

Police and Crime Commissioner's Horizon Scanning Briefing

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If you would like to be included on our mailing list, please contact [Dan Howitt](#), Nottinghamshire OPCC

1. POLICY AND PRACTICE

General Election 2019 – 12 December 2019

The Conservative Party regains a majority in the House of Commons with 364 out of 650 seats. The elected [manifesto](#) includes pledges in relation to the following areas of crime, policing and criminal justice:-

Policing

- The recruitment of 20,000 additional police officers by 2023
- Equipping officers with powers and tools needed to keep themselves and society safe (e.g. Taser and BWV)
- Putting the Police Covenant into law and passing the Police Protection Bill
- Consulting on doubling the maximum sentence for assaulting emergency service workers
- Empowering the police to use new technologies within a strict legal framework
- Making use of the additional police resources to tackle rural crime
- Strengthening the accountability of elected PCCs and expanding their role

Criminal Justice and offender management

- Establishing a Royal Commission on the criminal justice process
- Conducting a root-and-branch review of the parole system to improve accountability and public safety
- Ensuring imprisonment for knife-related violence and introducing tougher sentences for the worst offenders
- Investing £2.75bn in modernising prisons and creating 10,000 more prison places
- Provide job coaching in all prisons and a prisoner education service to focus on training & work-based skills
- Improving prison security to protect staff, reduce drug smuggling and minimise the risk of violence
- Maintaining the ban on prisoners voting
- Ending automatic halfway prison release for the most serious crimes
- Ensuring life sentences without parole for child murderers
- Expanding electronic tagging for offenders on licence in the community, including sobriety tags
- Tighter community sentences e.g. curfews and community payback
- Improving employment opportunities for ex-offenders

Tackling crime

- Continue to invest in Violence Reduction Units
- Place new duties on schools, police, councils and health to work together to prevent serious crime
- Introduce a new court order to target known knife carriers and make stop and search easier
- Ensure that those charged with knife possession to appear before Magistrates within weeks
- Take a new approach to drug treatment to reduce drug deaths and break the cycle of addiction-related crime

Victims of crime

- Pass and implement a Victims' Law to guarantee victims' rights and the level of support they can expect
- Pass the Domestic Abuse Bill
- Support reforms to Universal Credit to give more independence to those trapped with coercive partners
- Increase support for refuges and community support for victims of rape and sexual abuse
- Continue to fight crime against women and girls, including rape, FGM and forced marriage
- Pilot integrated domestic abuse courts that address criminal and family matters in parallel
- Protect people from physical attack or harassment on the basis of their protected characteristics
- Combat harassment and violence against all religious groups and expand/protect places of worship funding
- Ensure that those who work in countering extremism are protected from threats and intimidation

Young people

- Invest £500m in youth services
- Back teachers to enforce discipline
- Introduce new alternative provision schools for young people who endanger others and trial Secure Schools
- Protect children from online harm and the most vulnerable from accessing harmful content

National Security and Cyber Crime

- Strengthen National Crime Agency to tackle threats such as fraud, county lines, CSEA & illicit finance
- Create a world-class National Crime Laboratory and new national cybercrime force
- Invest in the police and security services and give them the powers they need to combat terror threats
- Improve safety / security of public venues
- Ensuring there is no safe space for terrorists to hide online
- Legislate to make the UK the safest place in the world to be online

[What do the election manifestos mean for local government funding?](#) - 2 December 2019

IFS observations on plans for English local government funding set out in the party manifestoes

[Home Office Circular 010/2019: Firearms Regulations 2019](#) – 6 December 2019

Mandatory from to be used from 12 December 2019 to notify Home Office as the appropriate national authority of possession of a deactivated firearm under Firearms (Amendment) (No.2) Rules 2019

[Updated College of Policing's Stalking and Harassment guidance](#) – 12 December 2019

College of Policing publishes additional guidance in response to HMICFRS recommendations

