

CIPFA Police and Fire Network

Police and Fire Horizon Scanning Briefing

April/May 2018

Welcome to the Police and Fire Horizon Scanning Briefing for April/May 2018. The briefing signposts government announcements, reports and developments in policing and fire and rescue matters. It also looks at the latest in local government and the criminal justice system with implications for police and fire. I hope the information below is useful to you, but please feel free to let me know if there's anything else you'd like me to cover.

The briefing includes items of interest for police finance practitioners as well as practitioners in strategic development departments, staff in offices of police and crime commissioners (PCCs) and staff in Fire and Rescue Authorities.

Advisor update

The next horizon scanning briefing (June) will be in a new format, as will the covering e-mail, in order to comply with new GDPR regulations. If you haven't checked your communication preferences for CIPFA (and the network) and would like to do so, please go to our website <http://www.cipfa.org/> and login to MyCIPFA in the right hand corner.

Our [police and fire service](#) plans containing our programme of events for 2018/19 are now on our website. If there is a specific topic you would like us to cover, please email me and we will try to include your request. We provide briefings on police and fire related policy issues. If there is a briefing you would like us to produce, please let me know. There is also our discussion forum, which allows network subscribers to post discussion topics or questions or answers on a range of issues, including police or fire finance, accounting, strategic issues and governance. We would like to thank you for your continued support of the network.

Best wishes,

Alison Dewhirst (Alison.dewhirst@cipfa.org)

Events

Network events in 2018/19

April 2018 – Introduction to Police Finance – now available as an on-site option.

This event provides an overview of policing, its structures and how it is financed. This event is a good introduction to anyone who has recently joined a police force or the office of a police and crime commissioner.

May 2018 – Introduction to the Knowledge and Skills of Police Audit Committees

This event provides an essential introduction to the role of the audit committees for police and crime commissioners and chief constables.

[22 May 2018 – London](#)

June 2018 – Duty of collaboration with emergency services: progress so far

Two events looking at the duty to collaborate for emergency services in England to collaborate and the progress of local initiatives so far.

[13 June – London](#)

[14 June – York](#)

September 2018 – Development Days for Police Audit Committee members

Two events for police audit committee members on emerging developments such as internal audit professional standards and emerging governance issues.

September 2018 – Introduction to Fire Finance

This event provides an overview of fire and rescue services, their structures and how they are financed. This event is a good introduction to anyone who has recently joined a fire and rescue service or authority.

October 2018 – Developments in Finance and Accounting

Two regional events focusing on the latest hot topics in police finance, fire finance and technical accounting developments.

November 2018 – Annual Police and Fire Network Conference

A one-day conference to consider the latest strategic policy and finance developments facing police and crime commissioners, police forces and fire and rescue services. The event will dovetail with the work of the police sector in enhancing financial excellence in policing and the benefits for the police service as a whole.

November 2018 – Autumn Strategic Briefings

Two events to consider the detail of policy developments and what they mean for strategic and financial planning for 2019.

February 2019 – Spring Strategic Briefings

Ahead of the next financial year, the latest policy and financial issues for the police and fire sectors.

FAN events in 2018/19

Your subscription includes access to our full programme Finance Advisory Network (FAN) events. The events of specific interest to police and fire can be found in our [2018/19 service plans](#) for police forces/PCCs and for fire and rescue services.

Recent legislation

On 21 June, Her Majesty the Queen presented her government's programme of legislation in the State Opening of Parliament. There were twenty-seven Bills in the [Queen's Speech](#), some of which have implications for policing and fire and rescue services, as follows:

The European Union (Withdrawal) Bill

- this measure will repeal the 1972 European Communities Act and convert EU law into UK law
- the UK Parliament (and devolved administrations where appropriate) will then be able to make any future changes to laws.

This Bill has passed the report stage in the House of Lords and is due for its third reading.

Draft Domestic Abuse Bill

On 8 March, the government launched a [consultation](#) on what should be included in a draft Domestic Abuse Bill, seeking to address every area of abuse from prevention right through to rehabilitation. It specifically focuses on promoting awareness, protecting and supporting victims, pursuing and deterring offenders and improving performance of agencies dealing with domestic abuse. The consultation closes on 31 May.

The initial document on the Bill stated it will:

- protect victims of domestic violence and abuse
- introduce a domestic violence and abuse commissioner, who will represent victims and survivors, raise public awareness, monitor the response of statutory agencies and local authorities and hold the justice system to account
- define domestic abuse in law
- create a new domestic abuse civil prevention and protection order regime
- ensure that court sentences can reflect the life-long impact that abuse can have on a child, where a child is involved
- apply to England and Wales only.

Courts Bill

This Bill has not yet been brought before Parliament. The initial document stated it will:

- end cross-examination of domestic violence victims by their alleged perpetrators in family courts and allows more victims to participate in trials without having to meet the alleged perpetrators
- allow those charged with some less serious criminal offences to plead guilty, accept a conviction and pay a statutory fixed penalty online, to free up court time for more serious cases
- introduce digital services to allow businesses to pursue cases quickly
- provide better working environment for judges, and allow more fixed term leadership roles, flexible deployment of judges

- apply to England and Wales and in part to Northern Ireland and Scotland.

