

Horizon Scanning e-Briefing: 6 April 2020



Police and Crime Commissioner's Horizon Scanning Briefing

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If you would like be included on our mailing list, please contact [Dan Howitt](#), Nottinghamshire OPCC

1. POLICY AND PRACTICE

Apply for funding: New grant scheme launches to support victims of terrorism – 30 March 2020

Home Office launches a new grant scheme for organisations providing support, such as counselling and practical advice to individuals and their families affected by terrorist incidents. Organisations able to demonstrate an ability to provide specialist support and an understanding of the unique needs of will be able to bid for funding of up to £500,000. The grant will be advertised through Contract Finder in April 2020.

Public call charges lifted for the 101 non-emergency number - 1 April 2020

Home Office commit a further £7m per year to the 101 non-emergency service to enable the 15p public connection charge to be eliminated. Users of some small phone networks may still be charged during the April to July 2020 period. 20 Police forces are also using Single Online Home to enable residents to report crime for free online. Forces that are not currently using the platform provide alternative online channels for reporting non-urgent crime, which are processed in the same way as a call. When launched, the new Police.uk website will also provide a single point of access to police information and services, including online reporting.

New police enforcement powers to help slow the spread of COVID-19 – 26 March 2020

New [regulations](#) strengthen police powers to enforce public health requirement for the public to stay at home, avoid gathering in public and cease non-essential travel. Police may: instruct people to go home, disperse; ensure parents are taking steps to stop their children breaking the rules; issue a fixed penalty notice of £60, (£30 if paid within 14 days) and double the fine for repeat offenders. If fixed penalty notices are not paid, offenders may be taken to court, with magistrates able to impose unlimited fines. Further refusal to comply, may result in arrest where deemed proportionate and necessary. The Home Office has been working with police and fire services to understand their requirements for Personal Protective Equipment over this period.

Briefing for police: The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) Regulations 2020 – 26 March 2020

College of Policing briefing which sets out the police's four-phase approach to enforcing requirements of the Coronavirus restrictions regulation, which notes that enforcement typically be a last resort. The police will:-

- Engage – Officers will initially encourage voluntary compliance in accordance with policing by consent
- Explain – Officers will stress the risks to public health and the NHS in order to educate people
- Encourage – Officers will encourage compliance and emphasise importance of staying home to save lives
- Enforce – Take necessary and proportionate enforcement action if faced with non-compliance.

Officers will employ their judgement and keep an inquisitive, questioning mind-set, particularly in identifying any safeguarding concerns among those for whom it may not be safe to be at home.

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Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

- [The Health Protection \(Coronavirus, Restrictions\) Regulations 2020](#) – Enacted 26 March 2020
- [Statutory Instrument to enable flexible/remote attendance at Police and Crime Panel meetings](#) - 4 April 2020
- [LGA: Protecting vulnerable people during the COVID-19 outbreak](#) – 30 March 2020
- [HMCTS: Crisis protocol for effective handling of custody time limit cases](#) – 29 March 2020
- [HMCTS: Network of priority courts to remain open during COVID-19 pandemic](#) – 27 March 2020
- [HMCTS: Telephone and video hearings during the COVID-19 outbreak](#) – 27 March 2020
- [Legal Aid Agency contingency response: Updated guidance](#) – 27 March 2020
- [Ministry of Justice temporarily cancels all prison visits](#) – 24 March 2020
- [Criminal Justice Alliance and Revolving Doors Agency](#) call for action on criminal justice – 2 April 2020
- [Public Health England Guidance for first responders](#) – 27 February 2020

[Children, domestic abuse and coronavirus](#) – 2 April 2020

Children's Commissioner briefing considers domestic and international evidence of the impact of Coronavirus measures on risk of domestic abuse and calling for more funding for support services, a public awareness raising campaign that makes clear what Domestic Abuse is and the devastating impact it has on children.

