

HM Inspectorate of Constabulary Consultation on HMIC's Programme for 2010/11

12 February 2010

Contents

- 1. Who are we?**
- 2. What is this consultation?**
- 3. What are the consultation questions?**
- 4. How and when to respond**
- 5. What happens next?**

- 6. Proposed HMIC priorities for 2010/11**

1 Who are we?

- 1.1 HMIC is an independent inspectorate, inspecting policing in the public interest. We monitor, inspect and report on police forces and activity with the aim of improving police performance.
- 1.2 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, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, the Police Service of Northern Ireland and the British Transport Police.
- 1.3 During the last year, we have operated as an independent minded body who has 'told it as it is' in the public interest on issues including [policing protest](#) (in the aftermath of the G20 demonstrations in London in April 2009); how well each force is doing on delivering the [Policing Pledge](#); a review of the statistics around and service to victims of [violent crime](#); and [a review of police investigation into Government leaks](#).

2 What is this consultation?

- 2.1 We have identified the areas that we believe, in the public interest, should be the priorities for our programme of work in 2010/11. These are in section 6 below; and we want your view on whether we have got them right.

3 What are the consultation questions?

- 3.1 Have we identified the right priorities?
- 3.2 If you work for another inspectorate: Does any of our proposed work duplicate, overlap or clash with inspections that you have planned for 2010/11?¹

¹ NB: Joint inspectorate work will be subject to a separate joint business plan and consultation process.

4 How and when to respond

- 4.1 Please send your answers to the above questions, together with any other comments, to the contact below, to arrive no later than **Friday 19 March 2010**:

Peter Todd – Assistant Inspector of Constabulary
HMIC, 3rd Floor SE, Fry Building,
2, Marsham Street, LONDON SW1P 4DF
E-mail: peter.todd@hmic.gsi.gov.uk

5 What happens next?

- 5.1 HMIC's business plan for 2010/11 will be published in April, following analysis of feedback from this consultation process, and ongoing consultation with other stakeholders and the public.
- 5.2 In the year ahead, HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary will also be preparing his first 'state of the nation' annual report on policing, due for publication in September 2010.

6 Proposed HMIC priorities for 2010/11

6.1 Our objective for 2010/11 will be to encourage the sector **to get better value for money** in testing the times ahead enabling them **to improve the public experience of police services**.

6.2 Drawing on our research with the public and our view on progress in the police service, we are proposing to focus on the following five priorities for 2010/11:

- Continuing our series of **police authority inspections**, which test stewardship of direction, performance and resources. We will publish reports on inspections of individual police authorities throughout the year. This will continue work already underway; and a report summarising the findings of the first ten inspections will be published in March 2010.
- Driving force improvements through the **Police Performance Steering Group** – we will focus on any forces that are significantly underperforming on an enduring basis and review their capability, with quarterly stocktakes throughout the year.
- Publishing and updating the online **Police Report Card**² – this will give the public information that will help them decide whether they are getting a good deal from their local police and make informed choices about local priorities, tax levels and where they might like to live. This new section of the website will go live in early March 2010, and be regularly updated (both as new statistics are published, and in response to public feedback on what they want to see). It will provide information on the risks from criminality, how well the police perform compared with their cost and which forces are likely to improve.
- Carrying out and reporting on **value for money (VfM) inspections** – we will review the areas of greatest spending to encourage innovative approaches to saving money and establish the feasibility of delivering ‘more for less’. We will review how the workforce is organised to identify

² Formerly known as ‘Rounded Assessment’

improvements in productivity and we will scope the potential to reduce the cost of criminal justice processes. Inspections will commence in spring 2010.

- Analysing how forces tackle **anti-social behaviour** – we will analyse both forces' response to calls from the public and victims' experience to establish whether police have the capacity to respond, and if they work well with partners in doing so. The results will feed into the Police Report Card and be supplemented by follow-up research with the public.

6.3 We will put approximately two-thirds of our total resource into the above priorities. The remaining third will be spent in the following three areas:

- **Security** – we will assess counter-terrorism (in terms of VfM and interoperability) plus serious and organised crime. In addition there will be smaller pieces of work to assess policing bids associated with the London Olympics, and follow-up work on public order and police use of firearms.
- **Vulnerable people** – we have been commissioned by ministers to carry out a joint inspection of the handling of rape cases. This work will start in March 2010 and will be greatly informed by the recently completed reviews by Sara Payne and Baroness Stern.
- **Work with other customers** – we have on-going statutory obligations to carry out inspections of HM Revenue and Customs and the Serious Organised Crime Agency, and have also been commissioned to inspect other non-Home Office forces, such as the Civil Nuclear Constabulary. In addition, we have a joint programme of work with the other criminal justice inspectorates³, which includes a significant work stream inspecting police custody facilities. We also engage in career counselling for senior police officers and provide advice to the Home Office on special grants.

³ Subject of a separate joint business plan and consultation process.