

Police and Crime Commissioner's Horizon Scanning Briefing

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1. POLICY AND PRACTICE

[Government plans to review legislation and safeguards in respect of police pursuits](#) – 2 May 2019

Home Office response to public consultation on police pursuits in May 2018 sets out plans to introduce new legislation to give police more confidence to pursue suspects, while maintaining road safety. The government will look to introduce a new test to assess the standard of driving of a police officer. The test will compare the standard of driving against that of a careful, competent and suitably trained police driver in the same role rather than use the existing test which compares driving against a standard qualified driver who would not normally be involved in police action. The government will also examine how to:

- make clear the police officers should not be accountable for the driving of a suspected criminal who is attempting to avoid arrest by driving in a dangerous manner, provided pursuit is justified and proportionate
- review the existing emergency service exemptions to traffic law to ensure they remain fit for purpose

[Legislative changes to protect dignity of women in custody](#) – 24 April 2019

Home Office confirms plans to legislate via the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE) Codes of Practice to ensure all menstruating women, and others with personal health and hygiene needs, are treated with dignity whilst in custody. Police will be required to ask female detainees at the earliest opportunity whether they are likely to require sanitary products, which they will be given free of charge – and enable detainees to speak in private to a member of custody staff of the same sex about personal health, hygiene and welfare needs. The notice given to detainees informing them of their rights and entitlements in police custody will be updated to reflect these changes. The College of Policing has also strengthened its guidance on ensure the needs of menstruating detainees are adequately met.

[Update on new £1.38m government funded social media hub](#) – 24 April 2019

Speaking at the latest the latest Serious Violence Taskforce, the Home Secretary confirms that the new £1.38m government funded social media hub will be fully operational at the end of May - a 17-strong team of police staff and officers tasked with disrupting and removing overt and covert gang-related online content.

[National Police Wellbeing Service Launched](#) – 30 April 2019

College of Policing announce launch of the £7.5m Home Office funded National Police Wellbeing Service which provides mental health outreach support for police officers and staff alongside training and toolkits to improve provision across forces. The service aims to reduce stigma around seeking support, improve understanding of the support available, encourage people to support themselves, improve personal resilience and self-help skills, improve morale and engagement and build on the police service reputation as a good employer

[Consultation on regulatory proposals on consumer 'Internet of Things' security](#) - 1 May 2019

Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport consultation on mandatory industry requirements to ensure basic cyber security features are built into internet enabled products and consumers have better information on how secure their devices. Under new proposals, consumer smart devices would be required to adhere to a basic level of security set out in the current '[Secure by Design](#)' code of practice, and would require:-

- unique device passwords and not by resettable to universal factory settings
- a public point of contact provided as part of a vulnerability disclosure policy
- minimum length of time for which security updates will be received to be explicitly stated via end of life policy

[Pre-Application Judicial Education \(PAJE\) programme launched](#) – 24 April 2019

Ministry of Justice and the Judicial Diversity Forum launch new judicial education programme to provide advice to applicants on how to prepare for the next step in their career. The programme will deliver a mixture of online resources and discussion groups, allowing participants to explore perceptions of the barriers to a judicial career. Targeted participants from underrepresented groups will have access to judges who will share their insight into the realities of being a judge and the ways in which participants can try to overcome perceived barriers.

[Circular 003/2019: Regulation 10b of The Police Regulations 2003 \(Rejoiners\)](#) – 25 April 2019

Statutory Instrument (SI) 1191/2018 amending Regulation 10B of the Police Regulations 2003 to enable former officers to re-join the police beyond the current 5 year restriction at the same rank as they last served, or at a higher or lower rank. Regulatory changes came into force on 22 February 2019.

