

Police and Crime Commissioner's Horizon Scanning Briefing

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1. POLICY AND PRACTICE

[Government proposes introduction of a Protect Duty](#) – 24 February 2020

Security Minister announced plans to introduce a new duty requiring owners and operators of public spaces and venues to put measures in place to keep the public safe from a terrorist attack. The proposals follow discussions with victims' groups such as the Martyn's Law campaign, established by Figen Murray whose son was killed in the Manchester Arena attack. A consultation on the new law will be launched in the spring.

[Updated list of proscribed terrorist groups or organisations](#) – 28 February 2020

Proscription order making [Sonnenkrieg Division](#) illegal in the UK is approved by Parliament

[Updated Female genital mutilation: resource pack including guidance for schools](#) – 24 February 2020

[Pre-court diversion for women](#) – 25 February 2020

Briefing from the Centre for Justice Innovation sets out the evidence base around women's offending, the specific needs of women and what we know about effective working with female offenders. The briefing also provides examples of pre-court diversion schemes tailored for women.

[Justice does not stop at the prison gate: Justice and fairness in prisons](#) – 28 February 2020

Howard League for Penal Reform paper considers the blueprint for a fair, just and restorative prison system

[Home Office Circular 001/2019: Implementation of the police pay award 2018 to 2019](#) – 25 February 2020

APCC and NPCC Joint Summit 2020 – 26 February 2020

Speeches from the [Home Secretary](#), [NPCC Chair Marin Hewitt](#) and [APCC Chair Katy Bourne](#)

[Speech: Rt Hon Robert Buckland: keeping Safe in custody](#) – 25 February 2020

Recent Parliamentary briefings: [Social media regulation](#) (26 Feb), [School Exclusions](#) (24 Feb), [Brexit: Next Steps: The European Arrest Warrant](#) (20 Feb)

Recent Parliamentary debates: [Independent Review of Drugs](#) (27 Feb), [Offender Management: Checkpoint Programme](#) (27 Feb), [Pre-charge Police Bail: Time Limit](#) (26 Feb), [Police Covenant for England and Wales](#) (26 Feb), [Retail Crime: Sentences](#) (25 Feb), [Policing in England and Wales](#) (24 Feb), [Domestic Abuse: Victim Support](#) (10 Feb), [Topical Questions](#) (10 Feb)

2. RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND STATISTICS

State of Hate 2020 – 25 February 2020

Hope Not Hate assessment of the 'State of Hate' in 2020 highlights rises in far right activity in the UK which is expected to continue to increase over the coming year. The report notes that far right extremism is involving people that younger and more dangerous, and with boundaries between the far right and mainstream right wing being increasingly blurred, entry routes into far right activism are greater than ever before. The report calls for a review of the Government's Counter Terrorism Strategy (CONTEST) given the changing profile of the far right since 2015. The report also notes a surge in the numbers of XRW channels and users of the encrypted and largely unmonitored messaging app Telegram since the Christchurch, New Zealand massacre on 15 March 2019. This follows stricter controls being implemented by social media companies such as Facebook.

Therapeutic Foster Care – 10 February 2020

A systematic review published via the College of Policing's 'What Works' Crime Reduction Toolkit concludes that therapeutic foster care can be effective in reducing crime. Significant reductions in the number of criminal referrals and the days in secure settings were seen for participants compared to control groups. Therapeutic foster care is believed to work by removing young people from delinquent peers and providing supervision and structure by foster carers who encourage prosocial behaviours. Placement of seriously at-risk young people in less restrictive environments such as therapeutic foster care as opposed to secure facilities is preferable.

Fire and rescue incident statistics: England, year ending September 2019 – 13 February 2020

FRSs attended 554,269 incidents in the year to September 2019 marking a 5% decrease on the previous year. Of the incidents attended 163,039 fires (down 10% on the previous year) with secondary fires falling by 13% on account of a comparably high summer 2018. The number of fire-related fatalities (252) saw no significant change. [Data available at FRS level.](#)

Criminal Justice System statistics quarterly: September 2019 – Published 20 February 2020

Overview of trends in the use of out of court disposals, defendants prosecuted, offenders convicted, remand and sentencing decisions, and offender histories in England and Wales.