[Faith Communities Guide to Engaging with Police](#) – 3 December 2019

NPCC, Faith+Police Together and the College of Policing guidance to support engagement between faith communities and the police via effective communication and joint working between neighbourhood teams

[Counter Terrorism Policing security advice](#) – 5 December 2019

Reminder of the steps communities can take to support the police, protect businesses, staff and customers, and protect the UK from terrorism during the festive period

[Updated leaflet: Support for people affected by terrorist attacks in the UK](#) – 3 December 2019

[Supporting children from custody into the community](#) – 12 December 2019

Howard League for Penal Reform publishes a step by step guide to empower staff in custody to support children's positive reintegration

[Probation Programme Market Warming Webinar \(26 November 2019\)](#) – Published 11 December 2019

2. RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND STATISTICS

[Child arrests in England and Wales 2018 – 3 December 2019](#)

Howard League for Penal Reform research briefing based on freedom of information requests to all 43 police forces considers progress in reducing the number of children coming into the criminal justice system. There were 70,078 child arrests in England and Wales in 2018 marking a 71% reduction since 2010 and a decrease of 11% since 2017. Every police force reduced the number of child arrests between 2010 and 2018, with 18 forces achieving reductions of 75% or more and all but four forces reducing the rate of child arrests by more than 50%. Data reported at police force level.

[Seizures of drugs in England and Wales 2018/19 – Published 5 December 2019](#)

Home Office statistical publication highlighting a 12% increase in drug seizures in England and Wales (153,136) in 2018/19 when compared to the previous year (136,439). This marks the first annual increase in seizures since 2011/12. Seizures of Class A drugs increased by 13%, with the quantity of cocaine seized (9,645 kg) reaching the highest level since recording began in 1973. The quantity of crack seized by police forces (63 kg) increased by 73% to the highest level since 2004, while the quantity of ecstasy seized (2.2 million doses) reached the highest quantity since 2006/07.

[Operation of Police Powers under Terrorism Act 2000 to September 2019 – Published 5 December 2019](#)

Latest Home Office statistics show that there were 259 arrests for terrorism-related activity in the year ending 30 September 2019, marking a decrease of 20% compared with the 325 arrests in the previous year. Of the 259 arrests for terrorist-related activity, 96 (37%) were either released under bail pending further investigation or released under investigation without bail conditions, 88 (34%) resulted in a charge, of which 62 were for terrorism-related offences. 60 people (23%) were released without charge and 14 (5%) faced alternative action, for example receiving a caution, being recalled to prison or being transferred to immigration authorities. 1 case was pending an outcome.

[Criminal court statistics quarterly: July to September 2019 – Published 13 December 2019](#)

Ministry of Justice statistics detailing the type and volume of cases received and processed through the criminal court system of England and Wales. While Magistrates' court receipts have increased over the last quarter, receipts for 'trial cases' reached the lowest levels since 2012. The volume of outstanding cases has remained broadly stable since 2016. Crown Court receipts increased by 5% compared to a 4% reduction in disposals. Outstanding cases in the crown court have therefore increased by 3% on the previous quarter. Average waiting times at the Crown Court continue to fall with the median waiting time reaching a low of 5.9 weeks compared to the peak of 13.0 weeks seen in 2015. The median time spent from offence to completion increased by 5% in the magistrates' courts to 161 days. Robust data on Crown Court timeliness is not currently available.

[Proven Reoffending Payment by Results statistics: Oct 2015 to Dec 2018 – Published 5 December 2019](#)

Final proven reoffending results for October to December 2017 cohorts show that 12 out of 21 CRCs achieved significant reductions in the binary rate of reoffending compared to the 2011 baseline, with no CRCs showing significant increases in the binary rate. Twelve CRCs will receive a payment for statistically significant reductions and no CRC will receive a financial deduction. Also contains interim results for the January to December 2018 cohort with final results being published in January, April, July and October 2020.

