



Bedfordshire Police's approach to efficiency judged as 'requires improvement' 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.

This year HMIC found that Bedfordshire Police:

- **is improving its understanding of current and likely future demand, but has more to do to improve its own efficiency;**
- **has realised the benefits of collaborative working with other forces; and**
- **needs to do more to understand demand fully, to make best use of its limited resources and establish a clear plan for how it will police the county effectively in the future.**

HM Inspector of Constabulary Zoë Billingham said:

"During our inspection we found that Bedfordshire Police is working hard to better understand the broad spectrum of demand that it faces now and in the future, but it has more to do if it is to be regarded as an efficient force.

"While recognising that Bedfordshire Police has low levels of funding compared with other forces, it needs to do more to match its limited resources to the challenging demands it faces, especially since the volume and complexity of crimes it deals with in some areas, for example Luton, compares with the crime profile of a London borough.

"I am pleased that the force recognises it can make its internal processes more efficient. It is encouraging that the force is introducing a new shift pattern for frontline officers, which aims to make sure more police officers are available at times when the public most need them.

"I am also pleased that Bedfordshire Police has rightly invested in tackling crimes that cause the greatest harm. There are now additional officers and staff investigating serious sexual offences and crimes committed against children.

“On an equally positive note, Bedfordshire Police is to be commended for its strong commitment to joint working, clearly demonstrated by its mature and well-established collaborative work with Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire Constabularies.

“I have judged Bedfordshire Police as requiring improvement overall in terms of the efficiency with which it keeps people safe and reduces 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.