



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 Prison \(Property\) Bill receives Royal Assent](#)

This bill will allow prisons to destroy, recycle, sell or donate illicit mobile phones and other unauthorised items found in the possession of prisoners. The proceeds will go to charity or other suitable organisations.

[Arbitration and Mediation Services \(Equality\) Bill](#) - A Bill to make further provision about arbitration and mediation services and the application of equality legislation to such services; to make provision about the protection of victims of domestic abuse; and for connected purposes.

[Coroners and Justice \(Amendment\) Bill](#)

A Bill to amend section 62 of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 (possession of prohibited images of children) to apply additionally to the possession of prohibited written material about children; to make consequential amendments to the Act; and for connected purposes.

[Crime and Courts Bill](#)

Provides for the establishment of the National Crime Agency (NCA) to prevent and investigate serious, organised and complex crime, enhance border security, and tackle the sexual abuse and exploitation of children, and cyber crime.

[Justice and Security Bill](#)

A bill to provide for oversight of the Security Service, the Secret Intelligence Service, the Government Communications Headquarters and other activities relating to intelligence or security matters; to provide for closed material procedure in relation to certain civil proceedings; to prevent the making of certain court orders for the disclosure of sensitive information; and for connected purposes.

[SI 2013/9 The Criminal Legal Aid \(General\) Regulations 2013](#)

In force 1 April 2013.

[SI 2013/300 The Sexual Offences Act 2003 \(Prescribed Police Stations\) Regulations 2013](#)

In force 12 March 2013.

[SI 2013/281 The Police \(Complaints and Conduct\) Regulations 2013](#)

In force 7 March 2013.

[Home Office Circular 3/2013: New Government Domestic Violence and Abuse Definition](#)

The Home Office has published Home Office Circular 3/2013 'New government domestic violence and abuse definition'. The Circular advises readers that from 31 March 2013 a new definition of domestic violence and abuse will be implemented.

[Home Office Circular 4/2013: Change to the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971](#)

This circular advises of a change to the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 in the control of synthetic cannabinoids, methoxetamine and other related compounds, and O-desmethyltramadol.

[Home Affairs Committee Report on Draft Anti-Social Behaviour Bill](#)

The Home Affairs Committee (HAC) has published its report 'The draft Anti-social Behaviour Bill: pre-legislative scrutiny'. The report outlines the HAC's consideration of the draft Bill, and makes conclusions and recommendations.

[Government to introduce **new offence of driving or being in charge of a motor vehicle with a specified controlled drug in the body**](#)

Drug driving is a menace on our roads with an estimated 200 drug driving-related deaths a year in Great Britain. The Government has a zero tolerance approach to illegal drug use and it is important that we send the strongest possible message that you cannot take illegal drugs and drive.

2. Policing and crime key developments

[Violence against women must be challenged and opposed:](#)

Home Secretary Theresa May explains why she is determined to make violence against women 'utterly unacceptable'.

[Giving Victims a Voice Report](#)

Police and the NSPCC outlined offences by the late presenter at venues including 13 hospitals and a hospice. Some 214 crimes were recorded across 28 police force areas, including 34 of rape or penetration, the report said.

[Criminal Justice Response to child abuse](#)

In recent years, both the police and prosecutors have put a great deal of effort into improving the investigation and prosecution of sexual offences, particularly those involving children. Many police forces now have specialist units to deal with these cases, staffed by specially trained officers. Strategies and techniques have improved and policy and guidance have been progressively tightened and improved.

[Public to get clearer picture of how crime is recorded](#)

More detailed crime categories are being introduced to give the public a clearer picture of how police are tackling crime. Under the current system, 70 per cent of crimes are recorded

as 'undetected', leaving victims and the public concerned that nothing has been done by police.

Drink driving: The hidden cost of a humble pint:

A £50,000 pint of beer has been unveiled as part of the latest THINK! Campaign highlighting the consequences of a drink-drive conviction. The calculation reflects the fines, legal costs, rise in insurance premiums and possible job losses faced by those who are convicted.

'Legal highs' become illegal Class B drugs:

A number of 'legal highs' including Black Mambas and Mexxy have become illegal Class B drugs. Crime Prevention Minister Jeremy Browne said: 'High-quality scientific advice is vital to the government's ongoing work to tackle harmful drug use. The independent advice we receive from the ACMD is critical to our evidence-based drugs policy.'

South Yorks chief criticised over Hillsborough 'roadkill' comments :

The Independent Police Complaints Commission has described comments made by South Yorkshire's Chief Constable about the Hillsborough disaster as "ill judged and potentially offensive".

Sale of Fire Service College completed:

The sale of the college to Capita has been complete. Fire Minister Brandon Lewis has announced the completion of the sale of the Fire Service College to Capita. The minister said that the college has at long last been given the best possible chance to fully realise the huge potential for this world-class asset.

