

Police and Crime Commissioner's Horizon Scanning Briefing

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1. POLICY AND PRACTICE

[£3.1m funding awarded for services supporting children affected by domestic abuse – 28 April 2020](#)

Home Office awards further funding for specialist services supporting children affected by domestic abuse. Recipients include Barnardo's, Cambridgeshire County Council and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria and will be used to support services such as one-to-one and group counselling sessions for children affected by domestic abuse and early intervention schemes.

[£600,000 funding boost for charities to offer remote based support services – 23 April 2020](#)

Ministry of Justice reallocates £600,000 to enable helplines run by Safeline, Survivors Trust, National Association for People Abused in Childhood, Rape Crisis and Victim Support to stay open longer and employ more support workers in the wake of the Covid-19 crisis. The funding will also help provide technology needed for other forms of contact such as video calls and the online chat service and digital hub run by Victim Support.

[Extra £1.6 billion for councils to deal with immediate impact of COVID-19 – 18 April 2020](#)

Government pledges an extra £1.6bn for Councils to provide essential services and support to those in greatest need during the coronavirus crisis. Councils will also be allowed to defer £2.6 billion in payments to central government, and social care grants will be paid up front this month to help ease cash flow pressures.

[New recruitment measures introduced to bolster police officer numbers – 30 April 2020](#)

College of Policing announces new measures to support forces during the COVID-19 pandemic which include:-

- Enabling former officers to re-join the service subject to assessment of their knowledge and skills and emergency training to address any gaps identified. The option applies both to forces re-recruiting officer for short-term deployment during the COVID-19 emergency, or as a more long-term member of the service
- Allowing existing student officers to be deployed under guidance and emergency training issued by the college to cover the basic operations expected of constables on patrol.

The College of Policing has also begun initial roll out of an online assessment process to enable forces to continue with planned recruitment during the COVID-19 pandemic without the need for face-to-face contact. The College is working with the NPCC to make the process accessible to all forces by the end of June.

[Letter from the Minister of State for Crime and Policing on the Police Funding Grant - 27 April 2020](#)

Letter detailing changes to the police funding settlement for 2020/21 in view of current service pressures. This includes bringing forward payment of the £142.6m non-ringfenced pensions grant and allowing half of the £168m ringfenced Police Uplift Programme funding to be 'repurposed' in 2020/21 to allow for expenditure on both COVID-19 related pressures and Police Uplift Programme recruitment.

[Home Secretary update on impact of COVID-19 on crime trends](#) – 25 April 2020

Home Secretary's address as part of the Government's daily Coronavirus update highlights overall reductions in police recorded crime during the coronavirus outbreak, while highlighting the risks posed by sophisticated criminals looking to exploit and capitalise on the crisis. This includes Border Force identifying one million pounds' worth of cocaine set to be smuggled into the UK hidden in boxes of face masks and work by the National Crime Agency (NCA) to take down multiple websites running phishing scams and selling bogus PPE. The NCA have also alerted the police to around 1,300 potential child sexual abuse cases during the period. Reported losses from coronavirus-related fraud are now estimated to stand at around £2.4m.

[Suspicious Activity Reporting \(SAR\): UKFIU COVID-19 Communications Briefing](#) – 30 April 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.

[Policy Paper: Covid-19: Prison releases](#) – 24 April 2020

Ministry of Justice and HM Prisons & Probation paper outlining the approach to temporary release of some risk-assessed offenders as part plans to limit the spread and impact of Covid-19 in the prison estate and save lives. End of Custody Temporary Release scheme (ECTR) enables risk-assessed prisoners who are within two months of their release date to be temporarily released from custody. Other prisoners meet the criteria for potential compassionate temporary release on account of factors such as pregnancy or extreme medical vulnerability to Covid-19. These prisoners may be considered for Release on Temporary Licence based on a case-by-case assessment of whether it would be safe to do so.

[Justice responses to COVID-19 around the world](#) – Updated 28 April 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.

[Tackling domestic abuse during the COVID-19 pandemic](#) – 30 April 2020

LGA document providing a range of resources that offer help, guidance and support in tackling domestic abuse. This includes a brief overview of domestic abuse and how councils can provide help and support to domestic abuse victims during the COVID-19 pandemic, and tackle perpetrators' abusive behaviour.

