

Police and Crime Commissioner's Horizon Scanning Briefing

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

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1. POLICY AND PRACTICE

[£76 million extra funding to support most vulnerable in society during pandemic – 2-14 May 2020](#)

Communities Secretary announces details of the £76 million emergency package of support for the most vulnerable people in society during the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes:-

- £10 million [Domestic abuse safe accommodation emergency support fund](#) (Ministry for Housing, CLG) for charities supporting victims of abuse and their children. Funding can be used to enable existing refuge, safe accommodation and specialist support services remain open or to create additional capacity
- £6 million [Homelessness response fund](#) (Ministry for Housing, CLG) for frontline charities that are keeping vulnerable homeless people safe during the pandemic. This follows the appointment of Dame Louise Casey to lead a new government taskforce on the response to rough sleeping during the coronavirus pandemic and ensure rough sleepers can move into long-term, safe accommodation once the immediate crisis is over
- £26.4 million Department for Education funding to support and safeguard vulnerable children, including care leavers and children in the early years during the pandemic
- £7.8 million Home Office emergency support funding for charities helping vulnerable children impacted by the pandemic, including children at risk of sexual abuse and criminal exploitation
- £3.8 million Home Office funding for community-based domestic abuse services and modern slavery services and for added support for modern slavery charities impacted by the pandemic.
- £25 million Ministry of Justice funding to help victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence in the community access support services during the pandemic, in addition to a £3 million per annum investment in Independent Sexual Violence Advisers until 2022

In order to ensure funding can be shared as quickly as possible, bidding processes have been streamlined. In addition to the emergency funding, the government also set out plans to bring forward legislation to ensure those fleeing domestic abuse are considered as 'priority need' for settled housing by local authorities.

[£6.5m COVID-19 Youth Endowment Fund launched - 6 May 2020](#)

The Youth Endowment Fund commits £6.5m in new grants to find the best ways to reach and support the "increasingly invisible" vulnerable children at risk of youth violence during the current COVID-19 restrictions. Organisations working with young people (aged 10-14) at risk of youth violence will be able to apply for funding of £25,000 and over. Activities could include digital and virtual programmes; face-to-face work in schools, including activities to help vulnerable young people return to school; and detached youth work. Half of the total funding available will be reserved for charities and social enterprises.

[£2.4 million funding for community services supporting women at risk of offending](#) – 5 May 2020

Ministry of Justice announce extra £2.5 million funding for community services supporting women at risk of offending, including services focusing on domestic abuse support, drug and alcohol rehabilitation or work with a particular groups. Funding should be used to help cover core costs such as wages, rent and bills. Directors of each regional probation area will evaluate bids and make recommendations to the Ministry of Justice. Grant application details will be published in due course. The Government also announced plans to open the first Residential Women's Centre in Wales - an alternative to custody that is focused on rehabilitation and tackling the root causes of offending among women convicted of low-level crime.

[Health Protection \(Coronavirus, Restrictions\) \(Amendment\) \(No 2\) Regulations 2020](#) – 13 May 2020

Amendments to the Coronavirus Restrictions Regulations come into force, increasing fines for the first violation offence from £60 to £100 and extending the list of reasonable excuses for leaving the home to:-

- Visiting or collecting goods from a business permitted to remain open – which, in addition to 'click and collect' businesses, now includes garden centres, waste and recycling centres and outdoor sports courts;
- Visiting public open spaces alone, with members of their household or with one member of another household for recreation to promote their physical, mental or emotional wellbeing
- Taking part in activity associated with the sale or letting of residential property, including visiting estate or letting agents, attending house viewings or preparing a house for a property move

[College of Policing guidance](#) stresses that officers should continue to use their discretion to determine what is reasonable and continue to apply the 4 step escalation principles of engage, explain, encourage and enforce.