New data shows Britain's small businesses are still struggling to receive sufficient lending despite Government initiatives to ease credit conditions.

Bank of England figures show that interest rates on loans to small businesses rose in January to their highest levels since late 2008 whilst figures from the British Bankers' Association reveal that the value of new loans to the country's small companies fell to £1.47 billion in the final quarter of 2012, from £1.62 billion a year earlier ([Telegraph](#); [Guardian](#); [BBC online](#)).

New Measures on Tackling Irresponsible Dog Ownership

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) has announced a package of measures to encourage responsible behaviour and deal with the consequences of irresponsible dog ownership. The measures follow a public consultation which took place in April 2012.

Revised Guidance on Public Sector Equality Duty Released by the Equality and Human Rights Commission

The Equality and Human Rights Commission has recently published revised guidance on the public sector equality duty within the Equality Act 2010.

3. Reports

Northumbria PCC launches guide to improve female prisoners' mental health

Mental health charity Together and Northumbria Police & Crime Commissioner Vera Baird have launched a new guide for criminal justice staff after identifying that the wellbeing needs

of female inmates are frequently overlooked in UK prisons, putting them at greater risk of re-offending.

[Publication of Government Response: Drugs: Breaking the Cycle](#)

The Government has published their response to the Home Affairs Committee report 'Drugs: Breaking the Cycle'.

[Restructuring the National Offender Management Service – PAC](#)

The Public Accounts Committee publishes its 35th Report of this Session which, on the basis of evidence from HM Inspectorate of Prisons, HM Inspectorate of Probation and the National Offender Management Service Agency, examined the Agency's restructure and performance against Spending Review savings targets.

[Police service strength - Commons Library briefing Note](#)

There were approximately 218,000 FTE staff working in the police service at the end of September 2012. 60% of these were police officers, 31% were police support staff, 7% were Community Support Officers and the remainder were either designated officers or Traffic Wardens. In addition, there were 19,159 special constables.

[Why Ethnic Minority Communities fail to see the Police Force as a Career](#)

Senior criminology lecturers Imran Awan (Birmingham City University), Brian Blakemore (University of Glamorgan) and Kevin Simpson (University of Glamorgan) look at the perceptions of policing as a career in different communities.

[Deputy Prime Minister meets justice campaigners](#)

The Deputy Prime Minister, Nick Clegg, today met with representatives of NGOs to hear their views on the European Arrest Warrant and human trafficking.

[The Police Foundation:](#)

Policing Young Adults: a scoping study. This report presents the findings of a small scoping study on the policing of young adults. Its main aim is to highlight key issues and challenges and identify a future agenda for research, policy and practice.

[Statistics on Youth Justice in England and Wales](#)

The Youth Justice Board and the Ministry of Justice have published 'Youth Justice Statistics 2011/12: England and Wales'. The statistics bulletin examines the youth justice system (YJS), considering the number of young people in the system, their offences and the outcomes. 'Young people' means people aged under 18. Most of the statistics relate to the year 2011/12; this runs from 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2012.

[Road Traffic Casualties: Provisional Estimates](#)

The Department for Transport has published 'Reported Road Casualties in Great Britain: Quarterly Provisional Estimates 2012 Q3'. The statistical release gives estimates of personal-injury road accidents and their casualties, which were known to police within 30 days. Figures relate to the year ending September 2012.

[Lack of votes halts Pol Fed drive for industrial action](#)

The Police Federation of England and Wales has failed to achieve enough votes to lobby the government for industrial rights.

Research shows perceptions of employment law do not reflect reality

Business perceptions of employment legislation is at odds with the actual impact of legislation according to a new government commissioned study published today by Employment Relations Minister Jo Swinson. [The Employer Perceptions and Impact of Employment Regulation](#) study found that businesses that view employment law as burdensome often did so because of a lack of understanding of the law. Dismissal processes in particular were seen as stressful and costly with some employers going beyond legal requirements in the mistaken belief that such action was necessary.

Implementing a model for funding social care, Lord Norman Warner, previously a Commissioner on the Commission on Funding of Care and Support, has written an article for *Guardian Professional* on the cap on care costs recommended by the Dilnot commission.

He writes: "The cost of implementing the new legislation is still murky and there is much scepticism about whether adequate funding will be available. Alongside this is the shortfall in funding of the current system and the impact of this on the availability and quality of services" ([Guardian](#)).

'Perverse' bedroom tax means £100m disability spending gap

Disabled and vulnerable people must be exempt from the bedroom tax, the National Housing Federation has told the Government. Support pledged for those who will be hit by the bedroom tax through the fund for Discretionary Housing Payments (DHPs) has left a gap of over £100m for disabled people.

New survey assesses every local authority website

The latest survey of local authority websites by Socitm urges senior leaders to "get actively involved in the governance of digital delivery". The headlines results from [Better Connected 2013](#) are publicly available, but the detailed findings are limited to Socitm Insight subscribers. It contains assessments of all 433 local authority websites.

