



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 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

[Finance Bill 14 brings in new tax changes](#)

The government has published Finance Bill 2014, legislation implementing tax changes announced during the last year.

[Modern slavery white paper published](#) - A flagship Bill to tackle modern slavery, the first of its kind in Europe, has been published by the Home Secretary Theresa May.

[Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act](#) - The Bill received Royal Assent on 13 March. It contains a variety of provisions of significant note to Police and Crime Commissioners, including:

[Offender Rehabilitation Bill](#) – Received Royal Assent.

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

[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.

[Counter-terrorism Bill Committee Stage Report](#) - This paper has been published for the Report Stage debate on the Counter-Terrorism Bill. The bill is wide-ranging but the most contentious provisions relate to pre-charge detention, post charge questioning and inquests and inquiries.

[Criminal Justice and Courts Bill](#) - The Criminal Justice and Courts Bill second reading is on the 24th February.

[Pensions Bill: Amendments to be moved on Report](#)

[SI 2014 No. 239 The Police Act 1997 \(Criminal records\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2014](#)

This statutory instrument was laid before Parliament on 13 February and comes into force on 10 March. It concerns fees for criminal conviction certificates.

[MEPs tighten up rules to protect personal data in the digital era](#)

MEPs inserted stronger safeguards for EU citizens' personal data that gets transferred to non-EU countries in a major overhaul of the EU's data protection laws.

2. Policing and crime key developments

Police and Crime Commissioners to scrutinise police handling of domestic violence

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) has published a thematic report summarising its inspection of how forces tackle domestic violence.

Key findings:

- Police response to victims of domestic abuse is not good enough; forces need to take decisive action now.
- Police attitudes too often judgmental (despite improvements over the last decade and commitment of many excellent officers).
- Skills to identify and tackle domestic abuse lacking.
- Core policing, investigating the offence and safeguarding the victim, is not happening.
- Four forces cause serious concern and are required to provide immediate action plans prior to re-inspection. Of these four forces, two have already been subject to a re-inspection.

Tackling domestic abuse is a key priority for Police and Crime Commissioners and this report provides a real opportunity for us, as the public voice in policing, to make sure the police work with domestic violence victims and outside agencies to place more emphasis on this area.

Home Secretary leads action on police response to domestic violence and abuse

The Home Secretary will be leading widespread action to improve the police response to victims of domestic violence and abuse after a report by [Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary](#) (HMIC) found systematic failings.

Written Ministerial Statements: Firearms, HMIC report on Domestic Violence, Taser and female offenders

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach) (Con): My rt hon Friend the Minister of State for Policing and Criminal Justice (Damian Green) has today made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

Police use of firearms in England and Wales for the period 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013

Key points:

- The number of police operations in which firearms were authorised was 10,996 – a decrease of 1,554 (14.1 %) on the previous year.
- The number of Authorised Firearms Officers (AFO's) was 6,091 – a decrease of 665 (10.9%) officers overall on the previous year.
- The number of operations involving armed response vehicles was 13,116 – a decrease of 1,145 (8.7%) on the previous year.
- The Police discharged a conventional firearm in 3 incidents (down from 5 incidents in 2011-12).

[Written statement on Police use of taser statistics England and Wales January 2012 & 2013](#)

The Minister of State for Policing and Criminal Justice (Damian Green): has published the statistics on police use of taser in England and Wales for six monthly periods between January 2012 and December 2013. These show that:

- Total police use of taser has increased from 2012 to 2013, continuing the trend seen since 2009.
- The proportion of taser where the 'highest use' was 'fired' decreased between 2012 and 2013 – accounting for 17% of uses in 2013.
- The most common 'highest use' of a taser was 'red dot' in each of the last two years, accounting for just over half of all uses.

Update to Parliament on progress made against delivery of strategic objectives for female offenders

Key points:

- Following the women's custodial estate review, the Ministry of Justice has established a new dedicated team to oversee the care and supervision of a small number of women with complex needs in custody which aims to guarantee that these women benefit from the most appropriate interventions and regimes available for their particular needs.
- The Government will put in place safeguards to make sure that the gender-specific needs of women are provided for as part of the Transforming Rehabilitation reforms. This included an amendment to the now Offender Rehabilitation Act 2014 to make sure that contracts with future providers under Transforming Rehabilitation identify specific provision to meet the particular needs of female offenders.
- Officials have made available guidance to steer providers so that they understand the gender-specific needs of women. They have written into contracts that providers should give female offenders the option, where practicable, of a female-only interview space, female-only supervisors and not to be the only woman in an all male unpaid work group or attendance centre group.
- The Minister announced today that, in partnership with The Clink Charity, the Ministry of Justice will expand the employment opportunities which they provide to female offenders. Offenders will be employed to prepare and serve the food while working towards accreditation which is recognised in the industry. The restaurant will be run by The Clink Charity.
- The Government continue to look at how to create a better resettlement system for female prisoners which will help all those who want to do so, to serve their sentence

as close as possible to where they will live on release which will increase opportunities to establish resettlement links with their local communities.

