

HMI Wendy Williams' assessment of Avon and Somerset Constabulary – Transcript

Hello. I'm Wendy Williams and I'm Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary for Avon and Somerset. I am one of five inspectors of Constabulary, and our role is to inspect police forces on behalf of the public. Each year we produce an annual assessment of how each force is performing.

I am pleased with the performance of Avon and Somerset Constabulary in keeping people safe and reducing crime.

The force is good at preventing crime and anti-social behaviour and has good arrangements in place to tackle serious and organised crime. While our inspections revealed concerns about how vulnerable people are kept safe, the accuracy of some risk assessments and the consistency of its investigations, I am pleased with the positive response from the force. It is clearly striving to prioritise its resources towards areas of greatest threat, risk and harm in order to protect vulnerable people. The innovative Lighthouse programme offers an opportunity for the force to improve its services and give better care to victims. Avon and Somerset Constabulary has a comprehensive understanding of the demands for its services and the quality of its financial planning will equip it to face future financial challenges. The force has reviewed its structure and services and as a result has successfully implemented a new operating model.

Officers and staff in local teams have a good understanding of their neighbourhoods, and they work closely and engage in a positive way with the public. I was particularly impressed by the effort the force has made in engaging with the Somali community in Bristol.

In the year ahead, I will be particularly interested to see how the force improves the consistency of assessments for both missing children and domestic abuse. I will also be interested to see how the force improves its approach to investigating crimes.