[IOPC Monthly Roundup: February and March 2020](#) – Published 20 April 2020

[College of Policing Brief: March / April 2020](#) – Published 20 April 2020

[Special grant applications made by PCCs to the Home Office 2018/19](#) – 28 April 2020

[Open competition for appointment of the next Independent Reviewer of Prevent](#) – 27 April 2020

Government [launches](#) open competition for appointment. Deadline for applications is 1 June 2020

[Letter to National Fire Chiefs Council: Reducing burdens and supporting the fire sector](#) – 23 April 2020

James Brokenshire outlines ways in which government is seeking to relieve current pressures on the service

Recent Parliamentary briefings: [Policing the coronavirus lockdown](#) (30 Apr), [Fly-tipping – the illegal dumping of waste](#) (28 Apr), [Introduction to police powers](#) (24 Apr), [Tackling ASB](#) (21 Apr), [Decriminalising rough sleeping and begging](#) (17 Apr), [Coronavirus: The challenge for prisons and offenders](#) (16 Apr)

Recent Parliamentary debates: [Engagements](#) (29 Apr), [Domestic Abuse](#) (29 Apr), [Domestic Abuse Bill](#) (28 Apr), [Prisoners \(Disclosure of Information About Victims\) Bill](#) (28 Apr), [Vagrancy Act 1824](#) (23 Apr)

2. RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND STATISTICS

[Crime in England and Wales: year ending December 2019](#) – Published 23 April 2020

The level of crime has remained broadly stable over recent years with the latest Crime Survey for England and Wales estimate indicating a 5% reduction in experience of crime in 2019, largely driven by reductions in theft offences (-9%). The other main crime types measured by the CSEW showed no significant change, including overall fraud and lower-harm violent offences. Police data, which provides a more reliable indication of trends in lower-volume but higher-harm violence, shows a 3% decrease in offences involving firearms and a 7% increase in the number of offences involving knives. While levels of homicide increased by 2% during the year, this was significantly skewed by the 39 people whose bodies were found in a lorry in Grays, Essex in October 2019.

[Crime outcomes in England and Wales to December 2019](#) – Published 23 April 2020

Excluding GMP, the proportion of crimes resulting in a charge or summons in across England and Wales has fallen from around 8.2% to 7.1% over the last year, continuing the downward trend seen since March 2015 (15%). The number and proportion of offences resolved by out of court disposals has fallen from 3.9% to 3.5%. The proportion of offences that were closed as a result of 'evidential difficulties', meanwhile, has remained relatively stable at around 32.7%, while the proportion of investigations completed with no suspect identified fell from 45.7% to 42.3%. Police recorded outcome data can be affected by improvements in crime recording and changes in crime caseloads. Data available at [police force level](#)

[Fixed Penalty Notices issued under COVID-19 regulations](#) – 30 April 2020

NPCC publish a force breakdown of the 9,176 reported Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) issued under the new Coronavirus Restrictions regulations across England and Wales between 27 March and 27 April 2020. In England, the majority of fines were issued to men (82%) and those aged 18 to 24 (36%) or 25 to 34 (31%). While 25% of fines were issued to individuals who did not self-identify their ethnicity, the majority were issued to those self-identifying as White (58%), followed by Asian (10%), Black (4%) and Mixed Race (2%).

[Police officer uplift, quarterly update to March 2020](#) – 30 April 2020

[Press release](#)

Home Office publish first quarterly update on progress in achieving the Government's target of 20,000 additional police officers by March 2023. The service remains on track to achieve the target of 6,000 new recruits by March 2021, with 3,005 having been recruited as part of Operation Uplift since November 2019. This is in addition to 3,430 new officers joining the service during this period as part of recruitment already planned. The total officer workforce increased by 5% in 2019/20. Data available at [police force level](#)

[Work related violence: findings from 2018/19 Crime Survey for England and Wales](#) – 22 April 2020

Annual report from the Health and Safety Executive finds that around 1.3% of working adults (around 344,000 people) are estimated to have experienced violence in the workplace in 2018/19. A combined total of around 739,000 incidents are estimated to have occurred during the year marking a 12% reduction on estimated levels in 2017/18 (836,000). Of the incidents captured via the survey, around 52% involved threats and 48% involved assaults. 46% per cent of violence at work resulted in no physical injury. Of the remaining 54% of cases, minor bruising or a black eye accounted for the majority of the injuries recorded. Those most likely to experience violence at work included people working in protective services occupations (11.4%), health and social care associate professionals (5.1%) and healthcare professionals (3.3%).

[Safety in custody: quarterly update to December 2019](#) – Published 30 April 2020

Latest Ministry of Justice prison safety statistics highlight a 10% reduction in deaths in prison (286) over the last year and an 8% reduction in self-inflicted deaths (80). Self-harm incidents continue to rise (+14%), reaching a record high of 63,328 in the latest year. The number of individuals self-harming increased by 3% to 12,977. Incidents of assault (33,669) have begun to fall (-4%), with a 3% reduction in serious assaults (3,813) and a 4% reduction in serious assaults on staff (952).