Data Protection Bill

This Bill was introduced into the House of Lords and has passed to the House of Commons and was at the ping-pong stage on 15 May. The Lords agreed to the amendments made by the Commons to the Bill with an amendment for the agreement of the Commons. The Bill:

- introduces new rights to require major social media platforms to delete information held about them at the age of 18
- allows police and judicial authorities to exchange information quickly and easily with the UK's international partners in tackling terrorism and serious crime
- updates the regime for data processing by law enforcement agencies. It covers domestic processing and cross-border transfers of personal data
- updates the powers and sanctions available to the information commissioner.

Recent Statutory Instruments

The Combined Authorities (Borrowing) Regulations 2018 (SI 2018/565)

This [order](#) was made on 3 May and came into force the following day. They apply to combined authorities for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, Greater Manchester, Liverpool City Region, Tees Valley, West Midlands and the West of England. This order specifies functions of a combined authority (other than its transport functions) for the purposes of section 23(5) of the Local Government Act 2003 (power to borrow money for a purpose relevant to a function specified in regulations). It therefore confers additional borrowing powers on the six combined authorities that have agreed debt caps with HM Treasury to allow them to borrow in relation to all of their existing functions.

The Police Pension Schemes and Additional Voluntary Contributions (Amendment) (England and Wales) Regulations 2018 (SI 2018/530)

This [order](#) was made on 25 April, laid before Parliament on 27 April and comes into force on 21 May. It makes three sets of changes to police officer pensions in England and Wales. It extends the ability for officers to make extra contributions to buy pensionable service for the unpaid periods of certain types of family leave. In relation to voluntary exit, it brings early payment of pension into line with wider public sector changes to payments on exit from work. It also increases the options available to members of the Additional Voluntary Contribution (AVC) Scheme in England and Wales on taking benefits from the Scheme.

The Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment) Regulations 2018 (SI 2018/493)

This [order](#) was made on 17 April, laid before Parliament on 19 April and came into force on 14 May. It follows the Public Service Pensions Act 2013 and the consultation in 2016 on changes to the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS). It clarifies the term local government service in relation to the regulations and makes amendments on temporary reductions in contributions, contributions during absence from work, assumed pensionable pay, retirement benefits, election of lump sum instead of pension, survivor benefits, limit on total benefits, exit credits, employer's further payments, rights to

payment out of the pension fund, and inward transfers of pension rights and the effect of an acceptance of a transfer value.

The Police Powers of Designated Civilian Staff and Volunteers (Excluded Powers and Duties of Constables) Regulations 2018 (SI 2018/475)

This [order](#) was made on 10 April and came into force 28 days later. These Regulations insert the power to conduct an intimate search (when a medical professional is not available) into the list of reserved powers for police officers in Part 1 of Schedule 3B, prohibiting chief officers from designating this power on their staff or volunteers.

The Policing and Crime Act 2017 (Commencement No. 8) Regulations 2018 (SI 2018/456)

This [order](#) was made on 29 March. It brings into force section 141 of the Policing and Crime Act 2017 (cumulative impact assessments) from 6 April, s25-27 of the Act (powers to make super-complaints, the bodies who can do so and relevant regulations) on 16 April and s131 of the Act (limited extension of firearm certificates etc) from 17 April.

The Greater Manchester Combined Authority (Amendment) Order 2018 (SI 2018/444)

This [order](#) was made on 28 March and came into force the following day. It amends the constitutional arrangements of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority regarding decisions on the Housing Investment Fund and allows the Combined Authority to obtain a view from the Independent Remuneration Panel on committee and sub-committee allowances. It also amends the process for setting the Police and Crime Commissioner component of the mayoral precept for the Greater Manchester Mayor. The amendment brings forward the end date of the scrutiny process of the PCC component of the Greater Manchester Mayoral precept, so it is before the date on which the Combined Authority must issue the precept.

The Police Super-complaints (Criteria for the Making and Revocation of Designations) Regulations 2018 (SI 2018/412)

This [order](#) was made on 22 March, laid before Parliament on 26 March and came into force on 16 April. It sets out the criteria for making designations (i.e. designated bodies able to make super-complaints), the criterion for revoking designations and the function of giving advice (by the chief inspector).

The Investigatory Powers (Codes of Practice) Regulations 2018 (SI 2018/355)

This [order](#) was made on 8 March and came into force the following day. It brings into force five codes of practice under the Investigatory Powers Act 2016.

The Investigatory Powers (Technical Capability) Regulations 2018 (SI 2018/353)

This [order](#) was made on 8 March and comes into force on the day on which section 253(1) of the Act (power of the Secretary of State to give technical capability notices) comes into force for all purposes.

