



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

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

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

- [Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014](#) (Prospective – the provisions in Sch.11 as they relate to the PRSR2011 are not yet in force).
- [Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014](#) (Prospective – the provisions as they relate to the PRSR2011 are not yet in force).
- [Crime and Courts Act 2013](#) (The provisions as they relate to the PRSR2011 came into force 7th October 2013 by [S.I. 2013/1682 art. 3\(v\)](#) The Crime and Courts Act 2013 (Commencement No. 2 and Saving Provision) Order 2013).
- [Localism Act 2011](#) (The provisions as they relate to the PRSR2011 came in force 3rd December 2011 by [S.I. 2011/2896 art. 2\(i\)](#)) The Localism Act 2011 (Commencement No. 1 and Transitional Provisions) Order 2011.

APACC are doing a piece of work to review the changes to various other Acts and Orders.

[Offender Rehabilitation Act 2014](#) – Received Royal Assent on 13 March.

The Offender Rehabilitation Bill today received Royal Assent. It provides many of the measures which underpin the Transforming Rehabilitation programme.

[Criminal Justice and Courts Bill](#)

This Government Bill was presented to Parliament on **5 February 2014**. The Bill had its second reading debate in the House of Commons on **24 February 2014** and considered in a Public bill Committee on **25 March 2014**. The Public Bill Committee is expected to report by **1 April 2014**. The Bill is to make provision about how offenders are dealt with before and after conviction; to amend the offence of possession of extreme pornographic images; to make provision about the proceedings and powers of courts and tribunals; to make provision about judicial review; and for connected purposes.

[Report stage \(Lords\) \(Day 1\) of the Immigration Bill - April 1](#)

The **Immigration Bill** had its first day of report stage in the Lords. Further progress will be made on April 3.

[Second reading \(Commons\) of the Finance \(No. 2\) Bill - April 1](#)

The Finance (No. 2) Bill was given a second reading in the Commons and now goes to committee for further consideration.

[Immigration Bill - amendments to be considered at remaining stages](#)

[Children and Families Act 2014 receives Royal Assent](#)

The new Children and Families Act - given royal assent today - will mean changes to the law to give greater protection to vulnerable children, better support for children whose parents are separating, a new system to help children with special educational needs and disabilities, and help for parents to balance work and family life.

[International Development \(Gender Equality\) Act](#)

Received Royal Assent to promote gender equality in the provision by the Government of development assistance and humanitarian assistance to countries outside the United Kingdom; and for connected purposes.

[The Police Act 1997 \(Criminal Records\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2014](#)

These Regulations came into force on 10th March 2014. These Regulations insert a new regulation in the Police Act 1997 (Criminal Records) Regulations 2002 to prescribe a fee in relation to an application for the issue of a criminal conviction certificate within the meaning of section 112 of the Police Act 1997. These Regulations also prescribe the details to be provided in relation to a conditional caution and conviction disclosed under section 112 of the Act. Finally, these Regulations prescribe the meaning of 'central records', which are the records where convictions or conditional cautions are held for the purposes of section 112 of the Act.

[Home Office guidance on protecting crowded places: design and technical issues](#)

The Home Office has published updated guide gives advice about counter-terrorism protective security design. This guide is aimed at anyone involved in the planning, design and development of the built environment. It covers the preparation of local planning policy to the commissioning, planning, design and management of new development schemes through to detailed building design.

2. Strategic policing and crime news

[Code of ethics](#)

The Code defines the policing principles and expected standards of behaviour for everyone who works in policing, and is the result of extensive consultation both within policing and outside the profession. In addition to the Code, there is an explanatory briefing note and associated documents for dissemination within forces. These documents will support those individuals and groups who are responsible for managing the embedding of the Code.

[Overall crime in England and Wales fell by 15% in 2013, official figures show.](#)

In accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007, statistics based on police recorded crime data have been assessed against the Code of Practice for Official Statistics and found not to meet the required standard for designation as National Statistics. The full assessment report can be found on the [UK Statistics Authority website](#). Data from the Crime Survey for England and Wales continue to be badged as National Statistics. Alongside this release, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) have published a response to the UK Statistics Authority's assessment of crime statistics, including progress on implementing the requirements set out by the Authority. Latest figures from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) estimate there were 7.5 million crimes against households and resident adults in the previous twelve months, based on interviews with a nationally representative sample in the year ending December 2013. This was down 15% compared with the previous year's survey, and is the lowest estimate since the survey began in 1981.

[ACPO comment on Crime Statistics](#)

National Policing Lead on Crime Statistics, Chief Constable Jeff Farrar, said: "The statistics issued today are heartening but unsurprising. "They confirm to us that crime is continuing to fall and that the effect of prominent operations, such as Yewtree and the launch of Action Fraud, are resulting in more reporting of sexual offences and fraudulent activity".

