



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

[Spending Round 2013](#)

Announced this week is the next stage in the Government's plan to move Britain from rescue to recovery. The Government will reduce current spending by £11.5 billion in 2015-16, allowing it to increase capital spending plans by £3 billion a year from 2015-16 and by £18 billion over the next Parliament. [Oral statement to Parliament by Chancellor George Osborne on the 2013 Spending Round](#).

[Committee stage \(Lords\) \(Day 3\) of the Local Audit and Accountability Bill](#)

[Report stage \(Lords\) of the Offender Rehabilitation Bill](#)

The **Offender Rehabilitation Bill** had its report stage in the Lords and now awaits its third reading on July 9.

[The draft Local Audit Bill and the abolition of the Audit Commission - Commons Library Briefing Note](#)

The Audit Commission was established by the Conservative government in 1983 as part of its drive to restrain local authority expenditure and to improve efficiency. Its prime function was to regulate the audit of local government bodies and NHS bodies in England. Its other duties include (or have included) inspection and performance assessment, as well as research activities designed to promote greater economy, efficiency and effectiveness. The Commission was slated for abolition following an announcement on 13 August 2010. The draft Local Audit Bill, the legislative vehicle to achieve this, was published in July 2012. The draft Bill was based on a consultation paper *The Future of Local Audit*, published in 2011. The Government's key aim is, as far as possible, to bring the public sector audit regime into line with the private sector.

2. Policing and crime key developments

[End of day adjournment debate on Police and Crime Commissioners - June 24](#)

On 15 November 2012, 41 police and crime commissioners were elected, representing a total population of 48 million and covering individual populations of up to 2.6 million people,

earning salaries of between £65,000 and £117,000 a year, and between them controlling billions of pounds of spending on police in England and Wales. The police commissioners were introduced to bring a democratic element into the new landscape of policing. This debate covers the accountability of PCCs in line with the recent headlines and progress after just under 7 months in office.

[Power shift](#)

Professor Colin Rogers, University of South Wales, discusses how British policing is adapting to the post-PCC landscape.

[Speech by Home Secretary Theresa May on undercover policing](#)

Oral Statement by Home Secretary on 24 June 2013 on undercover policing and allegations police smeared reputations of Lawrence family Originally given at House of Commons.

Dozens of undercover officers could face prosecution, says police chief

Dozens of [police](#) officers could be put on trial for stealing the identities of dead children, and sleeping with female activists they were spying on, according to the police chief leading an inquiry into Metropolitan police undercover work against protest groups. Mick Creedon, the chief constable of Derbyshire, also said his team would investigate claims from a police whistleblower, Peter Francis, that senior officers wanted him to [spy on, and even undermine](#), the [Stephen Lawrence](#) campaign.

[Met: truth must come out on Lawrence undercover allegations](#)

The Metropolitan Police has responded to allegations that undercover officers were used as part of a campaign to smear the family of teenager Stephen Lawrence, shortly after his murder in 1993.

[HMIC publishes an update on progress against the recommendations of its 2012 undercover policing report, and confirms its intention to conduct a further inspection](#)

In 2012, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) published a report on the use of a specific type of undercover policing operation: long-term, intelligence-gathering deployments within domestic extremist or protest groups, conducted by the (since disbanded) National Public Order Intelligence Unit. This report made a series of recommendations, which aimed to ensure the use of these deployments is appropriate and proportionate.

In April 2013, HMIC reviewed the extent to which the recommendations of the 2012 report have been implemented. This report, which was presented to the Home Secretary earlier in June 2013 and is now published, found some significant work had taken place as a result of the 2012 report. However, HMIC was concerned that the recommendations had not been fully implemented. HMIC has made a commitment, both in this report and in its inspection programme for 2013/14 (published earlier in the month), to undertake further inspection of undercover policing. Terms of reference for this piece of work will be published shortly.

Advance notice: Home Affairs Committee to publish report on leadership and standards in the police

The Home Affairs Committee will publish its report 'Leadership and standards in the police' on Monday 1 July 2013.