[How government reforms and coronavirus will affect policing, courts and prisons – 29 April 2020](#)

Institute for Government and Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy publication considers the impact of spending cuts to the police, criminal courts and prisons over the last 10 years and new and emerging pressures on the sector. The report concludes that the government's criminal justice reforms, most significantly the plan to increase the number of police officers by 20,000, will place substantial pressure on the rest of the CJS, and models three scenarios for how police charging will evolve over the coming years. These comprise:-

- A 'low demand' scenario, whereby charges per officer continue to fall at the same rate as they have since 2010, creating little additional work for the courts and prisons. This would likely lead to public and government disappointment at police performance, given the investment made
- A 'central demand' scenario in which charges per officer stabilise leading to the number of cases received by the crown court each year surpassing 2016/17 levels by 2023/24 and the prison population rising to the highest level ever recorded
- A 'high demand' scenario in which charges per officer begin to rise, having an even greater impact upon the courts and increasing the prison population to 95,000+ by 2023/24 – well beyond planned prison capacity.

The report also models alternative scenarios for the impact of coronavirus on police and courts, noting potential for a 60% increase in crown court waiting times if court shutdown lasts for six months, and a temporary reduction on the prison population by around 15%. The paper concludes that the indicative funding settlements for courts and prisons between 2019/20 and 2023/24 may be enough (with small efficiencies) to maintain performance in the medium term based on the central demand scenario, however courts and prisons would require an additional £372m a year by 2023/24 to maintain standards based on the high demand scenario.

[New Generation: Preventing young adults being caught in the revolving door – 21 April 2020](#)

Revolving Doors Agency briefing highlights the high rate of reoffending among young adults whose index offences are theft and summary non-motoring offences and the recurring demand this places on the police, courts and justice system when left unaddressed. The paper highlights the critical role of PCCs and police services in preventing the new generation of young adults entering the revolving door.

[Circles of support and accountability for sex offenders – 27 March 2020](#)

Systematic review published on the College of Policing's Crime Reduction Toolkit considers the effectiveness of Circles of support and accountability interventions – the community-based approach to reintegrating sex offenders on release from prison. The review found some evidence that the programmes have reduced general reoffending, but have not had a statistically significant effect on crime. The effect of the Circles programme on psychosocial outcomes (e.g. housing, relationships, employment) that might lead to a reduction in reoffending is unknown and additional evidence is required to identify the contexts in which Circles programmes work best.

[Body Worn Video Camera pilot evaluation – 30 April 2020](#)

Ministry of Justice publish findings from a Body Worn Video Camera (BWVC) pilot in 23 prisons between June 2015 and December 2015, which found BWVCs to have a varying impact on the levels of recorded violence and use of force - with no overall statistically significant difference being recorded.

[Offender Management Statistics quarterly: October to December 2019 – Published 30 April 2020](#)

Ministry of Justice statistics highlight no significant change in the total prison population (82,990) in 2019 with the number of first receptions (72,172) falling by 6% and releases (62,771) falling by 10% as the prison population shifts towards those serving longer sentences. Licence recalls (6,789) during the latest quarter increased by 6% on the same quarter last year, partly driven by increases in recalls from determinate sentences of more than 12 months. The number of offenders on probation (247,759) fell by 3% in 2019.

[Offender management statistics quarterly: October to December 2019 – Published 30 April 2020](#)

[Payment by Results statistics: October 2015 to June 2019 – Published 30 April 2020](#)

3. AUDITS AND INSPECTIONS

British Transport Police's ability to minimise disruption on the rail network – 27 April 2020

HMICFRS inspection of the effectiveness of the BTP finds that, despite complicated funding and joint working arrangements, and unique operational pressures, BTP is good at prioritising and minimising police-related disruption on the transport network and at maintaining its operational independence. The force has prevention plans and initiatives to reduce disruption, however, these aren't consistently used across the force and are not always supported by the rail industry. Inspectors also found evidence of tension between BTP and industry priorities, noting that BTP could work better with the industry in understanding its concerns. Inspectors concluded that the force is good at collecting and analysing data to understand threats on the network, but felt more could be done to engage with passengers to understand public concerns and what gives them confidence in using the network. The report makes five key recommendations for BTP to:-

- Make its excellent training for police-related disruption available to more police officers from other forces
- Develop a plan to raise awareness among police forces of the effect of police-related disruption incidents and the importance of returning the railway network to normal as quickly as possible
- Consider how it engages with the rail industry and the BTPA and find better ways to work strategically
- Review the way it shares information with the industry and better explain some policies and procedures
- Review its deployment model to make sure it can meet its national policing plan

