

Police and Crime Commissioner's Horizon Scanning Briefing

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1. POLICY AND PRACTICE

[Apply for funding: Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Interventions](#) – 18 August 2020

Home Office is seeking to award grant up to £6.5m funding to PCCs to support the adoption of domestic abuse perpetrator focussed programmes in their area, comprising £1.1m to support implementation of the [Drive programme](#), £5m for bids of between £200,000 and maximum of £1,000,000 to support implementation of other perpetrator interventions and £0.4m for research on perpetrators of domestic abuse. Applications should be made via the government's contract finder. The deadline for applications is 29 September 2020.

[Home Secretary confirms plans for the creation of a police covenant](#) – 8 September 2020

Home Secretary [confirms](#) plans to implement a new police covenant as government's consultation outcome is published. 90% of respondents expressed support for the proposals. The government will enshrine a police covenant in law, creating a new statutory duty for supporting police wellbeing and a requirement on the Home Secretary to report annually on progress. The covenant will apply to all those working within or retired from policing roles, whether paid or as a volunteer. The initial focus will be on physical protection, health and wellbeing, as well as support for families.

[Home Office approves new Taser model](#) – 24 August 2020

[Taser 7](#) is approved for use by trained police officers. The model is more accurate and compact than previous models and will reduce costs for forces by replacing disposable batteries with rechargeable ones. Forces will be required to complete an additional record every time a Taser 7 device is used, to monitor the effects and performance of the device.

[Temporary measures taken to extend custody time limits](#) – 6 September 2020

Ministry of Justice announces temporary legislation to increase the Custody Time Limit from 182 days to 238 days for dangerous offenders as part of measures to better protect the public while courts recover from the Coronavirus pandemic. The Lord Chancellor also announced an £80m plan to [boost capacity across criminal courts](#) with 1,600 new staff to support the recovery, more temporary 'Nightingale Courts', further rollout of technology and changes to the physical set-up of courtrooms to minimise risk (e.g. plexiglass barriers).

[Three new benzodiazepines to become Class C drugs](#) – 8 September 2020

Flualprazolam, flunitrazolam and norfludiazepam to be controlled as Class C drugs under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and placed in Schedule 1 to the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001, following a recommendation from the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD).

[Home Secretary speech at the Police Superintendents' Association conference](#) – 8 September 2020

Commissioner's e-Briefing: 14 September 2020

New super-complaints relating to police forces in England and Wales

- [Centre for Women's Justice](#) complaint regarding the way policing systems operate where police officers and police staff are accused of domestic abuse (8 September 2020): IOPC and the College of Policing have assessed the super-complaint as being eligible to be investigated.
- [Tees Valley Inclusion Project](#) complaint regarding the police response to BAME victims of sexual abuse (7 August 2020): Currently being assessed for eligibility by the College of Policing and IOPC.

Call for innovation: Technology to stop armed or violent offenders – 20 August 2020

The Defence and Security Accelerator launches an innovation competition for new capabilities for police and law enforcement agencies to stop armed or violent offenders with the minimal use of force. An initial £500,000 funding is available for innovators with up to £500,000 additional funding for a later phase. The [competition](#) closes for submissions on 15 October 2020.

Updated National ANPR standards – 2 September 2020

Home Office publish updated standards for policing and law enforcement and National standards for compliance and audit of law enforcement ANPR.

Conflict management guidelines – 2 September 2020

College of Policing publish new guidelines for police on how to resolve conflict in everyday encounters with the public without using force, safer resolution, reducing the risks of assault to officers and staff, improving public safety and how to determine when force should be used as the safest response.

Guidance: Vulnerability in childhood: a public health informed approach – 2 September 2020

Public Health England reports for local government and partner agencies to inform co-ordinated approaches to reduce vulnerability and adversity in childhood. A narrative report about improving health outcomes for vulnerable children and young people has been developed for each upper-tier local authority alongside [local authority level data](#) to support decision-making and prioritisation.