[Guidance: Coronavirus: support for victims of domestic abuse](#) – 29 March 2020

Home Office fact sheet for those experiencing or at risk of domestic abuse during the COVID-19 outbreak

[Guidance: Violence Reduction Units](#) – 27 March 2020

Interim guidance for those receiving Home Office funding to establish a VRU or are considering setting one up

[Guidance: Modern slavery: how to identify and support victims](#) – 24 March 2020

Home Office guidance for First Responder Organisations, organisations with a duty to notify the Home Office when encountering a potential victim of modern slavery and organisations offering support to potential victims

[Updated Counting Rules for Recorded Crime](#) – 2 April 2020

[UK Government Modern Slavery Statement](#) – 26 March 2020

UK becomes the first government to publish its own Modern Slavery Statement under The Modern Slavery Act 2015. Individual Ministerial departments will be required to publish their own statements from 2021 onwards.

[Guidance: Tackling labour abuse and modern slavery in the hand car wash sector](#) – 1 April 2020

LGA guidance on the regulatory framework governing hand car washes, current initiatives to raise standards in the sector and how councils can help to address issues in local hand car washes

Recent Parliamentary briefings: [Regulation of fireworks](#) (1 Apr), [Coronavirus: Policing the instruction to stay at home](#) (31 Mar), [Coronavirus Bill: Emergency powers and national security](#) (25 Mar), [Coronavirus Bill: implications for the courts and tribunals](#) (23 Mar)

Recent Parliamentary debates: [Knife Crime](#) (23 Mar), [Crime Hotspots](#) (23 Mar), [Custody Suites](#) (23 Mar), [Police Disciplinary Procedures](#) (23 Mar), [County Lines Drugs Gangs](#) (23 Mar), [County Lines Drug Trafficking](#) (19 Mar), [Electoral Events: Postponement](#) (19 Mar)

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2. RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND STATISTICS

Offender trajectories, health and hospital admissions – 11 March 2020

Research published in the Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine provides evidence that offenders appear more likely to suffer injuries than non-offenders and are more likely to be admitted to hospital or develop organic illness, partly on account of their “impulsive and risk-taking” lifestyles. This appears true of Life-Course-Persistent offenders, Late-Onset offenders and offenders in general. While concluding that preventing individuals from offending is likely to have substantial benefits for health, a leading [criminologist](#) also extrapolated that repeat offenders are similarly more likely to be at risk of catching and spreading coronavirus.

Modern slavery in the UK – 26 March 2020

Office for National Statistics publication highlights the difficulty accurately measuring or quantifying the prevalence of modern slavery in the UK on account of its hidden nature. Greater awareness, increases in reporting and improvements in police recording are likely to have contributed to the increases in calls to the Modern Slavery Helpline (+68%), modern slavery offences recorded (+51%) and potential victims referred to the National Referral Mechanism (+36%) over the last year. There were 5,144 modern slavery offences recorded by the police in England and Wales in 2018/19 and 205 suspects referred from the police to the CPS for a charging decision. 68% of modern slavery related CPS prosecutions resulted in a conviction in 2018/19.

Nature of crime tables: children aged 10 to 15 years – 27 March 2020

Office for National Statistics publishes annual data relating to the experiences of children aged 10 to 15 as captured via the Crime Survey for England and Wales. Combined data from the 2017 to 2019 surveys indicates that around 59% of theft offences and 75% of violent offences committed against children occur in or around school, while criminal damage offences are more likely to occur within the vicinity of the victim’s home (59%). The police came to know about the crime in only 5% of criminal damage offences, 13% of theft offences and 15% of violent crimes. Despite this, around 80% of those experiencing violence or theft went on to tell a parent or guardian. Of the children reporting violence victimisation, 85% sustained a physical injury.

Sexual Offences in the Service Justice System: 2019 – 26 March 2020

Ministry of Defence publishes annual statistics on recent and historical offences committed by UK Armed Forces personnel that are contrary to the Sexual Offences Act 2003 and dealt wholly within the Service Justice System (SJS). In 2019, the Service Police conducted 178 investigations into such offences marking an increase of 25 compared to 2018. 8 investigations were historical. Of the 178 investigations, 110 led to charges being referred to the Director of Service Prosecutions, 35 did not lead to a referral and 33 were still under investigation at the end of 2019. This represents an increase of 15 cases that resulted in a referral of charges. Where known, the 178 investigations involved 178 male suspects, 164 female victims and 29 male victims.

