

## Police and Crime Commissioner's Horizon Scanning Briefing

- 1. Policy and Practice** *Government strategy, guidance and policy announcements*
- 2. Research and Statistics** *Policing and criminal justice statistical publications and research*
- 3. Audits and Inspections** *Criminal justice inspectorate reports and government audits*
- 4. Reviews and Inquiries** *Government and independent inquiries and legislative reviews*
- 5. Parliamentary Bills** *Summary of legislation currently progressing through parliament*
- 6. Live Consultations** *Current police and criminal justice-related consultation activity*

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## 1. POLICY AND PRACTICE

### [UK Counter-Unmanned Aircraft Strategy](#) – 21 October 2019

Home Office launches new strategy to for mitigating the highest-harm risks to the UK resulting from the illegal use of aerial drones, including terrorist attacks, crime (especially in and around prisons) and disrupting the critical national infrastructure. The strategy includes plans to: develop a mobile counter-drone unit containing detection and disruption equipment which can be deployed by police and other emergency responders to protect major events and rapidly respond to drone incidents across the UK; introduce the Air Traffic Management and Unmanned Aircraft Bill to give police increased powers to tackle illegal drone use; Introduce a new national standard for police recording of illegal drone activity to help build a picture of the drone threat and issue national guidance for police to assist them during malicious drone incidents and; work with partners to compile a catalogue of approved counter-drone technology to assure police and the owners and operators of critical national infrastructure sites that they are investing in the most effective and appropriate technology.

### [Plans to update law on hand-held mobile phone use while driving announced](#) – 1 November 2019

Transport Secretary announces a review to strengthen the law on using hand-held mobile phones while driving. 'Interactive communication' using a mobile phone while driving is outlawed by current legislation, however this does not include activities such as filming, taking photos, browsing the internet or scrolling through playlists while driving. The revised legislation will be extended to include use of devices for these distracting activities

### [Preventing serious violence: a multi-agency approach](#) – 21 October 2019

Home Office and Public Health England resource for PCCs, public health departments, community safety partnerships and other partners to aid their understanding and response to serious violence

### [PCCs Making a Difference: Prevention in Focus](#) - 22 October 2019

Briefing based on submissions from 15 cross-party PCCs on how they are making a difference by investing resources upstream to help keep communities safe, improve resilience and tackle factors that can lead to crime

### [IPOC Monthly Roundup: September 2019](#) – Published 28 October 2019

**Recent Parliamentary briefings:** [Off-rolling in English schools](#) (28 Oct), [Support for care leavers](#) (28 Oct), [Sexual and criminal exploitation of missing looked after children](#) (22 Oct), [Online pornography: age verification](#) (21 Oct), [Undercover policing](#) (18 Oct)

**Recent Parliamentary debates:** [Waste Crime](#) (31 Oct), [Wildlife Crime](#) (31 Oct), [Domestic Abuse Bill](#) (29 Oct), [Police Officer Numbers](#) (28 Oct), [Crime: Police numbers](#) (22 Oct), [Place-based Crime Prevention](#) (22 Oct),

## 2. RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND STATISTICS

### [Back to School? Breaking the link between school exclusions and knife crime](#) – 25 October 2019

All-Party Parliamentary Group on Knife Crime research report explores the role school exclusions may be playing in exacerbating the increase in knife crime and what could be done to support vulnerable young people both before and after exclusion to help ensure we could keep them safe. The report finds that the system supporting pupils who have been permanently excluded is under strain with significant capacity problems. Around a third of all local authorities consulted had no spaces in their state funded alternative provision. Young people reported that school exclusions could often serve as a catalyst for those already at risk of getting into trouble drifting further into crime. All professionals, however, agreed that exclusions did not happen in isolation and young people frequently excluded generally have vulnerabilities which can make them particularly susceptible to involvement in crime. The report makes the following main recommendations:-

