

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

[£9.8m fund awarded to projects working to tackle knife crime and gang culture](#) – 22 February 2019

Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government awards £9.5m Supporting Families Against Youth Crime Funding (via Troubled Families programme) to [21 areas](#) to support community-backed projects helping families vulnerable to the effects of knife crime and gang culture. The funding aims to enable professionals and community groups working with children and young people at risk, to intervene early and help stop them from becoming drawn into gang crime, serious violence and the youth justice system. A further £300,000 will also be made available for local authorities to train frontline staff in their response to childhood trauma.

[Justice Minister speech 'Beyond prison, redefining punishment'](#) – 18 February 2019

David Gauke sets out his vision for a "smart" justice system using evidence of what works to reduce reoffending, protect the public and ensure serious criminals receive punishment. The Minister urged for caution in continuing to increase sentence length as a response to concerns over crime and for those who shape the system to consider whether our approach to sentencing reduces crime, if prisons currently maximise the chances of rehabilitation and if we should look at better alternatives to punish and rehabilitate offenders.

[National roll out of new GPS monitoring tags announced](#) - 16 February 2019

Justice Secretary announced the national roll out of new GPS tags which will provide 24/7 location monitoring of offenders, help strengthen supervision, enforce exclusion zones and help to protect victims. The new capability will issue an automatic alert and whereabouts of known tagged domestic abusers, stalkers or gang members found in an area they have been excluded from. The tags also provide a tougher option for community sentences which can be used alongside requirements like alcohol or drug treatment programmes. Satellite tracking to be rolled out nationwide by summer.

[New Police powers to stop and search for corrosive substances in public](#) – 20 February 2019

Home Secretary announces new powers to be included within the Offensive Weapons Bill following publication of the government consultation which demonstrated strong public support.

[New plans set out to limit drone misuse](#) – 20 February 2019

The government and the Civil Aviation Authority announce new legislation to extend exclusion zones around airports, banning drones from flying within 5km of runways. The new restrictions will come into force on 13 March 2019. The Drones Bill will also be introduced in due course, giving police officers powers to stop and search people suspected of using drones maliciously above 400ft or within 5km of an airport

Commissioner's e-Briefing: 25 February 2019

[Stop and Scrutinise – 15 February 2019](#)

Criminal Justice Alliance briefing setting out key principles and recommendations for good practice in community scrutiny of stop and search, informed by a survey of all police forces in England and Wales and interviews with stakeholders, including police representatives, academics and community scrutiny experts.

[Crime Minister speech on government action to tackle modern slavery – 25 February 2019](#)

Recent Parliamentary briefings: [20th Anniversary of the Macpherson Report](#) (22 Feb), [Off-rolling in English schools](#) (20 Feb), [Antisemitism in modern society](#) (19 Feb), [Recall of Women to Prisons](#) (19 Feb), [Directly-elected mayors](#) (18 Feb), [Effect of reductions in funding to police, fire and rescue services](#) (15 Feb), [Civilian drones](#) (11 Feb)

Recent Parliamentary debates: [Macpherson Report: 20th Anniversary](#) (25 Feb), [Crime Levels](#) (25 Feb), [Youth Crime](#) (25 Feb), [Online Content: Crime](#) (25 Feb), [Police, Fire and Rescue Services: Funding Reductions](#) (20 Feb), [Police Powers: Stop and Search](#) (20 Feb), [Serious Violence](#) (18 Feb)

2. RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND STATISTICS

[Police Demand, Capacity and Welfare Survey 2018 – 13 February 2019](#) Data available at [police force level](#) Police Federation publishes findings from the August 2018 officer survey on police demand, capacity and welfare. The report follows up on a similar survey undertaken in 2016, highlighting:-