[ACT Strategic](#) – 26 April 2019

New National Counter Terrorism Security Office initiative aiding businesses in exploring ways to prevent, manage and recover from a terrorist attack

[New routes to justice podcast](#) and [Transcript](#) - HM courts & tribunals - 1 May 2019

[Counter Extremism Commissioner speech on role of media in challenging extremism](#) – 24 April 2019

[Prisons and Probation Ombudsman Strategic Plan 2019-21](#) – 30 April 2019

Recent Parliamentary briefings: [Youth Custody](#) (2 May), [Sharia law courts in the UK](#) (1 May), [Facial recognition and the biometrics strategy](#) (30 Apr), [Online Harms White Paper](#) (25 Apr), [Police and Crime Commissioners](#) (25 Apr)

Recent Parliamentary debates: [Farming Communities: Rural Crime](#) (2 May), [Police Officer Training: Autism Awareness](#) (1 May), [Police and Crime Commissioners](#) (29 Apr), [Victims of Crime: Mobile Phone Data](#) (29 Apr), [Rape Victims: Disclosure of Evidence](#) (29 Apr)

2. RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND STATISTICS

[A journey of learning, growth and change': A roadmap for increasing RJ – 29 April 2019](#)

Criminal Justice Alliance report brings highlights results of a survey and follow-up interviews with police force areas across England and Wales on the provision of RJ and the wider field of restorative practices. The report concludes that RJ has huge potential to increase victims' satisfaction, improve their wellbeing and reduce reoffending. Following MoJ funding to PCCs between 2013 and 2016, it is now incumbent on PCCs to decide how much to invest in RJ from their victims budgets. This has created a 'postcode lottery' in provision. Only 7.5% of victims recalled being offered the opportunity to meet their offender 2017/18. More needs to be done to raise awareness, understanding and confidence in the use of RJ. RJ services are hampered by low referral rates, which are themselves a symptom of low awareness of restorative interventions across the CJS. Many RJ services struggle to define how they are effective and demonstrate success, while commissioning targets do not necessarily reflect the hugely positive effects of restorative inventions. Encouragingly, 80% of respondents to the survey said their areas were looking to expand the scope of their services. Recommendations include:-

- Busting myths and building confidence through strong, committed leadership from PCCs, Chief Constables, Prison Governors, Victims' Commissioners and Government Ministers and investing in internal awareness-building for criminal justice partners to improve understanding of the benefits of RJ.
- Restorative Partnerships: PCCs should ensure a strategic board or RJ working group is in place with appropriate information-sharing protocols, clear terms of reference that define the responsibilities of partners and mechanisms for sharing learning about the use of restorative practices
- Defining and measuring success: MOJ should develop guidance on capturing the wider benefits of RJ which commissioning targets should reflect. MOJ should gather and publish a more data on RJ services, including PCC spend and equality and diversity statistics. PCCs should encourage and support RJ innovation.
- A whole-system approach: MoJ and Home Office should establish a cross-departmental working group and strategy specifically for RJ and map and evaluate how RJ practices are embedding. HM Inspectorates should carry out a joint thematic inspection of restorative practices across policing, prisons and probation.

[Crime in England and Wales to December 2018 – Published 25 April 2019](#)

Latest estimates from the Crime Survey for England and Wales show no significant change (+2%) in overall crime over the last year. Within this profile, however, computer misuse offences decreased by 28%, largely due to a 44% reduction in computer viruses, and fraud offences increased by 12% to 3.6 million. Furthermore, theft offences increased by around 8%, largely driven by a 23% increase in "thefts from outside a dwelling". For crime types thought to be well-reported to and accurately recorded by police, there was:-

- a 2% increase in vehicle offences over the last year, largely due to a 9% increase in theft of vehicle. Data from the Association of British Insurers (ABI) shows an 11% rise in the number of motor insurance-settled claims relating to theft in the first nine months of 2018. Thefts from a vehicle showed no significant change
- an 11% increase in robbery offences, continuing increases seen in previous years (40% occurred in London)
- a 3% decrease in burglary, following increases over recent years

Police figures also show a continuing rise in some low volume but high risk offences including offences involving knives or sharp instruments (+6%). It should be noted, however, that the rate of increase has recently been diminishing (18% in 2017/18, 13% in year to Jun 2018 and 9% year to Sep 2018).