British Transport Police – Joint Inspection of custody suites – 21 April 2020

Findings from an unannounced HMICFRS and HMIP inspection indicate that BTP custody detention is run under a clear governance structure, with detainees treated respectfully. Frontline BTP officers only take children to custody as a last resort after exploring all other alternatives and the pan-London mental health team telephone advice line provides good support to help officers decide whether an individual should be detained in custody under the Mental Health Act or whether alternative solutions were available. Inspectors did, however, identify some areas for concern as part of their visit in January 2020, which included:-

- A reliance on overtime to maintain staffing levels and the use of some inexperienced officers.
- Limited monitoring and management of performance and gaps in data collected for some areas
- Insufficient governance and oversight of use of force, despite good examples of de-escalation techniques
- Inconsistency in meeting the relevant requirements of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE)

Upcoming reports and inspection activity

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| • HMICFRS: Police Control Room (Thematic) | Pending |
| • Regional Organised Crime Units | Pending |
| • PEEL Reports 2020/21 – Tranche 1 | May 2020 |
| • HMICFRS: State of Policing 2020 | 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 |
| • 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

[Home Office preparedness for Covid-19 Inquiry – Call for evidence open until 21 April 2020](#)

Short Home Affairs Committee inquiry into the Home Office's preparations for and response to Covid-19

[Home Office preparedness for Covid-19: Domestic abuse and risks within the home – 27 April 2020](#)

Home Affairs Committee welcomed the Government's public information campaign and additional funding made available to charities, and strongly supports the commitment of the police to prioritising domestic abuse during the crisis. The report does, however, call for more proactive outreach by services to identify risk during lockdown and more funding for accommodation and other key services. Recommendations include:-

- Development of a cross-Government strategy on domestic abuse covering both the period of lockdown and the period immediately after lockdown. This should be underpinned by action plans produced by all local authorities as part of their emergency Covid-19 planning and a national working group to implement the plan
- New strategies to ensure victims can access forms of urgent help and support, including better links between helplines and services, a government sponsored scheme enabling victims to contact support services through retailers, and wide and inclusive communication of key messages in multiple formats
- Ensure Domestic Violence Protection Order cases are heard swiftly and extend the time limit for proceedings on summary offences following lockdown. Legal aid should also be granted automatically to victims in respect of applications for protection during lockdown
- Prioritise increasing the availability of refuge and move-on accommodation, ensure that the existing network of refuges remains sustainable for the long term and ensure that local authority domestic abuse action plans include provision for alternative temporary accommodation for perpetrators if needed to keep victims safe
- Ring-fence funding within the £750m fund for charities supporting those at risk of abuse and guarantee that all services will be able to apply, regardless of size or existing relationships with funders. The Government should provide an emergency funding package that is accessible to generic and smaller specialist services.
- Government funding for support services must include specialist provision and ensure that BME services can continue and expand to meet any increased need. Any individual with No Recourse to Public Funds status should also be entitled to access state support during the coronavirus crisis
- Children's support services should be maintained during the Covid-19 crisis particularly face to face contact

[Equality and Human Rights Committee: Inclusive justice: a system designed for all – 22 April 2020](#)

EHRC publish interim report on the risk to justice that faced by disabled people as a result of the expanded use of video and phone hearings in response to the COVID-19 crisis. The report makes recommendations for:-

- Emerging evidence from pilots for video enabled justice to inform how remote hearings are implemented
- Defendants to have accessible information explaining their right to raise any participation issues
- All frontline professionals, including judges, police and health workers to give greater consideration to identifying people for whom video hearings would be unsuitable
- Liaison and Diversion services to make recommendations on adjustments and postponing non-urgent cases
- Consideration to the use of registered intermediaries to provide remote communications support
- Consideration to the use of audio and video recordings of hearings to help evaluate remote hearings.

