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children](#)

4. REVIEWS AND INQUIRIES

[National evaluation of Troubled Families Programme 2015 to 2020: Interim findings](#) – 27th March 2018

Second Troubled Families annual report highlights that more than 90,000 families have met the improvement goals agreed in the last year, marking an increase of over 48,000 on the previous year. The report also highlights that the programme's focus on preventative services is starting to show positive results with the number of cases that need to be escalated to children's social care having reduced over the last year. The report outlines how the programme is also driving real long-term change across local services including police, housing, social care and Jobcentres. Services and professionals are working better in partnership and across organisational and cultural boundaries to achieve better lives for the families in need. The annual report also sets out how a new 'Earned Autonomy' payment structure will be piloted in 11 selected local authorities, with upfront payments made to help support families and accelerate change across local services.

[Modern Slavery Police Transformation Programme Annual Report](#) – 26th March 2018

Report sets out key developments in 2017 in terms of police operations, the MS police transformation unit, Europol team, Insight Team, Joint slavery and trafficking analysis centre, National referral mechanism team, Regional transformation teams, what works team and the Anti-Trafficking and Modern Slavery Network

[Review of Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority announced](#) – 21st March 2018

Victims' Commissioner announces plans to launch a review of Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority in spring 2018 and is keen for crime victims to [contact her](#) to share their experiences

Inquiries

[Brexit: policing & security cooperation inquiry](#) – Report published 21st March 2018

Home Affairs Committee report highlights that the UK risks losing intelligence information and capabilities for a range of serious crimes, including terrorism in the event of a 'no deal' scenario in security. This might include the ability to check whether an otherwise unknown individual, found in the company of a child, has a history of child sexual offences in their home country; the ability to flag the identity of a missing child to EU authorities, so that border security can apprehend their kidnapping relative before they board a flight to South America; and the ability to extradite an EU national who has fled home after committing a serious violent crime, to face charges in the UK. The Committee is not convinced that the Government has a clear strategy to mitigate this risk and calls upon the government to flesh out the details of the 'bespoke deal' it hopes to secure in this area.

[Government Contracts for CRCs](#) - Report published 21st March 2018

Public Accounts Committee report concludes that the MOJ still has a long way to go before it achieves the objectives of its reforms and expresses deep concerns that following the injection of additional public money, 14 out of 21 CRCs are still forecasting losses. The MOJ's failure to pilot its fundamental changes to the probation system has led to CRCs not investing in probation services, which have suffered as a result. It is unacceptable that, almost half way through their seven year contracts with the Ministry of Justice, CRCs are not yet able to link their ICT systems to HM Prison and Probation Service. The Ministry still does not have complete and robust performance information, creating a risk that CRCs are not being held to account and it is not yet clear what the Ministry has received from CRCs in return for the contract changes it negotiated with them. The report makes recommendations for further information and updates to be provided in April 2018 and July 2018.

[Economic crime inquiry](#) – Launched 29th March 2018

Treasury Committee inquiry will consider anti-money laundering and the sanctions regime and scrutinise the scale and nature of economic crime faced by consumers. Accepting written submissions

[Digital currencies inquiry](#) - Launched 22nd February 2018

Treasury Committee inquiry. Accepting written submissions until 13th April 2018.

[Business rates retention](#) - CLG Committee – Report in preparation

[Policing for the future](#) – Home Affairs Committee – last evidence session 28th March 2018

[Disclosure of evidence in criminal cases inquiry](#) – Latest evidence 27th March 2018

Justice Committee inquiry to investigate disclosure procedures to ensure they are fit for purpose and proposed steps to address existing issues are sufficient. Findings will inform the Attorney General's ongoing review.

[Transforming Rehabilitation](#) – Justice Committee – [evidence session](#) held 20th March 2018

APCC criminal justice portfolio lead, [David Lloyd](#) calls for PCCs to 'have the same powers over the criminal justice system that they currently have over police – set the plan, the budget, appoint a chief and hold to account'. The APCC wants to see unring-fenced funding provided to PCCs so that the money can be invested in the part of the system which would have the greatest impact on reducing reoffending in their local area.

[Modernising the Disclosure and Barring Service](#) – [evidence session](#) held 19th March 2018

Public Accounts Committee evidence session examines delays in the modernisation of the Disclosure and Barring Service, why the programme late and over budget and what safeguarding benefits will be delivered

[Hate crime and its violent consequences](#) – HA Committee – latest evidence 13th March 2018

[Prison Population 2022: Planning for the Future](#) – Justice Committee – latest evidence 7th March 2018

[Emergency Services Network](#) – Public Accounts Committee – [Evidence session](#) held 21st February 2018

Committee examines the Emergency Services Network: progress review inquiry

[Reducing Modern Slavery](#) – Public Accounts Committee – [Evidence session](#) held 21st February 2018

Evidence session involving the Home Office, National Crime Agency, and Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner following the NAO report which found administrative problems, complex referrals processes, inconsistent data quality and weak understanding of how much victim support services would cost.

