



## **Suffolk Constabulary has made improvements to how they identify, monitor and manage integrity issues**

In 2011, the Home Secretary asked Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) to look at "instances of undue influence, inappropriate contractual arrangements and other abuses of power in police relationships with the media and other parties".

While the resulting report, *Without Fear or Favour*, found no evidence that corruption was endemic in police service relationships, it did not issue a clean bill of health. In particular, HMIC was concerned that few forces provided any policy or guidance in relation to key integrity issues, such as how to interact with the media, use of social media, and what second jobs are suitable for officers and staff. The report made several recommendations to help the service address these issues.

In 2012 HMIC revisited all forces to track progress against these recommendations.

In Suffolk, HMIC found:

- Since 2011 Suffolk Constabulary has conducted an integrity 'health check', using the Self- Assessment Checklist provided in HMIC's 2011 report, *Without Fear or Favour*. The constabulary has subsequently changed some of the ways it manages integrity issues, and updated several policies (including those on relationships with the media, acceptance of gifts and hospitality, use of social media and second jobs).
- Officers and staff now have a better understanding of the rules, and more information on gifts and second jobs is now declared and recorded.
- The constabulary has introduced a new media policy which outlines how relationships with the press should work. It also includes information on how staff should record contact with journalists. Since September 2011 the force has not investigated any instances of inappropriate disclosure to the media.
- The constabulary has updated its policy on how staff should behave when using social networking sites. HMIC's independently commissioned research did not identify any cases of potentially inappropriate behaviour on Facebook or Twitter by members of staff in Suffolk Constabulary.
- Suffolk Constabulary has a clear policy for second jobs and business interests, which applies to both police officers and police staff. Since September 2011 there have been 66 applications for second jobs, all of which have been approved.
- The force instigated seven investigations between September 2011 and May 2012 into the conduct of its officers and staff in relation to the areas covered by this report.

- The Norfolk and Suffolk professional standards departments have been brought together to work collaboratively as one.

HM Inspector of Constabulary for the Eastern Region, Zoë Billingham, said:

*“Suffolk Constabulary has made progress in how they identify, monitor and manage integrity issues since HMIC last reviewed this in 2011, in particular the constabulary has been proactive in communicating key messages and policies on integrity to all staff. It has followed this up by carrying out survey work which includes checking staff understand what is required of them.*

*Across the whole of England and Wales we found that the police service is making progress in how it safeguards relationships with the media, contractors and others. However, we are concerned that changes nationally have not been implemented at a quicker pace.*

*HMIC will continue to monitor all forces and inspect progress in order to provide the public with assurance that they are gripping these vital issues.”*

The full report for Suffolk Constabulary, along with the national thematic review ‘Revisiting police relationships’, can be found at [www.hmic.gov.uk](http://www.hmic.gov.uk)

#### **Notes to editors**

1. A copy of the national report, *Revisiting Police Relationships*, and individual force reports can be found on the HMIC website [www.hmic.gov.uk](http://www.hmic.gov.uk)
2. In 2011, the Home Secretary asked Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) to look at “instances of undue influence, inappropriate contractual arrangements and other abuses of power in police relationships with the media and other parties”. The resulting report, *Without Fear or Favour*, was based on an inspection of all 43 forces in England and Wales, as well as the British Transport Police (BTP), the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) and, at its request, the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI). We also ran telephone surveys to find out if the public thought corruption was a problem for the Service, and looked at police use of social media. The 2011 report can be found on the HMIC website [www.hmic.gov.uk](http://www.hmic.gov.uk)
3. The revisit used the 2011 criteria and was based on self assessments by 44 forces (including the British Transport Police), supported by inspection work in July and August 2012. HMIC also repeated and extended the surveys of public opinion on the range and type of corruption issues in the police service, and of police use of social media.
4. Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) is an independent inspectorate, inspecting policing in the public interest, and rigorously examines the efficiency and 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.
5. For further information, HMIC’s press office can be contacted during office hours from 8:30am – 5:30pm Monday – Friday on 0203 513 0600.
6. HMIC’s out-of-hours press office line for urgent media enquiries is 07836 217 729.