

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

[£2.4m funding awarded to tackle rogue landlords](#) – 14 January 2019

Housing Minister confirms £2.4m funding for 50 councils across the country to boost short-term staffing and create new digital tools to help councils tackle rogue landlords and better protect tenants. The funding will be used to support a range of projects including building relationships with external organisations such as the emergency services, legal services and local housing advocates or supporting tenants to take action.

[£1.6m funding awarded for projects supporting vulnerable women](#) – 24 January 2019

Justice Secretary announces recipients of new funding for community services supporting vulnerable women. 17 different services and 83 female rape support centres will benefit from the funding, including specialist support services for female offenders and survivors of domestic abuse. The funding will benefit

[New vehicle theft taskforce established](#) – 15 January 2019

New taskforce established to drive to reduce and prevent vehicle crime and promote best practice. The taskforce will be chaired by the Policing Minister and work to improve vehicle security standards, ensure robust measures are in place to prevent criminals exploiting the motor salvage process and review whether further measures are required to stop devices that may be used to commit vehicle theft falling into criminals' hands.

[Improving response to domestic abuse: Government spending](#) – 21 January 2019

Government sets out financial commitments in transforming the response to domestic abuse, which include:-

- £8 million Home Office funding to support children affected by domestic abuse
- £2.2m funding for domestic abuse helplines over the next two years
- £2.0m investment into community provision for women with experience of domestic abuse
- £500,000 funding to enhance voluntary and community sector support for LGBT+ victims and
- £250,000 funding to improve the response to disabled victims within the women's sector
- £250,000 to fund kits for refuges and other domestic abuse services to make them accessible to deaf
- £100,000 to upskill domestic abuse organisations to improve the response to elder abuse
- £47,000 investment in police training to cover economic abuse and coercive control
- £200,000 funding to the National Skills Academy to improve frontline response to economic abuse
- £250,000 funding to create a national advice service for bank and building society casework services
- £500,000 to improve support to male victims of domestic abuse
- £900,000 funding for dedicated support for domestic abuse victims in the family courts

[Government response to 'Transforming the response to Domestic Abuse' consultation](#) – 21 Jan 2018

Government publishes the draft [Domestic Abuse Bill](#) which will seek to:-

- Introduce a statutory definition of domestic abuse which will specifically include economic abuse, abuse involving non-intimate partners, recognise the impact of abuse on children and apply to 16 -17 year olds
- Establish the office of Domestic Abuse Commissioner and set out the commissioner's functions and powers
- Provide for a new Domestic Abuse Protection Notice and Domestic Abuse Protection Order which victims, the police and relevant third parties would be able to apply for. Orders would include notification requirements and breach would be a criminal offence equating to 5 years imprisonment and/or unlimited fine
- Prohibit perpetrators of domestic abuse from cross-examining their victims in person in the family courts and give court discretion to prevent cross-examination where it would diminish the quality of witness evidence
- Create a statutory presumption that complainants of an offence involving behaviour that amounts to domestic abuse are eligible for special measures in the criminal courts
- Enable high-risk domestic abuse offenders to be subject to polygraph testing as a condition of their licence
- Place the guidance supporting the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme on a statutory footing
- Ensure that local authorities grant new secure lifetime tenancies to social tenants with secure lifetime or assured tenancies in cases connected with domestic abuse (other than an assured shorthold tenancy)
- Extend the extra-territorial jurisdiction of the criminal courts to further violent and sexual offences

The [consultation response](#) also includes a range of non-legislative government commits, including work to:-

- Introduce regulations and statutory guidance for schools on Relationships, Health and Sex Education and work with schools to provide expert information and teaching resources
- Identify learning from Operation Encompass to ensure children receive support regardless of whether a crime has been recorded and explore opportunities to improve criminal justice outcomes in this area
- Strengthen frontline responses, work to develop more joined-up and sustainable services and explore the benefits of full local commissioning of rape and sexual violence support services by PCCs
- Support those with no recourse to public funds by building expertise on immigration rights within the sector and exploring widening the cohort of individuals eligible under the destitute domestic violence concession
- Pilot the Domestic Abuse Protection Order, including the use of electronic monitoring requirements
- Develop a National Concordat on Female Offenders to improve outcomes for female offenders
- Support improvements in the linkages between substance misuse and domestic abuse services
- Review the National Statement of Expectations in respect of male victims and work to ensure that commissioners are educated on the complexities of victim focused and gender aware commissioning
- Continue to roll out police body-worn cameras and explore opportunities to increase the number of evidence-led prosecutions where the victim does not support action
- Issue and update statutory guidance to police and CPS on Stalking Protection Orders and coercive control
- Improve the court environment with new waiting areas and more privacy screens
- Review outcomes of the conditional cautions pilot for lower risk abuse cases, building on the CARA model
- Work with police to improve recording and use of information and analysis
- Issue guidance to ensure that perpetrator programmes are flexible, person-centred and trauma-informed. HMICFRS will also issue a new domestic abuse policy framework setting out expectations in this area
- Work with police and CPS to improve the collection, reporting and tracking of domestic abuse, including breakdowns by gender. The Government will also pilot work to collate local data to inform commissioning
- Develop a searchable repository for DHRs and work with the Domestic Abuse Commissioner and PCCs to explore how work can be taken forward implement learning nationally and locally

A further 'online harms' white paper is scheduled to be published later in the year.