Upcoming publications

- Police use of force statistics, England and Wales, 2018/19 – 19 December 2019
- Individuals referred to and supported through the Prevent Programme 2018/19 – 19 December 2019

3. AUDITS AND INSPECTIONS

Upcoming reports and inspection activity

- Fire and Rescue Service inspection (third tranche) Pending
- HMICFRS: Police response to county lines (Thematic) Pending
- HMICFRS: Police Control Room (Thematic) Pending
- [National Joint Targeted area inspections of Child Protection Thematic](#) Pending
- Force Management Statement Guidance (3rd edition) + observations on FMS2 Pending
- PEEL inspection fieldwork Autumn 2019
- Integrated Offender Management: Follow-up to explore IOM in TR environment Early 2020
- HMICFRS State of Fire and Rescue Services in England 2019 January 2020
- Findings from survey of public perceptions of the fire and rescue service January 2020
- PEEL Reports 2019/20 – Tranche 3 January 2020
- PEEL Reports 2020/21 – Tranche 1 May 2020
- HMICFRS: State of Policing 2019 July 2020
- [National Joint Targeted area inspections of Child Protection Thematic \(x8\)](#) July 2020
- Released Under Investigation: Impact of changes to police bail procedures July 2020
- PEEL Reports 2019/20 – Tranche 2 September 2020
- Joint Inspection of Prosecution team case file quality (Police / CPS) 2020
- HMICFRS Roads Policing Thematic (Sec. State Transport Commission) 2020
- HMICFRS: Independent study of police air support 2020
- HMICFRS: Counter-terrorism 2020
- HMICFRS: Older people in the criminal justice system 2020
- HMICFRS: Use of PNC by non-police organisations (Home Office commission) 2020
- HMICFRS: Police response to domestic abuse (annual review) 2020
- Joint Inspection of Domestic Abuse: Evidence-led prosecutions (Police/CSP) 2020
- [HMIC: Crime data integrity \(individual force reports\)](#) Ongoing
- [HMI Prisons: Joint inspection of Police Custody Arrangements](#) Ongoing
- [HMICFRS: Police Effectiveness - Child Protection \(x6\)](#) Ongoing
- [HMI Probation: Joint inspection of Youth Offending Teams](#) Ongoing

4. REVIEWS AND INQUIRIES

[Dissolution of Parliament – 6 November 2019](#)

Parliament dissolved on Wednesday 6 November 2019 ahead of the general election on 12 December 2019. Bills and Committee inquiries which did not conclude before this date have 'fallen' and are in most cases unlikely to be reintroduced by the next parliament in the same form. Committees have lapsed and new memberships and Chairs must be elected by MPs. Chairs can decide to launch a new inquiry and draw on evidence submitted to an inconclusive inquiry from the last the parliament however this is not common practice.

5. LEGISLATION

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6. CONSULTATIONS

[Strategic Review of Policing in England and Wales: Call for evidence](#)

Police Foundation Call for Evidence to inform its review of policing and help set the long-term strategic vision and recommendations for reform of the service. The consultation seeks views on understanding crime, threat and demand, understanding public and societal expectations, reconsidering the police mission and purpose and 'looking ahead' to ensure a modern service capable of meeting the challenges of the 21st century.

Open date: 09/10/2019

Close date: 20/12/2019

[Sentencing guidelines for firearms offences](#)

Sentencing Council consultation guidelines for sentencing firearms offences under the Firearms Act 1968, including possession, use, manufacture, sale and acquisition. Consultation is aimed at judges, magistrates, legal practitioners and others interested parties. There are currently no sentencing guidelines in the Crown Court and only one for use in magistrates' courts.

Open date: 09/10/2019

Close date: 14/01/2020

[Strengthening police powers to tackle unauthorised encampments](#)

Home Office consultation on measures to criminalise trespassing when setting up an unauthorised encampment or alternative approaches such as permitting the police to direct trespassers to suitable authorised sites located in neighbouring local authority areas, increasing the period of time in which trespassers directed from land would be unable to return from 3 months to 12 months or lowering the number of vehicles needing to be involved in an unauthorised encampment before police powers can be exercised.

Open date: 05/11/2019

Close date: 04/04/2020