



## Welcome to the Commissioner's weekly horizon scanning brief:

1. **Legislation** (Legislation, Home Office, APCC, press comments, reports and campaigns relating to strategy, policy and programmes)
2. **Policing and crime key developments** (relevant crime and criminal justice information and partners' policy/reports/campaigns)
3. **Reports** (covering research, reviews, inspections and audits across policing and crime)
4. **Consultations** (police and crime bulletins, research, consultations and press releases)

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## 1. Legislation

### [Consideration of time motion and remaining stages \(Day 1\) of the Crime and Courts Bill \[Lords\]](#)

The Crime and Courts Bill was back in the Commons for consideration of changes made in Committee.

### [Age of Criminal Responsibility Bill \[HL\] 2012-13](#)

A bill to raise the age of criminal responsibility; and for connected purposes.

### [Latest news on the Charities Act 2011 \(Amendment\) Bill 2012-13](#)

A Bill to amend the Charities Act 2011 to treat all religious institutions as charities; and for connected purposes.

### [Children and Families Bill 2012-13](#)

The Bill seeks to reform legislation relating to the following areas:

- adoption and children in care
- aspects of the family justice system
- children and young people with special educational needs
- the Office of the Children's Commissioner for England
- statutory rights to leave and pay for parents and adopters
- time off work for ante-natal care
- the right to request flexible working.

### **Background briefing on new offence of stalking**

The House of Commons Library has produced a briefing paper for MPs on the specific criminal offence of stalking, announced in March 2012, on International Women's Day, by the Prime Minister. [Stalking \( PDF, 19 pages, 313.4 KB\)](#)

### **"Public Service Mutuals" and the Fire Service - Commons Library Standard Note**

The House of Commons Library has produced a briefing paper for MPs on reports that Cleveland Fire Brigade is considering setting up a "Public Service Mutual" which would

provide services under contract to the Fire and Rescue Authority. [“Public Service Mutuals” and the Fire Service \( PDF, 9 pages, 298.9 KB\)](#)

## [Defamation Bill 2012-13](#)

The aim of the Bill is to reform the law of defamation to ensure that a fair balance is struck between the right to freedom of expression and the protection of reputation.

## [Financial Services \(Banking Reform\) Bill 2012-13](#)

To make further provision about banking and other financial services, including provision about the Financial Services Compensation Scheme; to make provision for the amounts owed in respect of certain deposits to be treated as a preferential debt on insolvency; to make provision about the accounts of the Bank of England and its wholly owned subsidiaries; and for connected purposes.

## [Growth and Infrastructure Bill 2012-13](#)

To make provision in connection with facilitating or controlling the following, namely, the provision or use of infrastructure, the carrying-out of development, and the compulsory acquisition of land; to make provision about when rating lists are to be compiled; to make provision about the rights of employees of companies who agree to be employee owners; and for connected purposes.

## [Parish and Town Council Precepts \(Referendums\) Bill 2012-13](#)

This Bill is expected to have its second reading debate on 26 April 2013. A Bill to give effect to Schedule 5 of the Localism Act 2011; to amend section 52ZC of the Government Finance Act 1992 (inserted by that Schedule) to require parish and town councils to conduct local referendums in the event that they choose to increase their precept by 2 per cent or more in the following financial year; and for connected purposes.

## [Welfare Benefits Up-rating Bill 2012-13](#)

To make provision relating to the up-rating of certain social security benefits and tax credits.

## 2. Policing and crime key developments

### [Crown Prosecution Service](#)

Under the spotlight: perverting the course of justice and wasting police time in cases involving allegedly false rape and domestic violence allegations.

### [New research shows community projects successful in tackling crime and anti-social behaviour](#)

The Community Development Foundation has published six case studies of community projects tackling crime ranging from re-habilitating offenders to preventing youth anti-social behaviour.

### [Keeping girls out of the penal system](#)

This briefing paper is the first in a series of papers outlining the findings of the inquiry on keeping girls out of the penal system.