[Subsistence back payments announced for victims of modern slavery](#) – 17 January 2019

Home Office announces top up repayments for potential victims of modern slavery who received asylum support between 1 March and 8 November 2018. A High Court ruling led to payments for this group being reinstated with immediate effect. Those no longer receiving support can [apply](#) for back payments.

Cross-Government Suicide Prevention Work Plan – 22 January 2019

Department of Health and Social Care launches the first cross-government suicide prevention work plan which sets out action being taken forward by national and local government, the NHS and the criminal justice system to 2020. The plan commits the government to ensuring:-

- Data held on causes of death among veterans is improved to better understand the triggers
- Social media companies take more responsibility for online content promoting methods of suicide
- A greater focus on addressing the increase in suicide and self-harm among young people, while
- Every local authority putting an effective suicide prevention plan in place
- Every mental health trust has a zero-suicide ambition plan for mental health inpatients by the end of 2019
- Every prison puts actions in place to reduce suicides and self-harm and improve staff training
- The specific needs of the highest risk groups are addressed, including middle-aged men (£25m funding)
- Data and research on suicide-related factors such as debt and gambling addiction is improved

New Economic Crime Strategic Board established – 14 January 2019

New government taskforce established to work with senior figures from the UK financial sector to set priorities, direct resources and scrutinise performance in tackling economic crime. The board will be jointly chaired by the Home Secretary and Chancellor and meet twice a year.

Police Grant Report 2019/20 – 24 January 2019

Home Office report detailing grants awarded to each local policing body. [Ministerial statement](#)

Revised IPOC section 22 guidance on ABE in death or serious injury matters – 17 January 2019

Revised guidance states a preference that key police witnesses are separated after an incident, while also giving senior officers operational discretion to use alternatives, like recording proceedings on body worn video.

Revised CPS guidance on deaths in custody published – 17 January 2019

Revised guidance takes account of recent court judgements and ensures there is a consistent approach to prosecutions involving self-defence and reasonable force by police.

NCTSO launches 8 week 'Communities Defeat Terrorism' campaign – 23 January 2019

Recent Parliamentary briefings: [Enforcement officers, formerly known as bailiffs](#) (24 Jan), [Public service pensions](#) (23 Jan), [Knives and offensive weapons](#) (23 Jan), [Local Authority Provision of Essential Services](#) (18 Jan), [Children's social care in England](#) (15 Jan)

Recent Parliamentary debates: [Child Sexual Exploitation: Grooming Gangs](#) (24 Jan), [Knife Crime](#) (24 Jan), [Homophobic Hate Crime](#) (22 Jan), [Violent Crime](#) (21 Jan), [Stalking Protection Bill](#) (18 Jan)

2. RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND STATISTICS

[The economic and social costs of domestic abuse](#) – 21 January 2019

Home Office research report estimates the social and economic cost of domestic abuse to have been around £66bn in England and Wales in 2016/17. This includes costs in anticipation of, as a consequence of and in response to domestic abuse. The largest elements of cost are estimated to be the physical and emotional harm suffered by victims (£47bn) and lost output as a result of time taken off work and reduced productivity (£14bn). The report includes estimated costs to health (£2.3bn), police (£1.3bn) and victim services (£724m).

[Crime in England and Wales to September 2018](#) – Published 24 Jan 2019

Latest estimates from the Crime Survey for England and Wales show no significant change in overall crime over the last year. For crime types thought to be well-reported to and accurately recorded by police, there was:-

- a 3% increase in vehicle offences over the last year, largely due to a 10% increase in theft of vehicle
- a 17% increase in robbery offences, continuing increases seen in previous years
- a 1% decrease in burglary, following increases over recent years
- a 1% decrease in shoplifting, following a longer period of increases

While the CSEW shows a stable trend in overall (largely low harm) violent offences, other data sets indicate that low volume higher-harm violence offences have increased over the last year. This includes rises in police recorded offences involving knives (+8%) and hospital admissions for assaults involving sharp instruments (+15%). Homicides have also risen by 14%. Higher-harm violence offence offences are generally concentrated in London and other metropolitan areas. [Data available at force and CSP level](#)