The Investigatory Powers (Disclosure of Statistical Information) Regulations 2018 (SI 2018/349)

This [order](#) was made on 8 March and comes into force on the day on which section 58(8) of the Act comes into force. It concerns the disclosure of statistics on relevant warrants, users and factors under the Investigatory Powers Act 2016.

The Investigatory Powers Act 2016 (Commencement No. 4 and Transitional and Saving Provisions) Regulations 2018 (SI 2018/341)

This [order](#) was made on 8 March. It brings into force a number of sections of the Act from 12 March and makes savings provisions or transitional provisions for other sections.

The Public Service Pensions Revaluation Order 2018 (SI 2018/338)

This [order](#) was made on 8 March, laid before Parliament on 9 March and came into force on 1 April. It concerns the revaluation in relation to changes in prices or earnings.

The Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2018 (SI 2018/325)

This [order](#) was made on 6 March, laid before the National Assembly for Wales on 9 March and came into force on 31 March. These Regulations amend the 2003 Regulations. They relate to credit arrangements, fixed assets, bonds, capital receipts (and their use), expenditure to be capital expenditure, back payment following unequal pay and proper practices.

The Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 (References to Financial Investigators) (Amendment) (England and Wales) Order 2018 (SI 2018/318)

This [order](#) was made on 6 March, laid before Parliament on 12 March and came into force on 17 April. It includes a list of bodies whose accredited financial investigators can have access to powers under the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) and is made under section 453 of POCA.

The Police Injury Benefit (Amendment) (England and Wales) Regulations 2018 (SI 2018/262)

This [order](#) was made on 27 February, laid before Parliament on 2 March and came into force on 30 March, except for Regulation 2 which has effect from 10 February 2017. It amends the Police (Injury Benefit) Regulations 2006.

Police Finance News

Basket of Goods for Policing 2018 published

[Data](#) on the police basket of goods, showing recent prices paid by police forces for common goods and services, was published by the Home Office on 9 May. This is the

third basket of goods to be published and the webpage highlights Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire purchasing uniforms together to halve the cost of their fleeces and South Yorkshire Police, North Yorkshire Police, West Yorkshire Police and Humberside Police working together to reduce prices of vehicles by up to £10,000 per vehicle since 2016 to 2017. It also highlights: the Metropolitan Police Service reducing the cost of jackets by over 63%; Leicestershire Police reducing the price of fleeces by over 61%; Norfolk and Suffolk collaborating to reduce the cost of utility belts (Norfolk and Suffolk) by 60%; Lincolnshire Police reducing the price of shirts by 60%; and Nottinghamshire Police reducing the cost of their telephone interpretation service by almost 50% while maintaining the same quality.

CIPFA practical guide for audit committees published

On 8 May CIPFA published [Audit Committees: Practical Guidance for Local Authorities and Police \(2018 Edition\)](#). An accompanying updated [CIPFA Position Statement on Audit Committees in Local Authorities and Police 2018](#) was also published. The guidance replaces the 2013 edition and updates the core functions of the audit committee in relation to governance, risk management, internal control and audit. It includes new legislation affecting audit committees in combined authorities and updates to regulations and statutory guidance. The updates to the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards, and Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework and associated guidance are also considered for their impact on the work of the audit committee. The audit committee role in relation to counter-fraud has also been updated to reflect the Code of Practice on Managing the Risk of Fraud and Corruption. The guidance continues to include a strong focus on the factors that support improvement. These include the knowledge and skills that audit committee members require and a focus on where the audit committee adds value. The document will provide practical support to those wishing to evaluate their existing committee and plan improvements.

Government response on LGPS published

The [government's response](#) to the consultation outcome on the proposed changes to the local government pension scheme (LGPS) regulations was published on 19 April. The consultation was held last year and included proposals on Fair Deal for staff pensions and choice in pensions.

Home Office circular 002/2018 published

[Home Office Circular 002/2018: police pay award 2017-18 and temporary promotion arrangements](#) was published on 5 April. It sets out amendments to the secretary of state's determinations under the Police Regulations 2003.

Home Office evidence on PCCs' salaries published

On 14 March the Home Office [published](#) evidence to the Senior Salaries Review Body for the 2018/19 pay round for police and crime commissioners. It also includes a general economic outlook.

New police pensions calculator published

A new [police pensions calculator](#) was published on 9 March by the Home Office.

Leicestershire Police child protection cases improve

On 10 May HMICFRS published a [report](#) into Leicestershire Police's work on child protection, as the latest report in a post-inspection review. HMICFRS's review of case files shows that 53% of the child protection cases examined were considered good, an increase from the 29% of cases considered good in January 2017. HMICFRS commented on Leicestershire's investment in training officers and staff about their role to play in safeguarding children, the improvement in its approach to child sexual exploitation and the force's innovative process to record strategy discussions with external partners.

