Hello. I’m Zoë Billingham and I’m Her Majesty’s Inspector of Constabulary for Essex Police. 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 of Essex Police in 2014 is that, in general, the force is good at reducing crime and preventing offending and is good at tackling anti-social behaviour. However, it requires improvement in the way it investigates offending.

In relation to efficiency: my assessment is that Essex Police has responded well to the financial challenge of this spending review.

The force has found significant savings while protecting frontline posts and it is collaborating well with Kent Constabulary to bring down its costs further.

In relation to legitimacy: my assessment is that the force is acting to achieve fairness and legitimacy in most of the practices that were examined this year.

The force takes a very victim focused approach, recording crimes with a high degree of accuracy.

Next year I’ll be interested to see how the force’s new approach to domestic abuse results in a better service to victims.

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.