[Police workforce statistics: 30 September 2018](#) – Published 24 January 2019

As at 30 September 2018 there were 122,395 police officers across the 43 police forces in England and Wales, a similar figure to March 2018 (122,404 officers), and a small increase of 0.4% (466 officers) on September 2017. While the number of Police staff and designated officers increased by 2.8% to 68,256, the number of PCSOs fell by a further 2.6% to 9,791. [Data available at force level](#)

[Substance misuse treatment in secure settings 2017/18](#) – Published 17 January 2019

There were 55,413 adults accessing treatment in a secure setting in 2017-18, the majority of which (96%) were accessing structured treatment in a prison setting. People accessing treatment in prisons were primarily treated for opiate use (53%), while YOIs mostly treated those with non-opiate drug use (77%). Just over half of all adults in treatment in a secure setting reported problematic use of opiates (52%), of which 70% reported problems with crack cocaine. After opiates, alcohol was the next most common substance (47% of adults in treatment). Overall, there was a 4.6% reduction of adults in treatment in 2017/18 compared with the previous year. The majority of the decrease was seen within the non-opiate only (9%) and alcohol only (14%) groups.

3. AUDITS AND INSPECTIONS

Management and supervision of men convicted of sexual offences – 24 January 2019

HMI Probation and HMI Prisons joint thematic inspection reports that much of the work delivered with sexual offenders in custody is poor while the National Probation Service is not doing any work to address the sexual offending behaviour 40% of sexual offenders on probation. In a third of inspected cases, not enough was being done to protect children and assessments of offenders were not completed to a good standard. At a national level, inspectors found a disconnect between how Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) described its work with sexual offenders and what was happening in practice. Inspectors found HMPPS had an incomplete picture of this group of offenders, and had not analysed their collective risks and needs. On a more positive note, inspectors praised NPS Victim Liaison Officers and the work they did with victims of sexual offences. These officers often went above and beyond in their work to ensure the needs of victims and children were taken into account. The report sets out 15 recommendations improvement.

NCA search application and production order processes – 24 January 2019

HMICFRS inspection to assess the extent to which the National Crime Agency has made improvements in how it deals with applications to search premises and obtain productions orders reports significant improvement. Warrants and production orders are completed to a good standard and consistency of approach has been improved by training and guidance. The report makes six recommendations which will further enhance what is already a mature process.

Upcoming reports and inspection activity

- [HMIC: Crime data integrity \(individual force reports\)](#) Ongoing
- HMI Prisons: Joint inspection of Police Custody Arrangements Ongoing
- HMICFRS: National Child Protection Inspection (HMIC-led) examining police effectiveness in their interactions with children, from initial contact and early identification of children who are at risk, through to investigation Ongoing
- HMICFRS: Counter Terrorism thematic inspection 2017/18
- HMICFRS: Independent study of police air support
- HMICFRS: Police response to county lines (Thematic)
- Domestic abuse: Evidence-led prosecutions: Focus on effectiveness of non-victim-led prosecutions
- Crimes against older people: Police and CPS responses - Findings due to be published in July 2019
- Released under investigation: Investigate impact of changes to police bail procedures following PCA 2017
- Integrated Offender Management: Follow-up to explore how IOM operates in the new TR environment

4. REVIEWS AND INQUIRIES

[Government announces independent review of Prevent](#) – 22 January 2019

Government announced an independent review of the Prevent programme which aims to stop vulnerable people from being drawn into terrorism. The review will commence within 6 months of the Counter-Terrorism and Border Security Bill receiving Royal Assent and will report to Parliament within 18 months.

[Home Office review into police use of firearms finalised](#) – 17 January 2019

Home Office approves revised statutory section 22 guidance from the Independent Office for Police Conduct, thus completing the Home Office review. The review concluded that the right legal and procedural protections are in place for officers following a police shooting and in a great majority of incidents officers are dealt with as witnesses rather than suspects.

[Modern Slavery Act 2015 review: second interim report](#) – 22 January 2019

Home Office publishes second report from the independent review of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 examines transparency in supply chains. The report makes a range of recommendations which include clarifying the companies in scope for the s54 legislation, improving the quality of transparency statements, embedding modern slavery reporting into business culture, increasing transparency, monitoring and enforcing compliance and extending the requirement to publish statements to the public sector.

[Compensation without re-traumatisation](#) – 23 January 2019

Victims' Commissioner review into Criminal Injuries Compensation highlights a lack of awareness of the Scheme amongst victims, police and the CPS and a lack of provision for supporting victims who wish to submit an application, with many victims feeling compelled to instruct solicitors on a no-win, no-fee basis as they feel unable to cope with the trauma and stress of making an application. The review finds that application forms which require victims to relate their experience of the crime can re-trigger trauma and distress. The report notes that the complexity of the Scheme means that it is hard for victims to know what to expect as an outcome. The review makes recommendations to criminal justice agencies and the CICA to improve victims' experiences of applying for criminal injuries compensation by aligning it to what should be the core aim: supporting victims in their journey to cope and recover from the crime committed against them.