National Referral Mechanism statistics 2019 – Published 2 April 2020

Home Office publication highlights that 10,627 potential victims of modern slavery were referred to the NRM in 2019, marking a 52% increase on 2018. Of the potential victims referred, 62% claimed that the exploitation occurred in the UK only, whilst 26% claimed that the exploitation took place overseas only. 55% of referrals were for individuals who claimed they were exploited as adults, whilst 43% were for individuals who claimed they were exploited as minors. The most common type of exploitation for both adults and minors was labour exploitation. Potential victims from the UK, Albania and Vietnam were the three most common nationalities to be referred in the NRM.

Terrorism in Great Britain: the statistics – 27 March 2020

Commons Library briefing examining the available statistics on terrorism-related deaths, stops, arrests, detention, prosecution and imprisonment since 2001

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[Criminal court statistics quarterly: October to December 2019 – Published 26 March 2020](#)

Magistrates court receipts and disposals increased by a marginal 1% during the quarter, while receipts for indictable only offences increased by 4%. The median time from offence to completion increased by 11% due to increases in time offence to charge / first listing (+14%). At Crown court, receipts increased by 10% while disposals fell by 8% compared to the previous year. Outstanding cases increased by 13%. The medial waiting time for Crown court cases has fallen from 6.6 weeks to 5.7 weeks over the last year, with time linked to the pre-court process increasing by 46% and time 'at court' falling by 12%.

[Firearm Crime Statistics: England & Wales – 24 March 2020](#)

Commons Library briefing providing statistics on the number of police recorded firearm offences over the last decade, including data by police force area

Upcoming publications

- Recorded crime and crime outcomes in England and Wales, 2019 – 23 April 2020
- Police officer uplift, quarterly update to March 2020 – 30 April 2020
- Fire and rescue incident statistics 2019 – 14 May 2020

3. AUDITS AND INSPECTIONS

Upcoming reports and inspection activity

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

4. REVIEWS AND INQUIRIES

[Policing a Pandemic: The Challenges of maintaining law and order – 22 March 2020](#)

Report from the Policy Exchange think tank concludes that the impact of the coronavirus crisis on crime and law and order is likely to be profound but short term, however new pressures may be offset by a reduction in demand for some traditional policing functions. While some crimes such as alcohol-related disorder will inevitably reduce as a result of the Coronavirus measures, crimes, such as domestic violence are likely to increase leading to more demand on emergency response teams. The paper recommendations that:-

- Government should instigate a national advertising campaign to raise morale and build social cohesion and engage Third Sector and Civil Society organisations and devise a national strategy for sustaining strong levels of mental health and well-being in order to prevent increases in domestic abuse
- The Home Office and Police Service should re-invigorate Neighbourhood Watch schemes and ensure that police Safer Neighbourhood Teams are retained as a vital visible presence on the streets.
- The National Crime Agency (NCA) should issue guidance and advice on avoiding online fraud and the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) should expand existing advice on phishing relating to COVID-19
- Local authorities should use existing Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships to enhance community engagement and information sharing, including creating and monitoring websites that strengthen the ability of individuals and community groups to help the elderly and vulnerable connect with local support.

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5. LEGISLATION

Coronavirus Act 2019-21 – Royal Assent 25 March 2020

Emergency legislation to provide public bodies with the tools and powers needed to carry out a consistent and effective response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The Act enables emergency action with regard to:

Helping to contain and slow spread of the virus by:-

- Enable government to restrict / prohibit events and gatherings in any place, vehicle or movable structure
- Providing a temporary power to close educational establishments or childcare providers
- Giving police and immigration officers the authority to enforce these measures (Clause 49 and Schedule 20), for example, by returning people to places that they have been required to stay and direct individuals to attend locations for screening and assessment
- Postponing local, mayoral and Police and Crime Commissioner Elections from 7 May 2020 to 6 May 2021 (Clauses 57, 58 and 60). Current PCCs will therefore remain in post for a further 12 months
- Postponing other electoral events where necessary over the course of the year, such as by-elections

Increasing the available health and social care workforce by:-

- Enabling regulators to emergency register suitable people as healthcare professionals, such as recently retired professionals and students who are near the end of their training
- Enabling regulators to temporarily add social workers who have recently left the profession to registers
- Enabling employees to take Emergency Volunteer Leave (compensation fund to compensate for loss)
- Provide indemnity for clinical negligence liabilities arising from Covid-19 related NHS activities
- Suspending the rule preventing some NHS staff returning to work from working more than 16 hrs a week

