



Avon and Somerset Constabulary's approach to efficiency is judged to be 'good' - 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 found that Avon and Somerset Constabulary:

- **has a comprehensive understanding of a full range of current demand and future demand.**
- **makes effective decisions based on prioritisation of current and projected demand: and**
- **continues to look for savings by working with other forces and agencies across the south west region.**

HM Inspector of Constabulary Wendy Williams said:

"I was pleased to find that Avon and Somerset Constabulary has continued its good performance from last year and is operating efficiently. In particular, the force has demonstrated an outstanding approach to understanding its current demand, and is quick to identify and assess new and emerging demand.

"Following a restructure of its workforce, the force is now better placed to meet future challenges. It has also invested in understanding how technological advances and a change in public expectations might impact upon its future demands.

"I was pleased to see that investments have been made in priority areas, such as investigating child abuse and serious sexual offences. There has also been an investment in digital services which will include remote working and real-time intelligence gathering, using equipment such as body-worn video and mobile data.

"The force has a good track record of making savings by working closely with both neighbouring forces and agencies across the south west region. This work has continued this year and there are plans in development to make further progress over the coming months and years."

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. 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.