



Dorset Police's approach to efficiency is judged to be 'good' - 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 found that Dorset Police:

- **is good at understanding demand for services;**
- **has conducted work to plan for future demand; and**
- **needs to consider the impact of savings on frontline services.**

HM Inspector of Constabulary Wendy Williams said:

"I would like to commend Dorset Police for the improvements it has made since our previous inspection in 2015. Last year we graded Dorset to 'require improvement'. I am pleased to report that the force has worked hard to make progress in a number of areas, and now offers a much more efficient service to the people of Dorset.

"The force has a comprehensive understanding of the full range of the current demand it faces, and has carried out extensive evaluation of future demand. This has allowed the force to manage its resources better, and identified areas of growing demand such as child sexual exploitation and paedophile and online investigation. The force has also set up a dedicated team to tackle cyber-crime, and is working better to support frontline officers and staff who are experiencing pressure.

"Building on its collaboration with Devon and Cornwall Police, Dorset is now better placed to meet future spending cuts. This is an area HMIC was concerned about in 2015 and it is encouraging to see the improvements that have been made. The two forces have plans to share some information technology services, which will reduce costs. I have asked the force to assess within six months how its planned savings will affect frontline services in areas that fall outside of this collaboration."

“Despite this progress, there are still some areas Dorset Police still needs to improve. For instance some mobile technology has been introduced in an inefficient way, which has reduced the confidence of some of the workforce as to the success of future IT developments.”

HMIC will report on its findings of police forces’ legitimacy, or 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.