HMICFRS consults on CJS joint inspection programme

On 23 April, Criminal Justice Joint Inspection published a [consultation](#) on the criminal justice joint inspection programme for 2018/19. The closing date is 18 May. The proposed programme includes continuation of inspections on prison offender management, police and UK Borders Authority custody inspections, joint targeted area inspections of child protection and youth inspections. Continuing thematic inspections include hate crime and a review of National Crime Agency (NCA) warrant applications. New thematic inspections include evidence-led prosecutions of domestic abuse, older people and social care in prisons. There are proposed scoping studies of ethnic disproportionality in the CJS and management of sex offenders in the CJS. Other programmes of work include prosecution team file case quality and improved business processes, communications and impact.

New Home Secretary appointed

On 30 April, Sajid Javid MP was [appointed](#) Home Secretary. He was previously Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government.

Crime statistics published

[Crime against businesses: findings from the 2017 Commercial Victimization Survey](#) was published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) on 3 May. A number of [documents](#) with updated recorded crime outcomes were published by the Home Office on 26 April.

Professor Alexis Jay Report on CSA published

On 25 April an [interim report](#) of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA), chaired by Professor Alexis Jay, was published. The interim report contains an overview of the work of the inquiry so far, the key emerging themes and recommendations. There are Annexes on the IICSA's reports on the child migration programme case study and Cambridge House, Knowl View and Rochdale. There are eighteen recommendations, categorised as the Child Migration programme, the criminal justice system, the civil justice system, the health sector, professional and political, structural and financial.

Recommendations with specific implications for policing include recommendation 13 on culture change within the police service. The report recommends that any police officer (or staff equivalent) who wishes to progress to Chief Officer must first be required to have operational policing experience in preventing and responding to child sexual abuse, and achieve accreditation in the role of the police service in preventing and responding to child sexual abuse. It adds that the Home Office should amend entry requirements under the Police Regulations 2003 and that the College of Policing should develop the training content and accreditation arrangements. Recommendation 16 states that the National Police Chiefs' Council should ensure that complaints of child sexual abuse are no longer 'disapplied' by police forces on the grounds that the incident involved took place more

than 12 months before the complaint was submitted. Recommendation 4 states there should be a joint inspection of compliance with the Victims' Code (in CJS category) which will have implications for policing.

Violent crime taskforce announced

On 25 April the then home secretary, Amber Rudd, [announced](#) a Serious Violence Taskforce to assist in designing and delivering the Serious Violence Strategy and working with affected communities to ensure action is taken. The taskforce will hold the government and others to account, evaluate the strategy's impact and commission further work.

Revised guidance issued on s182 of the Licensing Act 2003

[Revised guidance](#) issued under section 182 Licensing Act 2003 was published on 24 April and is effective from 6 April 2018.

Speech on tackling CSE

On 18 April the then home secretary Amber Rudd have a [speech](#) to the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting on tackling child sexual exploitation (CSE). Ms Rudd spoke of the evolving threats in CSE, the work undertaken so far to tackle it and the government's further work in this area. She said there will be £2m of Commonwealth funding for international projects to tackle child sexual exploitation online and a number of Commonwealth countries will receive a share of the £2m for projects to teach children and young people how to protect themselves online. There is an additional £600,000 funding for a national helpline to support UK victims and for bespoke therapy to help children with learning difficulties to recover from abuse. She also announced that the government has started the process of ratifying the Lanzarote Convention against Child Sexual Abuse.

POCA codes of practice updated

Two [codes of practice](#) (one new and one revised) under the proceeds of Crime Act 2002 were published on 16 April and came into force on the same day. They provide guidance on the appropriate and proportionate use of POCA powers including the exercise of search powers to recover cash and the exercise of search powers to recover certain listed assets.

HMICFRS report on counter-terrorism policing commanders' roles

On 11 April HMICFRS published a [report](#) of an inspection of the roles of counter-terrorism policing commanders.

HMICFRS report on PEEL Assessments

On 11 April HMICFRS published the rounded [assessments](#) of forces in England and Wales, bringing together all of the elements of the PEEL Assessments (Effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy).

Home Secretary's speech on tackling the dark web

On 11 April the then home secretary Amber Rudd gave a [speech](#) at the National Cyber Security Centre's annual conference. She spoke of the threat and scale of the dark web and highlighted some of the criminals who have been caught and sentenced. In terms of future work, Ms Rudd spoke of the expectation of businesses to put in place strong

cybersecurity measures and mentioned the Small Business Guide and Cyber Essentials and the 10 Steps to cybersecurity.

Northamptonshire PCC to take on governance of fire and rescue

On 11 April, the then home secretary Amber Rudd [announced](#) that the PCC for Northamptonshire's, Stephen Mold's, proposal to take on the governance of his local fire and rescue service had been approved allowing him to become a police, fire and crime commissioner.

Updated counting rules published

Updated [counting rules](#) for miscellaneous crimes against society were published on 11 April.

Serious violence strategy launched

On 9 April the government launched a [Serious Violence Strategy](#). It focuses on early intervention and contains four main themes: tackling county lines and misuse of drugs; early intervention and prevention; supporting communities and local partnerships; and law enforcement and the criminal justice response.