Strengthening probation, building confidence - Probation Change Monthly Bulletin – 27 August 2020

IOPC Monthly roundup: July 2020 – Published 25 August 2020

Recent Parliamentary briefings: [Coronavirus: the lockdown laws](#) (4 Sep), [Police complaints and discipline](#) (4 Sep), [Police service strength](#) (3 Sep), [Coronavirus: A ban on evictions and help for rough sleepers](#) (31 Aug), [Prisoners' voting rights: developments since May 2015](#) (18 Aug)

Recent Parliamentary debates: [Functions of the Investigatory Powers Commissioner](#) (9 Sep),

2. RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND STATISTICS

Policing in England and Wales: Future Operating Environment 2040 – 11 August 2020

College of Policing publishes a 'futures' report describing how policing's operating environment might change over the next 20 years. The report aims to encourage debate on how policing might better prepare for a range of possible future outcomes and contains practical resources which police forces can use to develop plans, strategies and capabilities in preparing for potential future challenges and opportunities. The report identifies ten trend that are likely to drive and define the character of policing's operating environment through to 2040. These comprise of: rising inequality and social fragmentation; an expanding and unregulated information space; a changing trust landscape; technological change and convergence; harnessing artificial intelligence; workforce automation; a larger, older and more diverse population; economic transitions; growing influence of non-state actors and; climate change, environmental decline and competition for resources. The College of Policing will be holding a number of virtual events over the coming months to help police forces to use these resources in their own strategic planning.

[Coronavirus and crime in England and Wales](#) – Published 26 August 2020

Office for National Statistics publication exploring crime in England and Wales during the strict coronavirus national lockdown during April and May 2020. Data was collected via a new Telephone-operated Crime Survey for England and Wales (TCSEW) during the period in which face-to-face interviewing was suspended. Findings from the survey indicate that there was a significant (-32%) reduction in total crime excluding fraud and computer misuse during April and May 2020 compared with a two-month average pre-lockdown. The most significant reductions were seen in relation to theft offences (-46%), particularly domestic burglary and other theft of personal property. Police recorded crime levels were much lower than respective months in 2019 during the strict lockdown period (-20% to -25%). Drug offences were a notable exception to this trend, with police recorded levels rising by 22% in April 2020 and 44% in May 2020. This is likely to reflect an increase in proactive police activity in pursuing these crimes during lockdown. Findings in relation to domestic abuse will be published as part of the ONS [annual domestic abuse publication](#) in November 2020.

8% of parents of 10 to 15 year olds surveyed as part of the TCSEW reported that their child had encountered one or more negative online experiences in the last month, however 28% felt that their child was more at risk of having a negative online experience since the virus outbreak, while 69% felt that there had been no change.

The TCSEW also found that while 56% of residents perceived crime to have fallen since the virus outbreak, the majority of adults reported no change in their level of worry about crime. While 51% of adults reported that they had noticed others breaching virus restrictions in their local area during lockdown, only 7% reported the breach to the police, with the majority feeling that the incident was either too trivial (36%) or that there was nothing the police could have done (10%). Public perceptions of the police during this period were largely positive, with 69% feeling that the police were doing a good or excellent job and 91% feeling satisfied with the way local police were responding to the outbreak.

[Rural Crime Survey 2020](#) – Published 2 September 2020

Countryside Alliance publish latest findings from the Rural Crime Survey highlighting that of the 8,000 people surveyed, 38% had experienced a crime over the previous year, with the most common rural offences being fly-tipping, theft of agricultural machinery, trespass, theft from outbuildings, wildlife crime and animal rights activism. Around 25% of these crimes did not go in to be reported to the police, while around 47% of those surveyed felt that the police did not take rural crime seriously. Data available at police force level.

[How safe are our children? 2020](#) – Published 25 August 2020

Annual report from the NSPCC analysing data relating to the current child protection landscape. The 2020 report focuses on statistics relating to abuse perpetrated against adolescents and an overview of emerging data on the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the safety of all children and young people

[The impact of the coronavirus pandemic on child welfare: physical abuse](#) – 28 August 2020

NSPCC briefing highlights the impact of physical abuse on children and young people during the coronavirus pandemic based on insight from NSPCC helpline contacts and Childline counselling sessions.

[Nature of crime data tables from the Crime Survey for E&W: 2019/20](#) – Published 3 September 2020

[Property crime data tables from the Crime Survey for E&W: 2019/20](#) – Published 3 September 2020

[Vehicle speed compliance statistics for Great Britain: 2019](#) – Published 8 September 2020

DfT data release showing stable long-term trends in vehicle speed compliance across road and vehicle classes.