[Written Ministerial Statement - European Arrest Warrant data error](#)

The HMCIC report found that a) the audit SOCA undertook to verify the data was robust, and the Part 1 audit would result in the identification of more arrests and surrenders than previously promulgated; b) there was no evidence of systemic weaknesses that would adversely affect public protection; and c) CIMS would help SOCA record more accurate data in future.

The report also made a number of recommendations about work going forward, including: extending the auditing process to compare SOCA's EAW data with information held on the Police National Computer; to give consideration to a focused campaign to find and arrest fugitives hiding in the UK; and to review the progress of all other changes to SOCA's EAW process (including the implementation of CIMS) before the end of 2013. SOCA has accepted all these recommendations. SOCA has now provided revised data relating to incoming (Part 1) and outgoing (Part 3) EAWs. A high level summary of the data is below.

[Multi-agency Statutory Guidance for the Conduct of Domestic Homicide Reviews](#)

This updated guidance document is the product of Action 74 of the Action Plan published in March 2012.

[Guidance for health professionals on domestic violence](#)

The Department of Health has issued guidance which helps health professionals to recognise factors that may indicate domestic violence and abuse and describes steps to ensure appropriate support and referral where necessary. It highlights best practice, information and learning resources. This guidance acknowledges that because of the role of midwives, health visitors and school nurses, they are often one of the first to become aware of domestic violence and abuse issues within families. They therefore have a significant part to play.

[Tackling illegal images – new proactive approach to seek out child sexual abuse content](#)

The Government has announced that the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) will be asked for the first time to seek out illegal child abuse on the internet, working closely with the Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) centre.

ACPO comment on the launch of the Criminal Justice Strategy

National policing lead on criminal justice Chief Constable Chris Eyre said: "This strategy is the culmination of a great deal of work to plan for a lean, modern and responsive criminal justice system in an era of significant austerity and enormous change. Digitisation and simplification of criminal justice systems will ensure that scarce police resources can be used more effectively for the benefit of victims and communities. Victims and witnesses will receive better support and information through the use of modern technologies and proposals to make processes more efficient such as police led prosecution of simple and uncontested matters in the magistrates courts and case management initiatives led by the judiciary."

[Tackling radicalisation through communications is vital, says minister](#)

Security Minister James Brokenshire has stressed the importance of using communications to challenge violent extremist views.

[It's time to end the confusion over motorway speed limits - Maria Eagle](#)

Maria Eagle MP, Labour's Shadow Transport Secretary, responding to the latest Government confusion over motorway speed limits, said:

“The chaos over plans to change motorway speed limits is extraordinary, even by the Department for Transport’s usual standards. Only a week after the Roads Minister confidently claimed that trials of a new 80mph speed limit were to go ahead, it’s clear that the Secretary of State has applied the brakes on his own reckless policy.

[Driving instructor qualification set for overhaul](#)

Plans to improve the qualification process for driving instructors have been announced by Road Safety Minister Stephen Hammond. The Driving Standards Agency (DSA) is consulting on a range of proposals to modernise the way in which people qualify to become approved driving instructors (ADIs). The aim is to further improve training for new drivers and offer a cost-effective and flexible training route for new instructors. Proposals include the option of replacing the existing DSA qualifying tests with a new vocational qualification. This would:

- be delivered by approved training centres and assessed by an external awarding organisation
- incorporate transferable credits that trainees could carry forward to other vocational qualifications, allowing for better job mobility
- be aligned with [DSA's national standards](#) that set out what skills are needed to be an effective driving instructor
- reflect any changes introduced as a result of the government’s upcoming [green paper on young drivers](#)

The consultation also includes a proposal to reform the trainee licence scheme which allows trainee instructors to gain experience by giving paid tuition before they are fully qualified. Under the new plans, trainees would only be able to give paid tuition when accompanied by a fully qualified instructor.

DfT statistics on reported road casualties, road traffic, road lengths, free flow vehicle speeds and driver and rider tests

The Department for Transport has published the following statistics:

- [Reported road casualties in Great Britain: main results 2012](#)
- [Road traffic estimates in Great Britain: 2012](#)
- [Road lengths in Great Britain: 2012](#)
- [Free flow vehicle speeds in Great Britain: 2012](#)
- [Driver and rider tests and instructor statistics: 2012/13](#)

[Demos](#) - @METPOLICEUK – how twitter is changing modern policing.

