



## **Durham Constabulary's approach to efficiency judged 'outstanding' 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 forecast 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, Durham Constabulary was assessed to be:**

- **excellent at understanding current public demand for services;**
- **have as impressive understanding of future demand for services;**
- **and**
- **benefitting from collaborative working with other forces and is making good use of technology.**

**HM Inspector of Constabulary Mike Cunningham said:**

"I am delighted that Durham Constabulary continues to be outstanding in efficiently keeping people safe and reducing crime. During HMIC's inspection this year, we found that the force has an excellent understanding of the diverse range of demand it faces when keeping the public safe and responding to crime and incidents in Durham.

"I am particularly impressed by the work Durham Constabulary has done to try to accurately predict and plan for the changing and more complex demands on police services. This is to be commended.

"Durham Constabulary has challenged itself to identify which internal administrative and unnecessary services can be removed to allow a greater focus on what the public need.

“HMIC was pleased to find a comprehensive plan for information technology that was helping the constabulary work more efficiently and to improve its services to the residents and visitors of Durham. The constabulary also continues to have good working arrangements with other agencies and police forces to make sure that the right agency is tackling each task and sharing resources.

“With this in mind, I am very pleased to judge Durham Constabulary as ‘outstanding’ overall at efficiently keeping the public safe and reducing 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.
3. 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?
4. Two of the 43 forces in England and Wales received an ‘outstanding’ grade in HMIC’s efficiency inspection (Durham and West Midlands).
5. Eight forces received a ‘requires improvement’ grade (Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, City of London, Devon and Cornwall, Dyfed Powys, Humberside, Nottinghamshire and South Yorkshire Police).
6. The remaining 33 forces were judged as ‘good’.
7. No forces were judged to be ‘inadequate’.
8. 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.
9. 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](#).
10. 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.
11. HMIC’s out-of-hours press office line for urgent media enquiries is 07836 217 729.