In terms of initiatives, the strategy refers to a new £11m Early Intervention Youth Fund to support communities for early intervention and prevention work with young people over the next two years; a National County Lines Co-ordination Centre to tackle violent and exploitative criminal activity; funding towards a new round of heroin and crack action areas; more rounds of the anti-knife crime Community Fund of up to £1m; and more funding for young people's advocates who work with gang-affected young women and girls. The then home secretary Amber Rudd gave a [speech](#) to help launch the strategy.

Three latest forces graded on crime recording accuracy

On 10 April, HMICFRS published the latest three reports on forces' crime recording accuracy. All three forces (Devon and Cornwall Police, Merseyside Police and Greater Manchester Police) were previously graded as inadequate. [Devon and Cornwall Police](#) and [Merseyside Police](#) are now graded as good and [Greater Manchester Police](#) is graded as requires improvement. The HMICFRS report highlights that Devon and Cornwall Constabulary has improved recording of violent and sexual crimes, including rape and domestic abuse. It also supervises the quality of crime recording decisions well and records modern slavery very well.

HMICFRS states the since its 2016 inspection of Merseyside Police, the force has made rapid progress, provided training to its workforce and improved the recording of violent and serious sexual crimes. However, there is still some under-recording of complicated crime, such as rape, domestic abuse and modern slavery, which HMICFRS states needs to be addressed urgently.

According to HMICFRS, in Greater Manchester some more complex crimes such as sexual offences and domestic abuse are not being recorded accurately and the force needs to understand how domestic abuse crime affects its communities. However, vulnerable victims are properly safeguarded and receive a good level of service.

HMICFRS report on child protection work by Humberside Police

On 5 April, HMICFRS published its [report](#) on child protection work of Humberside Police. According to HMICFRS, the force has improved its management of sex offenders, assessment of risk and early referral, recording and completion of protection documentation and control room risk assessment and triage. However, despite these improvements, improving outcomes for children has been slow, partly due to a new database system as it has taken a while for officers and staff to adapt to the new system.

Home Office Circular 015/2018 published

[Home Office Circular 015/2018: Criminal Finances Act 2017 - forfeiture of property](#) was published on 5 April. Its aim is to ensure consistency by law enforcement agencies in the provisions on forfeiture of certain personal or moveable property.

Policing and Crime Act – latest commencement schedule published

The latest [commencement schedule](#) for the Policing and Crime Act 2017 was published on 5 April.

Information on designated bodies for super-complaints set out

On 3 April the [consultation outcome](#) on the criteria for designating bodies in the super-complaints system for police, introduced by the Policing and Crime Act 2017, was published. Twenty-seven responses were received, mostly from policing bodies. In terms of next steps, the document says the Home Office will work with HMICFRS, the Independent Office for Police Conduct and the College of Policing to develop the procedures and processes for the new super-complaints system, and that the government expects it to become operational later this year. On the same day, [guidance and an application form](#) to be accepted as a designated body were published by the Home Office.

Latest JHA and Schengen protocols published

The latest list of EU [Justice and Home Affairs \(JHA\) opt-in and Schengen opt-out protocols](#) were published on 29 March. They refer to the UK's participation in EU legislation on police and judicial co-operation as well as on civil and criminal justice, asylum and migration.

Report by HMI Probation and HMICFRS on YOTs and police

A [report](#) produced by HM Inspectorate of Probation and HMICFRS into Youth Offending teams (YOTs) was published on 28 March. The inspection focused on the work done by YOTs and the police with children who have committed mainly low-level offences dealt with as out-of-court disposals.

Prevent statistics published

On 27 March [statistics](#) on individuals referred to and supported through the Prevent Programme for 2016/17 were published.

Three PCCs to take on governance of fire and rescue services

On 26 March, the then home secretary Amber Rudd [announced](#) that the proposals for West Mercia, Cambridgeshire and Staffordshire PCCs to take on the governance of their local fire and rescue service(s) had been approved allowing them to become police, fire and crime commissioners. The announcement states that since the relevant local authorities in each PCC's area did not support the transfer of governance, the Home

Secretary commissioned independent assessments of each proposal in November 2017 to assess and provide an opinion to the home secretary on whether the statutory tests were being met. The independent assessments for [West Mercia](#), [Cambridgeshire](#) and [Staffordshire](#) were carried out by CIPFA and were published on the same day.

Guidance on body armour standard published

[Guidance](#) on the minimum requirements for body armour for law enforcement agencies was published on 23 March.

Guidance to victims about anniversaries of terrorist attacks

On 23 March the Home Office published [guidance](#) to victims of terrorist attacks on how to cope with the anniversaries of those attacks.

Reports on effectiveness pillar of PEEL published by HMICFRS

A national [report](#) on the effectiveness pillar of the PEEL Assessments for 2017 was published by HMICFRS on 22 March. Forces were assessed on preventing crime and tackling anti-social behaviour, protecting vulnerable people and specialist capabilities. There are also individual force reports. Durham Constabulary was graded as outstanding overall, two police forces were outstanding at crime prevention and four were outstanding in how they tackle serious and organised crime. Thirty forces were graded as good overall and twelve were graded as requires improvement. None were graded as inadequate.

