



Northamptonshire Police's approach to efficiency judged to be 'good' is 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 Northamptonshire Police:

- **is good at understanding current demand and is developing means to help it to understand future demand;**
- **has benefitted from collaborative working with other forces in the East Midlands and is making good use of digital technology;**
- **has undertaken work to identify crime less likely to be reported as well as work to better understand the needs of local communities; and**
- **has been developing its understanding of future demand, such as cyber-crime and making sure that officers and staff have the skills to meet this demand.**

HM Inspector of Constabulary Zoë Billingham said:

"I am pleased that our most recent inspection showed that Northamptonshire Police continues have a good understanding of how to keep the public safe and reduce crime. In particular, we found that the force is good at using its resources to meet current demand, reducing unnecessary tasks and allowing officers and staff more time for frontline services.

"Northamptonshire Police is deploying resources effectively and is considering some radical changes to ensure it can meet its demand in a more sophisticated way. This includes considering better use of digital technology and research into peak times of demand, making sure that officers and staff with the right skills are available at the right time.

“Northamptonshire Police’s joint working arrangements with other forces and the fire service is commendable, sharing knowledge and experience to provide a better service to the public. This includes better access to services online, over the phone and in person. The shared buildings with the fire service helps to provide more public safety and collaboration during arson investigations.

“HMIC was also impressed to see that the force works closely with local councils in Northamptonshire, sharing a safeguarding lead on issues such as female genital mutilation, interpersonal violence and modern slavery.

“The force’s strong grip on its workforce planning is noteworthy: having determined that cyber-crime was creating more demand than could be resourced the force moved staff from other areas, and also used suitably qualified and vetted volunteers with specialist skills, to provide assistance to victims of crime and offer prevention advice.

“HMIC will be interested to see how the force continues to meet such demands in the future, making sure that skills of officers and staff meet the needs of local communities and developing crime trends. It should put in place an effective ICT plan to support these likely future needs.

“Overall, Northamptonshire Police’s work over the last year means that I am pleased to judge the force as ‘good’ in terms of the efficiency with which it at 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.