



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

[Pensions Act 2014 has received Royal Assent.](#)

The Act contains a range of provisions to implement.

[Defence Reform Act 2014 has received Royal Assent.](#)

This act enables the MOD to deliver better value for money for the taxpayer and to make the armed forces better able to meet the challenges of tomorrow.

[Immigration Act 2014 has received Royal Assent.](#)

The Immigration Bill has received Royal Assent making way for a series of reforms which will ensure our immigration system is fairer to British citizens and legitimate migrants and tougher on those with no right to be here. The Immigration Act 2014 contains 77 clauses and makes fundamental changes to how our immigration system functions.

[Care Act 2014 has received Royal Assent.](#)

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

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

[Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 overarching documents](#)

These documents contain some updates from when they were last published. They include a schedule of when the various sections of the Act are being implemented.

Community Trigger commencement date

Following discussion with the Home Office there is confirmation that a commencement date of 13th May has been announced for the Community Trigger and Community Remedy. This is an administrative process that allows you to begin the consultation needed to prepare for these two powers. You do not have to have them in place by this date, or publish any

processes by this date. Both tools will commence at the same time as the rest of the tools on a date yet to be announced, but thought to be October.

[Offender Rehabilitation Act 2014](#)

It provides many of the measures which underpin the Transforming Rehabilitation programme.

[The Offender Rehabilitation Act 2014 \(Commencement No. 1\) Order 2014](#)

This Order is the first commencement order made under the Offender Rehabilitation Act [2014 \(c.11\)](#) ("the Act"). This Order commences a number of provisions of the Act on 1st June 2014.

[Home Office publishes circular on PACE changes](#)

The Home Office has published a circular highlighting revisions to two of the codes of practice, issued under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE) - codes C and H.

[Dangerous dogs: owners face tougher sentences for attacks](#)

The changes to the Dangerous Dogs Act came into force on 13th May.

2. Strategic policing and crime news

[Home Secretary outlines reforms to the Police Federation](#)

In a speech to the Police Federation Conference, Teresa May has called on the Federation to accept the reforms proposed in the recent Normington review.

[Pre-sentence restorative justice](#)

The Ministry of Justice has produced guidance for pre-sentence restorative justice.

[Serious sex offenders to face compulsory lie detector tests](#)

The UK's first school for training highly-skilled probation officers to become lie detector examiners is underway.

[Long-termism in public finance – Speech by Shadow Chief Secretary Chris Leslie MP \(Includes mention of Nottinghamshire Police\)](#)

Speech to the Institute for Chartered Accountants in England and Wales for hosting this morning's focus on the long-term challenges facing the public finances and tackling Britain's fiscal deficit. Referencing the salami-slicing of grants to Nottinghamshire Police, shaving off a chunk each year, has left this public body like so many others looking for bite-sized operational savings.

[Home Office](#)

Response to consultation on PACE codes C and H.

[Institute of Criminal Policy Research](#)

Crime and Community: Exploring the scope for community involvement in criminal justice. This report undertakes a close and rigorous analysis of the concept of community justice.

[Nato security challenge 'bigger than Olympics' says police chief](#)

ACC Chris Armitt said the number of delegates needing protection was 'unprecedented'

The man in charge of policing the Nato summit has said the security operation will be a bigger challenge than the London 2012 Olympics.

[Meet the Police Commissioner – TV Review](#)

Ann Barnes, PCC for Kent, said it was not her intention to attract bad publicity to the county's police officers and staff.

3. Developments and reports

[Sign up to Child Rescue Alert text scheme, Home Secretary urges](#)

The new Child Rescue Alert text message scheme sends out appeals quickly when a child goes missing. The system is the responsibility of the National Crime Agency (NCA), in partnership with Missing People and technology company Groupcall Limited.

The [Public Accounts Committee](#) has published its report on *Probation and Criminal Justice System*.

Ministry of Justice: Prison population figures: 2014

[Prisons and probation statistics](#) and [Prison population statistics](#)

[Benefit claimants with a main disabling condition of drug and alcohol misuse](#)

Statistics of claimants receiving incapacity benefits with a primary disabling condition of alcohol or drug misuse, from 2007 to 2013. Additional [DWP statistical](#) analyses.

[University of Sussex study](#)

This aim of this study is to gain an understanding of the impacts that hate crime/incidents have on people who are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and/or Transgender (LGBT). It will particularly focus on hate crime that takes place on the Internet. They are running a survey to hear about people's experiences.

[Government announces support aimed at 16-17-year-old NEETS](#)

For the first time ever DWP, in partnership with local authorities, will implement a new approach that focuses support solely on 16-17 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) and not in receipt of an income based benefit. 16 and 17-year-olds will be given access to jobcentre work coaches so that they can get individual help to find work and training, Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg and Employment Minister Esther McVey have announced.

[All 9 regions of England see fall in 16- to 18-year-olds NEET](#)

Skills and Enterprise Minister [Matthew Hancock](#) welcomed [new figures](#) showing the number of 16- to 18-year-olds not in education, employment or training is falling in all 9 regions of England, equating to thousands more young people in education, employment or training. The 2013 figures, drawn from data collected by local authorities, show that for 16- to 18-year-olds the number of NEETs compared to the previous year fell by:

- 19% in London
- 12% in the North West
- 9% in the North East
- 9% in the East of England

- 7% in the South East
- 5% in the South West

Policy: Keeping the UK safe in cyber space

The growth of the internet has transformed our everyday lives and is an important part of our economy. The internet-related market in the UK is now estimated to be worth [£82 billion a year](#) while British businesses earn £1 in every £5 from the internet. But with greater openness, interconnection and dependency comes greater vulnerability. [81% of large corporations and 60% of small businesses reported a cyber breach in 2013](#). With the [cost for the worst cyber-security breach estimated between £600,000 to £1.15 million for large businesses and £65,000 to £115,000 for smaller ones](#). The [Strategic Defence and Security Review](#) allocated £650 million over 4 years to establish a new National Cyber Security Programme to strengthen the UK's cyber capacity. The Chancellor of the Exchequer announced an extra £210 million investment after the [2013 spending review](#).