- School rankings must take account of all pupils that have spent time at the school - including those excluded
- All excluded children must have access to the full time education they are legally entitled to
- All education providers must have the funding and backing they need to support vulnerable children and schools must be recognised for the central role they play in multi-agency responses to keeping children safe
- Everyone working in the education sector must be trained to understand vulnerability and trauma
- Schools should be supported to focus on prevention and early intervention

### [Struggling for Justice: Families Bereaved Following Homicide Abroad](#) – 23 October 2019

Victims Commissioner report on the entitlements and experiences of families bereaved following homicide abroad concludes that, despite the good efforts of agencies and charities, more needs to be done to ensure that bereaved victims are eligible to claim Criminal Injuries Compensation, receive relevant and timely translations of documents and that key entitlements are included within the Victims' Code. The Commissioner recommends that only police officers trained to deliver death notifications are allocated to this role wherever possible and all victims are referred to the Homicide Service within 1 working day of agreeing to details being passed on.

### [Nature of prostitution and sex work in England and Wales](#) – 30 October 2019

University of Bristol research report commissioned by the Home Office and South Wales OPCC explores the complexity and diversity in how sex is sold in England and Wales. The report concludes that a substantial proportion of women and trans women are selling sex to get by financially, given different constraints around caring responsibilities, physical and mental health, lack of access to social security benefits and support services and workplace discrimination. Many find that the longer they sell sex, the harder it can be to leave completely, whereby narrowing their element of choice - or in the case of those coerced – removing it entirely. Includes a data quality assessment tool for organisations wishing to produce local prevalence estimates.

### [Police powers and procedures, England and Wales 2018/19](#) – 24 October 2019

Home Office statistics detailing police use of PACE powers during 2018/19 at national and police force level. The latest statistics highlight a 32% increase in the number of section 1 stop and searches in the latest year, and the first annual increase since the downward trend which began in 2010/11. Arrests rates following stop and search fell from 17% to 16% during the year, however, the volume of arrests made increased by 21%. Suspected drug possession remains the most common reason for stop and search (61%), while the proportion of searches on suspicion of carrying offensive weapons increased from 14% to 16%. 73% of all stop and searches, resulted in no further action – which can include cases where an officer finds what they were looking for but decides not to arrest, caution or issue an informal outcome. The report also shows that motoring offences resulting in a Fixed Penalty Notice or another outcome increased by 3.8% during the year, while the number of breath tests carried out fell by 2%, continuing the downward trend seen since 2009 (670,023). The proportion of tests that were positive or refused, meanwhile reached the highest level (15%) since 2007.

### [Hate Crime Statistics](#) – 28 October 2019

Commons library briefing paper presenting data on hate crime rates / strands by police force area

## **[Knife and Offensive Weapon Sentencing Statistics: April to June 2019](#) – Published 24 October 2019**

Ministry of Justice statistics showing ongoing increases (+5%) in the number of knife and offensive weapon offences were formally dealt with by the CJS (22,306) per year, largely driven by rises (+6%) in possession offences (14,000). 38% of knife and offensive weapon offences resulted in an immediate custodial sentence compared with 23% a decade ago. The average length of the custodial sentences also increased from 5.9 months to 8.1 months over this period. The proportion of offenders for whom this is their first knife or offensive weapon possession offence has decreased from 80% to 72% over the last decade, reaching the lowest proportion recorded since comparable records began. The average custodial sentence for offenders sentenced under section 28 of the Criminal Justice and Courts Act 2015 has increased from 7.1 months to 7.9 months.