[Lord Chancellor statement on the resumption of jury trials](#) – 11 May 2020

Lord Chancellor announces approval from Public Health England for the resumption of a limited number of jury trials provided they are conducted safely and observing social distancing rules. The steps have been taken to help address a crown court backlog of well over 37,000 cases.

[LGA Guidance and Resources: Tackling domestic abuse during the COVID-19 pandemic](#) – 11 May 2020

Document providing resources and guidance on how councils can provide help and support to domestic abuse victims during the COVID-19 pandemic and tackle perpetrators' abusive behaviour.

[Countering online child sexual exploitation and abuse during the COVID-19 pandemic](#) – 8 May 2020

Minister of State for Security letter to technology sector calling for support, protective measures and the sharing of key trends and insights to help keep children safe online in this rapidly changing environment.

[Suspicious Activity Reporting \(SAR\): UKFIB COVID-19 Communications Briefing](#) – 13 May 2020

NCA briefing sets out observations from the UKFIU on how individuals are exploiting the COVID-19 outbreak to facilitate existing fraud methodologies and account for money movements that may suggest money laundering.

[PCCs: Protecting the vulnerable during the COVID-19 crisis](#) – 14 May 2020

APCC publication setting out 34 case studies which provide a snapshot of the work PCCs are doing to support domestic abuse victims, protect elderly people at risk from fraud and promote online safety among children.

[Legal Aid, Sentencing & Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 \(Com. 14\) Order 2020](#) – 19 May 2020

S76 comes into force enabling Alcohol Abstinence and Monitoring Requirements to be imposed as a sentencing option for alcohol related offending where a community order or suspended sentence order is given

Recent Parliamentary briefings: [Coronavirus: the lockdown laws](#) (15 May), [Coronavirus: FAQs on postponed elections](#) (6 May), [Policing the coronavirus lockdown](#) (11 May)

Recent Parliamentary debates: [Covid-19: Vulnerable People](#) (12 May), [Policing: Covid-19 Guidance and Legislation](#) (5 May)

2. RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND STATISTICS

[Young Adult Advisors on Criminal Justice](#) – 4 May 2020

Leaders Unlocked publish report capturing the views and experiences of young adults with first-hand experience of the criminal justice system, based on peer-led engagement with over 500 young adults in prisons, YOTs and community organisations. The report makes a series of recommendations in relation to:-

- **Racial Disproportionality** – improving opportunities for BAME role models and mentoring; ensuring ethnic diversity within the CJ workforce, introducing cultural awareness training for staff in prisons, improving training in unconscious bias and building stronger relationships between officers and young BAME adults
- **Sentencing Young Adults** – developing information resources for young adults to access, improving availability of support services during arrest and sentencing, improving sentencing plans and pre-sentence reports, conducting more research on recall and considering more community alternatives.
- **The Care System** – rethink police interventions, ensure trauma-informed practice, make better use of information among agencies supporting young people, invest in YOT-style support services to prevent young people from coming into contact with the CJS and provide longer term support for care leavers
- **Mental Health and the Criminal Justice System** – increasing the level of external / VCS tailored support services in prison, strengthening mechanisms that enable young adults in prison to maintain relationships with friends and family, increase time out of cells and improve staff training on the response to mental health
- **Employment and Life after Prison** – Development of tailored support plans in prison, introducing a wider range of courses to teach vital skills and support career goals, offering apprenticeships as part of a 'New Deal', mentoring from adults with experience of the CJS on release and co-designing resettlement packs.

Leaders Unlocked plan to extend this work over the next two years, with a focus on co-designing solutions to some of the challenges identified and undertaking further peer research where existing evidence is lacking.

[Fixed Penalty Notices issued under COVID-19 regulations](#) – 30 April 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 11 May 2020 at police force level. A total of 13,445 FPNs were recorded by forces across England during this period, ranging from 31 and 52 in Warwickshire and Staffordshire to 866 and 906 in Thames Valley and Metropolitan police forces respectively. Variances in population composition / density and force policy on enforcing non-compliance should be taken into account when interpreting these figures.