The report noted that most forces are doing an effective job overall, with two-thirds graded as good and one as outstanding. Almost half of forces have at least maintained the number of officers assigned to neighbourhood policing and two-thirds of forces are increasing collaboration with other agencies to tackle serious and organised crime. Other positive findings include the increasing number of forces investing in facilities for digital forensics, reducing backlogs from 2016, and front line officers having better systems to identify domestic abuse.

The report also says there some areas that still need to be addressed. There is a lack of progress in some forces in understanding why many crimes are written off. Many forces don't assess their approach to problem solving and tackling crime. Almost 50% of forces were not using the information on the Police National Computer (PNC) to proactively locate and arrest suspects and some forces are not sufficiently evaluating the risk from registered sex offenders.

Welsh translation of Mental Health Act provisions

On 19 March, a [translation](#) into Welsh of a Home Office document on implementing the changes to police powers and provision of places of safety was published.

Home Office Circular 013/2018 published

On 9 March [Home Office Circular 013/2018: selection and appointment of Chief Officers](#) was published. It replaces Home Office Circular 20/2012 and came into effect on 9 March. It sets out the legal requirements and principles for the appointment of Chief Constables, Deputy Chief Constables, and Assistant Chief Constables and equivalent ranks.

Statement on Salisbury incident

On 9 March the then home secretary Amber Rudd gave a [statement to Parliament](#) on the Salisbury incident and paid tribute to the professionalism, dedication and courage of the emergency services.

Guidance on chief officers' post-employment published

On 8 March the Home Office published [guidance](#) on the requirement for Chief Officers (or former Chief Officers) to provide notification of their post-service employment within 12 months of leaving the police service. Lord Leveson's Report into the 'Culture, Practices and Ethics of the Press' included a recommendation on whether limits should be placed upon the nature of any employment of Chief Officers within or by the media, after their service. Therefore the government is asking all forces to introduce a new system to review and approve the suitability of Chief Officers' post-service employment, in order ensure integrity and transparency and follow the standards in the Code of Ethics.

Recent Statutory Instruments for Fire and Rescue

The Firefighters' Pension Schemes and Compensation Scheme (Wales) (Amendment) Order 2018 (SI 2018/577)

This [order](#) was made on 9 May, laid before the National Assembly for Wales on 10 May and comes into force on 1 June. It amends Regulations 3 – 8 of the Firefighters' Pension Scheme (Wales) Regulations 2015.

The Firefighters' Pension Scheme (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2018 (SI 2018/576 (W. 103))

This [order](#) was made on 9 May, laid before the National Assembly for Wales on 10 May and comes into force on 1 June, though some of the amendments came into force on earlier dates. The order makes amendments to the Firemen's Pension Scheme Order 1992, the Firefighters' Pension Scheme (Wales) Order 2007, the Firefighters' Compensation Scheme (Wales) Order 2007, the Firefighters' Pension (Wales) Scheme (Amendment and Transitional Provisions) Order 2016, the Firefighters' Pension Scheme (Wales) Order 2007, the Firefighters' Compensation Scheme (Wales) Order 2007, the Firefighters' Pension (Wales) Scheme (Amendment and Transitional Provisions) Order 2016

The Combined Authorities (Borrowing) Regulations 2018 (SI 2018/565)

This [order](#) was made on 3 May and came into force the following day. They apply to combined authorities for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, Greater Manchester, Liverpool City Region, Tees Valley, West Midlands and the West of England. This order specifies functions of a combined authority (other than its transport functions) for the purposes of section 23(5) of the Local Government Act 2003 (power to borrow money for a purpose relevant to a function specified in regulations). It therefore confers additional borrowing powers on the six combined authorities that have agreed debt caps with HM Treasury to allow them to borrow in relation to all of their existing functions.

The Fire and Rescue Authorities (National Framework) (England) Order 2018 (SI 2018/560)

This [order](#) was made on 2 May, laid before Parliament on 8 May and comes into force on 1 June. It brings into effect the Fire and Rescue National Framework for England, published by the Home Office on 8 May 2018.

The Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment) Regulations 2018 (SI 2018/493)

This [order](#) was made on 17 April, laid before Parliament on 19 April and came into force on 14 May. It follows the Public Service Pensions Act 2013 and the consultation in 2016 on changes to the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS). It clarifies the term local government service in relation to the regulations and makes amendments on temporary reductions in contributions, contributions during absence from work, assumed pensionable pay, retirement benefits, election of lump sum instead of pension, survivor benefits, limit on total benefits, exit credits, employer's further payments, rights to payment out of the pension fund, and inward transfers of pension rights and the effect of an acceptance of a transfer value.