[Data available at force and CSP level](#)

[Police recorded crime and outcomes – Published 25 April 2019](#)

Detailed figures at force and CSP level, including and supplementary material and user guide

[Knife Crime: Evidence Briefing – 29 April 2019](#)

College of Policing Evidence Briefing for police and crime reduction partners summarising evidence on factors associated with carrying knives, as well as strategies and interventions to tackle knife crime. Briefing represents a non-exhaustive search of the literature, taking reliable sources, government strategy documents and research reports as a base, and consulting with subject matter experts to ensure it presents a rounded picture.

[Great expectations? Assessing the creation of national police organisations](#) – Published 16 April 2019

Research paper (Jan Terpstra, Nick R Fyfe) examining the experiences of Scotland and the Netherlands in establishing national police forces in 2013. Paper includes a review of the arguments for reform and emerging findings of evaluations in each country. Argues that institutionalist perspectives on police reform have much to offer in making sense of the challenges of the police reform process

[Police staff earning survey 2018](#) – 3 May 2019

LGA publication presenting findings from the 37 police forces that responded to a police staff survey which sought obtain accurate and up to date information about the composition of the workforce. An estimated 70,782 individuals were employed by the forces, of which 76% were full-time and 24% part-time; 61% were female, 94% were white, and their average age was 45. 91% were paid on the PSC spine, most commonly on points 17 (17%) or 21 (10%). The average annual basic salary was £24,978. 55% of full-time staff and 63% of part-time staff received some form of additional pay in the relevant pay period, most commonly for unsocial hours/irregular hours or shift work. The average annual gross pay was £28,236. The total basic pay bill was £1,625m, with additional pay adding a further £213m (13%). Around 90% of police staff were members of the Local Government Pension Scheme. On average, both police community support officers and custody and detention officers were paid on a scale from £19,719 to £21,837.

[Safety in Custody quarterly: update to March 2019](#) – Published 25 April 2019

Deaths in prison custody rose by 6% in the year 2018/19 to 317. Of these, 87 were self-inflicted deaths – which rose by 19% during the year. Self-harm incidents also increased by 25% during the year to a new record high of 55,598, however reductions were observed during the latest quarter (-7%). Assault incidents rose by 16% during the year to 34,223, of which 3,918 were serious assaults (up 2% on the previous year). Assaults on staff (10,213) increased by 30%, however this has been affected in part by changes in recording practices since April 2017. [Deaths data tool](#) provides statistics at individual prison level

Ministry of Justice Offender Management Statistics to December 2018 - Published 25 Apr 2019

- [Offender Management statistics quarterly: October to December 2018](#)
- [NPS & CRC Community performance statistics to December 2018](#)
- [NPS & CRC payment by results statistics to June 2018](#)
- [Proven reoffending statistics](#)

[Child protection plan and register statistics](#) – 30 April 2019

NSPCC factsheets setting out the number of children who are the subject of a child protection plan or on a child protection register, the reasons children are the subject of a plan or on a register and the age and gender of children who are the subject of a plan or on a register

3. AUDITS AND INSPECTIONS

[PEEL: Police effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy 2018/19 \(Group 1\)](#) – 2 May 2019

HMICFRS publishes findings for the first 14 forces inspected in the PEEL 2018/19 assessment. These inspections found that a relatively positive picture of performance is being provided by a service that is straining under significant pressure. This is affecting different forces in different ways, across neighbourhood policing and investigations through to counter corruption and workforce health and wellbeing. Given the current operational and financial context forces find themselves in, it is not clear for how long they will be able to maintain their current performance levels. For many of the forces inspected in this group, cracks in the system are widening.

