



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. **Strategic policing and crime news** (relevant crime and criminal justice information and partners' policy/reports/campaigns)
3. **Developments and reports** (covering research across political, economic, social, technological, environmental and organisations)
4. **Consultations** (police and crime bulletins, research, consultations and press releases)
5. **Reviews and Inspections** (covering various reviews, inspections and audits across policing)

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1. Legislation

[Pensions Act 2014 has received Royal Assent.](#)

The Act contains a range of provisions to implement.

[Defence Reform Act 2014 has received Royal Assent.](#)

This act enables the MOD to deliver better value for money for the taxpayer and to make the armed forces better able to meet the challenges of tomorrow.

[Immigration Act 2014 has received Royal Assent.](#)

The Immigration Bill has received Royal Assent making way for a series of reforms which will ensure our immigration system is fairer to British citizens and legitimate migrants and tougher on those with no right to be here. The Immigration Act 2014 contains 77 clauses and makes fundamental changes to how our immigration system functions.

[Care Act 2014 has received Royal Assent.](#)

[Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 Amendments](#)

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act, which has been updated to reflect the latest amendments.

[Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 overarching documents](#)

These documents contain some updates from when they were last published. They include a schedule of when the various sections of the Act are being implemented.

Community Trigger commencement date

Following discussion with the Home Office there is confirmation that a commencement date of 13th May has been announced for the Community Trigger and Community Remedy. This is an administrative process that allows you to begin the consultation needed to prepare for these two powers. You do not have to have them in place by this date, or publish any

processes by this date. Both tools will commence at the same time as the rest of the tools on a date yet to be announced, but thought to be October.

[Offender Rehabilitation Act 2014](#)

It provides many of the measures which underpin the Transforming Rehabilitation programme.

[The Offender Rehabilitation Act 2014 \(Commencement No. 1\) Order 2014](#)

This Order is the first commencement order made under the Offender Rehabilitation Act [2014 \(c.11\)](#) ("the Act"). This Order commences a number of provisions of the Act on 1st June 2014.

[Home Office publishes circular on PACE changes](#)

The Home Office has published a circular highlighting revisions to two of the codes of practice, issued under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE) - codes C and H.

[Dangerous dogs: owners face tougher sentences for attacks](#)

The changes to the Dangerous Dogs Act came into force on 13th May.

2. Strategic policing and crime news

[Damian Green's Police Federation speech](#)

[The police must change and so must the Federation, Home Secretary's tells Police Federation](#)

Later at Conference the Police Federation voted to endorse all of the recommendations contained in the Normington Report and the reform of the organisation.

[Yvette Cooper's speech](#)

Speech to the Federation conference.

[UK police to assist World Cup security operation in Brazil](#)

The UK will send six police officers to Brazil during the 2014 World Cup to offer support and advice to Brazilian police and local authorities to ensure a safe and trouble-free tournament for England fans.

[College of Policing Review](#)

The College of Policing has announced a review of the training, guidance and research for police officers responding to victims, witnesses and offenders suffering mental ill-health.

[Justice for victims of banned drivers](#)

Drivers who cause death or serious injury on the roads when they have been banned from driving will face long jail sentences when changes are made to the law, the Ministry of Justice has announced.

The [Home Affairs Select Committee](#) has published its report on *Reform of the Police Federation*.

Labour proposes measures to recover assets of criminals to pay for neighbourhood policing

Labour have set out how a future Labour government will give law enforcement agencies new powers to force criminals to handover the profits of their criminal activity.

[£493k grant to tackle crime in Wolverhampton](#)

Wolverhampton City Council has received a £493,000 grant from Police and Crime Commissioner Bob Jones to tackle violence, reduce gangs, and decrease the amount of drugs across the city. The funding comes after a council cabinet report stated that despite improvements in the area, public perception of crime was still negative.

[Centre for Crime Prevention](#)

Suspended sentences: The case for abolition.

[Police Scotland have hired four executive positions that will ensure the force's 'journey of reform'.](#)

Police Scotland has announced the appointment of four people to become members of their executive team in a time of 'significant change' for the force. The positions for the directors of Corporate Services, People and Development, Financial Services and ICT have been confirmed following an external recruitment process.