The Non-Domestic Rating (Rates Retention and Levy and Safety Net) (Amendment) Regulations 2018 (SI 2018/463)

This [order](#) was made on 29 March and came into effect the following day. It concerns business rate retention and the levy and safety net. It amends provisions of the Non-Domestic Rating (Rates Retention) Regulations 2013 and the Non-Domestic Rating (Levy and Safety Net) Regulations 2013 to allow for changes to the administration of the rates retention scheme, including the calculation of levy and safety net payments. This follows the government's decision to create pilot areas from 1 April where authorities will retain 100% of locally raised business rates. There are also changes to the conditions for hereditaments qualifying relief for deductions from central share payments and changes to levy rates and calculation figures.

The Non-Domestic Rating (Alteration of Lists and Appeals) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2018 (SI 2018/398)

This [order](#) was made on 26 March and came into force a day later. It amends the Non-Domestic Rating (Alteration of Lists and Appeals) (England) Regulations 2009 (SI 2009/2268) to allow for financial penalties for giving false information in, or in connection with, a proposal. It also provides for appeals against the imposition or amount of a financial penalty.

Fire Finance News

CIPFA practical guide for audit committees published

On 8 May CIPFA published [Audit Committees: Practical Guidance for Local Authorities and Police \(2018 Edition\)](#). An accompanying updated [CIPFA Position Statement on Audit Committees in Local Authorities and Police 2018](#) was also published. The guidance replaces the 2013 edition and updates the core functions of the audit committee in relation to governance, risk management, internal control and audit. It includes new legislation affecting audit committees in combined authorities and updates to regulations and statutory guidance. The updates to the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards, and Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework and associated guidance are also considered for their impact on the work of the audit committee. The audit committee role in relation to counter-fraud has also been updated to reflect the Code of Practice on Managing the Risk of Fraud and Corruption. The guidance continues to

include a strong focus on the factors that support improvement. These include the knowledge and skills that audit committee members require and a focus on where the audit committee adds value. The document will provide practical support to those wishing to evaluate their existing committee and plan improvements.

Government response on LGPS published

The [government's response](#) to the consultation outcome on the proposed changes to the local government pension scheme (LGPS) regulations was published on 19 April. The consultation was held last year and included proposals on Fair Deal for staff pensions and choice in pensions.

Revised information on council tax level published

[Revised details](#) of the level of Council Tax set by local authorities in England for the financial year 2018/19 were published on 28 March and updated on 12 April.

Review of local government finance announced

On 11 April the then Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government Sajid Javid, announced an [independent review](#) of the processes and procedures underpinning the Ministry's governance of the business rates system. It will be led by former Director General for Public Services at Her Majesty's Treasury, Andrew Hudson. The terms of reference were also published and cover complexity, governance and management, capacity and capability, openness and culture.

Strategic Fire and Rescue Service News

Dame Judith Hackitt's final report on fire safety published

The [final report](#) of the Independent Review of Building Regulations and Fire Safety, chaired by Dame Judith Hackitt, was published on 17 May. The aim of the review was to make recommendations to ensure a robust regulatory system for the future and to provide assurance to residents that the system will ensure the buildings they live in are safe and remain so. The review looked at building and fire safety regulations, compliance and enforcement, with a specific focus on high rise residential buildings. The final report follows the interim report published in December and includes over 50 recommendations.

Latest fire and rescue incidents data published

Fire and rescue incident [statistics](#) for England, for the calendar year 2017 were published on 10 May by the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

National Fire and Rescue Framework for England published

A revised [Fire and Rescue National Framework for England](#) was published on 8 May and replaces the 2012 version. It sets out the government's priorities and objectives for fire and rescue authorities under the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004. According to the framework, the priorities are for fire and rescue authorities to: make appropriate provision for fire prevention and protection activities and response to fire and rescue related incidents; identify and assess the full range of foreseeable fire and rescue related risks; collaborate with emergency services and other local and national partners to

increase efficiency and effectiveness; be accountable to communities; and develop and maintain a workforce that is professional, resilient, skilled, flexible and diverse.

The framework covers the delivery of functions, national resilience, governance, achieving value for money, workforce and inspection, intervention and accountability. On delivery it refers to identifying and assessing situations, prevent and protect, responding and collaboration. On national resilience it refers to gap analysis, local risk assessments, the National Coordination and Advisory Framework, response to terrorist attacks and National Resilience Assessments.

On governance, it refers to reforms such as new PCC FRAs and the National Fire Chiefs' Council, as well as documents such as the Integrated Risk Management Plan and Annual Statement of Assurance. On value for money it refers to reserves, as well as commercial transformation (procurement), research and development and trading. On workforce it refers to people strategies, professional standards, fitness principles and re-engaging chief officers. On inspection, intervention and accountability, it refers to HMICFRS inspections of fire and rescue services, new accountability arrangements (for PCC FRAs and the new London Fire Commissioner) and scrutiny arrangements (such as police, fire and crime panels for PCC FRAs).

Letters to residents regarding Grenfell Tower

On 4 May the new Secretary of State for Housing Communities and Local Government, James Brokenshire, [wrote](#) to residents to show the government's continued commitment to them. On 22 March the then Secretary of State Sajid Javid made a [Statement to Parliament](#) and [wrote](#) to residents following the Grenfell Tower fire, sharing the [second report from the independent Grenfell Recovery Taskforce](#).

