

Police and Crime Commissioner's Horizon Scanning Briefing

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

1. POLICY AND PRACTICE

[Further £35m confirmed for Violence Reduction Units](#) – 29 December 2019

Home Office confirms a further £35m funding in 2020/21 for 18 Violence Reduction Units, following £35m awarded in 2019/20. The 18 PCCs areas worst affected by violent crime will use the funding to further develop strategies to prevent serious violence by understanding its root causes, working with police, healthcare workers, community leaders as part of a long term Public Health approach.

[Police complaints process legislation to be enacted](#) - 10 January 2020

Home Office legislation to enact reforms to the police complaints process will come into effect on 1 February 2020. The reforms aim to enhance the speed, simplicity and effectiveness of the police complaints process by:-

- Increasing the IOPC's independence in investigating all serious and sensitive matters involving the police
- Giving Police and Crime Commissioners an enhanced role in the complaints handling process
- Increasing the transparency of appeals against misconduct findings by replacing the current retired police officer as a member of the panel with an independent layperson and introducing new provisions

[New AI technique launched to identify and block online child grooming](#) – 9 January 2020

Home Office and Microsoft launch the Project Artemis, a new artificial intelligence (AI) technique designed to identify and block child grooming conversations online. The technique automatically flags conversations which could be taking place between groomers and children, and passes details of the flagged conversation on to the relevant law enforcement agency. The technique will be licensed free of charge, to small and medium-sized technology companies to help them stamp out child grooming on their platforms.

[Knife Crime: Evidence Briefing](#) – 6 January 2020

College of Policing evidence briefing to help police forces across England and Wales to make informed decisions on where resources or funding may be of most benefit to tackle the issue, evaluate existing activity to understand what approach has the greatest potential to reduce crime and to develop broad multi-agency strategies aimed at prevention and early intervention.

[Principles relating to the detention and interviewing of detainees overseas](#) – Effective from 1 Jan 2020

Government guidance extended to include the National Crime Agency and SO15 Metropolitan Police Service provides clear direction for UK personnel on their interaction with detainees held by others overseas and the handling of intelligence derived from them. [Prime Minister](#) issues direction to the commissioner to keep compliance with the guidance under review.

Commissioner's e-Briefing: 13 January 2020

[IOPC Monthly Roundup: November 2019](#) – Published 19 December 2019

[IOPC Learning the Lessons Briefing 36: Missing People](#) – Published 19 December 2019

[Home Office procurement pipeline](#) – 20 December 2019

Home Office publishes information about the status of current and future procurement opportunities

[Money Laundering & Terrorist Financing \(Amendment\) Regulations 2019](#) – come into force 10 Jan 2020

Updates to the UK's existing anti-money laundering (AML) to reflect changes to the EU's AML framework made through the Fourth AML Directive.

Recent Parliamentary briefings: [Disclosure of Evidence in Criminal Proceedings](#) (10 Jan), [Terrorism: Implications of the Use of Drones](#) (9 Jan), [Medical Cannabis: Recent Developments](#) (9 Jan), [Air Weapons](#) (7 Jan), [Queen's Speech: Lords debate](#) (3 Jan), [Deportation of foreign national offenders](#) (31 Dec), [Police stop and search powers](#) (30 Dec), [Introduction to police powers](#) (23 Dec), [Policing in the UK](#) (23 Dec), [Policing of protests](#) (20 Dec), [Police detention powers](#) (20 Dec), [Social media: how much regulation is needed?](#) (19 Dec), [Gypsies and travellers: planning provisions](#) (19 Dec), [Proscribed Terrorist Organisations](#) (18 Dec)

Recent Parliamentary debates: [Sexual Violence Overseas: Treatment of Victims](#) (9 Jan), [Queen's Speech](#) (8 Jan), [Street Crime](#) (7 Jan),

2. RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND STATISTICS

[Individuals referred to the Prevent Programme 2018/19](#) – Published 19 December 2019

Home Office publication showing that the number of individuals referred to Prevent (5,738) in 2018/19 reached the lowest level since comparable records began (2015/16). The Education sector accounted for the highest number of referrals (1,887; 33%). As in previous years, most individuals referred were male (4,991; 87%), and the majority were aged 20 or under (3,343; 58%). The number of individuals discussed at a Channel panel (1,320) and adopted as a Channel case (561) meanwhile, reached the highest level record. Of the 561 Channel cases, the most common were cases referred because of concerns regarding right-wing radicalisation (254; 45%), followed by Islamist radicalisation (210; 37%).