New shared services contract for Department for Transport

The Government is establishing the first independent shared service centre to cut the cost of back office functions and save up to £600m a year. The seven-year contract with arvato covers the management of the Independent Shared Services Centre 1 (ISSC1), created from the existing DfT shared service centre in Swansea. The contract includes an optional three year extension and could eventually include provision of HR, procurement, payroll and financial transactional services to multiple government departments and arms length bodies.

Long-term fiscal sustainability Reform's recent report, *Long-term fiscal sustainability*

MPs urge 'Plan B' for energy policy

UK energy policy urgently needs a 'Plan B' in case the next generation of nuclear plants are not delivered on time, according to a committee of MPs. The Energy and Climate Change Committee (ECCC) published a new report saying that any failure by the private companies on whom the Government is relying to deliver new nuclear will end up making it far harder to meet the country's climate targets.

Health Select Committee: Post-legislative scrutiny of the Mental Health Act 2007.

[Jobcentre Plus Advisers for troubled families](#)

A new drive to get troubled families into work is to be spearheaded by 150 specialist Jobcentre Plus advisers.

[Human Rights Select Committee](#): The human rights of unaccompanied migrant children and young people in the UK.

[Joseph Rowntree Foundation](#): *The links between housing and poverty.*

[British Psychological Society](#) : *The contribution of clinical psychologists to recovery-orientated drug and alcohol treatment systems.* This document, for service commissioners and service managers, describes the unique contribution of clinical psychologists to effective recovery-orientated drug and alcohol Treatment systems.

[Unhealthy Britain: nation's five big killers](#): The UK needs a "call to action" to tackle ill health says England Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt after a major study has found that Britain has fallen behind many Western countries on progress in managing preventable diseases. Five big killers - heart disease, stroke, cancer, lung and liver disease - account for more than 150,00 deaths a year among under-75s in England alone and the Department of Health estimates 30,000 of these are entirely avoidable.

[The Government is to establish four new quangos to try and improve decision making and cut down on costly policy mistakes](#)

The What Works centres will follow the model of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) to provide evidence based policy guidance on economic growth, ageing, crime reduction and early intervention.

The Confederation of British Industry (CBI) has warned that Britain risks missing out on lucrative trade unless it increases regional flights to fast-growing economies and improves road and public transport access to the airports

The CBI calculates that one extra daily flight to each of the world's eight fastest growing economies would boost UK trade by as much as £1 billion a year ([FT](#); [Telegraph](#); [Guardian](#)).

The former Head of the Judiciary, Lord Woolf, has backed plans to allow more civil courts to examine secret intelligence in private

Lord Woolf's letter to *The Times* comes ahead of a vote by MPs today on the final form of the Government's Justice and Security Bill, which radically expands the use of secret courts ([Guardian](#); [BBC online](#)).

The Parliamentary Defence Committee has warned in a report published today that military spending must stay about 2 per cent of GDP if the UK is to uphold its international commitments.

Jim Murphy, the Shadow Secretary of Defence, said: "As the budget approaches and a cabinet row over further defence cuts deepens, the country will want real assurances that international commitments will be met" ([FT](#); [Telegraph](#)).

4. Consultations

[Nottinghamshire City DRAFT Homelessness Prevention Strategy 2013 – 2018:](#)

It is a statutory requirement for each local authority to produce a 5 year strategy outlining the agenda for the prevention of homelessness in their area. The Nottingham City Draft Homelessness Prevention Strategy has developed via an interagency partnership. Tuesday 02 April 2013.

[Home Office Consultation on Powers of Entry Draft Code of Practice](#)

The Home Office have launched a consultation on a draft Code of Practice relating to Power of Entry. The open until 5 March 2013.

[Welsh Government Consults on Criminal Justice Liaison Services](#)

The Welsh Government has published a consultation document 'Criminal Justice Liaison Services in Wales: Policy Implementation Guidance'. Responses by March 12 2013.

[Transforming Youth Custody – consultation events:](#) The Ministry of Justice has published a consultation paper open until 30 April 2013, covering:

- key information on youth custody and the young people held there
- the case for change
- vision for Secure Colleges which place education at the heart of the system.

There are also a number of consultation events to provide interested parties with an opportunity to discuss the proposals contained in the consultation document .

Legal aid: Criminal case cuts planned: Plans to make further savings to the £2bn bill for legal aid in England and Wales have been announced by Justice Secretary Chris Grayling. Consultation on plans to cut criminal case costs, including lawyers competing for contracts, starts in April. Savings of up to £350m have already been earmarked by removing legal aid for a range of civil cases including those involving social welfare debt, employment, family problems, clinical negligence, divorce and housing problems.

[Children's Commissioner: *Measuring child poverty*](#)

A consultation on better measures of child poverty which closed on 15 February will be publishing the results in the coming months.