### [From courts to custody](#)

This briefing paper is the second in a series of papers outlining the findings of the inquiry. It focuses on provision for and treatment of girls in the penal system.

## [Police in England and Wales arrest almost 100 girls a day says Howard League for Penal Reform](#)

Police arrest almost 100 girls a day in England and Wales, figures obtained by the Howard League for Penal Reform reveal. However, the overall number has almost halved in three years after the charity launched a campaign aimed at keeping as many children as possible out of the criminal justice system. Police made more than 34,000 arrests of girls aged 17 and younger during 2011 whereas three years earlier in 2008, more than 62,000 arrests were recorded. Several police services have reviewed their arrest procedures and policies as a result of the Howard League's engagement with them.

Fourteen police services recorded a fall in arrests of more than 50 per cent. They were Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Dorset, Essex, Gloucestershire, Hertfordshire, Humberside, Lancashire, Northumbria, Suffolk, Thames Valley, Warwickshire, West Midlands and West Yorkshire. Only one police service, City of London, recorded an increase.

## [Youth Justice Board - Young People and the Secure Estate: Needs and Intervention.](#)

This report, by the Institute for Criminal Policy Research (ICPR), Birkbeck, University of London, and Ipsos MORI, was commissioned by the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales (YJB) in 2008. It provides an in-depth examination of the identified needs of children and young people within the secure estate and the interventions they received, based on fieldwork conducted over the course of 2010 to early 2011.

## [Surrey PCC opposes Winsor reforms](#)

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey has taken a stand against several strands of government police reform, including Direct Entry and the reduction of starting pay for PCs.

## [Police Federation supports College flexible working guidance](#)

The College of Policing has issued one of its first policy papers, in the form of guidance on flexible working. According to the College, the guidance aims to highlight the operational and financial benefits for forces gained from focusing on officers' work-life balance.

## [Government to launch road safety websites](#)

The Department for Transport (DfT) has launched a website that enables people to compare their local highway authority's road safety performance with other parts of England, with data broken down by class of user, including cyclists. It has also launched a new research portal called the Road Safety Observatory.

## [Performance targets 'dysfunctional' says new Supers President](#)

The new President of the Police Superintendent's Association has proposed radical change to what she called the Service's 'target-driven performance culture'.

## [New team to navigate local government](#)

The Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) has announced the appointment of a new Local Government Navigator Team. Building relationships, raising the profile of social science research and identifying opportunities for collaboration will be the main focus of the team made up of three Knowledge Navigators.

[Home Office](#) - CCTV supporting small businesses: This leaflet offers guidance to current or potential users of CCTV on how to get the most from this technology.

## 3. Reports

[The Chancellor of the Exchequer delivered his Budget to Parliament on 20 March 2013](#), alongside the publication of the Office for Budget Responsibility's updated [forecasts for growth and borrowing](#), which highlights the public sector net borrowing will be broadly stable at around £120 billion last year, this year and next after adjusting for recent policy decisions with a temporary effect on the headline deficit. The Government's plan for the economy, first set out in June Budget 2010, is based on:

- Fiscal responsibility to deal with our debts with a deficit-reduction plan.
- Monetary activism to support demand and keep interest rates low.
- Supply-side reform to help businesses create jobs and deliver lasting prosperity.

This Budget aims to help those who aspire to work hard and get on, buy a home, start a business or save for retirement.

[Revolving Doors Agency - Supporting vulnerable people in custody and at court: An update for the voluntary and community sector](#): Health inequalities within the offender population are high, with studies consistently revealing that those in contact with the criminal justice system are significantly more likely than the general population to experience poorer physical and mental health, require support in relation to substance misuse issues, or have multiple support needs across these and other areas.

### [A new partnership to keep young runaways safe](#)

An agreement has been signed between the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) and The Children's Society which sets out how they will work together to improve support for children and young people who run away or go missing from home or care.

