

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

[COVID-19: Home Office extraordinary funding for domestic abuse support services – 6 July 2020](#)

Home Office publishes details of the [successful applicants](#) from the first round of funding and reopens the fund for new bids received by 20 July 2020.

[Changes to criminal records disclosure regime – 9 July 2020](#)

Government lays a Statutory Instrument to amend the filtering rules that govern what is automatically disclosed through standard and enhanced criminal records certificates issued by the Disclosure and Barring Service. The changes will remove the requirement for automatic disclosure of youth cautions, reprimands and warnings and remove the 'multiple conviction' rule which requires the automatic disclosure of all convictions where a person has more than one conviction, regardless of the nature of their offence or sentence. This will particularly benefit those with childhood cautions and those with minor offences who pose little risk of reoffending. The changes were prompted by a Supreme Court judgment relating to the current disclosure regime and build on the government's commitment to increase employment for ex-offenders.

[Victims of modern slavery: temporary change to 'move-on period' policy is extended – 7 July 2020](#)

Home Office policy to suspend the move-on requirement for individuals in Victim Care Contract (VCC) accommodation has been extended by a further month to 6 August 2020. The temporary policy was introduced in line with Public Health England guidance in response to COVID-19 on the 6 April 2020.

[Action taken to proscribe the far-right terrorist group Feuerkrieg Division – 13 July](#)

The white supremacist group Feuerkrieg Division is to be added to the list of proscribed terrorist organisations for which being a member or inviting support for the group is a criminal offence.

[Guidance: Community Trigger / ASB Case Review – 7 July 2020](#)

Home Office publish new guidance on the Community Trigger setting out how victims of persistent ASB have the right to request a case review where a local threshold is met

[Guidance: The Police Complaints System: A Guide for under 18s – 3 July 2020](#)

New guidance developed by the IOPC's Youth Panel

[Courts and tribunals tracker list during coronavirus outbreak – Updated 13 July 2020](#)

Tracker of open, staffed and suspended courts during the coronavirus outbreak.

Commissioner's e-Briefing: 13 July 2020

Recent Parliamentary briefings: [Coronavirus: the lockdown laws](#) (8 Jul), [Service Police review](#) (3 Jul)

Recent Parliamentary debates: [Support for Victims of Crime](#) (14 Jul), [Police Officer Numbers](#) (13 Jul), [Police Funding](#) (13 Jul)

2. RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND STATISTICS

[COVID-19 research projects underway](#) – Published 5 July 2020

College of Policing's Policing and Crime Reduction [Research Map](#) publishes details of new COVID-19 related research activity underway which include: Nudging the policing response to rules of social distancing; Experiences and perceptions of frontline officers during the Covid-19 pandemic; An examination of the use of Covid19 special measures by Cleveland Police; Global survey of impact of COVID 19 on policing; Pandemic Policing: public attitudes towards compliance and organisational resilience and; Policing the Pandemic.

[Fixed Penalty Notices issued under COVID-19 regulations](#) – 10 July 2020

NPCC publishes update on the number of Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) issued under the new Coronavirus Restrictions regulations across England and Wales between 27 March and 6 July 2020 at police force level. A total of 16,019 FPNs were recorded by forces across England during this period, ranging from 41 and 59 in Staffordshire and Warwickshire to 1,141 and 1,063 in North Yorkshire and Metropolitan police forces respectively. Only 154 fines were issued over the latest two week period (23 June to 6 July). The vast majority of fines continue to be issued to males in the 18-39 age group. Variances in population composition / density and force policy on enforcing non-compliance should be taken into account when interpreting force level data.