[Force is not "doomed" but will be stretched in the wake of cuts, says chief constable.](#)

Roads policing and firearms officers in Essex Police face going through a selection process to remain in the roles – as the force cuts the number of specialist posts it has. As part of a move to put officers back on local policing units, Chief Constable Steve Kavanagh has announced that the force will be losing around 75 specialist officer roles this year. He also said the 325 officers trained in public order tactics – who currently work on other roles – will become 50 officers in a “specialist public order team”.

3. Developments and reports

[Free public events at the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict](#)

There will be three days of public events taking place at the ExCel Centre in London between 10 – 12 June as part of the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict.

[Opiate and crack use continues to fall, alongside significant decrease in injecting](#)

The number of opiate and crack cocaine users in England has fallen again according to independent research published today by Public Health England.

[The Public Accounts Committee has published its report on the Criminal Justice System and Probation](#)

The Ministry of Justice is implementing wholesale changes to how rehabilitation services for offenders are delivered in England and Wales on a highly ambitious timescale. The committee recognised that the reform programme is still developing but noted risks arising from both the scale and pace of the reforms.

[215,000 households in England at risk of eviction](#)

Research compiled by housing charity, Shelter, finds that between April 2013 and March 2014, 215,305 possession orders were issued across England. Data gathered from a Ministry of Justice census shows that many homeowners and private or social tenants

received possession notices during the 11 month period, amounting to the equivalent of 4,140 homes every week.

[Sensible risk in local government](#)

The Health and Safety Executive launch a sensible approach to health and safety – which means focusing on the significant risks – those with potential to cause real harm and suffering - and avoiding wasting resources on everyday and insignificant risks.

[Addaction](#)

The Alcohol and Crime Commission Report.

[Council budget cuts linked to a rise in mental health disorders](#)

An inquiry into the Children's and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) has found that a rise in mental health disorders amongst children is due to funding cuts and restructuring of services. Children's Commissioner for England, Maggie Atkinson, announced that more children and young people with mental health problems are being admitted to adult psychiatric wards than previously before. The Health Select Committee has received written evidence from councils and mental health services across England in response to an inquiry into the Children's and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS).

[British Association of Counselling and Psychotherapy](#)

Mental Health Provision for Women's Community Services: Findings from a survey conducted in England and Wales.

[Centre for Social Justice](#)

Sentences in the Community: Reforms to restore credibility, protect the public and cut crime.

[Department of Health](#)

Health Working Group Report on Child Sexual Exploitation.

[Home Office](#)

Government response to the alcohol consultation.

[World Health Organisation](#)

Global status report on alcohol and health 2014.

[Noise Action Week](#)

This week, 19th - 24th May is Noise Action Week co-ordinated by Environmental Protection UK.

[Reforms to the Probation Service carry significant risks, says Public Accounts Committee](#)

The Public Accounts Committee has published its report on reforms to the Criminal Justice System and Probation which, the committee says, "carry significant risks."

[Tougher penalties to combat illegal working](#)

Employers could now face fines of up to £20,000 per illegal worker under new legislation. The changes also simplify the process for genuine employers: reducing the number of acceptable documents they may have to check, as well as the frequency with which these have to occur.

Major Projects Authority report shows improved project management

The government has published the Major Projects Authority (MPA's) second annual report into the performance of 199 major projects with a forecast lifetime cost of £488 billion. It forms part of our commitment to improve project management and transparency and save taxpayers' money.

4. Consultations

Proposed changes to guidance on domestic violence

The Director of Public Prosecutions, Alison Saunders, has proposed changes to the way the CPS considers domestic violence cases and has published draft guidance, which is out for consultation, that explains the impact of domestic abuse on different groups to help prosecutors to adopt a tailored approach taking into account their particular support needs. The consultation is open until 9th July 2014.

Banning the sale of alcohol below the cost of duty plus VAT

The Home Office has published guidance for suppliers of alcohol and local authorities in England and Wales for banning the sale of alcohol below the cost of duty plus VAT

Data policy for a Public Data Corporation

Views wanted on how to provide accessible public sector information. The consultation will close on 27 October 2014.

