



Sussex Police has made some 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". The resulting report, *Without Fear or Favour*, published in December 2011, found no evidence of endemic corruption in the Police Service.

In summer 2012 we reinspected all 43 forces in England and Wales and the British Transport Police, looking at the same criteria as the 2011 inspection.

Since 2011 Sussex Police has conducted a review against the Self-Assessment Checklist provided in HMIC's 2011 report, *Without Fear or Favour*. Progress against the resulting actions is overseen by the deputy chief constable (DCC). The policies covering relationships with the media, gifts and hospitality, social media use, and police staff and officers' second jobs have been reviewed and updated. Staff have been made aware of these changes to ensure they understand their responsibilities.

In Sussex, HMIC found:

- Since September 2011 the force has investigated one instance of inappropriate disclosure to the media.
- HMIC's independently commissioned research identified four cases of potentially inappropriate behaviour on Facebook or Twitter by officers and staff in Sussex Police, which have been referred back to the force
- Since September 2011 there have been 61 applications for second jobs, 59 of which have been approved.
- The force has instigated 62 investigations between September 2011 and May 2012 into the conduct of its officers and staff in relation to the areas covered by this report.

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

"Sussex Police has made some progress in how they identify, monitor and manage integrity issues since HMIC last reviewed this in 2011. There has been a review and update of integrity related policies. There has also been some training to staff targeted at those who are most likely to have contact with the press."

However, while the force has made progress it needs to continue to monitor and develop how it responds to issues of integrity, such as cross checking information to secure the integrity of the procurement process.

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 nationally changes 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 Sussex Police, along with the national thematic review ‘Revisiting police relationships’, can be found at 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
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
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.