

HMI Mike Cunningham's assessment of Humberside Police – Transcript

Hello. I'm Mike Cunningham and I'm Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary for Humberside Police. I am one of five inspectors, 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.

In its PEEL inspections this year, HMIC found some areas of serious concern in the performance of Humberside Police in keeping people safe and reducing crime. In view of these findings, I have been in regular contact with the chief constable and I am reassured by the way in which the force has acknowledged and responded to the issues we have raised. However, I do not underestimate how much improvement is needed.

This year, the force has changed the way it is organised with the aim of improving its service. These changes led to the force not being able to meet the demands from the public and resources not being available at peak times. As a result of this, HMIC judged the force to be inadequate during our efficiency inspection in June.

I have been reassured by the evidence of improvement that we found in our subsequent inspections and our process of monitoring the force.

The new chief officer team continues to make considered changes to the way the force manages its demand. The force's capability to handle calls has improved and a new shift system is due to start imminently.

Although the force works well with partners, I am concerned about its performance in preventing crime and anti-social behaviour. I am pleased that we found during our inspections that the force has improved how it manages offenders; and it is good at identifying and disrupting organised criminality. However, the force needs to improve further how it investigates crime and how it responds to incidents involving repeat or vulnerable victims.

The chief officer team has communicated its vision and values to the workforce effectively.

The force is actively developing an ethical culture throughout the organisation, and is placing a sound emphasis on the importance of strong engagement with local communities.

In the year ahead I will be particularly interested to see how the force improves the way it investigates crime and the quality of those investigations, and how it responds to incidents involving vulnerable victims.