## **[Multi-agency public protection arrangements \(MAPPA\) annual report 2018/19](#) – 31 October 2019**

MAPPA annual report shows that the number offenders under MAPPA management in the community (82,921) continued to increase in 2018/19, although the latest annual increase (+2%) is the lowest since 2010. Increases have been largely driven by the rise in Registered Sexual Offenders / Category 1 offenders (up 3% to 60,294) where the number of people convicted of sexual offences increased steadily up until 2017/18. A further 22,268 were Category 2 offenders (mainly violent offenders) and 359 were Category 3 offenders (other dangerous offenders). The number of offenders returned to custody in-year for breaching licence conditions has been falling steadily over recent years, while the number of offenders charged with a Serious Further Offence has generally been increasing since 2010/11, partly because of the increasing MAPPA population. The latest year, however, saw the lowest number of SFOs (179) since 2014/15. [Reports available at police force level.](#)

## **[Offender Management Statistics quarterly: April to June 2019](#) – Published 31 October 2019**

Ministry of Justice statistics highlight no significant change in the total prison population (83,810) over the last year with the number of first receptions (18,370) falling by 5% and releases (15,708) falling by 10% and more prisoners serving longer sentences. Licence recalls (6,531) increased by 9%, partly driven by increases in HDC recalls following a policy change, while the number of offenders on probation (254,165) fell by 3%.

## **[Community Performance Quarterly, update to June 2019](#) – Published 31 October 2019**

Quarterly statistics show a slight reduction in Community Rehabilitation Company Performance in the latest quarter, with national performance meeting or exceeding targets in 8 out of the 17 CRC measures. Deterioration has been largely driven by current circumstances affecting London CRC. National Probation Service performance remains stable while all Electronic Monitoring Service measures continue to meet their targets.

## **[Safety in custody: quarterly update to June 2019](#) – Published 31 October 2019**

Latest Ministry of Justice prison safety statistics highlight a 5% reduction in deaths in prison (308) over the last year, but no change in those that are self-inflicted (90). Self-harm incidents continue to rise (+22%), reaching a record high of 60,594 in the latest year. The number of individuals self-harming increased by 5% to 12,740. There has also been a 5% increase in incidents of assault (34,112) although serious prisoner-on-prisoner assaults (2,984) have decreased by 2%. Assaults and serious assaults on staff both increased.

## **[Deaths of Offenders in the Community - 2018/19](#) – Published 31 October 2019**

Ministry of Justice annual statistics show that deaths of offenders in the community rose by 13% in 2018/19 to 1,093, largely driven by increases in self-inflicted deaths – up from 283 to 337. The proportion of deaths under CRC supervision fell from 69% to 66%, while the proportion under NPS supervision increased from 31% to 34%. Deaths of offenders on post-release supervision increased from 374 to 535, while deaths of offenders serving court orders (535) saw no significant change, despite more offenders being subject to these orders.

## **[Fire and rescue workforce and pensions statistics: 2018/19](#) – 31 October 2019**

The number of FTE firefighters (32,233) as at March 2019 remains similar to levels in March 2018, but 23% lower than levels a decade ago. 6.4% of firefighters are women and around 4.3% are from an ethnic minority. This compares to 5.7% in the previous year and 4.5% five years ago. Data available at [F&R Authority level](#)

## 3. AUDITS AND INSPECTIONS

### [HMICFRS Value for Money profiles 2019 Published](#) – 31 October 2019

HMICFRS published the latest Value for Money profiles, which provide comparative data on a wide range of policing activities for each police force in England and Wales. Data is presented as a series of interactive charts and graphs, allowing users to explore and tailor reports to their own interests, including: how much forces spend on different policing activities; how crime levels compare across forces, as well as what outcomes forces achieve; and workforce costs, broken down by role, rank and gender

### [Cyber: Keep the light on - The police response to cyber-dependent crime](#) – 24 October 2019

HMICFRS report on the effectiveness and efficiency of the police response to cyber-dependent crime – following a thematic inspection commissioned by the Home Secretary in early 2019. The inspection identified several areas of positive practice, including efficient working arrangements between law enforcement agencies; •a well-established national strategy for dealing with the threat from cyber-dependent crime; early identification and response to emerging threats; the implementation of minimum standards and recognised performance indicators; and the development of local cyber-dependent crime teams. The inspectorate also warned, however, that many of these achievements are undermined by inconsistencies in the response provided at a local level by forces. Specific issues included concerns around the financial sustainability of capability and capacity at all levels; limited understanding of demand at a local level; and some forces not fully complying with initiatives to coordinate resources. The inspectorate notes that having 43 forces operating independently does not provide an effective response to cyber-dependent crime. While the recent initiative to encourage the regional management of specialist resources in police forces is welcome, the principles of this initiative have not yet been universally adopted by all forces.

