



## **Thames Valley Police's approach to efficiency judged to be 'good' by 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.

### **Thames Valley Police:**

- **is good at understanding current and future demand;**
- **has realised the benefits of collaborative working with other forces and is making good use of new technology, such as body worn cameras; and**
- **has been developing its understanding of under reported crime, such as honour based violence and child sexual exploitation.**

### **HM Inspector of Constabulary Zoë Billingham said:**

"Thames Valley Police continues to be good in terms of the efficiency with which it keeps people safe and reduces crime. During our inspection we found that the force has a good understanding of the broad spectrum of demand it faces when preventing and fighting crime and protecting the diverse communities across the Thames Valley area.

"I am particularly pleased that Thames Valley Police has taken concerted action to uncover crimes that are often hidden from view, like so-called honour based violence and child sexual exploitation. In doing so the force is helping to protect some of the most vulnerable members of the community.

"Thames Valley Police has a good understanding of where its crime hot spots are. It generally has the right number of police officers and staff, with the right skills and experience, in the right place to prevent crime, investigate crime (from the more straight forward to the most complex) and to bring offenders to justice. The force is working to better understand how reductions in the

resources available to partners, like local councils, could have a knock-on effect on the police.

“I am impressed with the ambition that Thames Valley Police shows in its plans to become even more efficient in the future. The force works very well with its neighbour, Hampshire Constabulary, to reduce its costs and improve economies of scale. The force equips its officers with body worn cameras, smart phones and tablets – all designed to support officers and staff in being able to do their jobs more efficiently.

“Thames Valley Police has a very strong track record in meeting its required savings and in doing so it is becoming increasingly more efficient. It is especially noteworthy that the force has been successful in maintaining a high quality police service for the public at the same time.

“I am very pleased to judge Thames Valley Police as ‘good’ overall at efficiently keeping the public safe and reducing crime.”

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.
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.