Twitter has transformed people’s response to crimes and how they engage with authorities like the police. Never was the changing nature of communication clearer than after the vicious attack on Drummer Lee Rigby in Woolwich. Twitter became a first port of call for many eye witnesses, while the perpetrators actively goaded onlookers into sharing evidence of their criminal acts on the internet. The @MetPoliceUK paper compiles almost 20,000 tweets that included the tag @MetPoliceUK from the week of the Woolwich attack. In-depth analysis breaks down what information people were sharing online, when they shared it and its value as a source of information. It finds that while there is plenty of spam and other useless information swirling around the social network, many people do use it to provide useful information, such as reporting a crime or sending evidence.

[Department for Transport](#)

Stopping up and diversion of highways application guidance and application form.

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

A criminal use of police cells? The use of police custody as a place of safety for people with mental health needs. The police have powers under section 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983 to take individuals who are suffering from mental health issues in a public place to a 'place of safety' for their protection, and so they can be medically assessed. This review examines the extent to which police custody is used as a place of safety under section 136; and identifies the factors which either enable or inhibit the acceptance of those detained under section 136 into a preferred place of safety, such as a hospital or other medical facility. The joint inspection was carried out by HMIC, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons, the Care Quality Commission and Healthcare Inspectorate Wales.

[Written statement on Drugs update](#)

The Minister of State for Crime Prevention (Jeremy Browne): New Psychoactive Substances have the potential to pose serious risks to public health and safety. Despite often being marketed as legal alternatives to controlled substances, users can have no certainty of the health risks that will arise from using them, nor the legal status of these substances. The market in new psychoactive substances poses challenges due to the rapid development of new drugs. The Government is committed to a range of measures to address the threat, including galvanizing international partners and institutions to meet the global challenge. statement of intent agreed by the G8 to progress international work on tackling the emergence of new substances on the global drugs market.

[Local Government Information Unit](#)

Connected Localism – A blueprint for better public services and more powerful communities.

More than 4,000 officers disciplined for criminal behaviour in five years... including an inspector sacked for SHOPLIFTING.

The Justice Secretary, Chris Grayling, has been warned that plans to privatise probation risk causing an increase in rates of reoffending.

Mr Grayling has been told by officials in the Ministry of Justice that the fast implementation of the proposals could lead to an "unacceptable drop" in the performance of the probation service ([Times](#); [Guardian](#)).

[Volunteers praised for helping to cut crime](#)

A group of inspirational people who have given up their free time to help the police have been thanked by the Home Secretary. Special Constables and police volunteers from across the country were praised at the Lord Ferrers Awards in London. Volunteers who have helped police reduce the number of fatal car crashes, tackle hate crime; use technology to track down criminals and reduce anti-social behaviour were honoured for their work.

3. Reports

[World Health Organisation](#)

Global and regional estimates of violence against women: Prevalence and health effects of intimate partner violence and non-partner sexual violence.

[National Juvenile Justice Network](#)

The Comeback States – Reducing youth incarceration in the United States. This report uses new federal data to document and analyze national and state incarceration trends.

[Policy Exchange](#)

Future Prisons: A radical plan to reform the prison estate. *Future Prisons* calls for the government to shut more than 30 run-down and poorly-located prisons and replace them with 12 state of the art 'Hub Prisons', containing up to 3,000 inmates. The new prisons would lead to huge costs savings, a reduction in reoffending rates and a better quality of life for prisoners and prison staff.

[Home Office](#)

Crime against businesses: Detailed findings from 2012 Commercial Victimization Survey.

[Cable announces European Regional Development Fund and European Social Fund allocations](#)

The government has given a commitment that the Growth Programme Funds will be allocated to Local Enterprise Partnership areas as an important new source of finance to stimulate local growth and jobs. This marks a significant shift from previous European programmes which were substantially centralised with limited local involvement in many key areas. Under this new model, decision-making powers will be transferred from Whitehall to local areas. LEPs and local partners will be in charge of European Funds that will provide significant investment in innovation, business, skills and employment in a common agenda for growth and jobs that will integrate effectively with wider LEP Strategic Plans.

