



Cambridgeshire Constabulary's approach to efficiency 'requires improvement' says HMIC

In the second year of assessing police against the annual PEEL Efficiency inspection, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary examined how police forces use their resources now and how they plan to do so in the future in order to keep people safe and reduce crime.

Forces were inspected on how well they are able to predict demand for their services now and in the longer term, and how they manage their resources, especially their officers and staff.

HMIC inspects all police forces in England and Wales on an annual basis against the themes of effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy.

This year, HMIC assessed that Cambridgeshire Constabulary:

- **is improving the understanding of demand for its services;**
- **has been developing collaborative working with other police forces and partners, like local councils to save money, share skills and expertise; and**
- **has further work to do on its plans for increasing efficiency in the future, including plans to protect frontline services.**

HM Inspector of Constabulary Zoë Billingham said:

"I'm pleased that Cambridgeshire Constabulary has taken steps to improve the way in which it keeps people safe and reduces crime. During our efficiency inspection, we found that the force has a sound understanding of most demand and continues to improve that understanding. This is important if the force is to have the right officers, with the right skills and experience available to provide an effective policing response. I am satisfied that the force is continuing to improve its efficiency although we have identified some areas where more attention is required.

"The force's commitment to working in collaboration with Hertfordshire Constabulary and Bedfordshire Police is strong. This type of joint working helps the force to maximise purchasing power and increase its ICT capabilities. It is commendable that the force continues to exploit the benefits of its already impressive. This will allow still further improvements to the way the forces share information and skills to meet the needs of diverse communities across Cambridgeshire.

"It is good that Cambridgeshire Constabulary has identified and invested extra resources in some areas of increasing demand, such as the public protection.

This will increase its capacity to investigate serious sexual offences and safeguard vulnerable children and adults.

“However, Cambridgeshire Constabulary is at an early stage in developing its wider understanding of additional likely demand. As well as developing better workforce plans for the future, it is aware of the need to better understand and tackle emerging crime types, such as cyber-crime. The force is already taking steps to address this.

“Cambridgeshire Constabulary faces some future financial uncertainty and I will be interested to see the force complete more work to fully understand future demand from the public and to plan to meet this in as efficient and productive way as possible. With this in mind, I have judged Cambridgeshire Constabulary as ‘requiring improvement’ overall in terms of the efficiency with which it keeps the public safe and reduces crime.”

HMIC will report on its findings of all police forces’ legitimacy - the way that forces are fair and ethical - at the end of this year, and on the effectiveness of police forces in managing all aspects of crime in spring 2017.

Notes to editors

1. Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) is an independent inspectorate, inspecting policing in the public interest, and assesses and reports on the effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy of police forces in tackling crime and terrorism, improve criminal justice and raise confidence. HMIC inspects all 43 police forces in England and Wales together with other major policing and law enforcement bodies.
2. As part of its annual inspections of police effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy (PEEL), HMIC’s Efficiency programme assessed and graded all 43 forces in England and Wales on how efficient they are at keeping people safe and reducing crime. To answer this question we looked at three areas:
 1. How well does the force use its resources to meet demand?
 2. How sustainable and affordable is the workforce model?
 3. How sustainable is the force’s financial position for the short and long term?
3. Two of the 43 forces in England and Wales received an ‘outstanding’ grade in HMIC’s efficiency inspection (Durham and West Midlands).
4. Eight forces received a ‘requires improvement’ grade (Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, City of London, Devon and Cornwall, Dyfed Powys, Humberside, Nottinghamshire and South Yorkshire Police).
5. The remaining 33 forces were judged as ‘good’.
6. No forces were judged to be ‘inadequate’.
7. In addition to an inspection report for each force, a national report, PEEL: Police Efficiency 2016 gives an overview of findings across England and Wales.
8. Last year (2015), five forces were ‘outstanding’ (Cheshire; Durham; Lancashire; Norfolk; and West Midlands). Eight forces received a ‘requires improvement’ grade (Bedfordshire; Cleveland; Dorset; Dyfed Powys; Lincolnshire; Northamptonshire; South Yorkshire; and Surrey). One force received an ‘inadequate’ grade (Humberside) and the remaining 29 forces were judged as ‘good’. These reports are available [on our website](#).
9. For further information, HMIC’s press office can be contacted during office hours from 8:30am – 5:00pm (GMT) Monday – Friday on 020 3513 0600.
10. HMIC’s out-of-hours press office line for urgent media enquiries is 07836 217 729.