



Foreword

This is my report to the Secretary of State under section 54 of the Police Act 1996.

It contains my assessment of the effectiveness and efficiency of policing in England and Wales, based on the inspections we carried out between April 2018 and May 2019.

My report on the effectiveness and efficiency of fire and rescue services in England will be published separately.

This report's structure and purpose

Part 1 contains my assessment of the state of policing in England and Wales. In making my assessment, I have drawn on the inspections we carried out over the past year, as well as the findings and reports of other organisations, and other information and analysis available to me.

Part 2 gives an overview of the findings of the inspections we carried out between 1 April 2018 and 2 May 2019, including a summary of our police efficiency, effectiveness and legitimacy (PEEL) inspections.

Part 3 sets out the full list of our inspections and other work in the year in question.

The results of our individual inspections enable an assessment of the performance of individual forces, or a more general assessment of performance in specific aspects of policing. I hope that people, including the public, who hold policing to account will draw on the overall conclusions in this report just as much as they draw on the specific conclusions we have reached for each force.



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Changes to our PEEL programme

Inspection is a continuous process of design, monitoring and reporting; it isn't just when we have 'boots on the ground'. This continuous process enables us to adopt an integrated, risk-based approach.

For this year's PEEL programme, we reduced by a third the number of questions we sought to answer in the inspections, and we carried out integrated, single inspections in each force rather than separate inspections. Because of this, half the inspections took one week rather than two. We hope that police forces will have welcomed this.

We have also changed the way we report the findings from our PEEL inspections – from 43 forces in one go to three separate tranches (covered in detail in Part 2).

HMI Phil Gormley

This year, we have been pleased to welcome HMI Phil Gormley to the inspectorate. Mr Gormley was appointed as Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary in October 2018. A former chief constable of two police forces and deputy director general of the National Crime Agency, he brings with him his very considerable experience of leadership in policing and law enforcement.

Since joining Thames Valley Police in 1985, Mr Gormley's highly creditable achievements include developing the national blueprint for counter-terrorism policing; designing and implementing the national arrangements for dealing with serious and organised crime; and leading the largest-ever UK law enforcement operation targeting the online abuse of children.

With considerable advantage to the public, HMI Gormley is already putting his experience to very good use at the inspectorate. I look forward to working closely and constructively with him in the years to come.



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Contributions to my assessment

When compiling this assessment, I wrote to chief constables, police and crime commissioners and their equivalents and other interested parties, inviting them to contribute their views on the state of policing in England and Wales. I received a substantial number of very thoughtful and insightful responses. Much of what they said resonated with my views, those of my fellow HMIs, and our inspection findings in general. I would like to place on record my warmest thanks to all those who responded, for their very helpful contributions.

Of course, a major contribution to my assessment comes from HMICFRS staff. It is they who devote their efforts to carrying out the full range of our day-to-day activities and inspections. They do so conscientiously, thoroughly and diligently, always observing our values of honesty, integrity, fairness, independence and respect. They too have my very great thanks for all they do.

The Peelian principles

Some 190 years after their appointment, we remain indebted to the first Commissioners of Police of the Metropolis, Sir Charles Rowan and Sir Richard Mayne. They are credited with devising nine enduring principles of policing, commonly known as ‘the Peelian principles’, after the then Home Secretary Sir Robert Peel.¹ These principles are as relevant today as the day, in 1829, when they were first introduced to every new police officer.

In compiling this year’s assessment, I have highlighted several of the Peelian principles and their particular relevance to contemporary matters. As ever, there are lessons to be learned from history.

Sir Thomas P Winsor

Her Majesty’s Chief Inspector of Constabulary

The Peelian principles are as relevant today as the day when they were first introduced to every new police officer.