### [Cyber Crime Reduction Partnership launched](#)

The Home Office has launched a new partnership bringing together police, industry experts and academics to ensure police and other law enforcement agencies can stay one step ahead of online criminals.

### [Alcohol Policy UK](#)

Under-reporting: Media, myths and policy implications?

### [Government response to Justice Select Committee's opinion on the European Union Data Protection framework proposals](#)

This is the Government's response to the Justice Select Committee's Report on the EU Data Protection proposals.

### [Centre for Social Justice](#)

#### **'It Happens Here – Equipping the United Kingdom to fight modern slavery'**

Modern slavery is a disturbing and complex problem. Breaking the lives of the vulnerable and voiceless, it represents a grave abuse of human rights and basic dignity. Victims in the UK represent the damaging effect of the five pathways to poverty. Many encountered during the course of this research have come from broken families, leaving them less protected from attachments to those who wish them harm. Some have been unable to find work, leaving them more vulnerable to exploitation. Others are serious addicts, some struggle with unmanageable debt and many have never experienced decent education.

**[UCL Jill Dando Institute of Crime Science](#)** - *Problem Solving for Neighbourhood Policing*. Solving local crime problems is important because if they aren't solved they will continue to damage the lives of the people who live in communities. Residents and others are likely to feel unsafe and to have a negative opinion of their local police. The guide will be useful to police officers and others who work on neighbourhood policing teams, as well as other people responsible for dealing with crime and disorder in local communities.

### **[Embedding 'evidence-based policing' at operational level](#)**

Martin Innes and Trudy Lowe of Cardiff University's Police Science Institute, discuss the benefits of employing an evidence-based approach in day-to-day policing.

### **[Inspiring Terrorism?](#)**

Over the last two years several court cases involving people allegedly involved in terrorism in the UK have mentioned a publication called *Inspire*. One of its recurring themes is the use of fire as a key element of terrorism. Dr Dave Sloggett looks back over the first ten editions to explore its approach to trying to radicalise vulnerable people and assess its impact.

### **[New film reveals the unheard voices of the 2011 riots](#)**

An Oxford law graduate who was arrested during the 2011 riots in London has made a documentary that challenges the depiction of rioters as mindless criminals.

### **[PSNI trial first green police car](#)**

The Police Service of Northern Ireland has taken delivery of a Vauxhall Ampera police car, making it the first force in the country to trial the petrol-electric range extender.

### **[Online child abuse images greater concern than terrorism say IWF](#)**

Child sexual abuse images are of more concern to internet users in Britain than any other illegal or potentially harmful content with the Internet Watch Foundation suggesting that most people are unaware how to report such content. The IWF survey of over 2,000 people found 83% of those polled were worried about the websites, 73% by terrorist material and 68% by violent pornography.

### **Police officers are to stop attending every report of a missing person in an effort to concentrate resources on those for whom going missing is out of character or who are thought to be at risk.**

A new "absent" category will be created for those who are merely not where they are expected to be and their cases monitored ([BBC Online](#)).

### **[Clinks](#) - Six principles for engaging the VCS in community justice and community safety.**

This guide provides six overarching principles to support statutory engagement with the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS). It provides a rationale as to why you would adopt each principle, practical examples of where they have been applied well, and tips on how to implement them.

### **[Troubled Families – Independent research](#)**

DCLG and LGA have announced that the troubled families programmes will be independently assessed.

## [£9.5m to support hundreds of communities to create neighbourhood plans](#)

A new 2 year programme has been announced to help communities develop neighbourhood plans. Groups of residents will be able to bid for up to £7,000 to contribute towards the costs of preparing their proposals.

## [New technology to improve children's mental health services](#)

The Department of Health has announced £2m for new handheld computers to boost children's mental health services.

