

HMI Mike Cunningham's assessment of Cleveland Police – Transcript

Hello. I'm Mike Cunningham and I'm Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary for Cleveland Police. I am one of five inspectors, 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.

In its PEEL inspections this year, HMIC found some areas of serious concern in the performance of Cleveland Police in keeping people safe and reducing crime. I am pleased that the force has moved to address concerns identified in previous HMIC reports, but further improvement on the issues HMIC has raised in more recent reports is now required.

I have some serious concerns about the performance of Cleveland Police in keeping people safe and reducing crime, and how prepared it is to meet future financial challenges.

I am particularly concerned by the force's approach to protecting some of the most vulnerable people. HMIC found inconsistencies in the identification of vulnerable victims at the first point of contact with the police. However, I am encouraged to see the improved quality of the force's crime investigations; and the force works well to identify and disrupt organised criminality.

I am not satisfied that the force's financial plans will enable it to meet forthcoming pressures. The force also has more to do to match its workforce model to its demand so that the public receives the best possible service. I am pleased, however, that the force is exploring options for maximising funding opportunities and working collaboratively with other forces in the region, and this will go some way to bridge the budgetary shortfall beyond 2016.

While we found an ethical culture in Cleveland, the force needs to provide greater support to its staff and officers and enhance the wellbeing of the whole workforce.

In the year ahead, I will be particularly interested to see how the force develops its ability to manage and understand demand. I would also like to see the force improvements to the wellbeing and morale of police officers and staff.