[Police use of force statistics for England and Wales 2018/19](#) – Published 19 December 2019

Home Office experimental statistics show that around 428,000 incidents of police use of force were recorded in 2018/19, with the most common being restraint tactics (401,000). There were 23,000 incidents in which officers made use of CEDs (conducted energy devices such as Taser®) in 2018/19 marking a 39% increase on the previous year. In the majority of cases (85%), CEDs were not discharged, however use of red dot targeting (non-discharge) increased by 43% in 2018.19 to around 12,000. The most common reason offered for use of force was for officers to protect themselves (292,000). The most common impact factor was the subject being under the influence of alcohol (166,000). On most occasions, the outcome of police use of force was an arrest (309,000). Those subject to use of force were most commonly white (70%), male (83%) and aged 18 to 34 (55%). Data available at [police force area level](#)

[Process evaluation of AssetPlus](#) – 19 December 2019

Youth Justice Board report considers youth offending team practitioners' experiences and perceptions of the roll-out of AssetPlus - the integrated assessment and planning framework used across YOTs and the youth secure estate to assist practitioners in making high quality assessments of children (aged 10–17) in the youth justice system, and help create individualised plans that address children's offending behaviour and move towards living a safe and crime-free life.

Commissioner's e-Briefing: 13 January 2020

[Justice data lab: January 2020 – Assessment of P3 Link Worker Services](#) – 9 January 2020

Part of the Ministry of Justice data lab briefing series assessing the impact of rehabilitation programmes on reoffending behaviour based on analysis undertaken during the previous quarter

[Knife crime statistics – Commons Library Briefing](#) – 20 December 2019

[Homicide Statistics – Commons Library Briefing](#) – 16 December 2019

Upcoming publications

- Association between offender sex, ethnicity and sentencing for drug offences – 15 January 2020
- Response times to fires attended by fire and rescue services: England, 2018/19 – 16 January 2020
- Police workforce statistics, England and Wales as at 30 September 2019 – 30 January 2020
- Detailed analysis of non-fire incidents in England, 2018/19 – 30 January 2020

3. AUDITS AND INSPECTIONS

[Both sides of the coin: Police and NCA response to 'county lines' drug offending](#) – 10 January 2020

HMICFRS thematic report explores how county lines drug trafficking is dealt with at local, regional and national levels with a focus on how the police and NCA identify and treat vulnerable people involved in offending. The report finds that while the intelligence picture is improving, forces still do not understand enough about the issue to tackle it as effectively as possible. There are inconsistencies in the way forces identify vulnerable people and the issue does not generally receive the same priority attention as other serious crimes. Forces could work together more efficiently, with the 43 force structure acting as a barrier to efficient deployment, co-ordination and information sharing. Joint working with other public services is effective but inconsistent children at risk (both in and out of school) face a 'cliff-edge' in support when reaching 18. There are also opportunities to make better use of telecommunication restriction orders and modern slavery legislation. Recommendations include:

- Head of the national county lines co-ordination centre to issue revised guidance to forces on how to complete the county lines intelligence collection matrix by 30 June 2020
- The College of Policing to publish its evidence-based guidelines addressing risk assessments for vulnerable people by 31 December 2020 and work with leads to improve risk assessment practices across all forces
- Director General of the National Crime Agency to develop a more coherent and integrated system of national tasking by 31 December 2020 and secure improvements in governance and accountability
- Home Office to carry out a review of the quality and extent of information sharing by public bodies for law enforcement purposes by 31 December 2020, identifying opportunities to address barriers identified
- Home Office to ensure that the definition of child criminal exploitation in the Serious Violence Strategy (or an amended version of the definition) is placed on a statutory footing by 31 December 2020
- College of Policing to amend "release from custody" subsection of the APP on detention and custody to include consideration of the risk of exploitation faced by vulnerable detainees after release by 30 June 2020
- Department for Education to establish formal arrangements for police forces to be notified when local authorities move children at high risk of criminal exploitation from area to area by 31 December 2020
- Director General of the National Crime Agency to create a dedicated, central team to co-ordinate the use of drug dealing telecommunications restriction orders by 30 June 2020
- Home Office to commission a review of the criminal abuse of mobile telecommunications services by 31 December 2020, and explore whether the regulatory environment is in need of strengthening
- Home Office to commission a detailed review of cases involving the defence under section 45(1) of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 By 31 December 2020.

[Fire and Rescue Service inspections 2018/19 \(tranche 3\)](#) – 17 December 2019

HMICFRS publish final tranche of FRS inspection reports for 2018/19, covering Buckinghamshire, Cleveland, County Durham and Darlington, Cumbria, Derbyshire, Devon and Somerset, East Sussex, Gloucestershire, London, North Yorkshire, South Yorkshire, West Yorkshire, Staffordshire and Suffolk. Of the 15 assessed:

- 10 were graded 'good' at keeping people safe, with 5 requiring improvement
- 9 were graded 'good' at managing their resources, with 6 requiring improvement and
- 7 were graded 'good' at looking after their people, with 8 requiring improvement
- Only three FRS's were assessed as requiring improvement in all three areas (Essex, Glos, London)

[HMCPSI Rape Inspection 2019](#) – 17 December 2019

HMCPSI follow inspection examined rape flagged cases, interviews with legal managers, focus groups with RASSO lawyers, and other relevant documentation and performance data in order to assess the effectiveness of the CPS in responding to rape allegations. The inspection found that out of 450 rape flagged cases, 200 were sent back by the CPS to the police for further investigation ('admin finalised') around 125 resulted in CPS 'No Further Action' decisions and around 125 resulted in a charge. The report notes that since 2016, the number of cases prosecuted by the CPS has fallen by 52% despite a 43% rise in the number of rape allegations to the police. It also notes a 23% fall in the number of cases referred to the CPS for a decision by the police. The inspection refutes concerns that the CPS are only charging 'easy cases' where a conviction is more likely, with evidence suggesting that the CPS has in fact improved its application of the Code for Crown Prosecutors - from a 10% failure rate in 2016 to a 2% failure rate in 2019.

[Disclosure of unused material in the crown court](#) – 9 January 2020

HMCPSI follow up inspection examining the disclosure of unused material in the Crown Court. Findings from 555 live cases examined two prior to trial commencement and 560 cases at the point of charge found that there have been improvements in disclosure since 2017 across both the police and the CPS, however there still remains significant room for improvement. The report identifies, for example:-

- Cases in which the CPS correctly advises the police in the charging advice on reasonable lines of enquiry increasing from 46.3% in 2017 to 73.7% in 2018
- Pre-charge cases of the CPS identifying and feeding back to the police failings of the police handling of unused material increasing from 5.6% to 15.5%. In over 80% of cases the CPS still fail to feedback to police
- Cases where CPS charging advice dealt properly with disclosable and non-disclosable unused material (fully meeting the required standard) increasing from 28.6% to 49.2%
- Compliance with the post-charge duty of initial disclosure in relation to non-disclosable unused material improving from 55.4% to 63.4%
- Compliance with the duty of continuing disclosure in relation to non-disclosable unused material improving from 69.8% to 83.8%
- Compliance with the requirement for the prosecutor to review the defence statement and provide comments and advice to the police improved from 41.2% to 60.0%.

