



Bedfordshire Police has made good progress in achieving its savings for the comprehensive spending review period but victim satisfaction is some cause for concern

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) has today published a report on Bedfordshire Police's progress in meeting the challenges of the 2010 comprehensive spending review.

A thematic report, *Policing in Austerity: One Year On*, found that police forces across England and Wales have risen to the financial challenge of the spending review, cutting their spending while largely maintaining the service they provide to the public; but HMIC has some concerns about whether all forces have transformed their efficiency to the extent that this can be sustained through the next three years (and into future spending reviews).

Based on the data provided by the force, HMIC found that:

- **Money:** Bedfordshire Police needs to save £19 million between March 2011 and March 2015. By spring 2012, they had planned how to save 100% of this amount.
- **People:** The force is planning to cut its total workforce number (i.e. police officers, police staff and police community support officers) by 310 between March 2010 and March 2015.
- 120 of these will be police officer posts; this means there will be 10% fewer officers in Bedfordshire by March 2015 (which is in line with the average officer reduction across England and Wales).
- **The front line:** By 2015 73% of its workforce will be in the front line. This is broadly in line with most other forces.
- The proportion of officers in frontline roles will increase between March 2010 and March 2015 (from 80% to 88%). Again, this percentage is similar to the national figure.
- **Collaboration:** Bedfordshire Police has an extensive programme of collaboration with Hertfordshire Constabulary, with a view to maximising efficiency. This partnership has delivered savings through shared services in major crime and other specialist departments. It has widened even further now that a third force, Cambridgeshire Constabulary, has joined the partnership.

- **Crime:** Bedfordshire Police continued to drive down crime levels between December 2010 and December 2011, although not by as much as most other forces.
- **Victim satisfaction:** 81% of victims were satisfied with the service from Bedfordshire Police. This is lower than the national figure.

HM Inspector of Constabulary for the Eastern region, Zoe Billingham, said:

“Bedfordshire Police has made good progress in making the savings required by the 2010 spending review.

“The force plans to balance its books by 2015. At the same time, it will restructure so that a greater proportion of its workforce are in frontline, crime-fighting roles. This should help Bedfordshire Police in its efforts to bring down crime and keep local communities safe.”

The full report for Bedfordshire Police, along with the national thematic review ‘Policing in austerity: One year on’, can be found at www.hmic.gov.uk

Notes to editors

1. The full thematic report ‘Policing in austerity: One year on’ and supporting material can be found at www.hmic.gov.uk
2. The review ‘Adapting to Austerity’ published in July 2011 and the accompanying force reports can be found at www.hmic.gov.uk
3. In October 2010, the government announced that the central funding provided to the police service would reduce by 20% in the four years between March 2011 and March 2015.
4. Figures are rounded (financial figures to the nearest million and workforce figures to the nearest 10) and financial figures are in cash prices.
5. For further information, or to request an interview, HMIC’s press office can be contacted during office hours from 8:30am – 5:30pm Monday – Friday on 0203 513 0600.
6. Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) is an independent inspectorate, inspecting policing in the public interest, and rigorously examines the effectiveness of police forces and authorities to tackle crime and terrorism, improve criminal justice and raise confidence. HMIC inspects and regulates all 43 police forces in England and Wales together with other major policing bodies such as the Serious Organised Crime Agency, the Police Service of Northern Ireland and the British Transport Police and HMRC.
7. HMIC’s out-of-hours press office line for urgent media enquiries is 07836 217 729.
8. Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) carried out an inspection of all 43 police forces in England and Wales in spring 2011, to see how they were planning to meet this financial challenge. When the results were published in July 2011 (search for ‘Valuing the Police’ on www.hmic.gov.uk), we committed to returning one year later to report on progress, and to assess whether there had been any impact on the service provided to the public.