

## HMI Zoë Billingham's assessment of Cambridgeshire Constabulary – Transcript

Hello. I'm Zoe Billingham and I'm Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary for Cambridgeshire Constabulary. I am one of five inspectors of constabulary, and our role is to inspect police forces on behalf of the public. Each year we produce an annual assessment of how each force is performing.

I am satisfied with most aspects of Cambridgeshire Constabulary's performance in keeping people safe and reducing crime. However, I have concerns about some parts of the service provided by the force.

Cambridgeshire Constabulary works well to prevent crime and anti-social behaviour, and there are good arrangements in place to disrupt the most serious criminality. However, although I have seen undoubted improvements in the service that the force provides to victims of domestic abuse since last year, there is still considerable room for improvement. While officers assess risk and protect victims there is a lack of positive action - for example, arresting the perpetrator. The approach to collecting evidence using body-worn video cameras is inconsistent, which means that the service to vulnerable victims is not as good as it should be.

The force also needs to improve the consistency of its crime investigations.

I am reassured that Cambridgeshire Constabulary is fully prepared to face its future financial challenges. It has achieved this through consistent and careful planning. The force recognises the scale of the future challenges and has strong collaborative arrangements with Bedfordshire Police and Hertfordshire Constabulary to achieve further efficiencies.

There is a strong culture within the force to give careful thought to ethical considerations. This is reflected in good examples of public engagement and an effective police response to issues that are of most importance to the communities of Cambridgeshire.

In the year ahead, I will be particularly interested to see how the force improves services to vulnerable victims, particularly victims of domestic abuse. I also look forward to seeing how the new chief constable's plans for improvements lead to better police services for the people of Cambridgeshire.