[National Police Coordination Centre - A year on](#)

To mark NPoCC's first anniversary, Strategic Lead Stuart Williams and ACPO President Sir Hugh Orde reflect on the last 12 months and the year ahead. Other members of the team explain their roles supporting police forces deal with major incidents and events

[Violent crime is continuing a long-term fall in England and Wales, according to annual figures from NHS hospitals.](#)

There was a 12% fall in injuries from violent incidents in 2013, according to data from almost a third of emergency departments examined by Cardiff University. This leads to a decrease in the costs of violence to health services and the criminal justice system and reduces pressures on hard-pressed Accident and Emergencies late at night and at the weekend.

[MoJ publishes reports on prisoners and re-offending](#)

The Ministry of Justice has published highlighting the pressing need for more targeted through-the-gate support for prisoners on release from custody.

- [Transforming Rehabilitation: a summary of evidence on reducing reoffending](#)
- [Prisoners' experience of prison and outcomes on release](#)
[The impact of experience in prison on the employment status of longer-sentenced prisoners after release](#)

Key findings from the report are:

- 63 per cent of offenders felt that having a place to live was important to stop them reoffending;
- 70 per cent of offenders felt that having a job was important to stop them reoffending;
- 75 per cent of offenders who had employment in the months following release were still in work;
- 54 per cent of offenders admitted using drugs in the months after release from prison, while 64 per cent took drugs in the four weeks before entering prison.

[Tribunal ruling that officers suffer indirect age discrimination prompts scores more to seek redress](#)

An employment tribunal ruling determining that officers retired under Pension Regulation A19 had suffered discrimination is leading to scores of officers seeking compensation. Staff association officials said that the ruling in the case of five forces is prompting colleagues from elsewhere in the country to take action.

[Forced retirement stopped after more than 500 officers made to go in two years](#)

West Midlands Police has suspended the use of regulation A19 after forcibly retiring nearly 600 officers in two years of its use. Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) Bob Jones, who has also proposed recruiting 450 officers and 100 staff between 2014 and 2016, said he supported Chief Constable Chris Sims' decision to stop using the measure, pointing out that it fitted in well with his plans to resume recruitment.

[A Complex Multi-Dimensional Threat](#)

In her latest foreword to the annual analysis published by the Home Office on the progress on the UK Counter Terrorism strategy otherwise known as CONTEST the Home Secretary says "2013 was a sobering year for everyone involved in countering the terrorist threat to this country". She goes on to record that in 2013 the UK experienced its first fatalities since 2005. These involved the death of Drummer Lee Rigby at the hands of Muslim extremists and the murder of an 82-year old pensioner called Mohammed Saleem in Birmingham by a Ukrainian student working in Coventry with links to the extreme right wing. His name was Pavlo Lapshyn.

[Cumbria PCC: crime victims need more help](#)

Cumbria Police and Crime Commissioner Richard Rhodes has said that not enough is being done to help victims of crime in the county, following the publication of a report looking at the experiences of those who have suffered at the hands of criminals.

[ACPO UK Police Directory](#)

ACPO's UK Police Directory has established itself as the number one source for contact data within the police service and those many hundreds of other organisations which work closely with the police at all levels.

3. Developments and reports

['Safety in custody' statistics published by the Ministry of Justice show that 215 prisoners died in England and Wales in 2013 – a 9 per cent increase on the previous year.](#)

Seventy-four deaths in 2013 were recorded as self-inflicted – a rise of 23 per cent from 2012. In total, 23,183 incidents of self-harm were recorded in prisons – 64 per day on average. Women accounted for 26 per cent of these incidents, despite making up only five per cent of the prison population.

[Community Trigger Commencement Date](#)

The Government has announced that the commencement date for the Community Trigger will be 16th May 2014.

[One Ilfracombe 'single best example of multi-agency collaboration', say DSFRS](#)

A new multi-agency team 12 months in the making has been launched in North Devon aimed at providing a co-ordinated and collaborative approach to serving the community of Ilfracombe. '[One Ilfracombe](#)' is partnership set up by Ilfracombe Town Council as part of government localism pilot to improve use of neighbourhood community budgets.

[PAC report: Ministry of Justice and National Offender Management Service: Managing the prison estate](#)

The National Offender Management Service's strategy for managing the prison estate has produced significant savings in running costs – the Agency is on track to achieve reductions of £70 million a year – and a good standard of accommodation on time and within budget. The programme has been well managed and has benefited from experienced and consistent leadership.

[More communities are taking control of neighbourhood schemes](#)

The Government has announced that 123 more communities will be taking control of neighbourhood schemes to boost employment, combat crime and improve the health of residents. The announcement signals a major expansion in the [Our Place programme](#) which is a neighbourhood level way of working that brings together the right people – councillors, public servants, voluntary and community organisations and the community themselves – to tackle local issues and revolutionise the way an area works.