[HMI Probation Academic Insights: Trauma-informed Practice](#) – 7 July 2020

Upcoming statistical publications

- Crime outcomes in England and Wales 2019 to 2020 – 17 July 2020
- Firearm and shotgun certificates issued 2019 to 2020 – 23 July 2020
- Police officer uplift, quarterly update to June 2020 – 30 July 2020
- Police workforce, England and Wales: 31 March 2020 – 30 July 2020

3. AUDITS AND INSPECTIONS

[State of Policing: The Annual Assessment of Policing in England and Wales 2019](#) – 2 July 2020

Sir Tom Winsor's annual assessment of the efficiency and effectiveness of the police service based on inspections conducted between May 2019 and March 2020 further highlights the need to consider the 43 force structure in order to develop an effective and efficient single system of law enforcement and better tackle modern borderless forms of criminality. The report also highlights:-

- High service demand relating to vulnerable people and those experiencing mental ill health
- Increasing availability of encryption technology among less sophisticated offenders
- The need for more intelligent measures of success in policing than officer numbers and crime reduction
- The increasingly prominent role of the College of Policing in establishing common procedures and practices
- The need for greater integration of policing and other public services in reducing the cycle of reoffending

The report makes recommendations for Chief Constables and PCCs to sign up to a 'network code' which would help the service to achieve a better balance between local, regional and national policing interests, and for the Home Office to have a more hands-on approach to creating conditions required to improve police efficiency.

[HMICFRS: Revised programme of policing inspections in 2020/21](#) – 10 July 2020

HMICFRS publish revised policing inspection programme in view of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on policing practice and inspection activity. Proposed thematic inspection topics for 2020/21 include:-

- The policing response to COVID-19: to explore workforce wellbeing and welfare during the pandemic; police preparedness, leadership (local and national) and partnership working; the police response to vulnerable; the effect of COVID-19 on investigation, reporting and custody practices; the effect of COVID-19 on the criminal justice system; and policing practices in enforcing regulations during the pandemic
- Joint inspection of the investigation and prosecution of rape cases, to supplement the wider cross-Government review of how rape cases are handled across the criminal justice system.
- Serious organised crime: completion of regional organised crime units (ROCU) inspection which was paused at the midway point when appreciable activity was suspended in March 2020.
- Follow-up force-level inspections focusing on progress against recommendations in previous PEEL or child protection inspections with force's being selected through HMICFRS's own monitoring processes.
- A new formal PEEL inspection report for every force based on everything known about that force up to the point that HMICFRS make their judgments.
- Ongoing national and joint inspections of child protection, custody suites and criminal justice

[A call for help – Police contact management through call handling and control rooms](#) – 9 July 2020

HMICFRS report based on 2018/19 inspections finds that police control rooms are hampered by inconsistent management systems and often take calls which are neither emergencies nor routine police work. This added demand, which would often be better dealt with by other agencies, can result in calls from vulnerable people going unanswered or assessed. Adopting a more consistent approach could help forces to better meet this demand. The report also notes inconsistencies in how the police respond to vulnerable people; and gaps in the provision of trauma support to call handlers.

[Accommodation & support for adult offenders in the community and release from prison](#) – 8 July 2020

HMI Probation thematic report on accommodation and support for adult offenders in the community and on release from prison in England finds that widespread homelessness and a lack of suitable housing is jeopardising the rehabilitation of offenders. Analysis of 116 people released from prison found that 16% were still homeless after 12 months and 15% were in unsettled housing. 63% of those released into unsettled accommodation were recalled or resentenced to custody within a year, compared to 35% who had settled accommodation. The report makes recommendations for the Ministry of Justice to develop a national cross-government strategy that addresses the housing needs of offenders and set out clear expectations as to how appropriate services for offenders who are homeless should be commissioned in each locality. Systems for tracking and monitoring Duty to Refer cases from probation providers to local authorities should also be implemented with outcomes being published on a regular basis.

Upcoming reports and inspection activity

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| • PEEL spotlight report: The Hard Yards – Police-to-police collaboration | 21 July 2020 |
| • Released Under Investigation: Impact of changes to police bail procedures | July 2020 |
| • National Joint Targeted area inspections of Child Protection Thematic (x8) | July 2020 |
| • PEEL Reports 2020/21 – Tranche 1 | Pending |

4. REVIEWS AND INQUIRIES

[IOPC Announces thematic focus on race discrimination investigations](#) – 10 July 2020

IOPC Director General Michael Lockwood announces a thematic focus on race discrimination over the coming months which will see more cases being investigated where there is an indication that disproportionality impacts BAME communities, such as stop and search and use of force.