[Fire and rescue incident statistics: England 2019](#) – 14 May 2020

Home Office quarterly statistical publication highlighting that FRSs attended 555,759 incidents in the year to December 2019 marking a 4% decrease on the previous year. Of the incidents attended 157,156 were fires (down 12% on the previous year) with secondary fires falling by 16% on account of a comparatively hot and dry summer in 2018. There were 25 fewer fire-related fatalities in 2019 (237) than in 2018 (262). [Data at FRS level](#)

[Constituency data: Magistrates' court closures](#) - 13 May 2020

Commons Library publish maps and data setting out which courts which have closed or remained open by constituency and region, and the net revenue generated from sold courts.

[HMCTS management information: March 2020](#) – Published 14 May 2020

Management information used by HMCTS for understanding workload volumes and timeliness at a national level between March 2019 and March 2020

[Justice responses to COVID-19 around the world](#) – Updated 11 May 2020

Centre for Justice Innovation weekly tracker of the justice system response to the COVID-19 outbreak across different regions of the world. The tracker details contrasting approaches to areas of justice including the criminal courts, community sentences and community supervision and releases from prison. Updated weekly.

[Prison visits – 6 May 2020](#)

New systematic review added to the College of Policing's 'What Works' Crime Reduction Toolkit concludes that the overall evidence suggests that prison visits can and do lead to reductions in crime by providing prisoners with an opportunity to preserve or develop connections with family, friends, community and social support networks. Prison visits had an overall mean effect of reducing new convictions by 28%, reimprisonment by 4%, and multiple measures of reoffending by 56%. Prison visits proved most successful up to a year after the intervention. Reductions in reoffending were observed across the male and mixed-gender sample groups, but the authors advise caution in interpreting the evidence on female-only groups due to the small samples.

[The Chromis programme: Exploratory research – 7 May 2020](#)

Ministry of Justice analytical paper considers the effectiveness of Chromis, Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service's accredited prison programme for reducing violence among adults whose combination of psychopathic traits disrupts their ability to engage in treatment and change. The study, based on a small sample of men who had completed treatment and progressed from the prison unit, found promising results including changes in recorded incidents of physical aggression, self-reports of anger, adjudications and positive changes in violence risk assessment outcomes. Case study individuals reported that they were better able to delay action; thinking of consequences and considering alternatives. Developments in relationships with staff, particularly uniform staff also seemed important to supporting improved institutional behaviour for individuals.

[Disclosure and Barring Service performance to March 2020 - Published 11 May 2020](#)

Quarterly summary of how disclosure units have performed against published service standards, including [disclosure progress](#), [police force performance statistics](#), [Police Disclosure Unit performance against SLAs](#), [barring cases and appeals](#) and [dispute volumes and response times](#)

Upcoming publications

- National Referral Mechanism statistics UK, January to March 2020 - 4 June 2020
- Statistics on firearm and shotgun certificates, 2019/21 – June 2020
- Operation of police powers under the Terrorism Act 2000, 2019/20 – June 2020
- Asset recovery statistical bulletin: financial years ending 2015 to 2020 – 10 September 2020

Home Office publishes Privacy Notice information for data sets held – 5-12 May 2020

Includes guidance concerning [policing research](#), the [Annual Data Requirement](#) and [Forced Marriage Unit](#)

3. AUDITS AND INSPECTIONS

[Young offender institutions holding children – 7 May 2020](#)

HMI Prisons report on short scrutiny visits to Cookham Wood, Parc and Wetherby young offender institutions which collectively hold around 400 children aged 15-17 years old and 18-year-olds who are coming to the end of their sentence or awaiting a transfer to the adult estate. The report highlights swift action taken by managers in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which included significant regime restrictions, allocating children to family groups of three or four and implementing social distancing measures. These measures were generally well implemented across all establishments visited. Restrictions inevitably dramatically reduced the amount of time children spent out of their cells interacting with others and variation between establishments was a concern. All three sites were calm and well ordered, however, the potential for the restrictions to have a negative impact on children's well-being remained. Managers had acted quickly to give children additional pin phone credit but had been slow to implement video calling. While most aspects of health care, including governance, partnership working and management oversight were effective, the report highlights limited availability of specialist secondary mental health services for those who needed them. Crucially, cases of COVID-19 have been contained effectively with little impact on the wider establishments.

