



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)

1. Legislation

Employment Tribunal to Judge the legality of A19

An Employment Tribunal is to hear an allegation that the Force's use of Regulation A19 was illegal in that it contravened age discrimination legislation. The ET, to begin on 4 February in London, is being brought by the Superintendents Association of England and Wales and the Police Federation against five Police Forces which employed A19 in recent years.

The five forces involved in this litigation, and denying the claim, are Devon and Cornwall Constabulary, Nottinghamshire Police, North Wales Police, South Wales Police and West Midlands Police.

[Powers of entry review - WMS](#): The Protection of Freedoms Act (POFA) 2012 requires Ministers across government to undertake a review of powers of entry over a two year period due to conclude in early 2014. The Act requires Ministers with responsibility for powers of entry to examine their powers and to consider whether they are still necessary, proportionate and contain sufficient safeguards.

[Secondary legislation relating to PCCs](#): Provides details about and links to secondary legislation relating to police and crime commissioners.

2. Policing and crime key developments

[FDM Group: Encouraging and supporting women in IT](#): FDM Group is a leading and dynamic IT services provider. They launched a global Women in IT campaign to encourage more women into the industry.

[Community Alcohol Network - Tilley 2012](#): A problem oriented partnership approach to reducing antisocial behaviour linked to underage drinking by building capacity within communities.

[Neighbourhood & Home Watch National Communication System - Tilley 2012](#): This project focuses on the creation of a national database of Neighbourhood Watch schemes and members, linked to a secure web-based communication system

Setting local speed limits: Following a consultation exercise, the Department for Transport has published guidance on setting local speed limits.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/setting-local-speed-limits>

3. Reports

The Justice Secretary, Chris Grayling MP: Stated that the Government should not pay higher fees for senior lawyers to defend criminal cases when there are competent junior lawyers available for cheaper legal representation fees. Mr Grayling has said that the current £1 billion bill spent on legal aid for criminal cases is too high when budgets across Government are being squeezed ([Telegraph](#)).

Liberty condemns "State-sanctioned abuse": In the High Court some extraordinarily brave women were told that their human rights claims against the Metropolitan Police will have to be heard in the secretive Investigatory Powers Tribunal. These women were all the subject of undercover policing that involved sexual encounters with police officers - in many cases these encounters became long term intimate relationships. [Liberty's briefings on the Justice and Security Bill](#)

[Police Arbitration Tribunal decision - Winsor Report Part 2:](#) This report contains the response of the Police Arbitration Tribunal to the Winsor Report's recommendations.

Youth Contract opened up to help more young people: The scheme has now been extended to young people aged 16-17 years old who are or were in care; have one GCSE grade A-C and young offenders released from custody. The scheme for those who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) is part of the Government's Youth Contract, which was launched in July 2012.

<http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/inthenews/a00220110/youth-contract-extended-to-more-young-people-who-are-neet>

[Crime Survey for England and Wales:](#) identifies that crime continues to fall, down eight per cent in the year ending September 2012 according to the latest Crime Survey, and is now at the lowest level since the survey began.

A third sector organisation was awarded £150,000 on 23 January to help voluntary groups play a leading role in cutting crime and reducing reoffending.

<https://consult.justice.gov.uk/digital-communications/transforming-rehabilitation>

4. Consultations

Strict new code to prevent powers of entry being abused: Strict new guidelines are to be established to prevent public bodies abusing powers to enter homes and businesses. Home Office minister Lord Taylor announced a new code of practice would be set up and launched a six-week consultation to consider what it should include. There are currently around 1,300 powers to allow public bodies to enter private homes and businesses to enable investigations to be carried out. www.parliamenttoday.com

The Independent Commission on Mental Health and Policing: Launched a public consultation on mental health and policing in reference to the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) in London. The consultation is open to anyone who wants to share their views about the MPS; the Commission wishes to gather a range of views to help make its final report relevant and grounded, strengthened by direct experiences and views from the public. <https://mentalhealthpolicing-independent.wazoku.com>)

£20 million fund is ensuring no second night out for rough sleepers nationwide: The latest allocations from the Homelessness Transition Fund were announced. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/20-million-fund-is-ensuring-no-second-night-out-for-rough-sleepers-nationwide>

Read the Signs – Human Trafficking Awareness: Crimestoppers is asking the public for help in the fight against human trafficking by passing on information anonymously about forced labour exploitation. <http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org/media-centre/news-releases/2013/readthesigns>

Sentencing guidelines for sexual offences : The Sentencing Council is consulting on a new guideline for sentencing sexual offences and needs the views of those who are affected by, or concerned with, this type of offending. The consultation will run to the 14th March 2013, and it is hoped that criminal justice professionals and the general public will respond. <http://sentencingcouncil.judiciary.gov.uk/consultations-current.htm>

Community Remedy consultation: This consultation seeks views on proposals to introduce legislation to allow police and crime commissioners (or the relevant local policing body) to give victims of low-level crime (such as low-level criminal damage and low-value thefts) and antisocial behaviour a say in the punishment of the offender. The consultation closes on the 7 March. <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/about-us/consultations/community-remedy-consultation/?view=Standard&pubID=1143402>

Contempt of court: The law governing contempt of court is vast. Several specialist textbooks devote hundreds of pages to the topic. This consultation addresses specific, practical problems that have been identified by research and communication with stakeholders, closing on 28 February. https://consult.justice.gov.uk/law-commission/contempt/consult_view

Youth Justice Board Triennial Review: The Government's response to the Public Administration Select Committee report '**Smaller Government: Shrinking the Quango state**' sets out the plans for reforming public bodies. It includes new Triennial Review requirements for Non-Departmental Public Bodies (NDPB). Responses by 15 February. https://consult.justice.gov.uk/digital-communications/yjb-triennial-review-2012/consult_view

Measuring Child Poverty: During the summer, the Government announced it would consult on developing better measures of child poverty which include income, but provide a more accurate picture of the reality of child poverty today. This consultation asks how we can best reflect the reality of child poverty using a multidimensional measure. A number of potential dimensions are proposed: income and material deprivation, worklessness, unmanageable debt, poor housing, parental skill level, access to quality education, parental health and family stability. Closing date 15 February.

<https://www.education.gov.uk/aboutdfe/departmentalinformation/consultations/a00216896/measuring-child-poverty>

Review of Drinkaware Trust: Individuals and organisations are invited to contribute documents towards a review of the activities and effectiveness of the [Drinkaware Trust](#) , by 31 January 2013. <http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2013/01/review-drinkaware/>

Alcohol Strategy consultation: This consultation seeks views on a number of measures set out in the government's [alcohol strategy](#) which was published on 23 March 2012. The consultation will run for 10 weeks from 28 November 2012 until 6 February 2013. <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/about-us/consultations/alcohol-consultation/>

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