- The Minister is also working to improve opportunities for female prisoners to maintain important links with their families. Officials continue to explore ways in which local police, courts and community services can work together to reduce the need for custodial solutions for female offenders.

ACPO response to Home Office statistics on police Taser use

National policing lead for Taser, Commander Neil Basu, said: "Taser use is subject to a high degree of oversight and immense scrutiny, as is only right, and all uses are recorded and reported to the Home Office.

A report by HM Inspectorate of Constabulary has concluded that 35 of the 43 forces in England and Wales have been providing a substandard service in dealing with cases of domestic abuse.

Home Secretary Theresa May MP, who commissioned the inspection, described its findings as "deeply worrying" and said she would chair a "national oversight group" to drive through reforms (*Independent*; *Mail*; *Mirror*; [BBC Online](#)).

HMIC Crime and Police Monitoring Group meeting towards the end of last year about the HMIC report on the Valuing the Policing 3 Inspections

[Met mobile phone operation earns its wings](#)

The Metropolitan Police Service has announced [Operation Big Wing](#), a crack-down on the trade in stolen mobile phones, coinciding with a European day of action earlier this week.

[ACPO committed to the fight against FGM](#)

The Association of Chief Police Officers has applauded the recent decision to charge two men over female genital mutilation. Proceedings initiated against Dr Dhanuson Dharmasena, 31, and Hasan Mohamed, 40, both of London, will represent the first prosecutions in relation to the crime in UK legal history

[College begins Clare's Law briefings](#)

The College of Policing has started to brief officers on their response to requests under the [Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme](#).

3. Reports

Labour must tackle institutional sexism in the police, says think tank

When [more than 10,000 women and children are deemed to be at high risk](#) of being murdered or seriously injured by their current or former partners, today's report from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary on how police forces deal with domestic violence makes for worrying reading. The report finds 'alarming and unacceptable' weakness in police responses to domestic abuse.

[A Joint Inspection of the Integrated Offender Management Approach](#)

A Joint Inspection by HM Inspectorate of Probation and HM Inspectorate of Constabulary

[Winsor: Police tech still not good enough](#)

An “enlightened” investment in technology should be the main change the Police Service instigates over the next year, HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary Tom Winsor has said in his first annual review of the state of policing.

[Domestic abuse ignorance 'could halt pay progression](#)

Officers must reach certain standard in domestic abuse training as part of specialist skills tests to move up the pay scales, it has been suggested.

[Misconduct: Police must stop 'kneejerk reactions'](#)

Officers must realise that their behaviour must change as society evolves, according to ACPO vice-president.

Pay reforms: Disabled officers 'substantially disadvantaged

Failure to explore alternative deployment options for disabled officers places them at "substantial disadvantage", association claims.

[College chair says forces and academics should build stronger base for partnerships.](#)

The Police Service should work to establish “more stable” and embedded relationships with universities to strengthen the input academics have in assessing its effectiveness, the Chair of the College of Policing has said.

[DCLG publishes document explaining improvements in fire control room services](#)

The Department for Communities and Local Government has published a document providing a high-level national summary of the improvements being made by fire and rescue authorities to their control room services, delivery timescales and projected savings.

[Lords debate on UK Visas and Immigration](#) - March 26

[Government statement on FiReControl legacy](#)

Brandon Lewis MP: Has provided the House with an update on the department’s work to improving local fire control room services and further progress on disposing of the regional control centre buildings.

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Consolidated Advisory Services for Asylum Seekers

Update you on the transition from One Stop & Wraparound services for asylum seekers, to the new nationwide "Asylum Advice UK" and "Asylum Support Application UK" arrangements.

In today’s *Spectator*, John McTernan refers to Simon Stevens’ essay in *Reform*’s book “The next ten years”.

John McTernan writes: “Stevens set out his vision for the NHS in an essay for a pamphlet published by the think-tank *Reform*. The current management fad for running the entire NHS as if it were ‘one big hospital’ is doomed, he says. To avoid a crisis, the NHS needs ‘political stewardship, managerial execution, clinical engagement, and public communication’. He is

scathing about the way that almost all NHS reorganisations focus on ‘rearranging the administrative deckchairs’ rather than transforming patient care” (*Spectator*; [Reform essay](#)).