[Government Response to the Call for Evidence on Violence & Abuse Towards Shop Staff](#) – 7 July 2020

Home Office response to the call for evidence on violence and abuse towards shop workers sets out the government's plans to work with the National Retail Crime Steering Group (NRCSG) to:-

- Further develop the evidence base regarding the role drugs and alcohol play in these offences
- Develop communications to make clear that violence and abuse of shop workers is not tolerated
- Develop a best practice guide to support staff in reporting and better understand barriers to reporting
- Look at barriers to effective data sharing between businesses and the police
- Look at the effectiveness of s176 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing 2014 Act as part of post-legislative scrutiny, introduce legislation for community penalties that offer appropriate punishment and consider legislating to ensure that agencies providing victims with their entitlements are held to account.

The Crime and Policing Minister will also write to all PCCs and Chief Constables highlighting the issue and:-

- Ask them to continue to work closely with local businesses to understand the scale of the issue locally,
- Develop suitable responses and consider the need to offer victims the chance to use impact statements
- Note that the theft of goods valued up to £200 from a shop should be prosecuted as a criminal offence

[Biometrics Commissioner's annual report 2019](#) – 2 July 2020

Annual report notes that law enforcement compliance with the requirements of the Protection of Freedoms Act (PoFA) 2012 is generally good, but highlights concerns as a result of changes to police bail and the increased use of voluntary attendance as opposed to arrest which have led to a reduction in the taking of biometrics. The Commissioner also highlights a need to improve governance and introduce new legislation, and ensure the police are empowered to safely use new biometrics within a strict legal framework. The report raises particular concerns regarding the legal and governance issues surrounding the MoD's use of the police national fingerprint database, biometric material received from foreign law enforcement bodies and the 298,572 fingerprint records and 1,290 crime scene fingermarks awaiting 'bulk deletion'. The [government response](#) confirms plans to explore how the key issues highlighted by the report can be addressed. In January, the Policing Minister also announced that funding will be made available for a Police Chief Scientific Adviser and investment in science, technology and research to support ongoing police and Home Office trials. A public consultation on the impact of reforms to pre-charge bail is currently underway.

[Migrant victims of domestic abuse review](#) – 3 July 2020

Home Office review undertaken in response to the Joint Committee on the Draft Domestic Abuse Bill highlights how a lack of access to public funds can impact upon the ability of migrant victims of domestic abuse to obtain safe accommodation. The review also highlights a need for a better evidence base before making robust policy decisions about support for this cohort. The government's 'Support for Migrant Victims' pilot will aim to gather the data needed to develop sustainable solutions for all migrant victims of domestic abuse over the long-term.

[Teenagers falling through the gaps](#) – 8 July 2020

Children's Commissioner's report highlighting the increased risks faced by teenagers during the Covid-19 pandemic, such as exposure to domestic violence and addiction in the home, and exposure to exploitation, which have been exacerbated by the closures of schools, youth services, summer schemes, parks and leisure activities and reductions in mental health support. The report calls for urgent action by councils, schools, youth workers and police to focus resources on teenagers at risk of becoming 'invisible' to services or who have gone missing under lockdown. It also highlights the need to prioritise summer schemes which give young people a range of safe, positive, structured activities to take part in, led by trusted adults and role models.

[Independent review of drugs, part 2: terms of reference published](#) – 2 July 2020

Department of Health and Social Care publishes the scope of part 2 Dame Carol Black's review of drugs. This phase will focus on treatment, recovery and prevention and consider what needs to be done to improve the interface between the treatment and criminal justice system in terms of: pathways from conditional cautions; prison treatment; diversion from charge or custody; community sentencing; and through the gate services on release from prison. The review will also consider effective policies and interventions to prevent drug use, reduce drug related harm and mortality and improve treatment and recovery outcomes; the vulnerabilities that can lead people to start taking drugs; what universal interventions can be deployed to help people avoid addiction; what targeted interventions are most successful at preventing and reducing harm, particularly with vulnerable groups and; how can the needs of rough sleepers and the homeless be met. The review has also launched a [call for evidence](#) from key stakeholders on all of these issues.