[Serious Further Offences \(SFO\) investigation and review process – 14 May 2020](#)

HMI Probation thematic inspection considers procedures for managing Serious Further Offences (SFOs) - the mandatory notification and review process for repeat violent or sexual offenders subject of probation supervision - which were revised in 2018. Inspectors found that adherence to operational guidance has frequently resulted in long, dense reviews of practice that are difficult for victims and family members to digest, while the number of victims and family members requesting access to reviews remains low. There has been no analysis of the reasons for this, or of whether the process for notifying victims and family members of their entitlement to a review is effective. Inspectors note, however, that the revised process has increased transparency, with providers being directed to share copies of the review with victims and family members if requested. The inspectorate notes circumstances in which this has caused concern in relation to self-harm and risk of serious harm and work is underway to rectify this. Probation providers were found to appropriately prioritise the completion of SFO reviews and the quality of SFO reviews was found to be consistent and in accordance with practice standards. Overall, SFO reviews were strong in their analysis of assessment, sentence planning and implementation but weaker in their consideration of multi-agency management. Inspectors noted that SFO reviews focus solely on probation practice, and external agencies such as the police and mental health services are not directly involved in the review. This is inconsistent with statutory reviews such as DHRs and CSPRs and may result in opportunities for learning and better coordination to be missed. The report notes that a statutory underpinning, multi-agency focus and independence in undertaking, overseeing or quality assuring the SFO process could strengthen public confidence in the process.

4. REVIEWS AND INQUIRIES

[Biometrics and Forensics Ethics Group: annual report 2018 – 5 May 2020](#)

The Minister for Crime and Policing announces publication of the second annual report of the group providing Ministers with independent advice on matters relating to data ethics and ethical issues in forensic science and biometrics. The group makes four recommendations covering the testing and use of live facial recognition technologies by police forces; the design and implementation of data privacy impact assessments with the Home Office; and the use of familial DNA analysis results in assessing the value of genetic genealogy techniques for law enforcement. The group also continues to recommend a review of biometric retention and deletion schedules, particularly regarding custody images.

[Home Affairs Committee \(sub\) inquiry: Online Harms – Evidence session held 13 May 2020](#)

Session as part of the [into the broader Home Office preparedness for Covid-19 Inquiry](#) examines the Government's wider strategy on online harms, including proposals for a new statutory duty of care on online companies overseen by an independent regulator. The Committee has published a [call for evidence](#) and invites submissions by Thursday 21 May.

[Care and health needs of an ageing prison population – 12 May 2020](#)

Commons Select Committee examines how the government protects prisoners from Covid-19, with particular reference to shielding prisoners and older inmates. The enquiry is part of a wider investigation which has become more urgent on account of the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Family Drug and Alcohol Courts under Covid-19: A Practice Briefing – 6 May 2020](#)

Centre for Justice Innovation briefing examines how the nine Family Drug and Alcohol Courts across England are adapting to delivery during the COVID-19 pandemic. It highlights the practical challenges facing practitioners, judges and families, and specific solutions that have been developed in response to the crisis.

