



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

[The Crime and Courts Bill, now known as the Crime and Courts Act 2013](#)

The development of the new National Crime Agency (NCA) has taken a crucial step forward as the Crime and Courts Bill achieved Royal Assent. It marks a fundamental milestone for establishing the Agency's powers to lead the fight against serious, organised and complex crime, including strengthening border defences, accelerating efforts against economic crime, tackling the sexual abuse and exploitation of children, and confronting cyber crime.

Crime and Courts Act 2013 will give homeowners greater protection

With the passing into law of the Crime and Courts Bill, someone who is confronted by a burglar and has reason to fear for their safety, or the safety of their family, and in the heat of the moment uses force that is reasonable in the circumstances but in the cold light of day seems disproportionate will not be guilty of an offence. Force which is 'grossly' disproportionate will still not be permitted.

[Royal Assent for Growth and Infrastructure Act 2013](#)

The successful passage of the government's flagship growth legislation signals extra momentum towards economic growth, new homes and jobs. Reforms to reduce the bureaucratic barriers that stop British business from successfully creating economic growth and local jobs became law (25 April 2013) following the Royal Assent of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

2. Policing and crime key developments

[Westminster Hall debate on Road Safety - April 25](#)

The most recent annual report on road casualties was published last year and provides detailed information for 2011. In that year, there were 203,950 reported casualties on the roads of Great Britain. What is notable about the 2011 statistics is that they represent the first annual increase in the number of people killed in road accidents since 2003. The number of fatalities increased by 3% to 1,901. Fatalities increased for car occupants by 6% to 883 and for pedestrians by 12% to 453.

[Home Affairs Committee takes evidence on diversity in the Police Service](#)

The Home Affairs Select Committee took evidence from former Chief Superintendent Dal Babu and Mike Fuller, Chief Inspector of the Crown Prosecution Service on diversity in the police service. To be effective and fair, the police service must represent the public it serves, said Dal Babu. However, women and minorities remain under-represented in the police, especially in the most senior ranks.

[20 years on](#), “Stephen's sacrifice 'has made Britain a better place””: Doreen Lawrence speaks of progress in race relations and equality at memorial service for her son on the 20th anniversary of his racist murder Stephen’s mother also spoke of the positive impact of the tragedy: that Britain had become a fairer place after her son made the ‘ultimate sacrifice of losing his life’.

[Home Affairs Select Committee takes evidence on e-crime](#)

Finishing their [inquiry into e-crime](#), which started in November 2012, the Home Affairs Select Committee heard evidence from individuals within the cyber security industry. Asked by Committee Chairman Keith Vaz MP whether the war on online crime had been lost, Mr Coviello answered, “No, but we are not winning. We have overlooked the expansion of the attack surface which has expanded due to the development of apps and other technological devices that have entered into the enterprise ‘cloud’. It is now far easier for attackers to take advantage”.

The Government has committed £63 million specifically to tackle cyber crime, which has significantly strengthened the capacity and capability of the PCeU and SOCA. In the first 6 months of the programme, PCeU operational intervention has resulted in a reduction of impact on the UK independently assessed as £140 million. Last financial year (2011/12) there were 45 arrests for cyber crime with 100% victim satisfaction. Over 21,377 web sites have been taken down from April 2011 to April 2012, resulting from evidence gathered by the PCeU Internet Governance Team.

[MEPs back deal with Council on police access to asylum seekers' fingerprints](#)

Member states' police forces and Europol would gain access to asylum seekers' fingerprints in the Eurodac database to help them fight terrorism and serious crime, under a provisional deal between Parliament and Council endorsed by the Civil Liberties Committee on Wednesday. MEPs ensured that personal data would be duly protected and that police access would be limited to cases where there is a major public security concern.

[Government has not made convincing case for opting out of EU police and criminal justice measures, says Lords](#)

Following an Inquiry undertaken jointly by two of its Sub-Committees, the House of Lords EU Committee has decided that the Government has not made a convincing case to opt-out of about 130 EU police and criminal justice measures and that to do so would have significant negative repercussions for the UK's internal security.

[Police launch national coordination centre to mobilise officers in times of need](#)

The National Police Coordination Centre (NPoCC) builds on the successful coordination of national policing resources for London's Olympic and Paralympic Games last year. It will undertake several functions, including the ability to mobilise specialist resources to a wide range of threats in times of need.

[Domestic Violence – Breaking the Cycle, Prevention and Supporting Victims](#)

Speech by Helen Grant MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State Originally given at Capita Conference, London. This is a transcript of the speech, exactly as it was delivered.

[Grayling: No more using judicial review as a cheap delaying tactic](#)

The culture of using meritless judicial review applications to delay immigration decisions and hold up development will be attacked by new controls announced by Justice Secretary Chris Grayling. New figures show the number of applications rose from 6,692 in 2007 to 11,359 in 2011 – but just one in six were granted permission to proceed beyond the earliest stages and the number which were ultimately successful fell from 187 to 144. The final package of measures was confirmed following a consultation which ran from December to January.

[Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary](#)

Criminal Justice Joint Inspection business plan 2013-15.

[Nesta](#)

Gripes, grumbles and grievances – the role of complaints in transforming public services.

[Prison Reform Trust/Revolving Doors Agency](#)

Making the difference – the role of adult social care services for vulnerable offenders.

[Sheffield Hallam University](#)

'I wanted to make it work' - Knowledge and experience of probation policy and practice changes 1998-2010.

[Help for NHS staff to spot and support trafficking victims](#)

More victims of human trafficking will be identified thanks to new training and advice launched by the Public Health Minister Anna Soubry. The new tools are designed to make it easier for NHS staff to spot and give help to people who have been illegally trafficked and are available to healthcare workers across the country. Last year, 1,186 potential victims of trafficking were identified through the UK's victim support framework the National Referral Mechanism. This is an increase of 25 per cent compared to 2011 – but due to difficulties in recognising victims it is likely many more could be saved.

[Vital new UK help for vulnerable girls and women in Haiti](#)

A new drive to help female survivors of violence and exploitation in Haiti has been announced by International Development Secretary Justine Greening during a visit to the disaster-afflicted country. The new £300,000 package of support is part of Britain's commitment to helping women and girls worldwide.

[Nine million smuggled cigarettes seized at Felixstowe](#)

Officers discovered the cigarettes shortly before 1pm on Wednesday (17 April) when they searched a container that had arrived at the port from Malaysia.

[Response to government consultation on child poverty measurement](#)

The Social Mobility and Child Poverty Commission has published its response to the government's consultation on better measures of child poverty, which makes the case for a new 'multidimensional approach' (one based on looking at how many children face a range of overlapping social problems).

Public sector net borrowing in the 12 months to the end of March fell by just £300 million to £120.6 billion, according to the Office for National Statistics (ONS) ([FT](#); [Independent](#)).

The Bank of England has announced that it is expanding the £80 billion Funding for Lending Scheme, extending its availability for another year to January 2015.

The move specifically targets small businesses, with banks to be given greater incentives to lend to small and medium-sized businesses, which are currently starved of credit ([FT](#); [Telegraph](#); [BBC Online](#)).

Unemployment among women is at its highest level for 26 years, with the majority of newly created jobs going to men, according to a report by the Fawcett Society.

The report found that since 2010, 3 out of 5 newly created jobs have gone to men and there has been a 12 per cent rise in female unemployment in the same period ([Times](#); [Guardian](#); [Independent](#)).

3. Reports

[Nottinghamshire First Mid-term Survey](#)

Infrastructure organisations* in Nottinghamshire are currently working to overhaul, improve and streamline their services right across the county. Under the banner 'Nottinghamshire First', the aim is to make sure that services are consistent in quality and availability right across the county, easy to access and provide a good fit with users needs. Partners involved in the scheme will display the Nottinghamshire First banner on their websites and many of the documents they send out.

[The UK Peace Index](#), from the Institute for Economics and Peace, found UK homicides per 100,000 people had fallen from 1.99 in 2003, to one in 2012. The index found Broadland, Norfolk, to be the most peaceful local council area but Lewisham, London, to be the least. Of the UK's "urban areas", the index found Glasgow, with a murder rate of double the national average, to be the least peaceful and Cardiff, with 60% less violent crime than Glasgow, the **most peaceful**. Sheffield, **Nottingham** and Leeds came 2nd, **3rd** and 4th respectively behind Cardiff in the urban areas peacefulness ranking.

Of the 343 local authorities covered in the index, 278 are now more peaceful than they were in 2003. The authors estimated that violence cost the UK £124billion last year, equivalent to £4,700 per household or 7.7 per cent of GDP. A nine per cent reduction in violence would be equivalent to the total cost of the London Olympics, they said. Poverty, employment opportunities, education, access to services, and inequality are 'closely related' to peace, the report concluded.

[Activities and places to go would stop young people breaking the law, says Keeping out of Trouble report](#)

More local activities and places to go would stop children and young people from breaking the law. This was the message from 187 children and young people who are either living in care or in a secure training centre when asked for their views on keeping out of trouble by Roger Morgan, the Children's Rights Director for England.

[National Policing Requirement](#)

The final version of the National Policing Requirement (NPR). The NPR has been produced with business area leads from across the police service and relates to Strategic Policing Requirement which was issued in 2012. The College of Policing will provide the opportunity for Police and Crime Commissioners, chief officers and the College of Policing to discuss the NPR in more detail.

Alcohol Research UK

Social norms and student drinking – an exploratory trial: This exploratory trial examines the feasibility of implementing a social norms marketing campaign to reduce student drinking in universities in Wales, and evaluating it using cluster randomised trial methodology.

Beyond Youth Custody

Resettlement of young people leaving custody. This literature review presents the findings of an analysis of research and practice literature about resettlement services for young people when they leave custody. It will act as a baseline to assess how the Youth in Focus delivery projects have advanced our knowledge of what works within youth resettlement following custody.