[£91m cash to tackle over 6,000 empty and derelict homes](#)

The funding, announced by the Government will be spent on refurbishment in areas where empty homes have commonly led to problems such as squatting, rat infestation and collapsing house prices.

[National Housing Federation](#)

Housing and employment services: Collaboration in a time of change. A joint publication from the Employment Related Services Association and the Federation highlighting successful partnerships between housing associations and employment support providers.

[Greater ambition for housing supply – Rics](#)

The Government's housing policy is too short-termist, a report from the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (Rics) has warned.

[Measuring National Well-being - Self reported financial situation, 2013](#)

This article analyses by age two of the current measures of national well-being: 'satisfaction with income' and 'those who are finding their financial situation quite or very difficult' and their relationship to well-being. There will also be some indication of change in perceived financial situation over time and by other characteristics of individuals. The data used are from Understanding Society, the UK Household Longitudinal Study.

[TUC warns of poverty for public sector families](#)

Over 180,000 children with a parent working in the public sector will be pushed into poverty by 2015, new research from the TUC union suggests. The report comes amid fears the spending review will bring further cuts to public sector pay.

[£5.4m to improve air quality in London](#)

London boroughs are to introduce new measures to tackle air pollution, with £5.4m funding from the Air Quality Fund, the Mayor of London has announced. The projects will encourage the construction industry to clean up air quality, encourage Londoners to use low emission transport and plant green walls to trap pollution.

[Schools failing 'invisible minority' – Ofsted](#)

A new national service of teachers should be set up and sent into underperforming schools, the chief inspector of schools in England has proposed. The head of Ofsted, Sir Michael Wilshaw, has called for a tougher approach for schools that were previously judged outstanding but not doing well by their poorest children, which will be reinspected.

[LGA warns of dangerous condition of roads](#)

Britain's local road network could become unusable if the country sees more flooding or severe winter weather, the LGA has warned. It has written to chief secretary to the Treasury, Danny Alexander, urging the Government to provide greater capital funding for road maintenance. The backlog of repairs is growing longer, and is estimated to cost £10.5bn, undermining the economic recovery. One in five roads are classed as in 'poor' condition due to freezing weather and recent flooding.

LGA responds to infrastructure projects announcement

On the Single Local Growth Fund, Sir Merrick Cockell, Chairman of the Local Government Association, said:

"Establishing the Local Growth Fund is a step in the right direction, and the substantial increase earmarked for local transport schemes is good news. However, its current form is a real missed opportunity which fails to unlock the full potential of councils to drive economic recovery".

[Government must 'get a grip' on compromise payments – NAO](#)

There is a lack of transparency, consistency and accountability in the use of compromise agreements in the public sector, new analysis from the National Audit Office (NAO) shows. A lack of central or coordinated control over the use of such agreements and limited recording of their use has been criticised. Some people accepting confidentiality clauses feel "gagged", the NAO heard, in return for a good reference. Confidentiality clauses could also mean poor employees go on to work elsewhere in the public sector.

The NHS is planning an overseas recruitment drive to help tackle growing pressure on A&E departments due to a shortage of doctors.

Earl Howe, the health minister, said that working in A&E units was not an "attractive specialty for many trainee doctors" in Britain, and they were opting for less "pressurised" work ([Telegraph](#)).

[Business Plans show government boosting growth and delivering reform](#)

Expanding apprenticeships, driving up local economic growth and creating a business bank to help SMEs are all key parts of the latest government business plans published today. The plans set out departments' priorities for the remainder of this Parliament, the specific actions they will take, including start and end dates, and the expenditure for each remaining year of the current spending review period.

4. Consultations

Date of 2014 local elections

Local Government Minister Brandon Lewis: Informed the House on 26 March, that there is a published [consultation document](#) inviting views on whether or not, subject to Parliamentary approval, to move the date of the English local elections from Thursday 1 May 2014 to the same day as the European Parliamentary election. At the time of the consultation the actual date of the European Parliamentary elections had yet to be formally decided.

Nottinghamshire County Council is currently consulting on proposed new models of delivery for substance misuse services across Nottinghamshire

The Council wants as many people as possible to take part.

<http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/caring/yourhealth/developing-health-services/substance-misuse-services-changes/>.

The consultation will run from 20th June – 20th September 2013.