

HMI Mike Cunningham's assessment of Cumbria Constabulary

Hello. I'm Mike Cunningham and I'm Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary for Cumbria. Our role is to inspect police forces on behalf of the public, and I am one of five inspectors appointed by the Queen. We are independent of government and police forces.

This year we are introducing a new way of inspecting the police and reporting our findings to you the public. We have called this approach the PEEL assessments, and this means police effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy.

In relation to effectiveness my assessment for Cumbria Constabulary in 2014 is that in general, the force is good at reducing crime and preventing offending, good at investigating offending and good at tackling anti-social behaviour.

In relation to efficiency, Cumbria Constabulary is achieving the savings required today while planning for the future. The force has performed well in the first three years of the spending review - achieving savings, protecting the front line and maintaining high levels of satisfaction.

In relation to legitimacy, the force is acting to achieve fairness and legitimacy in most of the practices that we examined this year.

I have been impressed with the force's strong focus on victims, and how it works well with partners to prevent crime and reduce re-offending.

Neighbourhood policing and anti-social behaviour are central priorities for the force. The force has expanded and further developed its capability in responding to online criminality which targets children and vulnerable people.

I am interested to see how the force responds to the areas HMIC has identified for improvement over the next 12 months; in particular, how the force builds on progress around problem solving initiatives with partner agencies that reduce anti-social behaviour.

Next year we will be seeing how forces have responded to this assessment, and we will give them overall grades so that *you* can see, at a glance, how well *your* force is doing.