### Upcoming reports and inspection activity

• HMICFRS: Police response to county lines (Thematic)	Pending
• HMICFRS Control Room (Thematic)	Pending
• Fire and Rescue Service inspection (third tranche)	December 2019
• HMICFRS State of Fire and Rescue Services in England	December 2019
• Integrated Offender Management: Follow-up to explore IOM in TR environment	Early 2020
• PEEL Reports 2019/20 – Tranche 3	January 2020
• Joint Inspection of Prosecution team case file quality (Police / CPS)	2019/20
• HMICFRS Roads Policing Thematic (Sec. State Transport Commission)	2019/20
• HMICFRS: Independent study of police air support	2019/20
• HMICFRS: Counter-terrorism	2019/20
• HMICFRS: Older people in the criminal justice system	2019/20
• HMICFRS: Use of PNC by non-police organisations (Home Office commission)	2019/20
• Evidence-led Domestic Abuse prosecutions (HMCPST)	2019/20
• HMICFRS: Police response to domestic abuse (annual review)	2019/20

## 4. REVIEWS AND INQUIRIES

### **[Serious and Organised Crime Review announced](#) – 29 October 2019**

Home Office [launches](#) formal review of the response to serious and organised crime threats such as county lines, people trafficking, drug supply/production, child sexual exploitation, fraud and illicit finance. The review will be led by former deputy commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, Sir Craig Mackey, with support from stakeholders from law enforcement and national security. It will consider the powers, capabilities, governance and funding required to tackle today's threats – and the status, roles and responsibilities of the National Crime Agency, local police forces and regional organised crime units. The review is due to report in Spring 2020.

### **[Work of the Prison Service](#) - Justice Committee Inquiry launched – 22 October 2019**

The Justice Committee asks the new Prisons and Probation Minister about her priorities and recent policy announcements from MOJ, Number 10 and HM Treasury, relating to prisons, including: the content of the Queen's Speech relating to prisons; the condition of the prison estate and the announcement of an additional 10,000 places; safety and security; female offenders; and IPP prisoners.

### **[Police conduct and complaints](#) – Home Affairs Committee Inquiry launched – 28 October 2019**

Inquiry will examine the role and remit of the Independent Office for Police Conduct within the police conduct and discipline system. It will look at how it works with police forces around the country to resolve complaints and progress in reforming the system following criticisms of the time taken to resolve complaints. It will also investigate what reforms are required to secure public confidence in the police conduct and disciplinary system.

### **[Tackling racial harassment: universities challenged](#) – 23 October 2019**

Equality and Human Rights Commission Inquiry report highlights the extent to which Higher Education Institutions are largely unaware of the scale of racial harassment occurring across British universities, with around 24% of ethnic minority students reporting experienced racial harassment and only a third of victims reporting the incident to their university. The report makes recommendations for the UK Government to reinstate third party harassment protections; introduce a mandatory duty on employers to increase protections for staff from harassment; ensure the sector regulator and funding councils have adequate powers to hold universities to account on their performance to prevent and tackle harassment

### **[Justice Committee Report: Prison Governance](#) – 29 October 2019**

Report notes that the prison system is enduring a crisis of safety and decency, with violence and self-harm at record highs and little sign of improvement. The committee concludes that while recent investment is welcomed, it must form part of a long-term, multi-year strategy, underpinned by a sustainable funding settlement. There must also be a dual focus on improving safety and rehabilitative initiatives and greater autonomy for governors to authorise and action maintenance. There also needs to be a whole-prison approach to measuring prison performance, including measures relating to health and education provision. The committee welcomes the Ministry of Justice's review of special measures for prisons and calls for additional support to be made available to poor performing prisons.