3. AUDITS AND INSPECTIONS

National Child Protection Inspections: 2019 – 27 February 2020

HMICFRS thematic inspection report on how the police service protects vulnerable children finds that police forces have improved their understanding of the risks around vulnerable children and protecting vulnerable children is a priority for policing leaders, but resources for both policing and work to protect and support vulnerable children more generally needs to be increased. The report also notes that the approach of the police and partners in identifying children that could be at risk of abuse is not proactive enough. The report makes recommendations for:-

- The Home Office and other government departments develop a new national early help and prevention strategy to more effectively address the root causes of harm for vulnerable children and undertake a review of the unnecessary detention of children
- The Ministry of Justice and Department for Education undertake a review of the current provision of intermediaries and the extent to which social workers undertake interviews of children with the police.
- Chief constables take steps to reduce the unnecessary criminalisation of children such as fully considering a child's circumstances and making more effective use of legislation to discontinue prosecutions where appropriate. Chiefs should also review assurance measures on the nature and quality of decision making and take steps to identify and implement good practice and the learning

[A joint thematic inspection of Integrated Offender Management – 28 February 2020](#)

HMICFRS inspection finds that after the 2015 relaunch of the Transforming Rehabilitation agenda, IOM received less attention from the MoJ and Home Office. With no centralised national leadership, IOM strategy is being driven at a local level, with Local Criminal Justice Boards and Community Safety Partnerships providing strategic oversight and most PCCs supporting and leading work to help re-define the approach. The report notes that while Transforming Rehabilitation had a negative impact on partnership working, the passion and commitment of managers and staff working within IOM was evident throughout this inspection. Inspectors raised concerns regarding workloads and resourcing which have impacted upon the quality of services and there has been a lack of investment in training and development. Although there were some examples of good practice, funding cuts have led to a lack of key partner involvement among some schemes with clients no longer receiving priority access to mental health and substance abuse treatment. In some areas, the police have taken over some of the rehabilitation work traditionally carried out by probation services.

In terms of casework, the inspection found that practical help given to promote compliance with interventions was strong as were multi-agency contributions to post-release licence conditions to reduce the likelihood of reoffending. The inspectorate raised concerns that despite many schemes prioritising 'threat, harm and risk' offender groups, discussions within monthly IOM case review meetings still tended to focus on the needs of the offender, rather than actions to protect the victims. Inspectors also found case recording practice of both police and probation to be lacking at times while service users were only properly informed about their inclusion in the scheme in half the cases inspected. There also remains an absence of any comprehensive evaluation to evidence that IOM is effective, but notes challenges presented by the fact that IOM is now being used with many different cohorts and offence types. The Intelligence Driven Integrated Offender Management (IDIOM) system, approved by the Home Office for measuring the impact of IOM and available since at least 2013, has only been implemented in 14 police force areas.

The report recommends that the NPCC and NPS establish a joint national oversight group to drive improvement in IOM. It also makes specific recommendations for the Ministry of Justice and Home Office to:-

- Commission an independent, authoritative and structured evaluation of the cost and benefits of IOM
- Refresh the joint IOM strategy and provide clear leadership and support for the delivery of IOM
- Provide support to local areas on the use of IDIOM, or an equivalent suitable alternative, to ensure that there is one performance framework that can help measure the impact of IOM
- Ensure that there is probation delivery workstream dedicated to IOM development a

The report makes further recommendations for the Police, PCCs and probation partners to:-