Upcoming reports and inspection activity

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| • HMICFRS: Police Control Room (Thematic) | Pending |
| • <u>National Joint Targeted area inspections of Child Protection Thematic</u> | Pending |
| • Integrated Offender Management: Follow-up to explore IOM in TR environment | Early 2020 |
| • HMICFRS State of Fire and Rescue Services in England 2019 | January 2020 |
| • Findings from survey of public perceptions of the fire and rescue service | January 2020 |
| • PEEL Reports 2019/20 – Tranche 3 | January 2020 |
| • Regional Organised Crime Units | Fieldwork Jan 2020 |

4. REVIEWS AND INQUIRIES

[Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs to review the classification of GHB and GBL](#) – 6 January 2020

Home Secretary initiates an urgent review of the classification of GHB (gamma-hydroxybutyric acid) and GBL (gamma-butyrolactone) under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 in view of their use in the Sinaga case and the murderers Stephen Port and Gerald Motovu. The ACMD last considered the status of GHB in 2013 and raised the regulation of the compound to Schedule 2 on account of its abuse liability and minimal therapeutic value. GBL is controlled under Class C of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 but also has legitimate uses and is lawful to import, export, produce and supply.

5. LEGISLATION

[The Queen's Speech](#) – 19 December 2019

The Queen's Speech 2019 introduced a wide ranging legislative programme which includes:-

- [Domestic Abuse Bill](#) (re-introduced) – to strengthen protections for victims by introducing new protection orders and placing the Domestic Violence Notification scheme 'Clare's Law' on a legal footing. Provide new enforcement mechanisms, set a wider statutory definition of domestic abuse, introduce a domestic abuse commissioner
- [Serious Violence Bill](#) – placing a new duty on schools, councils, police and health authorities to work together to prevent serious; introducing measures to ensure that the most serious offenders serve longer in custody, with automatic release only being considered after two thirds of the sentence is served. Those charge with knife possession will face "swift justice", introduce new court orders to target known knife carriers will make it easier for the police to stop and search those convicted for knife crime offences
- [Police Powers and Protections Bill](#) - establishing a Police Covenant and ensuring the police are able to fully conduct their duties by providing them with additional support and protection. Includes clearer protections and a new test for police drivers, new powers to tackle illegal encampments and enabling Police Specials to join the Federation.
- [Extradition \(Provisional Arrest\) Bill \[HL\]](#) - to create a power of arrest, without warrant, for the purpose of extraditing people for serious offences. Addresses gaps' in current arrangements for cooperation with foreign states in the event of no longer having access to the European Arrest Warrant
- [Counter-Terrorism \(Sentencing and Release\) Bill](#) – to ensure that the most serious and dangerous terrorist offenders stay in prison for longer
- [Prisoners \(Disclosure of Information about Victims\) Bill 2019-20](#) - to require the Parole Board to take account of failure by a prisoner serving a sentence for unlawful killing or for taking or making an indecent image of a child to disclose information about the victim (a version of "Helen's Law")
- [Sentencing Bill](#) – to consolidate the law on sentencing procedure in England and Wales and to ensure the most serious and violent offenders serve more of their sentences in custody
- [Divorce, Dissolution and Separation Bill](#) – to remove unnecessary conflict during the divorce process, in which children are so often caught up, while ensuring that divorce remains a carefully considered decision
- [Online Harms Bill](#) to recognise a commitment to making the UK the safest place to be online.
- [Air Traffic Management and Unmanned Aircraft Bill](#) which will include further provisions to tackle the illegal unlawful use of drones
- [Fire Safety Bill](#)

The Government will also:

- Consider proposals to deal more effectively with foreign national offenders, including increasing the maximum penalty for those who return to the UK in breach of a deportation order.
- Set up a Royal Commission to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the criminal justice process
- Introduce legislation to promote and protect animal welfare, including measures to increase maximum sentences for animal cruelty, to ensure animals are recognised as sentient beings
- Launch a consultation in early 2020 on the development of a Victims' Law to guarantee rights and levels of support that can be expected and strengthen the Victims' Code by setting out minimum service levels

6. CONSULTATIONS

[Sentencing guidelines for firearms offences](#)

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

Open date: 09/10/2019

Close date: 14/01/2020

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

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

Open date: 05/11/2019

Close date: 04/04/2020