### **[Justice Committee Report: Court and Tribunal reforms](#) – 31 October 2019**

Justice Committee report concludes that the court system in administrative chaos, with serious staff shortages threatening to compromise the fairness of proceedings. HMCTS must not proceed with planned deeper staffing cuts unless it is confident of being able to provide acceptable service. Court closures have created alarming difficulties for many court users, who are now expected to travel too far to attend court and to spend too many hours of their days or weeks in doing so. The committee recommends that the network of assisted digital Online Centres is extended to deliver comprehensive national coverage with walk-in access by April 2021. In responding to the report, the [CEO of HMCTS](#) said: "We don't believe the report presents a balanced assessment of reform, but along with colleagues at the Ministry of Justice and the senior judiciary, will take the time to carefully address the committee's findings and respond fully in due course".

## [Government Response: Transforming Rehabilitation: Follow-up](#) – 25 October 2019

Response to the Justice Committee's [report](#) published July 2019

## [Government Response: The Role of the Magistracy: Follow up](#) – 31 October 2019

Response to the Justice Committee's [report](#) published June 2019

## [Government Response: ACMD Custody-Community Transitions report](#) – 24 October 2019

Response to Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) [report](#) published June 2019

## [Government Response: Road safety: driving while using a mobile phone](#) – 1 November 2019

Response to Transport Committee Select [report](#) published August 2019

## 5. LEGISLATION

### [Sentencing \(Pre-consolidation Amendments\) Bill](#) – Lords 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading - TBA

[Briefing](#)

Short Technical Bill laying the groundwork for the main Sentencing Code Bill. Gives effect to Law Commission recommendations relating to commencement of enactments relating to sentencing law.

### [Animal Welfare \(Sentencing\) Bill](#) – House of Commons Report stage – TBA

[Briefing](#)

To promote and protect the welfare of animals, including banning imports from trophy hunting. The Bill will:

- Increase protections for animals and improve the welfare of animals in homes, agriculture and the wild
- Increase maximum sentences for animal cruelty from six months to five years
- Ensure animals are recognised in domestic law and Government policy as sentient beings

### [Domestic Abuse Bill](#) – Commons Committee Stage – TBA

[Fact sheets](#)

[Briefings](#)

This Bill was being considered by a Public Bill Committee which was expected to report to the House by Thursday 21 November 2019. However, due to the imminent dissolution of this Parliament and the forthcoming General Election, the bill will not progress any further and the Public Bill Committee will no longer meet.

### [Prisoners \(Disclosure of Information About Victims\) Bill](#) – Commons 2<sup>nd</sup> reading TBA

[Briefing](#)

Place a legal duty on the Parole Board to take into account an offender's failure to disclose certain information about their crime when assessing their release. The Bill will apply in cases such as those where murderers refuse to give the location of a victim's remains (Helen's Law) and paedophiles who take indecent images of children but refuse to disclose their identity.

### [Air Traffic Management and Unmanned Aircraft Bill](#) – Lords 2<sup>nd</sup> reading TBA

[Briefing](#)

Bill to confer police powers relating to unmanned aircraft and requirements in Air Navigation Orders and to provide for fixed penalties for certain offences relating to unmanned aircraft

### [Modern Slavery \(Victim Support\) Bill](#) – Lords 2<sup>nd</sup> reading – TBA

[Briefing](#)

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

### [Policing Resources Bill](#) - Lords 2<sup>nd</sup> reading – TBA

[Lords Briefing](#)

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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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; grant victims the right to request a review of a decision not to prosecute;

## [Age of Criminal Responsibility Bill](#) – Lords 2<sup>nd</sup> reading – TBA

[Briefing](#)

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

## [Criminal Records Bill](#) - Lords 2<sup>nd</sup> reading – 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

## [Serious Violence Bill](#) – Introduced 14 October 2019 (Queen's Speech)

[Briefing](#)