[Reported road casualties involving illegal alcohol levels: 2018](#) – Published 27 August 2020

DfT data release showing no significant change (-10) in road fatalities where at least one driver or rider was over the drink-drive limit in 2018.

[Fire prevention and protection statistics 2019/20](#) – Published 10 September 2020

[Racial bias is pulling black young adults into an avoidable cycle of crisis and crime](#) – 5 August 2020

Revolving Doors Agency analysis of government data that showing that Black young adults (18-24) are significantly more likely to be brought into the criminal justice system for relatively low-level and non-violent offences, such as theft or minor drug offences and are twice as likely to receive a caution, 8.4 times more likely to receive a conviction and 1.5 times more likely to be sent to prison than their white counterparts. The report also finds that despite significant reductions in the overall number young adults going through the criminal justice system over the last 10 years, the proportion of Black young adults in the system has increased while the proportion of Black adults that are convicted of 16 or more offences doubled between 2000 and 2016. The government has not explained why these racial disparities exists.

[Enhancing the Criminal Court Response to Substance Misuse](#) – 10 August 2020

Evidence and Practice briefing from the Centre for Justice Innovation which aims to support practitioners seeking to enhance their court-based response to substance misuse. The briefing considers the evidence base on what works to reduce reoffending for individuals coming to court with substance misuse issues and provides a snapshot of the innovative 'problem-solving' court practice.

[Routes to Recovery: Rebuilding the CJS after the pandemic](#) – 10 September 2020

Criminal Justice Alliance report highlights challenges and good practice during COVID-19 across policing, courts, prisons, probation and resettlement, victims' services, mental health and drug and alcohol services. The report also provides recommendations for policy makers, highlighting how they can build a better criminal justice system following the pandemic.

[Responding Restoratively to COVID-19](#) – 15 August 2020

Criminal Justice Alliance report considers how restorative approaches have provided a unique and effective response to the unprecedented challenges caused by COVID-19 and how restorative approaches could be used to address harms caused by the pandemic, build a better CJS and create a safer and more cohesive and resilient society.

[Criminal justice system statistics quarterly: March 2020](#) – Published 20 August 2020

Latest Ministry of Justice statistics highlight a further (2%) reduction in individuals formally dealt with by the criminal justice system (excluding cautions) in 2019/20, continuing the downward trend seen since 2015. The number of defendants prosecuted at magistrates' courts fell by 3% and the number of defendants remanded on bail has decreased in the latest year by 11% (police), 6% (magistrates' court) and 15% (Crown Court). The average custodial sentence length, however, has increased to the highest in a decade at 19.6 months.

[Knife and offensive weapon sentencing statistics 2019/20](#) – Published 10 September 2020

The number of knife and offensive weapon offences dealt with by the Criminal Justice System (CJS) had been increasing since 2014 but has stabilised in the latest year at around 21,500. The proportion of offenders receiving an immediate custodial sentence for knife and offensive weapon offences has remained stable for the last three years (38%), having previously risen from 23% in 2009/10. The average length of the custodial sentences received has increased from 6.5 months to 8.1 months over the last decade.

Upcoming statistical publications

- Football-related arrests and banning orders: 2019 to 2020 season – 24 September 2020
- Operation of police powers under the Terrorism Act 2000 to June 2020 – September 2020
- Detailed analysis of fires attended by FRS 2019/20 – 1 October 2020
- Hate crime, England and Wales, 2019 to 2020 – 13 October 2020
- Police powers and procedures, England and Wales, 2019/20 – 22 October 2020
- Crime and crime outcomes in England and Wales to June 2020 – 15 October 2020
- Police officer uplift, quarterly update to September 2020 – October 2020

3. AUDITS AND INSPECTIONS

Joint Criminal Justice inspection of the CJ response to COVID-19 – Fieldwork underway

The thematic inspection will assess how policing is responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, what is working well and how the sector is dealing with the problems it faces. All 43 forces will be inspected through a COVID-19 specific document review, self-assessment and data collection and more in-depth inspections will be undertaken involving 19 selected forces. The report will be used to highlight good practice, identify areas for improvement and make national recommendations. No graded judgments will be issued.