Drugscope

Making the connection: Developing integrated approaches to domestic violence and substance misuse. LDAN/DrugScope's Domestic Violence project, funded by London Councils, took place over a four year period, and focused on the development of a cross-sectoral network bringing together domestic violence and drug and alcohol services. As statistics set out in this briefing indicate, there are clear – though complex – links between domestic violence and substance misuse. However, services have not always worked effectively to address these links. The project aimed to tackle this gap, and to improve the quality of service provision for those affected by domestic violence and substance misuse, by bringing the two sectors together to discuss issues of common interest, provide practical information and support, and facilitate collaboration and partnership. At the heart of the project was an overall objective of supporting organisations to achieve a reduction in the impact and occurrence of domestic violence, abuse and repeat victimisation.

THINK! urges motorcyclists to 'stay in control'

A new THINK! road safety initiative to encourage motorcyclists to improve their defensive riding skills has been launched today (18 April 2013) by the Road Safety Minister Stephen Hammond. The 'stay in control' campaign - which has been developed with partners from the motorcycle industry - advises motorcyclists to ride defensively and seek further training to sharpen their skills. Posters, leaflets and other promotional material will be distributed to hundreds of motorcycle dealerships and retailers across the UK. The campaign will run throughout the peak riding season this spring and summer, when, historically, the number of motorcyclists killed and seriously injured on the roads sees an increase.

Counting rules for crime

This document contains the revised set of Rules for counting and classifying crime with effect from 1 April 2013.

Background briefing on managing online identity

The Government plans to digitise more public services by 2015 to improve efficiency and reduce costs. As more daily activities, services and transactions are conducted online,

increasing amounts of personal data are used on the internet. [Managing Online Identity \(PDF, 4 pages, 326.2 KB\)](#)

BBC report on 18% percent of shops closed in Nottingham

A SURVEY released today suggesting nearly a third of Nottingham's shops are standing empty has been dismissed by retailers and [commercial](#) property advisers.

The Local Data [Company](#) says Nottingham is now the second-worst large centre in the country for vacant retail premises, with 29.6 per cent of shops unoccupied. Only Stockport, in Lancashire is worse, and the LDC's figures suggest vacancies in Nottingham are eight per cent higher than its nearest East Midlands rival, Leicester, and more than 10 per cent worse than Derby.

[Information Economy Strategy: Call For Views and Evidence](#)

The government intends to publish an information economy strategy this spring. The term "information economy" is broadly defined and does not encompass a single sector. For the purposes of this strategy the working description of the information economy is being taken as: *"the part of the economy where digital technologies and information combine to drive productivity and create new growth opportunities across the whole economy"*

The Department for Business, Innovation & Skills (BIS) Secretary of State Vince Cable [announced the UK industrial strategy](#) in September 2012. He set out his vision for the future of British industry and committed to a long term, strategic partnership between government and industry. The information economy is 1 of 11 sectors that are developing these partnerships.

Magistrates' courts in certain parts of the country are four times more likely than others to send offenders to prison, according to a report by the Howard League for Penal Reform.

The report revealed large disparities, in particular that the number of prison sentences recorded in Warwickshire and Northumbria in 2011 was four times higher than in Northamptonshire and Derbyshire ([Telegraph](#); [Times](#); [Independent](#); [Express](#); [BBC Online](#)).

Government's advisers on child poverty will warn tomorrow that the number of children growing up in poor families could increase to more than three million by 2020.

The Chairman of the new Social Mobility and Child Poverty Commission, Alan Milburn, said that there was no chance of the Coalition hitting its target to abolish child poverty by 2020 ([Independent](#)).

[Ministry of Justice: Statistics](#)

Criminal Court Information.

4. Consultations

2013 Information Security Breaches Survey

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills recognises the importance of producing reliable information about cyber security breaches, and making it publicly available. This is the latest of the series of Information Security Breaches Surveys, carried out every couple of years since the early 1990s. Infosecurity Europe carried out the survey, and PwC analysed the results and wrote the report. The number of security breaches affecting UK business

continues to increase. Affected companies experienced roughly 50% more breaches on average than a year ago.

[Summary of Responses to the consultation on the future of the Vehicle Identity Check \(VIC\) Scheme](#)

The Vehicles Crime Act (2001), among other things, provided the Vehicle Operator and Services Agency (VOSA) with the power to inspect 'written off' vehicles where the cost of repairing exceeds the market value of the car. The Vehicle Identity Check (VIC) scheme was introduced in 2003.

Committee to examine the role of Jobcentre Plus in the reformed welfare system

The inquiry will focus on the services JCP offers to benefit claimants, jobseekers and employers and its relationships with external providers and stakeholders such as local authorities, in the context of recent and ongoing welfare reforms, including the introduction of Universal Credit, and the resulting changes to JCP staff roles. The inquiry will also assess whether the organisational changes in JCP since 2011 have produced efficiencies and streamlined management processes as intended. Submissions of **no more than 3,000 words** are invited from interested organisations and individuals. The deadline for submitting evidence is **Friday 24 May** workpencom@parliament.uk.