- No significant change in average weekly overtime worked by officers each week (2.5 hours), or the proportion with working overtime as 'there weren't enough officers on shift' (53%)
- 76.1% of front line officers stating that they were often or always single crewed, up from 73.3% in 2016
- 72% had been refused annual leave more than once and 52% were rarely able to take their full rest break
- 27.6% said their team's minimum officer staffing level was never or rarely met, compared to 21% in 2016
- The proportion feeling that they don't have enough officers to manage demands on their team (89.8%) or do their job properly (83.2%) have both risen since 2016 (84.5% and 78.1% respectively)
- 66.6% of officers reported having been the recipient of an unarmed physical attack in the last 12 months, while 45.9% reported being the recipient of a spitting assault
- The proportion sometimes / often taken work home that they could not complete in normal working hours rose from 32% to 40%, while 29% worked while on annual leave (up from 24% in 2016)
- The proportion feeling that their health and wellbeing was poorly supported by the police service, however, fell from 41.7% in 2016 to 34.4% in 2018

[Policing by machine: Predictive policing and the threat to our rights – 4 February 2019](#)

Report from Liberty collates results of 90 Freedom of Information requests to UK police forces in the UK on their use or intended use of algorithms to inform 'predictive policing'. The report sets out how approaches to mapping future crime and predict offending and victimisation of crime can threaten public rights and freedoms. The report highlights how algorithms based on 'biased police data' can entrench pre-existing discrimination and direct officers to patrol areas which are already disproportionately over-policed. The report also highlights a 'severe lack of transparency' in the use of predictive algorithms and a significant risk of 'automation bias' where a human decision-maker defers to the machine accepting its indecipherable recommendation as correct.

[Process Evaluation of the GPS Electronic Monitoring Pilot – 16 February 2019](#)

Ministry of Justice research report identifies key learning points from the GPS Electronic Monitoring pilot to help support the wider rollout of the scheme and further develop the evidence base on electronic monitoring. The independent research is based on interviews with stakeholders, decision-makers and staff involved in delivering the pilot, as well as individuals who had been required to wear a tag.

[Criminal Justice System statistics quarterly: September 2018](#) – Published 21 February 2019

[Reported drinking and driving](#) – 14 February 2019

[Road casualties involving illegal alcohol levels: 2017](#) – 14 February 2019

3. AUDITS AND INSPECTIONS

[The police response to domestic abuse: An update report](#) – 26 February 2019

Further HMICFRS follow up to the March 2014 inspection report 'Everyone's Business: Improving the Police Response to Domestic Abuse' highlights ongoing improvement in the service the police give to victims of domestic abuse, with victims being better supported and better protected. The report recognises the good work being carried out by the majority of police forces including continued investment in training, developing multi-agency safeguarding hubs, the increase in use of body worn video to capture evidence at the scene of an incident and the increased roll-out of schemes such as Operation Encompass where police and schools work together to support children present at domestic abuse incidents.

4. REVIEWS AND INQUIRIES

[Robbery: assessing the impact of the definitive guideline](#) – 15 February 2019

Sentencing Council assessment of the impact of the Robbery Definitive Guideline which came into force in April 2016 finds that after the guideline came into effect, average sentences rose beyond the upper limit of what would be expected from normal fluctuations in sentencing. The guideline specified, for the first time, that judges should place all robberies committed with knives or guns in the highest level of culpability or blame.

Inquiries

[Serious Violence Strategy](#) - Home Affairs Committee – latest evidence 6 March 2019

[Economic crime inquiry](#) – Treasury Committee – Oral evidence session 13 February 2019

[The role of the magistracy \(follow up\)](#) – Justice Committee – latest evidence 12 February 2019

[The Macpherson Report: Twenty Years On](#) – Home Affairs Committee – latest evidence 5 February 2019

[Forensic Science](#) – Science and technology Committee – latest evidence 29 January 2019

[Modern Slavery](#) – Home Affairs Committee - latest evidence 15 January 2019

[Court and Tribunal Reforms](#) – Launched 10 January 2019

[Detention of children with learning disabilities](#) - JC on Human Rights - latest evidence 9 January 2018

[Islamophobia](#) – Home Affairs Committee – Launched 12 December 2018

[Serious Fraud Office](#) – Justice Committee Inquiry – Oral Evidence Session - 18 December 2018

[Driving value in public spending inquiry](#) - Public Accounts Committee – Oral Evidence 12 Dec 2018

[Youth Detention](#) – JC on Human Rights - latest evidence 13 December 2018

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

5. LEGISLATION

[Voyeurism \(Offences\) Act](#) – Receives [Royal Assent](#) - 12 February 2019

[Briefing](#)

Government Act to introduce 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, with those convicted being placed on the sex offenders register. The Act comes into effect on 13th April 2019.