E-petition – Exempt Victims of Domestic Abuse who have had a Police Assessment and/or have a Safe/Panic Room from the Spare Room Subsidy:

<http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/64544>.

Public Traffic Signs consultation

The Department for Transport has launched a public consultation on proposed changes to the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2002. The consultation will close on 10 June 2014.

Schedule 7 Code of Practice

The statutory Code of Practice provides guidance to examining officers on the application and interpretation of Schedule 7. These have had to be revised code to ensure they reflect the changes introduced in the ASBCP Act. These changes will maintain the protection of the UK border as well as continuing to respect individuals' human rights. The Home Office welcomes your views on how adequately the changes in the ASBCP Act are reflected within the revised draft Code of Practice. You can respond via the [online survey](#).

Review of the operation of Sections 135 and 136

The Government is reviewing the operation of Sections 135 and 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983 to make sure the legislative framework offers the right support for people at the right time. The consultation is open until 3rd June 2014.

Balance of competence review information rights

Open date: 27/03/2014

Close date: 01/07/2014

[Public consultation on pre-charge bail](#)

The College of Policing in partnership with the national policing lead for criminal justice, Chief Constable Chris Eyre, is consulting on new bail principles to support police use of pre-charge bail. The consultation is open until 19th June 2014.

[Review of local authority role in housing supply](#)

This call for evidence from the Government seeks ideas, evidence and good practice into how local authorities can help to increase housing supply in order to meet local housing need. The consultation is open until 23rd May 2014.

[Using a legislative reform order to set up town and parish councils](#)

The Government is consulting on a proposal to use a legislative reform order for making it easier to set up town and parish councils. The consultation is open until 22nd May 2014.

[Public Consultation: Developing NICE guidelines: the manual](#)

From 1 April 2014 NICE are inviting comments and feedback from stakeholders and the public on the new manual for developing NICE guidelines. Consultation closes 30 June 2014

Child poverty: a draft strategy

Open date: 27/02/2014

Close date: 22/05/2014

Wildlife legislation in England: General and Class Licences

Open date: 24/02/2014

Close date: 19/05/2014

[Draft Guidance on Police Post-incident Management](#)

The IPCC has produced additional statutory guidance on police post-incident management, designed to achieve best evidence in investigations of deaths or serious injury. The IPCC are seeking feedback on the draft guidance from stakeholders. The consultation is open until 27 May 2014.

[Sentencing guidelines for theft](#)

The consultation on the draft guideline on theft offences is open from 3 April 2014 to 26 June 2014. The Council is seeking views on:

- the principal factors that make any of the offences included within the draft guideline more or less serious;
- the additional factors that should influence the sentence;
- the approach taken to structuring the draft guidelines;
- the types and lengths of sentences that should be passed for theft offences; and
- anything else that you think should be considered.

5. Reviews and Inspections

[HMIC provides assurance that chief constables are having regard to the Strategic Policing Requirement – but finds that more needs to be done](#)

This inspection examined how well police forces have established the arrangements that the Strategic Policing Requirement requires them to have in place to counter a number of

specified threats to national security and public safety. It is based on data and documentary evidence provided by all 43 police forces in England and Wales in July 2013. It includes supporting fieldwork, conducted in 18 forces, and in nine Regional Organised Crime Units (ROCU).

HMIC Programme

HMIC sets out its inspection programme and resources for the year ahead.

Thematic Inspections already Committed to in 2014/15:

- Making Best Use of Police Time
- Valuing the Police Programme – Phase 4
- Undercover Policing (Home Secretary Commission)
- Domestic Abuse (Home Secretary Commission)
- Crime Data Integrity
- Child Protection

Thematic Inspections Commencing in 2014/15

- Valuing the Police Programme – Phase 5
- Strategic Policing Requirement
- Police Integrity and Leadership
- Follow up to Mistakes Were Made Report
- Revisit of Stop and Search
- Protecting Vulnerable People Programme: Missing Children
- Police Management of Information
- Police National Database (PND) Audit
- Use of the Police National Computer (PNC) by Non-Police Organisations

Proposed Topics for New Thematic Inspections in 2014/15

- Modern Slavery
- So-Called Honour Based Violence (HBV)
- Cyber Crime.