

The Metropolitan Police Service has significant further savings to achieve for the comprehensive spending review period.

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) has today published a report on the Metropolitan Police Service'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:

- The Metropolitan Police Service needs to save £769 million between March 2011 and March 2015. By spring 2012 they had planned how to save 70% of this amount. This means they still need to find £232m (which is 7% of their total budget).
- The force is planning to cut its total workforce number (i.e. police officers, police staff and police community support officers) by 3,280 between March 2010 and March 2015.
- 1,410 of these will be police officer posts; this means there will be 4% fewer officers in the Metropolitan area (compared with the 10% average officer reduction across England and Wales).
- By 2013, 71% of the workforce will be in frontline roles by 2013. This is a lower proportion than in most other forces.
- The proportion of police officers on the front line will increase over the same period (from 81% to 82%). However, this will still be lower than the national figure.
- The Metropolitan Police Service is making progress in reducing overall crime. Crime levels fell between December 2010 and December 2011 – although not as fast as in most other forces, and overall crime levels remain higher than in similar forces.
- 74% of victims are satisfied with the overall service provided by the Metropolitan Police Service. This is the lowest figure in England and Wales.

HM Inspector of Constabulary for the National Region, Stephen Otter, said:

“The Metropolitan Police Service is working to address the financial challenge of the 2010 spending review, and has identified considerable savings. However, it needs to find another £232m before it can balance its books – and currently has no plans to outline how this will be achieved.

“As well as finding these savings, the force must also address its low victim satisfaction levels, and high crime rates. Both the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime and the MPS Commissioner have declared a firm intention to deal with these issues.

“Although it is making progress in bringing down overall crime, by 2013 the MPS will have a lower proportion of its workforce in frontline, crime-fighting roles than most other forces. As the force develops its plans it should look to address this, to help reduce its crime levels and keep the public in London safe.”

The full report for Metropolitan Police Service, 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.