Proposed changes to taxi and private hire services

The Law Commission has proposed reforms to the existing law and legislative framework that regulates taxi and private hire services.

Department for Communities and Local Government

Fire statistics: Great Britain April 2012 to March 2013.

Ministry of Justice

Local adult re-offending - January 2013-December 2013.

Alcohol Concern – A Measure of Change

The first wave of findings from two-part research, into the impact of the public health transfer on the prioritisation of alcohol and funding for alcohol services locally, one year since the changes were introduced.

Beyond Youth Custody

Young offenders and trauma: experience and impact: a practitioner's guide.

British Journal of Community Justice

The origins of conflict in dependent drug treatment: Lessons for partnership working.

Further Education Commissioner: Intervention Process

Details how the Further Education (FE) Commissioner process helps deal with underperformance in FE corporations and institutions.

ESF funding for East Midlands

These documents show European Social Fund (ESF) funding for East Midlands for 2007 to 2013.

Demos

Scouting for skills: An army of employer-supported volunteers can help bring social action to a new generation. The decline of skilled, craft-based manufacturing and the rise of the service sector means that twenty-first-century employers place a stronger emphasis on 'character' or 'employability skills', such as communication, self-direction and ability to work in a team. As a result, building 'character' in young people is moving up the political agenda.

The report recommends that employers in the private and public sector should develop employee volunteering schemes linked to personal development strategies, and provide a range of incentives to encourage take-up - such as explicitly linking volunteering to promotion and reviews.

Department for Communities and Local Government

Section 106 planning obligations in England, 2011 to 2012: report of study.

Department for Communities and Local Government

Rents for social housing from 2015 - 2016 consultation: summary of responses.

Home Office

Government response to the alcohol consultation.

NICE

What can local authorities achieve by tackling drug use?

Public Health England

Improving access to mutual aid: a brief guide for alcohol and drug treatment service managers.

Public Health England

Improving access to mutual aid: a brief guide for commissioners.

David Sparks announced as Chair-elect after Labour confirmed as largest party in the LGA

Cllr David Sparks is to succeed Cllr [Sir Merrick Cockell](#) as Chairman of the Local Government Association, the body which represents councils in England and Wales.

Cut bureaucracy by merging Whitehall - LGA

The LGA has launched a ten-point plan for 'rewiring public services', with radical devolution and localisation at its heart. Sir Merrick Cockell, chairman of the LGA, announced the plan in his keynote speech at the annual conference. The report sets out guidance to improve services whilst saving money in the face of further budget cuts outlined in the Spending Review. Recommendations include merging six government departments to form a single 'England' office to reduce barriers to more efficient working.

15 councils sign up to National Social Inclusion Network

Fifteen local authorities have signed up to be part of the new National Social Inclusion Network, launched by Birmingham City Council and the Bishop of Birmingham, to tackle social inequality. [The declaration](#) states that, against a backdrop of public sector cuts, the task of creating more inclusive cities has moved beyond what local or national government can do on their own and that there is an urgent need to rally resources and expertise. The authorities that have signed the declaration are Barrow-in-Furness, Birmingham, Bristol, Islington, Knowsley, Leeds, Leicester, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, Plymouth, Sheffield, Southampton, Stoke-on-Trent and Tower Hamlets. Focused on eight themes, the Network's activities were identified from reports produced by fairness and poverty commissions from around the country.

4. Consultations

[Tax-Free Childcare: consultation on childcare account provision](#)

The consultation seeks views on options for the government to deliver Tax-Free Childcare itself, through National Savings and Investments (NS&I), or within HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC). This will mean all interested parties will have had an opportunity to comment on all of the options for account provision across public and private sectors. The government will consider responses to this consultation alongside the response to the previous consultation before it makes its final decision on the provision of childcare accounts. The consultation closes on 27 June 2014.

Read the [consultation on the implementation of the Tax-Free Childcare scheme](#) published in August 2013.

Read the [government's response](#) to the August consultation which set out details on the design of Tax-Free Childcare.

[Proposed changes to guidance on domestic violence](#)

The Director of Public Prosecutions, Alison Saunders, has proposed changes to the way the CPS considers domestic violence cases and has published draft guidance, which is out for consultation, that explains the impact of domestic abuse on different groups to help prosecutors to adopt a tailored approach taking into account their particular support needs. The consultation is open until 9th July 2014.

[Banning the sale of alcohol below the cost of duty plus VAT](#)

The Home Office has published guidance for suppliers of alcohol and local authorities in England and Wales for banning the sale of alcohol below the cost of duty plus VAT

[Data policy for a Public Data Corporation](#)

Views wanted on how to provide accessible public sector information. The consultation will close on 27 October 2014.

E-petition – Exempt Victims of Domestic Abuse who have had a Police Assessment and/or have a Safe/Panic Room from the Spare Room Subsidy:
<http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/64544>.

[Public Traffic Signs consultation](#)

The Department for Transport has launched a public consultation on proposed changes to the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2002. The consultation will close on 10 June 2014.

[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.

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.

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 (Police Integrity and Corruption)
- 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.