[An inspection of the EU Settlement Scheme – 2 May 2019](#)

[Home Office response](#)

Chief Inspector's report on the Home Office's preparations for the launch of the EU Settlement Scheme "The inspection found areas for improvement and my report, submitted at the beginning of March, made seven recommendations, all of which the Home Office has now accepted. At the time of this inspection the Scheme had still to launch and therefore to be properly tested, however it is important to note that compared with many other areas of BICS, where systems and staff resources appear under constant strain, forcing them to be largely reactive and to juggle different demands, the EU Settlement Scheme stood out as having been afforded the preparation time, resources and organisational priority to succeed, and morale amongst the staff working on the Scheme, many of them new to the Home Office, was high. Maintaining this when the Scheme becomes 'business as usual' and workloads become more challenging will be crucial and a number of the recommendations go to this point. Home Office response to the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration's report, which includes achievements and recommendations for improvement.

[EU Settlement Scheme public beta testing phase report – 2 May 2019](#)

The report provides insights into the experience of applicants using the system to gain settled or pre-settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme. launched on 21 January 2019 and closed on 29 March 2019. It followed 2 successful private beta testing phases – [Private Beta 1](#) and [Private Beta 2](#). The purpose of the public beta testing phase was to test the scheme at scale and to prepare for the public launch on 30 March 2019. Over 200,000 applications were received during the public beta testing phase, including 8,152 on the first day. During the 3 testing phases, over 230,000 applications were received from citizens of all EU27 countries and from family members who are nationals of over 120 non-EEA countries. By 16 April 2019, 95% of those cases had been concluded.

[HMI Prisons announces independent reviews of progress in failing and unsafe prisons – 29 April 2019](#)

HMCIP announced a series of short two-and-a-half day follow-up visits to failing and unsafe prisons to give the government an independent assessment of how much progress has been made in improving the treatment and conditions for prisoners. Independent Reviews of Progress (IRPs) will start in April 2019 with reports being published 25 days after the visits. Up to 20 IRPs will take place each year.

Upcoming reports and inspection activity

- Deadline for HMICFRS 2018/19 force data return May 2019
- Fire and Rescue Service inspection reports published (second tranche) June 2019
- Fire and Rescue Service inspection fieldwork commences (third tranche) June 2019
- [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: Independent study of police air support
- HMICFRS: Police response to county lines (Thematic)
- 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

[Forensic science and the criminal justice system: a blueprint for change](#) – 1 May 2019

Science and Technology Select Committee report concludes that the quality and delivery of forensic science in England and Wales is inadequate, with no consistency in the way the 43 Police Authorities commission these services. Simultaneous budget cuts and reorganisation, together with exponential growth in the need for new services have put forensic science providers under extreme pressure and at risk of going out of business. The report recommends that the role of the Forensic Science Regulator is reformed, expanded and resourced to provide this market regulation function, and also urgently given statutory powers to bolster trust and capacity in forensic science provision. This should include work with the Legal Aid Agency to set fair prices for forensic testing for which the Ministry of Justice must then commit to provide funding.

The government has issued a 13-point [implementation plan](#) alongside findings of a Home Office commissioned [review](#) into the provision of forensic services. Commitments include:-

- A new, long-term commercial strategy to better co-ordinate police forces' approach to forensics
- Support proposed legislation to give the regulator statutory powers of enforcement
- Working with national bodies to establish a new oversight mechanism for research and development

[Anti-Social Behaviour: Living a Nightmare](#) – 29 April 2019

Victims' Commissioner's report produced in partnership with ASB Help and Nottingham Trent University finds that victims of anti-social behaviour are being let down by police, local councils and housing providers. The report highlights examples of agencies failing to appreciate the cumulative impact of persistent ASB, treating individual incidents in isolation and failing to address the underlying causes. The report also finds that many police forces, councils and PCCs make no reference to the statutory Community Trigger mechanism used to resolve ASB on their websites, while some victims found that police and council staff had never heard of the mechanism. The report makes a range of recommendations, including:

- Providing the same Victims' Code of Practice entitlements as crime when victims reach the '3 complaints' threshold for Community Trigger and informing victims about their entitlement to start the Community Trigger when responding to the second complaint within a six-month period
- Improving police 101 service by reviewing call charges and ensuring adequate and timely response to calls
- Introducing a legal requirement for Local Authorities, PCCs, Police and housing associations to display accurate guidelines on the Community Trigger on their websites, notice boards and publications
- Ensuring resolution meetings are independently chaired and victims can explain impact of ASB in person
- Consider replicating legal powers available to police in Scotland to issue warnings, fines & seize equipment

Inquiries

[Court and Tribunal Reforms](#) – Justice Committee – Latest evidence 30 April 2019

[Serious Violence Strategy](#) - Home Affairs Committee – Oral evidence session 30 April 2019

[Detention of children with learning disabilities](#) - JC on Human Rights – Latest evidence – 3 April 2019

[Cyber security in the UK](#) – Public Accounts Committee – Latest evidence – 1 April 2019

[Local government governance & accountability](#) – Public Accounts – Evidence session 27 March 2019

[Progress implementation Lammy Review recommendations](#) – Justice Committee – 26 March 2019

[Apprenticeships programme: progress review](#) - Public Accounts – Evidence session 25 March 2019

5. LEGISLATION

[Offensive Weapons Bill](#) – Royal Assent – TBA

[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

[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

[Anonymity \(Arrested Persons\) Bill](#) - Lords Committee stage – 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

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

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 – TBA

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

6. CONSULTATIONS

[HM Courts and Tribunals Service communications survey](#) **NEW**

HMCTS perception survey to inform the service on improving the way it communicates with court users. Findings will be used to inform a programme to open up new convenient ways to access justice and make our processes simpler and more widely available digitally.

Open date: 23/04/2019

Close date: 10/05/2019

[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

[Serious violence: new legal duty to support multi-agency action](#)

Home Office consultation on proposals for a new multi-agency 'public health' approach to preventing and tackling serious violence, including the introduction of a new legal duty and a non-legislative option for partners to work together voluntarily to prevent and tackle serious violence.

Open date: 01/04/2019

Close date: 28/05/2019

[Mental Health Conditions and Disorders: Draft Legal Guidance](#)

CPS consultation on proposed amendments to Legal Guidance on prosecuting defendants with mental health issues which includes signposting to key policy documents, addressing issues across a case life, providing additional information about a variety of mental health conditions and setting out types of disposal available

Open date: 12/03/2019

Close date: 04/06/2019

[Regulatory proposals on consumer 'Internet of Things' security](#) **NEW**

Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport consultation on new mandatory industry requirements to ensure basic cyber security features are built into internet enabled products and consumers have better information on how secure their devices.

Open date: 01/05/2019

Close date: 05/06/2019

[Children not in school](#)

Department for Education consultation on proposals to introduce register of all children not being educated in state-funded or registered independent schools and to introduce a legal duty for local authorities to provide assistance and resources to support parents who choose to educate their children at home

Open date: 02/04/2019

Close date: 24/06/2019

[Violence and abuse toward shop staff: call for evidence](#)

Home Office call for evidence seeking views from organisations and individuals wishing to contribute to understanding the problem of violence and abuse toward shop staff in England and Wales. Responses are encouraged from retailers, trade associations and unions, as well as those working in the retail industry

Open date: 05/04/2019

Close date: 28/06/2019

[Online Harms White Paper](#)

Home Office White Paper seeking views on government plans to make internet companies more responsible for their users' safety online, especially children and other vulnerable groups, via a **mandatory "duty of care"** and to introduce new standards and penalties alongside an independent regulatory body to enforce them

Open date: 08/04/2019

Close date: 01/07/2019

[Sentencing offenders with mental health conditions](#)

Sentencing Council consultation on draft guideline on sentencing offenders with mental health conditions or disorders, including principles that courts should focus on individual circumstances and decide how much responsibility the offender retains for the offence, given the specific facts of the case.

Open date: 09/04/2019

Close date: 09/07/2019