Easing the burden on frontline staff by:-

- Enabling local authorities to prioritise care for people with the most pressing needs
- Allowing key workers to perform more tasks remotely and require less paperwork
- Enable mental health detention for urgent treatment using just one doctor's opinion (rather than 2)
- Allow temporary extension or removal of time limits in mental health legislation if and when needed
- Temporarily relax local authority duties in relation to social care needs assessment / support plans
- Powers to require educational institutions/childcare providers to stay open or relax some requirements
- Enable Home Secretary to request that port/airport operators temporarily close and suspend operations
- Expand availability of video and audio link in court proceedings so that courts can continue to function
- Measures to maintain / protect national security and the investigation of investigate serious crime, including resilience in issuing warrants and extending the deadline for retention of biometric data

Managing the deceased with respect and dignity by:-

- Enabling the death management system to deal with increased demand for its services
- Reduce requirements for doctor to notify a coroner in certain circumstances
- Expand the list of people who can register a death to include funeral directors acting on behalf of family
- Remove the need for a second confirmatory medical certificate in order for a cremation to take place
- Remove requirement that any inquest into a COVID-19 death must be held with a jury
- Enable local government to take control of a component or components of the death management process

Protecting and supporting people by:-

- Ensure Statutory Sick Pay is available to those who are unwell or have been instructed to self-isolate as a precaution from day 1 as opposed to day 3 (can be claimed retrospectively from 13 March 2020)
- Enable employers with fewer than 250 employees to reclaim SSP paid for absences relating to coronavirus
- Require industry to provide information about food supplies / support the food industry to maintain supplies.

The legislation is time-limited to two years and not all measures will come into force immediately. The Act or any aspect of it could be ended early or extended if the best available evidence supports a decision to do so.

The Department of Health and Social Care has also published guidance and an impact assessment of the act. Commons briefings: Emergency Powers and national security, Implications for the courts and tribunals

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Government Bills

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

[Domestic Abuse Bill – Second reading in the Commons – TBA](#)

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)

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

Bill to consolidate the law on sentencing procedure in England and Wales and to ensure the most serious and violent offenders serve more of their sentences in custody

[Sentencing Bill – Second reading in the Lords – TBA](#)

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 serious sexual and violent offenders; extend the range of reasons where the starting point for the sentence in cases of murder is a whole life order; require judges to explain in their sentencing remarks what the sentence means for an offender's release arrangements; strengthen community orders to ensure they address mental health and alcohol or drug misuse needs or provide reparation

[Fire Safety Bill – Second reading in the Commons – 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](#)

[Online Harms Bill - April 2019 White Paper](#)

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Private Member's Bills

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

Private Members' Bill to improve the justice system's response to foreign national offenders, increasing the maximum penalty for those who return to the UK in breach of a deportation order

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

Private Member's Bill to make provision about substance testing in prisons and similar institutions

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

Private member's Bill to establish a right to specialist sexual violence and abuse support services for victims of sexual, violent and domestic abuse; and for connected purposes.

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

Private member's Bill 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 the Commons – 1 September 2020

Private member's Bill to make motivation by misandry or misogyny an aggravating factor in criminal sentencing; to require police forces to record hate crimes motivated by misandry or misogyny; and for connected purposes.

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

Private Member's Bill to require courts to impose community sentences on women offenders unless they have committed a serious or violent offence and pose a threat to the public; and for connected purposes.

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

Private Member's Bill to make provision about private prosecutions in cases of suspected criminal fraud in certain circumstances

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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6. CONSULTATIONS

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

Sentencing Council consultation on proposals revise guidelines for driving offences disqualifications, breach of community orders and clarifications to some explanatory materials. Proposed new guidance covers 'totting up' disqualifications, which are imposed when an offender incurs 12 or more points on their licence. Drivers can avoid disqualification if they successfully claim that not being able to drive would lead to "exceptional hardship".

Open date: 22/01/2020

Close date: 15/04/2020

[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.

Open date: 05/03/2020

Close date: 16/04/2020

[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.

Open date: 26/02/2020

Close date: 22/04/2020

[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 off 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: 29/04/2020

[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: 10/05/2020

[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

[HMICFRS Proposed Policing Inspection Programme and Framework 2020 to 2021](#) - Close date: TBC