5. LEGISLATION

Government Bills

[Prisoners \(Disclosure of Information about Victims\) Bill](#) – Committee stage in Lords – 20 May 2020

Government Bill to require the 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. Announced as part of the [Queen's speech](#) [Commons briefing](#)

- [Domestic Abuse Bill](#) – Commons Committee stage - TBA [Commons Briefing](#)
- [Sentencing \(Pre-consolidation Amendments\) Bill](#) – Public Bill Committee postponed [Lords Briefing](#)
- [Fire Safety Bill](#) – Committee stage in the Commons – TBA [Commons Briefing](#)
- [Sentencing Bill](#) – Second reading in the Lords – TBA
- [Air Traffic Management and Unmanned Aircraft Bill](#) – Second reading in the Lords – TBA
- [Extradition \(Provisional Arrest\) Bill](#) – Third reading in the Lords - TBA
- [Counter-Terrorism \(Sentencing and Release\) Bill](#) - Second reading – TBA
- [Serious Violence Bill](#) – Second reading - TBA
- [Police Powers and Protections Bill](#) – Second reading - TBA
- [Divorce, Dissolution and Separation Bill](#) – Second Reading in Lords - TBA

Private Member's Bills: Upcoming Debates

[Foreign Nationals \(Offender and Prisoner Removal\) Bill](#) – Second Reading in Commons – 15 May 2020

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

[Prisons \(Substance Testing\) Bill](#) - Second reading in Commons – 12 June 2020

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

[Victims of Abuse \(Support\) Bill](#) – Second reading in Commons – 26 June 2020

Bill sponsored by Munira Wilson to establish a right to specialist sexual violence and abuse support services for victims of sexual, violent and domestic abuse; and for connected purposes.

[Assaults on Retail Workers \(Offences\) Bill](#) - Second reading in Commons – 26 June 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 – 26 June 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

[Protest \(Abortion Clinics\) Bill](#) – Second reading in Commons – 10 July 2020

Bill sponsored by Sarah Olney to prohibit anti-abortion protests within 150 metres of abortion clinics; and for connected purposes. Second reading scheduled for 26 June 2020

[Hate Crime \(Misandry and Misogyny\) Bill](#) – Second reading in Commons – 1 September 2020

Bill sponsored by Mr Philip Hollobone to make motivation by misandry or misogyny an aggravating factor in criminal sentencing and require police forces to record hate crimes motivated by misandry or misogyny

6. CONSULTATIONS

[National Fraud Initiative 2020 to 2021: programme and fees](#)

Cabinet Office consultation on proposals for the National Fraud Initiative 2020/21 work programme and the associated scale of fees for mandatory NFI participants. Also includes proposals specific to Local Authorities to mandate additional data as part of the counter fraud response to the government Covid-19 relief programme.

Open date: 05/03/2020

Close date: 28/05/2020

[Improving the Victims' Code](#)

Ministry of Justice consultation on proposals to improve the Victims' Code which first came into effect in 2006, by addressing complexity and accessibility issues with the current Code, changing its structure to become a clearly defined set of rights, updating the entitlements to better meet victims needs and ensuring that the right support is available at the right time. The revisions will help pave the way for a Victims' Law.

Open date: 05/03/2020

Close date: 28/05/2020

[Police powers: pre-charge bail](#)

Home Office consultation on proposals to end the presumption against pre-charge bail, introduce requirements for consideration when applying pre-charge bail, amending statutory timescales and authorisations and introducing a new framework for the supervision of suspects released under investigation (RUI) and Voluntary Attendance. The consultation forms part of the government's review of pre-charge bail legislation following stakeholder concerns raised about the impact of rule changes made in 2017.

Open date: 05/02/2020

Close date: 29/05/2020

[Protecting places of worship](#)

Home Office consultation on what steps should be taken to provide greater protection from hate crime for places of worship. The consultation is open to the public and targeted at individuals, businesses and organisations in England and Wales with an interest in the security of places of worship and other faith related locations, including schools and community centres.

Open date: 15/03/2020

Close date: 28/06/2020

[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

[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

[Call for ideas: COVID-19 Police Ideas map – 28 April 2020](#)

College of Policing calls for ideas, suggestions and good practice from front line staff in the policing response to COVID-19. Information provided will be used to help populate the COVID-19 Police Ideas map and work will be undertaken to progress ideas which may make a positive difference quickly.