[Social isolation and the risk of child abuse during and after the coronavirus pandemic](#) – 3 July 2020

NSPCC publishes a report summarising the risks to children's safety due to the conditions created by the COVID-19 pandemic and making recommendations for practical steps such as providing practical support to parents around income maximisation to reduce stresses caused by financial insecurity; addressing digital exclusion, ensuring all children have access to the technology they need to access school, therapeutic support and other services and comprehensive and long-term funding for children's services, with at least £2 billion a year invested in early intervention and therapeutic services.

5. LEGISLATION

Government Bills: Recent Progress

[Domestic Abuse Bill](#) – [First Reading in the House of Lords](#) – 8 July 2020

- [First tranche of the government amendments tabled for Commons Report stage](#) – 3 July 2020
- [Second tranche of the government amendments tabled for Commons Report stage](#) – 3 July 2020
- [Commons Briefing: Progress of the Bill](#) – 3 July 2020

[Prisoners \(Disclosure of Information about Victims\) Bill](#) – [Lords Report stage](#) – 1 July 2020

[Counter-Terrorism and Sentencing Bill](#) – Commons Committee Debate – 7 July 2020

- [Bill documents](#)

Private Member's Bills: Recent Progress

[Police Stop and Search \(Repeal\) Bill](#) – Introduced 24 June 2020

Bill sponsored by Sir Edward Davey to repeal sections 60, 60AA and 60A of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994

- Second reading in Commons – 11 September 2020

[Sexual Offences \(Sports Coaches\) Bill](#) – Introduced 17 June 2020

Bill sponsored by Tracey Crouch to amend the Sexual Offences Act 2003 to make sports coach a position of trust for the purposes of child sex offences

- Second reading in Commons – 11 September 2020

6. CONSULTATIONS

[Public services Committee: lessons from coronavirus](#)

Call for evidence from the first inquiry of the Public Services Committee. The inquiry is examining what the experience of the coronavirus outbreak can tell us about the future role, priorities and shape of public services, with a focus on: integration of services; inequalities in access and outcome; the relationship between local and national services; and the role of civil society during coronavirus.

Open date: 01/06/2020

Close date: 24/07/2020

[HMICFRS's 2020/21 policing inspection programme and framework: revised consultation](#) **NEW**

HMICFRS consultation on planned reforms to the 2020/21 in year inspection programme in view of the changing risks and challenges. The programme will include a thematic inspection of the policing response to COVID-19. It will also include a joint thematic inspection of the investigation and prosecution of rape cases and finalisation of inspection activity relating to regional organised crime units.

Open date: 10/07/2020

Close date: 31/07/2020

[Independent review of drugs: call for evidence, part 2](#) **NEW**

Call for evidence as part of Dame Carol Black's review of drugs seeking views from service users, providers and people in recovery on drug treatment, prevention and recovery and opportunities for improvement. This includes views on what needs to be done to improve the interface between the treatment and criminal justice system in terms of pathways from conditional cautions, diversion from custody and through the gate services.

Open date: 02/07/2020

Close date: 06/08/2020

[What next for the Sentencing Council?](#)

Sentencing Council launch public consultation to determine its future direction and balance its priorities against limited resources. The consultation seeks views in relation to guideline development, analysis and research, increasing public confidence, cost and effectiveness of sentencing and how the Council works.

Open date: 10/03/2020

Close date: 09/09/2020

[Review of employment rights for survivors of domestic abuse](#)

Government call for evidence on current practice and further opportunities to better support survivors of domestic abuse at work. Written submissions submitted to domesticabuse.employmentreview@beis.gov.uk

Open date: 09/06/2020

Close date: 09/09/2020

[Code of Practice for Law Enforcement Data Service \(LEDS\)](#)

College of Policing public consultation seeking views on the Code of Practice for the new Law Enforcement Data Service (LEDS) which aims to ensure that police and other agencies have access to the right information at the right time to better protect the public and to safeguard children and vulnerable people. LEDS is currently under development by the Home Office and will begin an incremental national roll out from the end of 2020.

Open date: 18/06/2020

Close date: 09/09/2020

[Assault Offences](#)

Sentencing Council consultation to identify causes of the unintended impacts of the guidelines since introduced in 2011 and take account of new legislation to increase sentences for Assaults on Emergency Workers.

Open date: 16/04/2020

Close date: 15/09/2020