- Assure themselves that all relevant partners and services are involved in the delivery of IOM (PCCs)
- Define their IOM operating model and produce practice guidance setting out what is required by agencies
- Improve the quality and accuracy of recording in IOM cases, particularly public protection related activity
- Analyse training needs and ensure all staff receive sufficient training to enable them to fulfil their duties
- Ensure service users are kept informed about the benefits of inclusion in IOM and support available

[HMICFRS fire and rescue service inspection programme 2020 to 2021 – 12 February 2020](#)

FRS inspection programme will focus on three pillars and 11 questions covering: how effective each fire and rescue service is at preventing, protecting against and responding to incidents, whether the service understands where future risks lie; whether the service provides value for money and; the ability of the service to train staff, embrace diversity and develop a positive working culture to reflect the level of public and professional interest.

Upcoming reports and inspection activity

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| • HMICFRS: Police Control Room (Thematic) | Pending |
| • Regional Organised Crime Units | Early 2020 |

4. REVIEWS AND INQUIRIES

Independent review of drugs: phase one report – Published 27 February 2020

The first part of Dame Carol Black's review of drugs provides a detailed analysis of the challenges posed by drug supply and demand, including the ways in which drugs fuel serious violence. The report highlights how:-

- The illicit drug market estimated to be worth £9.4bn a year presents wider costs to society of over £19bn
- Around 300,000 people in England are estimated to be taking the most harmful drugs (opiates and/or crack), drug-related deaths have reached an all-time high and there has also been a considerable increase in children using drugs after a long period of decline.
- The supply of drugs has been largely shaped by international forces, the activities of Organised Crime Groups and advances in technology, with the county lines model driving increased violence in the drugs market and the exploitation of young people and vulnerable drug users.
- There are strong associations between young people being drawn into county lines and increases in child poverty, the numbers of children in care and school exclusions. Social media has played a facilitating role.
- Over a third of people in prison are there due to crimes relating to drug use. They tend to serve very short sentences, have limited time in treatment, poor hand-offs into the community and are very likely to re-offend
- Spending on treatment in the community has reduced significantly on account of diminished Local Government budgets. The prolonged shortage of funding has led to a loss of skills, expertise and capacity within NHS Trusts and third sector providers.

The Department of Health and Social Care will commission a further drugs review led by Dame Carol which will focus on prevention, treatment (community and prison) and recovery. The review will explore how treatment services work with wider services that enable a person with a drug dependency to achieve and sustain recovery, including mental health, housing, employment, and the criminal justice system.

IOPC: efficiency, effectiveness and profile – 28 February 2020

Independent Office for Police Conduct publishes plans for improvements in the timeliness of investigations, quality of investigations, scrutiny of decision making and impact of the IOPC following a [letter](#) issued by the Home Secretary in October 2019. This will include redesigning operational processes as part of a more dynamic investigative approach, introduction of a new independently chaired Quality Committee and multi-disciplinary Critical Case Panels at a regional level. To reduce the impact of lengthy investigations on police forces, new performance indicators will be introduced and the status of investigations taking longer than three months will be confirmed. The IOPC is also introducing a Victims' Right to Review scheme, to give victims the right to request a review of a decision not to refer an investigation to the CPS.

Government response to consultation on the Online Harms White Paper – Published 12 February 2020

Government response to consultation on the Online Harms White Paper (April to July 2019) provides assurance that the overarching principle of the regulation is to protect users' rights online, including the rights of children and freedom of expression. Rather than requiring the removal of specific pieces of legal content, regulation will focus on the wider systems and processes that platforms have in place to deal with online harms, while maintaining a proportionate and risk-based approach. The government will ensure that guidance is provided to help businesses understand potential risks and the actions that they need to take to comply with the duty and the legislation will only apply to companies that provide services or use functionality on their websites which facilitate the sharing of user generated content or user interactions.

Government response to the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse – 26 February 2020

Government response to recommendation 17 (working across departments to establish current levels of public expenditure, and the effectiveness of that expenditure on services for child victims and adult survivors of child sexual abuse in England). The response sets out details of how the £10.7 million government funding provided for support services for victims and survivors of child sexual abuse was allocated in 2018/19.

