

Gwent Police judged as 'good' at how legitimately it keeps people safe and reduces crime - HMIC

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) has assessed how legitimate Gwent Police is at keeping people safe and reducing crime. This is the second year running HMIC has carried out inspections of this kind, which makes up part of HMIC's annual PEEL inspections.

HMIC considers a police force to be legitimate if it has the consent of the public, and if those working in the force consistently behave in a way that is fair, ethical, and within the law.

To assess this, HMIC has inspected how well forces treat the people they serve; ensure their workforce acts ethically and lawfully; and treat their workforces with fairness and respect. The findings of this inspection are included in a report, published today.

This inspection also included, for the first time, an assessment of how well forces tackle the problem of abuse of authority for sexual gain by members of its workforce. This serious form of corruption betrays the trust of the public and, while we identified some examples of good practice, there remain significant areas where forces must improve. The service needs to be more proactive in seeking out and preventing this form of corruption, and referring cases of abuse of authority to the IPCC.

HMIC found that Gwent Police:

- fully recognises the importance of treating the public it serves with fairness and respect;
- has an anti-corruption unit that effectively identifies threats to the organisation; and
- has a well-established health and wellbeing strategy that is supported by a range of practical measures.

HM Inspector of Constabulary Wendy Williams said:

"I have judged Gwent Police as 'good' at legitimately keeping people safe and reducing crime. In 2015, when we last reported on the legitimacy of the force, it was also judged to be 'good'.

“It is extremely positive that Gwent Police fully recognises the importance of treating the public it serves with fairness and respect. It has made this a priority in its vision and values, which are clear and well-articulated and it regularly seeks feedback from the public through a variety of methods.

“The force has an anti-corruption unit that effectively identifies threats to the organisation and a management board made up of key stakeholders, which uses management information to identify risks and threats to the integrity of the organisation. The workforce understands the expected standards of behaviour with regard to relationships and recognises abuse of authority for sexual gain as serious corruption.

“We found that Gwent Police has a well-established health and wellbeing strategy that is supported by a range of practical measures to promote health and wellbeing. The workforce recognises the value of this. I am pleased that the force also undertakes preventative work to improve workforce wellbeing and that it frequently seeks the views of its staff.”

HMIC has also published individual assessments of the leadership within each police force in England and Wales. These, along with individual reports on the legitimacy of all forces in England and Wales, are available on HMIC’s website.