

HMI Zoë Billingham's assessment of Sussex Police

Hello. I'm Zoë Billingham and I'm Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary for Sussex Police. Our role is to inspect police forces on behalf of the public, and I am one of five inspectors appointed by the Queen. We are independent of government and police forces.

This year we are introducing a new way of inspecting the police and reporting our findings to you the public. We have called this approach the PEEL assessments, and this means police effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy.

In relation to effectiveness, my assessment for Sussex Police in 2014 is that in general, the force is good at reducing crime and preventing offending and is good at tackling anti-social behaviour. However, it requires improvement in the way it investigates crime.

In relation to efficiency: my assessment is that the force's response to the financial challenge of the spending review has been good. Sussex Police is on track to achieve the savings required and has made good progress in developing collaboration plans with Surrey Police.

In relation to legitimacy: my assessment is that the force acting to achieve fairness and legitimacy in most of its practices that we examined this year.

I am impressed by the way that neighbourhood teams prioritise tackling anti-social behaviour and deal with it well. But I would like to see improvements in the way crime is investigated and will watch with interest to see if recent changes that the force has introduced, lead to better outcomes for victims.

Next year we will be seeing how forces have responded to this assessment, and we will give them overall grades so that *you* can see, at a glance, how well *your* force is doing.