Place a new [duty on public sector](#) bodies to ensure that they work together to address serious violence:-

- Create duty on agencies to work together, share information and develop plans to prevent serious violence
- Amend the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to ensure that serious violence is an explicit priority for CSPs
- Provide flexibility so that organisations will work together in the most effective local partnership

## [Police Protections Bill](#) – Introduced 14 October 2019 (Queen's Speech)

[Briefing](#)

Home Office sponsored Bill to better support, protect and recognise the police service:-

- Recognise bravery, commitment and sacrifices of police officers and provide additional support / protection
- Establish a statutory [Police Covenant](#) and require Home Secretary to report annually on progress
- Allow special constables to join the Police Federation
- Assure that enhanced driving skills will be taken into account in the case of [post-incident investigations](#)

## [Extradition \(Provisional Arrest\) Bill](#) – Introduced 14 October (Queen's Speech)

[Briefing](#)

Police power to arrest individuals wanted by international partners without having to apply for a court warrant. The power will only apply where a serious offence has been committed and the suspected person would pose a risk to the public. If the UK is unable to use the European Arrest Warrant, this Bill could be used to designate EU countries as trusted international partners.

## [Foreign National Offenders Bill](#) - Introduced 14 October (Queen's Speech)

[Briefing](#)

To improve the justice system's response to foreign national offenders by increasing the maximum penalty for those who return to the UK in breach of a deportation order

## [Sentencing Bill](#) – Announced 30 September 2019

[Briefing](#)

Ensuring that the sentencing of most serious violent and sexual offenders reflects the severity of their crimes:-

- Change the automatic release point from halfway to the two-thirds of sentence for those serving 4 years+
- Align how life tariffs are calculated with the extended release points for serious sexual and violent offenders
- Extend the range of reasons where the starting point for the sentence for murder is a whole life order
- Require judges to explain what the sentence means for an offender's release arrangements
- Strengthen community orders to better address mental health, substance misuse or reparation needs

## 6. CONSULTATIONS

### [Proposed changes to hate crime guidance](#) **NEW**

College of Policing consultation seeking views on proposed changes to the 2014 Operational Hate Crime Guidance following HMICFRS recommendations made in 2018. These include clarifying that hate crime should receive a priority response from forces and should have appropriate oversight and supervision; flagging hate crime offences and cyber-enabled crime and; clarifying advice on the response to non-crime hate incidents

**Open date: 18/10/2019**

**Close date: 05/11/2019**

### [Statutory guidance review for local youth services: have your say](#)

Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport consultation to inform a review of the guidance which sets out the statutory duty placed on Local Authorities to provide appropriate local services to improve young people's wellbeing. Review aims to highlight the positive role Local Authorities should play in providing youth services.

**Open date: 03/10/2019**

**Close date: 30/11/2019**

### [Proposed fire and rescue services inspection programme and framework 2020/21](#) **NEW**

HMICFRS consultation on minor changes to the FRS inspection framework following the first full round of inspections of every service in over a decade. HMICFRS will inspect how effective and efficient FRS's are at: fire safety, firefighting and responding to road traffic collisions and other emergencies. HMICFRS will inspect all 45 fire and rescue services in England, beginning in 2020.

**Open date: 22/10/2019**

**Close date: 29/11/2019**

### [Independent review of Prevent: Call for evidence](#)

Home Office call for evidence seeking views on the Government's strategy for supporting people vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism (CONTEST). The review would like to hear from those working to deliver Prevent, responsible for implementing the statutory duty, communities, civic groups and charitable organisations, academic institutions and individuals who have accessed Prevent services, and their friends and families.

**Open date: 07/10/2019**

**Close date: 09/12/2019**

### [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**

### [Sentencing guidelines for terrorism offences](#) **NEW**

**Open date: 22/10/2019**

**Close date: 03/12/2019**