

HMI Stephen Otter's assessment of City of London Police – Transcript

Hello. I'm Stephen Otter and I'm Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary for the City of London Police. 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 pleased with the performance of City of London Police in keeping people safe and reducing crime. It balances this well with its national responsibility for economic crime.

The force works effectively to prevent crime and anti-social behaviour, and it protects most victims well. The force's approach to investigating crime and managing offenders is good, and there are also good arrangements in place to identify and disrupt serious and organised criminality. However, the force needs to improve its response to child sexual exploitation, where a greater understanding of the scale and nature of the issue is required. The force also needs to understand better the reasons for its apparently high use of Tasers against black, Asian and minority ethnic people.

I am reassured that the force is adequately prepared to face its future financial challenges. It has achieved the necessary savings in recent years, and it has improved its understanding of the demands it faces. However, the force needs to develop a future workforce plan that is aligned with its overall demand and budget.

I am impressed by the force's innovative use of technology. With 50,000 Twitter followers, the force is making good use of social media to publicise its crime prevention advice. The force is improving its understanding of the communities it serves by using public surveys and meetings to good effect.

The City of London Police's national responsibility for economic crime includes Action Fraud, the central point of contact for the reporting of all fraud and online crime. The speed at which this type of crime changes and grows is a challenge to the City of London Police.

The City of London Police's senior leadership team communicates clearly the values, behaviours and ethics it expects the workforce to exhibit. This is primarily set out through internal communications and training, and through the visibility and approachability of the commissioner and senior leadership team.

The City of London Police has a clear sense of how its workforce perceives senior leadership and leadership in general across the force. This understanding helped the force to realise that some of its employees had a negative view of their working environment. The force is using these views to help it make the right decisions in its programme to restructure its building estate.

In the year ahead I will be particularly interested to see how the force works with the Metropolitan Police Service to develop its response to managing offenders that live outside of its geographical boundaries. I'll also be interested to see how the force evolves to meet the challenge of the fast-changing nature of economic crime.