Inquiries

[The Macpherson Report: Twenty Years On](#) – Home Affairs Committee – Launched 12 December 2018

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

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

[Racial harassment in higher education](#) – Equality and HR Commission – Launched 4 December 2018

[Forensic Science](#) – Science and technology Committee – oral evidence session 18 December 2018

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

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

[The role of the magistracy \(follow up\)](#) – Justice Committee – Oral evidence session 27 November 2018

[Economic crime inquiry](#) – Treasury Committee - latest evidence 19 December 2018

[Local Government Spending](#) – Public Accounts Committee – Latest evidence 26 November 2018

[Work of the Home Office](#) – Home Affairs Committee – Oral evidence session 13 November 2018

[Hand car washes](#) - Environmental Audit Committee - latest evidence 5 November 2018

5. LEGISLATION

[Counter-Terrorism & Border Security Bill](#) – Awaiting Royal Assent

[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](#) – Awaiting Royal Assent

[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

[Crime \(Overseas Production Orders\) Bill](#) – Commons Report Stage – TBC

[Briefing](#)

Bill 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.

[Offensive Weapons Bill](#) – Lords Committee Stage – 28 January 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

[Stalking Protection Bill](#) – Lords Committee Stage – TBC

[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)

[Asset Freezing \(Compensation\) Bill](#) – Commons 2nd reading – 25 January 2019

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

[Children Act 1989 \(Amendment\) \(FGM\) Bill](#) – Commons 2nd reading – 25 January 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

[Modern Slavery \(Victim Support\) Bill](#) – Commons 2nd reading – 25 January 2019

[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](#)

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

[Lords Briefing](#)

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

[Freedom of Information \(Extension\) Bill](#) – Commons 2nd reading – 25 January 2019

[Violent Crime \(Sentences\) Bill](#) – Commons 2nd reading – 25 January 2019

[Youth \(Services and Provisions\) Bill](#) – Commons 2nd reading – 25 January 2019

[Licensing of Taxis and Private Hire Vehicles Bill](#) – Lords 2nd reading – 25 January 2019

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

6. CONSULTATIONS

[Extremism in England and Wales: call for evidence](#)

Independent Commission for Countering Extremism Call for Evidence on the harms inflicted by extremists. The evidence will inform a wide-ranging study of extremism to be published in spring 2019, which will aim to build understanding of extremism and give people the confidence to challenge it. The Commission wants to hear from all those concerned about rising extremism, including charities, academics and frontline professionals.

Open date: 11/11/2018

Close date: 31/01/2019

[Airside alcohol licensing at international airports: Call for Evidence](#)

Home Office consultation seeking to help government to assess the scale of drunk and disruptive passengers at international airports, the extent to which airports and airlines use their statutory powers effectively and the impact of current and proposed interventions in relation to [airside alcohol licensing](#).

Open date: 01/11/2018

Close date: 01/02/2019

[Guardianship \(Missing Persons\) Act 2017: Implementing the Act](#)

Ministry of Justice consultation seeking views on the content and presentation of the code of practice, procedure and the supervisory regime set up in appointing a trusted person to look after property and financial affairs of a missing person. Feedback will be used to inform the Act which will come into force in July 2019.

Open date: 19/12/2018

Close date: 12/02/2019

[Racial harassment in higher education: Call for Evidence](#)

Equality and HR Commission call for evidence seeking evidence from staff and students who have experienced or witnessed racial harassment. Forms part of an inquiry to understand the types of racial harassment experienced at publicly funded higher education institutions, such as universities or higher education colleges.

Open date: 04/12/2018

Close date: 15/02/2019

[Review of enforcement agent \(bailiff\) reforms: Call for Evidence](#)

Ministry of Justice call for evidence as part of the second post-implementation review of regulations which were introduced in 2014 to regulate the operation of enforcement agents and the fees that they charge. The review invites feedback from people who have been contacted by enforcement agents, enforcement agents, creditors, debt advisers, the judiciary and anybody else with experience of working with enforcement agents.

Open date: 25/11/2018

Close date: 17/02/2019

['Adults at risk' in immigration and detention: Call for Evidence](#)

Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration call for evidence seeking information from parties with relevant knowledge and expertise of the Home Office's 'Adults at Risk' policy. This will be used to inform the Inspector's annual report on welfare of vulnerable people in detention following recommendations made in 2018.

Open date: 25/01/2019

Close date: 17/02/2019