## [Demos - Control Shift: We need a new settlement between the state, the individual and local communities ...](#)

Control Shift is the final output of a project which was designed to reach some consensus over what 'responsibility' means in terms of policy – based on a series of expert roundtables, analysis of public polling and attitudinal research. It looks at what levels of personal and civic responsibility people yearn for, where such reciprocity throws up political discomfort and what might be achievable in terms of rebalancing the individual's relationship with the state. This report makes the case for embracing so-called 'nudge-plus' proposals, incentivising healthy behaviour and making it easier for people to make informed decisions and take greater responsibility. By implementing ideas such as creating an independent Risk Commission, making better use of data and rewarding proactive local authorities with a community cashback scheme, the report argues that the Government can support individuals, families and communities in making better choices without being heavy-handed.

## [New Philanthropy Capital](#)

Money for Good UK. Donations from individuals are crucial for charities' survival. They allow charities the flexibility to innovate and find new ways to solve social problems. But what do donors think about when deciding where and how much to give? And what would inspire them to give more? Money for Good UK explores the habits, attitudes and motivations of the UK's donors.

## [Department for Communities and Local Government](#)

Statistics on fires, casualties, false alarms and non-fire incidents attended by fire and rescue services in England.

## [Policy Exchange](#)

**A Right to Build: Local homes for local people.** First time buyers and pensioners looking to downsize will be able to benefit from a radically new proposal that allows local people to buy their own plot of land and design their own custom built home. *A Right to Build* says that councils that fail to hit their own housing targets should have to release land to local people who want to design their own homes. In 2012, construction began on just 100,000 homes.

## [Sign clutter tackled with new award](#)

Town halls will be rewarded for taking action against the scourge of unnecessary traffic signs with a new prize launched by the Transport Secretary. The award is part of the Government's drive to cut the number of signs spoiling our towns, cities and countryside. Many local authorities are making good progress in getting rid of clutter from their roads but the Government wants to see more action being taken to make old and confusing signs a thing of the past.

## [The King's Fund](#)

Volunteering in health and care. The health and social care system being under extreme pressure to improve the quality and efficiency of services. Report on how to meet the challenges ahead, service providers will need to think differently about how they work and who they work with.

**Leading education academics have written an open letter to *The Daily Telegraph* in which they criticise the new national curriculum as demanding “too much too young”.** The letter argues that an undue focus on memorising facts is depriving children of the opportunity to learn skills such as problem-solving and creativity ([Telegraph](#)).

## [UK unemployment rises 7,000 to 2.52m](#)

- The employment rate for those aged from 16 to 64 for November 2012 to January 2013 was 71.5%, up 0.3 percentage points from August to October 2012. There were 29.73 million people in employment aged 16 and over, up 131,000 from August to October 2012.
- The unemployment rate for November 2012 to January 2013 was 7.8% of the economically active population, unchanged from August to October 2012. There were 2.52 million unemployed people, up 7,000 from August to October 2012.
- The inactivity rate for those aged from 16 to 64 for November 2012 to January 2013 was 22.3%, down 0.3 percentage points from August to October 2012. There were 8.95 million economically inactive people aged from 16 to 64, down 118,000 from August to October 2012.
- Between November 2011 to January 2012 and November 2012 to January 2013 total pay and regular pay rose by 1.2%. However as inflation measured by the Consumer Prices Index was 2.7% between January 2012 and January 2013, there continues to be a cut in the real value of pay.

## 4. Consultations

### [Full version of Nick Clegg's speech on immigration](#)

Deputy prime minister Nick Clegg has been setting out his thoughts on immigration.

### [Sentencing for environmental offences](#)

The Sentencing Council has launched a consultation on proposals to update guidance for judges and magistrates when sentencing environmental offences. The consultation will run from 14 March 2013 to 6 June 2013 and seeks responses from both criminal justice professionals and the general public on:

- the principal factors that make an environmental offence more or less serious;
- the additional factors that should influence the sentence;
- the sentences that should be given for environmental offences; and
- anything else that should be considered.