[National Stalking Awareness Day - 24th April 2014](#)

This year's campaign - Working without Fear - aims to eliminate workplace stalking and provide information for employers about how they can support employees who disclose stalking behaviour.

[Stronger protection for tenants and leaseholders](#)

The Government has announced that later this year all letting and property management agents will be required to join an approved 'redress scheme'.

[Places of safety for young people](#)

A new map developed by the Care Quality Commission highlights worrying restrictions in access to health-based places of safety for young people experiencing a mental health crisis.

[Youth Justice Board launches screening tool](#)

A screening tool has been launched to identify speech, language and communication needs for young people in the youth justice system.

[HMP Dartmoor - Some improvements, some concerns, much uncertainty, says HMIP report](#)

HMP Dartmoor could continue to improve but only if staff and managers have much greater certainty about its future, said Nick Hardwick, Chief Inspector of Prisons, publishing the report of an unannounced inspection of the training jail in Devon.

[The new funding will help community and volunteer-led projects provide extra support to older people next winter.](#)

The fund will support volunteer-led projects to play a vital role in helping older people stay healthy or recover quicker from illness. These projects can in turn help avoid unnecessary pressure on A&E services or delayed discharges from hospital.

[Ministry of Justice](#)

Statistics on the use of language services in courts and tribunals - January 2012 - December 2013.

[Centre for Social Justice](#)

Meaningful Mentoring. Revolving door – conveyor belt of crime, for reoffending. Mentors can take the edge off settling back into a life away from crime.

[Department of Health](#)

A Review of the Literature on sex workers and social exclusion. This paper was commissioned for the Inclusion Health programme and is one of a series of reports from the programme examining health and exclusion.

[Drug and Alcohol Findings](#)

A comparison of syringe disposal practices among injection drug users in a city with versus a city without needle and syringes programmes.

[Drug and Alcohol Findings](#)

Delivering recovery - Independent expert review of opioid replacement therapies in Scotland

[Drug and Alcohol Findings](#)

Does school ethos explain the relationship between value-added education and teenage substance misuse? A cohort study.

[Drug and Alcohol Findings](#)

Motivational interviewing: a pilot test of active ingredients and mechanisms of change.

[Home Office](#)

The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014: Delegated powers memorandum.

[Institute of Public Policy Research](#)

The Future of England - The Local Dimension.

[Lemos and Crane](#)

The Good Prison: conscience, crime and punishment.

[NICE](#)

Evidence update on interventions to reduce substance misuse among vulnerable young people.

[NSPCC](#)

How safe of our children? 2014.

[Victim Support](#)

Impact of burglary on children.

[Elderly care demand to 'outstrip' family supply](#)

The number of older people in England needing care will "outstrip" the number of family members able to provide it by 2017, a think tank has warned. An Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) report estimates that by 2030 there will be more than two million people aged 65 and over with no child living nearby to give care if needed.

[Francis Maude spoke on transparency, open data and open government at a conference in Paris](#)

Speaking in Paris about open data and transparency. Welcomed Minister Lebranchu's announcement that France is joining the [Open Government Partnership \(OGP\)](#). This is a major step forward for the OGP and one that we see as important to the long term viability of this growing but still fragile organisation.

[Industrial strategy: early successes and future priorities](#)

Government is working in partnership with industry to set out and deliver long-term plans to secure jobs and growth so we have given business leaders the opportunity to set out their views in the report and in these videos.

[HM Government e-petition underway: Stop sex offenders retaining photo's of their victims](#)

This case involves a man convicted for sexual abuse. When he was arrested, his laptop was seized by the Police. Now the man is convicted, the case is over, the man is asking for his laptop back. The laptop contains images of his victims which were not deemed indecent. The law states that the police have to return the equipment in its original condition. This is a Dorset case. The petition is to have legislation changed for similar future cases.

NSPCC welcomes decision to remove images of paedophile's young victim from his laptop

NSPCC statement on decision by Dorset Police to remove images of a self-confessed paedophile's young victim from his laptop before returning it to his prison.

[Excellence in Fire & Emergency Services Awards](#)

Fire and emergency services are facing unprecedented challenges to meet efficiency savings whilst maintaining high standards of public safety. In his review on the future of fire and rescue services, Sir Ken Knight highlighted a further £196 million savings which could be made. It is clear that emergency services cannot hope to meet these challenges without working closely with industry and evolving partnerships, innovative working practices and outsourcing aspects of the service. *The Excellence in Fire and Emergency Awards* is an exclusive gathering uniting suppliers and industry supporters with chief officers to recognise the very best of UK trade in partnership with emergency services.

4. Consultations

[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

Prevention of Offending by Young People

Open date: 05/02/2014

Close date: 30/04/2014

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 (ROCs).

[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.