A report by the British Medical Journal shows councils in England have been diverting funds intended for public health services to other areas.

The report, based on Freedom of Information requests, showed that a third of councils had stopped one public health service and used that money to pay for other services within the council ([BBC Online](#)).

The National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) has claimed that it will prioritise young people in developing new medicines.

Laying out plans to take “wider social benefit” into account when assessing new drugs, NICE claimed that age would “inevitably” be a factor as the young have more years ahead of them (*Times*).

Justice Secretary Chris Grayling MP has postponed cuts to the legal aid budget for a year. The proposed cuts to the legal aid budget, which have already led to two nationwide walkouts by barristers and disrupted several cases, are to be pushed back until the summer of 2015 (*Telegraph*; *Guardian*; [BBC Online](#)).

[Project could save councils millions](#)

A project that could save councils more than £1bn in borrowing costs has received the go ahead. The next stage of a municipal bonds agency has received the green light from members of the Local Government Association (LGA).

[Lincolnshire council signs £70m services contract](#)

Lincolnshire County Council has signed a five year services contract with Serco... The contract will deliver more than £14 million of savings and provide a range of business processes and contact centre services for the council.

[Capital funding to support drug and alcohol recovery](#)

Public Health England has announced £10m of capital funding to be shared by 67 projects around the country.

[Methodological changes to reporting drug and alcohol treatment information](#)

Following consultation undertaken by Public Health England changes are to be made to reporting adult substance misuse activity and outcomes. These changes will be introduced from April 2014.

[Cambridgeshire Community Services](#)

Survey of self harm admissions in Paediatric Departments in the UK 2013 - 2014

[Economic and Social Research Council](#)

The Harms of Hate Crime film

[European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction](#)

Regional drug strategies across the world

[Inclusion](#)

Totalling the hidden talent - Youth unemployment and under-employment in England and

Wales

[Ministry of Justice](#)

Neighbourhood Justice Panels

[Ministry of Justice](#)

Updated analysis of the impact of the Intensive Alternatives to Custody pilots on re-offending rates

[Revolving Doors](#)

Improving Responses to Young Adults - briefing for Police and Crime Commissioners

[The Revolving Doors Checklist](#) - How Police and Crime Commissioners can improve responses to offenders with multiple and complex needs.

4. Consultations

[Written statement on Consultation on fees under the Licensing Act 2003](#)

The Minister of State for Crime Prevention (Norman Baker): Has informed Parliament of the publication of a public consultation on the move from centrally-set to locally-set fees under the Licensing Act 2003. The consultation will run for 8 weeks, from 13 February to 10 April.

[Prevention of Offending by Young People](#)

Open date: 05/02/2014

Close date: 30/04/2014

[Fees under Licensing Act 2003](#)

The Government is consulting on details of the move from centrally set to locally set fees under the Licensing Act 2003. The consultation is open until 10th April 2014.

[Wales Rural Development Programme 2014-2020: Final Proposals](#)

This consultation invites comments on the Welsh Government's strategy and priorities for the delivery of the Wales Rural Development Programme 2014-2020. Closing date 14/04/2014.

[Proposal to Authorise Motor Sport Events on Public Roads](#)

Open date: 27/02/2014

Close date: 10/04/2014

[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

5. Reviews and Inspections

Promising practice: HMIC 'to provide examples to College'

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) is poised to work more closely with the College of Policing in future to ensure that examples of promising practice identified during its fieldwork are channelled into an online knowledge

HMIC: Crime Data Integrity. This inspection will examine the effectiveness of the police in dealing with reports of crime by members of the public. The scope is subject to development but is likely to build on the findings of HMIC's previous inspections in this area. Scoping work will include consultation with the Crime Statistics Advisory Committee.

HMIC: Domestic Violence: On 9 September, the Home Secretary commissioned HMIC to look at the effectiveness of the police response to cases of domestic violence and abuse. Started for Nottinghamshire on the 4 November. This is a Home Secretary commissioned Thematic due to be completed by April 2014.

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary

Police Custody: Good practice examples.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

The Home Affairs Committee has announced an inquiry into female genital mutilation (FGM).

Joint inspection of police custody facilities

On 7 January, HMIC announced that under the scrutiny requirements of the UN Optional Protocol against Torture, the UK is obliged to ensure regular and independent inspection of all places of detention.