



North Wales Police has made good progress in achieving its savings for the comprehensive spending review period but victim satisfaction and crime levels are some cause for concern

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) has today published a report on North Wales 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:

- North Wales Police needs to save £16 million between March 2011 and March 2015. By spring 2012 they had planned how to save 100% of this amount.
- The force is planning to cut 160 posts. All of these will be police officers. This means there will be 10% fewer officers in North Wales (which is in line with the average officer reduction across England and Wales).
- By 2015 72% of the force's total workforce (which comprises police officers, police community support officers and police staff) will be in the frontline. This figure is moving in the right direction, but is still a lower proportion than most other forces.
- The proportion of officers in frontline roles will increase between March 2010 and March 2015 (from 87% to 88%) This means the proportion of police officers on the front line in North Wales will be broadly in line with most other forces.
- Crime has increased in North Wales between December 2010 and December 2012, unlike in England and Wales where there has been a general reduction.
- 82% of victims in North Wales were satisfied with the service from North Wales Police. This is lower than the national figure.

HM Inspector of Constabulary for the Western Region, Dru Sharpling, said:

"North Wales Police has a good history of reducing cost through careful management and improved efficiency and effectiveness. While this has placed them in a good position to meet the financial challenges of the 2010 spending review, their plans

assume a 4% increase in the council tax precept in the last two years of the review. Additional savings may be required if these increases are not realised.

“As the force progresses plans it must look for opportunities to increase the proportion of staff and officers in frontline crime-fighting roles, focusing on crime reduction and making communities feel safe.”

The full report for North Wales 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.