[The quality of pre-sentence information and advice provided to courts](#) – Published 20 August 2020

HMI Probation report finds that pre-sentence information and advice was judged to be sufficiently analytical and personalised to the service user in seven in ten cases. Positive judgements ranged from 66% for considering the impact of the offence(s) on known/identifiable victims to 87% for the service user being meaningfully involved. The quality of pre-sentence information and advice varied by type of report, however almost all of the standard delivery reports were judged to be sufficiently analytical and personalised compared to around two in three of the oral reports. Reports were less likely to be judged sufficiently analytical and personalised for those with a high likelihood of reoffending. These service users tend to have multiple and complex needs, requiring careful consideration to be given to the most appropriate interventions and how they can be integrated into a coherent and holistic programme of work.

Upcoming reports and inspection activity

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| • Released Under Investigation: Impact of changes to police bail procedures | Pending |
| • PEEL Reports 2020/21 – Tranche 1 | Pending |
| • PEEL Reports 2019/20 – Tranche 2 | Pending |
| • Fire and Rescue Service inspection (third tranche) | December 2020 |
| • HMICFRS: Independent study of police air support | 2020 |
| • HMICFRS: Older people in the criminal justice system | 2020 |
| • HMICFRS: Use of PNC by non-police organisations (Home Office commission) | 2020 |
| • HMICFRS: Police response to domestic abuse (annual review) | 2020 |
| • National Joint Targeted area inspections of Child Protection Thematic | 2020 |
| • Joint CJS Inspection of the Police, FRS and CJS response to COVID-19 | Early 2021 |
| • HMICFRS State of Fire and Rescue Services in England 2020 | January 2021 |
| • Findings from survey of public perceptions of the fire and rescue service | January 2021 |
| • PEEL Reports 2020/21 – Tranche 3 | January 2021 |
| • HMIC: Crime data integrity (individual force reports) | Ongoing |
| • HMI Prisons: Joint inspection of Police Custody Arrangements | Ongoing |
| • HMICFRS: Police Effectiveness - Child Protection (x6) | Ongoing |
| • HMI Probation: Joint inspection of Youth Offending Teams | Ongoing |

4. REVIEWS AND INQUIRIES

[Violence Reduction Unit evaluation 2019/20](#) – Published 21 August 2020

Home Office impact feasibility study and process evaluation of the first year of Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) funding finds that VRUs have made good progress in laying a foundation for an evidence-based and targeted response to serious violence. VRUs commissioned a range of interventions, reaching over 100,000 individuals across different risk groups. Work on completing Strategic Needs Assessments has helped to enhance our understanding of serious violence. Challenges so far have included accessing the range of data to inform their work and the need for sustained funding. The study concluded that impact of VRUs is likely to be gradual and accumulate over time with some early signs of impact being observed 12-18 months after VRUs are set up and operational. Further to this report, the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners, in collaboration with the Home Office, have published '[Violence Reduction Units In Focus](#)' providing an overview of the 18 current Home Office funded Violence Reduction Units and some of their achievements to date.

[National DNA Database biennial report, 2018 to 2020](#) – 2 September 2020

Home Office publish biennial report which includes information on the National Fingerprint Database policing collections. This includes numbers of records retained on the National DNA Database, numbers of matches generated on the databases in the two years, how the databases support the detection of crime, real life examples of outcomes, recent and forthcoming technological developments and a summary of the record deletion process for requesting early deletion.

5. LEGISLATION

Government Bills

[Sentencing Bill](#) – Commons Second Reading - TBA

Received first reading in Commons on 9 September 2020. Bill to change the automatic release point from halfway to the two-thirds point for adult offenders serving sentences of four years or more for serious violent or sexual offences; align how life tariffs are calculated with the extended release points for dangerous offenders

[Domestic Abuse Bill](#) – Lords Second reading - TBA

Government Bill to raise awareness and understanding of the impact of domestic abuse on victims and families, improve the effectiveness of the justice system in providing protection for victims and bringing perpetrators to justice, and strengthen support for victims of abuse across statutory agencies.