Business rates information letter 03/2018 sent

The third business rates information [letter](#) was published by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MoHCLG) on 8 May. It contains information on Rating (properties in commons occupation) and Council Tax (Empty Dwellings) Bill, new fibre telecommunications relief, rating appeals and compensation arrangements for the Budget 2017 rates relief schemes.

New Secretary of State announced

On 30 April it was [announced](#) that James Brokenshire has been appointed as Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government.

Review of carbon monoxide alarms announced

A [review](#) of the rules that require carbon monoxide alarms to be fitted in homes across England was announced by the government on 30 April.

Information on building safety programme published

The fifth monthly [data release](#) from the government's building safety programme was published on 25 April. As part of the same programme, a [letter](#) to local authority and housing association chief executives providing information on the investigation into fire doors was published on 16 March.

Northamptonshire PCC to take on governance of fire and rescue

On 11 April, the then home secretary Amber Rudd [announced](#) that the PCC for Northamptonshire's, Stephen Mold's, proposal to take on the governance of his local fire

and rescue service had been approved allowing him to become a police, fire and crime commissioner.

Fire safety – amendments to Approved Document B proposed

Following a recommendation in Dame Judith Hackitt’s interim report on Building Regulations and Fire Safety, the government is [consulting](#) on amendments to Approved Document B (statutory guidance on fire safety) that would restrict the use of assessments in lieu of tests (known as desktop studies). The consultation closes on 25 May.

HMICFRS publishes fire and rescue inspection framework

On 29 March HMICFRS [published](#) its inspection framework for fire and rescue services. According to the framework, the fire and rescue service inspections will focus on three main themes: how effective a fire and rescue service is at preventing, protecting against and responding to incidents, and whether it understands future risks; whether the service provides value for money; and how able the service is to train staff, embrace diversity and develop a positive working culture. As in police, the fire and rescue service inspections won’t cover corporate governance or the accountability structures provided by the fire and rescue authority, police, fire and crime commissioner, locally elected mayors and, in London, the Mayor's Office. However, in some circumstances HMICFRS may undertake a separate inspection of corporate governance. All 45 fire and rescue services in England will be inspected, in three tranches (15 in each), from summer 2018. HMICFRS will gather information in a number of ways including analysis of documents and data, reviews of operational incidents, surveys of the public, and of fire and rescue services staff, interviews, focus groups and observations. The inspections will result in a rounded assessment and graded judgments for each fire and rescue service (outstanding, good, requires improvement or inadequate). Following this first inspection of all fire and rescue services in England, HMICFRS intend to move to a risk based approach.

Three PCCs to take on governance of fire and rescue services

On 26 March, the then home secretary Amber Rudd [announced](#) that the proposals for West Mercia, Cambridgeshire and Staffordshire PCCs to take on the governance of their local fire and rescue service(s) had been approved allowing them to become police, fire and crime commissioners. The announcement states that since the relevant local authorities in each PCC’s area did not support the transfer of governance, the Home Secretary commissioned independent assessments of each proposal in November 2017 to assess and provide an opinion to the home secretary on whether the statutory tests were being met. The independent assessments for [West Mercia](#), [Cambridgeshire](#) and [Staffordshire](#) were carried out by CIPFA and were published on the same day.

Local Government News

Directions and commissioners for Northamptonshire announced

On 10 May the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, James Brokenshire, announced that [Commissioners](#) have been appointed to Northamptonshire County Council. A letter from the secretary of state, with [directions and explanatory memorandum](#) provide the formal powers given to the Commissioners to take over governance and scrutiny, appointment of statutory officers and strategic financial management at Northamptonshire County Council.

These measures follow an independent [best value inspection report](#), and the [Secretary of State's response, a statement to Parliament](#) and [correspondence](#) on the future for Northamptonshire County Council.

Report on local audit regime published

On 15 March a [report](#) by Rand Europe was published by MoHCLG. The report gives advice on how to measure the impact of reforms to the local audit regime under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014. It includes a baseline and analysis which a later evaluation could use to measure the impact of the reforms.

Criminal Justice News

Youth custody data published

The latest [youth custody data](#) (for March 2018) was published on 11 May.

HM Courts and Tribunal Service responds to NAO report

The National Audit Office (NAO) published a [report](#) on Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunal Service (HMCTS) on 9 May. It refers to the challenge of delivering the technological and cultural change needed to modernise the administration of justice while making the necessary savings. The NAO says the HMCTS has extended the timetable and improved governance and programme management, but there is still much more to be done and programme is under pressure to meet what is still a demanding timetable. The report refers to unresolved funding gaps and the possible impact on services. It adds that the government's record of public service transformation suggests the benefits are likely to be smaller than expected and will take longer to achieve.

Review of parole law, policy and procedures

The [findings](#) of the review of the law, policy and procedures relating to Parole Board decisions. Announced in January, were published by the Ministry of Justice on 28 April.

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