5. LEGISLATION

Government Bills

[Domestic Abuse Bill](#) – Received second reading in the Commons – 28 April 2020 [Commons Briefing](#)

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. Measures include:-

- legislating for a [statutory definition](#) of domestic abuse
 - providing for [Domestic Abuse Protection Notices and Orders](#) to better protect victims
 - placing a duty on local authorities to provide [accommodation-based services](#)
 - helping victims give [best evidence](#) and preventing [cross-examination](#) by abusers
 - introducing a [Domestic Abuse Commissioner](#) to drive consistency / improvements
 - [Secure tenancies](#) to support for victims in social housing in leaving abusive situations
 - introducing mandatory [polygraph testing](#) as a license condition for perpetrators
 - new statutory guidance on the [Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme](#) (Clare's law)
- **[Commissioners call for progress of the Domestic Abuse Bill to be delayed](#) – 29 April 2020**
The Victims' Commissioner and the Domestic Abuse Commissioner have jointly [written](#) to the Government requesting that progress of the Domestic Abuse Bill is delayed pending completion of two key reviews and current demand resulting from the Coronavirus lockdown

[Prisoners \(Disclosure of Information about Victims\) Bill](#) – Second reading in Lords – 28 April 2020

Government 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

[Fire Safety Bill](#) – Second reading in the Commons – 29 April 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, including cladding, balconies and windows and entrance doors to individual flats that open into common parts. Builds on action already taken in the wake of the Grenfell Tower tragedy. [Briefing](#)

[Sentencing \(Pre-consolidation Amendments\) Bill](#) – Public Bill Committee postponed

[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

[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

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

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

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

Bill sponsored by Munira Wilson to establish a right to specialist sexual violence and abuse support services

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

Bill sponsored by Sarah Olney to prohibit anti-abortion protests within 150 metres of abortion clinics

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

Bill sponsored by Mr Philip Hollobone to make motivation by misandry or misogyny aggravating factor in sentencing

[Sentencing \(Women\) Bill](#) - Second reading in the Commons – 11 September 2020

Bill sponsored by Daisy Cooper to require courts to impose community sentences for low risk female offenders

[Criminal Fraud \(Private Prosecutions\) Bill](#) - Second reading in the Commons – 30 October 2020

Bill sponsored by Sir Christopher Chope to make provision about private prosecutions in cases of suspected criminal fraud

[Criminal Records Bill](#) - Second reading in the Lords – TBA

Bill sponsored by Lord Ramsbotham to amend time for which an individual has a criminal record under the RoO Act 1974

[Police Conduct \(Operation Conifer\) Inquiry Bill](#) - Second reading in the Lords – TBA

Bill sponsored by Lord Black of Brentwood for an inquiry into police conduct of Operation Conifer

[Online Harms Reduction Regulator \(Report\) Bill](#) - Second reading in the Lords – TBA

Bill sponsored by Lord McNally to require Ofcom to prepare for regulation as an interim online harms regulator.

[Policing Resources Bill](#) - Second reading in the Lords – TBA

Bill sponsored by Lord Wigley to ensure police forces have sufficient resources to deliver police services

[Age of Criminal Responsibility Bill](#) - Second reading in the Lords – TBA

Bill sponsored by Lord Dholakia to raise the age of criminal responsibility

[Automated Facial Recognition Technology \(Review\) Bill](#) - Second reading in the Lords – TBA

Bill sponsored by Lord Clement-Jones to prohibit & review use of automated facial recognition technology in public places

[Duty to Plan for Terrorism \(Consultation\) Bill](#) - Second reading in the Lords – TBA

Bill sponsored by Lord Harris of Haringey for consultation on a Duty to Plan for terrorist threats (Category 1 responders)

[Public Contracts \(Modern Slavery\) Bill](#)

Bill sponsored by Lord Hogan-Howe to make provision for avoidance of modern slavery in procurement of public contracts

[Modern Slavery \(Victim Support\) Bill](#) - Second reading in the Lords – TBA

Bill sponsored by Lord McColl of Dulwich received first reading in the House of Lords.

[Victims of Crime \(Rights, Entitlements, and Notification of CSA\)](#) – Second reading in the Lords – TBA

Bill sponsored by Baroness Brinton specifying new statutory rights and entitlements for victims of crime

[Anonymity \(Arrested Persons\) Bill](#) – Second reading in the Lords – TBA

Bill sponsored by Lord Paddick to prohibit the publication of certain information pertaining to arrestees until charge

6. CONSULTATIONS

[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.

[Police Covenant for England and Wales](#)

Government consultation seeking views on the principle of implementing a Police Covenant in England and Wales to enhance physical and health and wellbeing support for serving and former police personnel and their families. The consultation also considers the scope of the Covenant, who should be covered and seeks views on how officers should be publicly recognised for their bravery and work.

Close date: 22/04/2020

[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 to guarantee victims their rights.

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.

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.

Close date: 28/06/2020

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

Sentencing Council public consultation to determine its future direction and priorities

Close date: 09/09/2020

[Assault Offences](#)

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

Close date: 15/09/2020

[Proposed Policing Inspection Programme and Framework 2020 to 2021](#)

Home Office and HMICFRS consultation on proposed policing inspection programme for 2020/21

Close date: TBC