[Service Justice System review](#) – 27 February 2020

Ministry of Defence publishes Sir Jon Murphy's review of the Service Justice System (SJS) ahead of the introduction of the next Armed Forces Bill. The review includes a separate report on Service Policing which examines whether the current structure and skill set of the Service Police organisations and the Ministry of Defence Police match future requirements. Sir Jon Murphy identified potential areas of vulnerability in how the Service Police investigate allegations of domestic abuse, rape and serious sexual offences and identified opportunities to improve the consistency of approach. Overall the audit found the Service Police to be professional and display immense flexibility on a day to day basis and deal with investigations that were at times complex and logistically challenging. The audit identified areas of business and processes where changes could be made to improve the quality of service provided to vulnerable victims and these are being considered further by the MOD and the SP forces.

[Tackling racial disparity in the criminal justice system: 2020](#) – 11 February 2020

Update on government's progress tackling disparities in the CJS, including the 35 recommendations set out in David Lammy's independent review. The update covers ongoing work in relation to youth justice, charging decisions to court and prisons and rehabilitation. It also sets out further work ahead. The government has committed to providing comprehensive updates on activity and progress to coincide with the major biennial Race and the CJS statistics update.

5. LEGISLATION

[Terrorist Offenders \(Restriction of Early Release\) Bill](#) – Royal Assent – 26 February 2020

Government bill Introduced on 11 February 2020 in response to the terrorist attacks on London Bridge in November 2019 and in Streatham in February 2020. The offenders in each of these attacks had been released from prison automatically without the involvement of the Parole Board. The Bill, which received Royal Assent on 26 February 2020 ends the automatic early release of certain terrorist offenders. [Briefing](#)

Government Bills

- [Domestic Abuse Bill](#)
- [Prisoners \(Disclosure of Information about Victims\) Bill](#)
- [Sentencing \(Pre-consolidation Amendments\) Bill](#)
- [Sentencing Bill](#)
- [Air Traffic Management and Unmanned Aircraft Bill](#)
- [Extradition \(Provisional Arrest\) Bill](#)
- [Counter-Terrorism \(Sentencing and Release\) Bill](#)
- [Serious Violence Bill](#)
- [Police Powers and Protections Bill](#)
- [Foreign National Offenders Bill](#)
- [Divorce, Dissolution and Separation Bill](#)
- [Online Harms Bill](#)

Private Member's Bills

- [Victims of Abuse \(Support\) Bill](#)
- [Criminal Records Bill](#)
- [Police Conduct \(Operation Conifer\) Inquiry Bill](#)
- [Online Harms Reduction Regulator \(Report\) Bill](#)
- [Prisons \(Substance Testing\) Bill](#)
- [Policing Resources Bill](#)
- [Age of Criminal Responsibility Bill](#)
- [Automated Facial Recognition Technology \(Moratorium and Review\) Bill](#)
- [Duty to Plan for Terrorism \(Consultation\) Bill](#)
- [Public Contracts \(Modern Slavery\) Bill](#)
- [Modern Slavery \(Victim Support\) Bill](#)
- [Victims of Crime \(Rights, Entitlements, and Notification of CSA\)](#)

6. CONSULTATIONS

[Criminal Legal Aid Review](#)

Open date: 28/02/2020

Close date: 27/03/2020

[Decriminalising TV licence evasion](#)

Open date: 05/02/2020

Close date: 01/04/2020

[Drug offences consultation](#)

Open date: 15/01/2020

Close date: 07/04/2020

[Magistrates' Court Sentencing Guidelines for driving offences disqualifications](#)

Open date: 22/01/2020

Close date: 15/04/2020

[Police Covenant for England and Wales](#)

Open date: 26/02/2020

Close date: 22/04/2020

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

Open date: 05/02/2020

Close date: 29/04/2020