[Counter-Terrorism & Border Security Act](#) – Receives [Royal Assent](#) - 12 February 2019

[Briefing](#)

Act to close gaps in existing counter-terrorism legislation. Main provisions include:-

- [New power](#) to stop, question, search and detain an individual at a port or border area to determine whether they are, or have been, involved in hostile state activity
- Create an offence of entering or remaining in an area outside the United Kingdom that has been designated by the Home Secretary if it is necessary for protecting the public from terrorism
- Update the offence of [obtaining information likely to be useful to a terrorist](#) to cover material that is only viewed or streamed, rather than downloaded to form a permanent record
- Increase to the [maximum penalty](#) for certain preparatory terrorism offences to 15 years' imprisonment
- Extend the offence of [inviting support for a proscribed organisation](#)
- Require terrorist offenders to [provide additional information](#) to the police in line with registered sex offenders
- Establish an [independent review](#) of the government's Prevent strategy

[Crime \(Overseas Production Orders\) Act](#) – Receives [Royal Assent](#) - 12 February 2019

[Briefing](#)

Act to create a framework to enable law enforcement agencies and prosecutors to apply to a UK court for an 'overseas production order' requiring a person in a foreign jurisdiction to produce or grant access to electronic data for the purposes of investigating and prosecuting serious crime.

[Stalking Protection Bill](#) – Royal Assent - TBA

[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)

[Offensive Weapons Bill](#) – Lords 3rd reading – 19 March 2019

[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.

[Children Act 1989 \(Amendment\) \(FGM\) Bill](#) – Commons report stage – 11 March 2019

[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

[Asset Freezing \(Compensation\) Bill](#) – Commons 2nd reading – TBA

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 – TBA

[Briefing](#)

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

[Age of Criminal Responsibility Bill](#) – Lords 3rd Reading – 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

[Emergency Response Drivers \(Protections\) Bill](#) - Commons 2nd reading – 15 March 2019

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

[Freedom of Information \(Extension\) Bill](#) – Commons 2nd reading – 22 March 2019

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

[Human Trafficking \(Child Protection\) Bill](#) - Commons 2nd reading – TBA

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

[Violent Crime \(Sentences\) Bill](#) – Commons 2nd reading – TBA

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 – TBA

Private Members' Bill to require the Secretary of State to promote and secure youth services and provision of a requisite standard; to impose a duty on local authorities to provide youth services and establish local youth service partnerships with youth participation

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

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](#)

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

Private Members' Bill to make provision about private prosecutions in cases of suspected criminal fraud

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

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

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

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.

[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.

[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

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

Private Members' Bill to prohibit the publication of certain personal information until an arrested person has been charged with an offence / set out circumstances where such information can be published

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

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

6. CONSULTATIONS

[Guidelines for conflict management](#)

College of Policing consultation on new guidelines to ensure officers and staff are trained to confidently use de-escalation, communication and negotiation tactics when appropriate and before force becomes necessary.

Open date: 27/02/2019

Close date: 27/03/2019

[Taxi and private hire vehicle licensing: protecting users](#)

Department for Transport consultation seeking views on proposed statutory guidance to taxi and private hire vehicle licensing authorities on how to use their licensing powers to protect children and vulnerable adults.

Open date: 12/02/2019

Close date: 22/04/2019

[Tackling homelessness together](#)

Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government consultation seeking views on the effectiveness of existing non-statutory and statutory local accountability and partnership structures in homelessness services and whether the government should introduce Homelessness Reduction Boards. Also seeking views on how else local accountability and partnership working could be improved.

Open date: 21/02/2019

Close date: 16/05/2019

[Expanded explanations in offence specific guidelines](#)

Sentencing Council consultation on plans to provide expanded explanations in digital guidelines to reflect and encourage current best practice rather than to alter sentencing practice. The new explanations will provide judges, magistrates and other court users with useful information relating to commonly used factors in guidelines and improve transparency for victims, defendants and the wider public.

Open date: 28/02/2019

Close date: 23/05/2019