[Prisoners \(Disclosure of Information about Victims\) Bill](#) – Ping Pong – TBA

Received [third reading in Lords](#) on 8 September 2020. Bill to require Parole Board to take account of failure by prisoners serving sentence for unlawful killing or for taking or making an indecent image of a child to disclose information about the victim

[Counter-Terrorism and Sentencing Bill](#) – Lords Second reading – 21 September 2020

[Lords briefing](#) published on 2 September 2020. Government Bill to make provision about the sentencing of offenders convicted of terrorism offences. This aims to ensure that the most serious and dangerous terrorist offenders receive longer sentences and those that receive extended determinate sentences are no longer eligible for early release. A new Serious Terrorism Sentence will be introduced.

[Fire Safety Bill](#) – Second reading in Lords - TBA

Received [first reading in the Lords](#) on 8 September 2020. Government bill to amend the Fire Safety Order 2005 to clarify that the responsible person or duty-holder for multi-occupied, residential buildings must manage and reduce the risk of fire for the structure and external walls of the building

[Air Traffic Management and Unmanned Aircraft Bill](#) – Lords Report Stage - TBA

Government Bill includes further provisions to tackle unlawful use of drones including new powers for police and prison authorities to tackle the unlawful use of unmanned aircraft (UA), require a person to land UA and enhanced stop and search powers when UA-related offences are suspected.

[Extradition \(Provisional Arrest\) Bill](#) – Ping Pong Stage - TBA

[Report Stage in Commons](#) held on 8 September 2020. Government Bill 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

[Serious Violence Bill](#) – Second reading - TBA

Government 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](#) – Second reading - TBA

Government 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.

Private Member's Bills – Upcoming activity

[Police Stop and Search \(Repeal\) Bill](#) – Second reading in Commons – 11 September 2020

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

[Sexual Offences \(Sports Coaches\) Bill](#) – Second reading in Commons – 11 September 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

[Foreign Nationals \(Offender and Prisoner Removal\) Bill](#) – Second Reading in Commons – 25 Sept 2020

Bill sponsored by Sir Christopher Chope to improve the justice system's response to foreign national offenders and increase maximum penalty for those who return to the UK in breach of a deportation order

[Assaults on Retail Workers \(Offences\) Bill](#) - Second reading in Commons – 25 September 2020

Bill sponsored by Alex Norris introduced under the Ten Minute Rule. Aims to make certain offences aggravated when perpetrated against a retail worker in the course of their employment.

[Forensic Science Regulator and Biometrics Strategy Bill](#) - Second reading in Commons – 25 Sept 2020

Bill sponsored by Darren Jones to make provision for the appointment of the Forensic Science Regulator; regulation of forensic science and requiring the Secretary of State to publish an annual strategy

[Death by Dangerous Driving \(Sentencing\) Bill](#) – Second Reading in Commons – 16 Oct 2020

Bill sponsored by Theresa May to increase the maximum sentence for causing death by dangerous driving to life imprisonment. Introduced under the Ten Minute Rule Motion.

[Prisons \(Substance Testing\) Bill](#) - Second reading in Commons – 16 October 2020

Bill sponsored by Dame Cheryl Gillan to make provision about substance testing in prisons and similar institutions

6. CONSULTATIONS

Assault Offences

Sentencing Council consultation to inform a review of the Assault Definitive Guideline and identify the 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

Draft guidelines for effective supervision

College of Policing consultation on draft guidelines for how the police service can best support the wellbeing, development and performance of officers, staff and volunteers. Seeking views from stakeholders across policing, including current or potential supervisors at all levels and those involved in their development.

Open date: 25/08/2020

Close date: 30/09/2020

Strengthening the Independent Scrutiny Bodies through Legislation

Ministry of Justice consultation exploring options to strengthen the Arm's Length Bodies' ability to scrutinise and improve accountability within the CJS, particularly in relation to prisons, probation and custodial settings.

Open date: 19/08/2020

Close date: 30/09/2020

Roads policing review: future methods to improve safety and reduce casualties

DfT consultation to identify which current methods are most effective and to how the capability and capacity of enforcement services can be enhanced to improve safety and reduce future casualties on roads. The review will explore how intelligence to target dangerous behaviours and technology to assist in enforcing road traffic law can be better used

Open date: 13/07/2020

Close date: 05/10/2020

Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme Review 2020

Ministry of Justice consultation to inform a review of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme which compensates victims of violent crime, including physical and sexual assault and domestic terrorist attacks to support their coping and recovery. The Scheme was last reviewed in 2012.

Open date: 16/07/2020

Close date: 09/10/2020