[Counter-terrorism](#) - Home Affairs Committee - one-off [evidence session](#) held on 30th January 2018

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

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

[Cycle safety Review](#) – Department for Transport - Open

[Pitchford Undercover Policing inquiry](#) - Open

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

[Protection of children outside the UK](#), [Cambridge House](#), [Knowl View and Rochdale](#), [Child Sexual Exploitation by Organised Networks](#), [Accountability and Reparations](#), [Children in Custodial Institutions](#), [the internet](#), [allegations involving the late Lord Janner](#), [Children in the Care of Nottinghamshire Councils](#), [Child Sexual Abuse in the Anglican Church](#), [Child Sexual Abuse in Residential Schools](#), [Allegations Linked to Westminster](#), [Children in the Care of Lambeth Council](#) and [Child Sexual Abuse in the Roman Catholic Church](#)

5. LEGISLATION

[European Union \(Withdrawal\) Bill](#) – Lords Report stage – 18th April 2018

[Lords 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](#) – Commons Report stage – TBA

[Commons 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](#)

[Data Protection Bill](#) – Commons Report stage – TBA

[Commons Library Analysis](#)

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](#)

[Secure Tenancies \(Victims of Domestic Abuse\) Bill](#) Commons Report stage – TBA

[Briefing](#)

Government bill to make provision about granting of old-style secure tenancies in cases of domestic abuse.

[Laser Misuse \(Vehicles\) Bill](#) - Commons 2nd reading – 16th April 2018

[Commons briefing](#)

Government bill to make provision creating new offence of shining or directing a laser beam towards a vehicle

[Asset Freezing \(Compensation\) Bill](#) – Commons 2nd reading – 15th June 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

[Assaults on Emergency Workers \(Offences\) Bill](#) - Commons Report Stage – 27th April 2018

[Briefing](#)

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

[Mental Health Units \(Use of Force\) Bill](#) – Commons Committee Stage – 18th April 2018

[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 Committee Stage – TBA

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.

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

[Lords briefing](#)

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

[Modern Slavery \(Victim Support\) Bill](#) - Lords third reading – TBA

[Lords briefing](#)

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

[Stalking Protection Bill](#) - Commons Committee Stage – TBA

[APCC response](#)

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

[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

[Emergency Response Drivers \(Protections\) Bill](#) - Commons 2nd reading – 6th July 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

[Service Animals \(Offences\) Bill](#) - Commons 2nd reading – 27th April 2018

Private Members' Bill to make it an offence to attack service animals, including police dogs and horses; to make certain offences aggravated when perpetrated against such animals. Prompted by the attack of Hertfordshire Police Dog Finn and his handler, in which the only serious charge available for the attack on Finn was criminal damage. The bill is in line with legislation passes in other countries including, Canada, Australia and the USA

[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

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

Private Members' Bill to make provision about the exercise of taxi and private hire vehicle licensing functions in relation to persons about whom there are safeguarding or road safety concerns

[LGA article](#)

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

Private Members' Bill to make provision for the removal of foreign national criminal offenders from UK

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

Private Members' Bill to make provision for creation of secure safe houses for children subject to trafficking

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

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.

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

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

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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
 - **[Draft 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

6. CONSULTATIONS

[Draft guideline on preventing suicide in community and custodial settings](#)

NICE consultation seeking feedback from stakeholders on draft guideline and supporting evidence on preventing suicide in community and custodial settings. The guideline looks at measures that can be used in places where suicide is more likely, and at ways to identify and help people at risk. It also covers how local services can best work together and what plans and training they need to put in place.

Open date: 27/02/2018

Close date: 12/04/2018

[New ways to report road accidents to the police](#)

Department for Transport consultation on proposals to allow police forces to offer drivers the option of submitting accident reports by other methods, including online. Currently, under Section 170 of the Road Traffic Act 1988, road traffic accidents should be reported in person at a police station or to a police constable.

Open date: 30/01/2018

Close date: 24/04/2018

[Local government ethical standards](#)

Committee on Standards in Public Life call for evidence as part of its review to examine the structures, processes and practices in local government, maintaining codes of conduct for local councillors, investigating alleged breaches fairly and with due process, enforcing codes and imposing sanctions for misconduct, managing conflicts of interest and whistleblowing.

Open date: 29/01/2018

Close date: 18/05/2018

[Transforming the response to domestic abuse](#)

Government consultation seeking feedback from victims and survivors, support organisations, research experts and professionals across policing, criminal justice, health, education and local authorities on how best to tackle domestic abuse at every stage - from prevention through to rehabilitation. Consultation will be used to inform development of the Domestic Abuse Bill and will include a series of consultation events across the country.

Open date: 08/03/2018

Close date: 31/05/2018

[Integrated Communities Strategy green paper](#)

Government green paper seeking views on the vision for stronger and more integrated communities and proposed actions to tackle the root causes of poor integration by boosting English language skills, increasing economic opportunity among people from different backgrounds, building stronger leadership, supporting the integration of recent migrants, respecting and promoting equal rights and building vibrant communities.

Open date: 14/03/2018

Close date: 05/06/2018

[Guideline on sentencing arson and criminal damage](#)

Sentencing Council publishes proposed new guidelines covering arson and criminal damage offences to help ensure consistent and proportionate sentencing for these offences which can vary greatly in severity. The guidelines include arson, damage / arson with intent to endanger life, damage to the value of above and below £5000, threats to damage property and racially or religiously aggravated criminal damage offences.

Open date: 27/03/2018

Close date: 26/06/2018

[Parole process review](#)

Open date: 14/02/2018

Close date: N/A