



Essex Police's approach to efficiency judged 'good' 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 Essex Police has been found to be:

- **good at understanding current and future demand;**
- **good at understanding the skills of officers and staff; and**
- **continuing to collaborate well with Kent Police to share resources and knowledge to improve services for communities across Essex.**

HM Inspector of Constabulary Zoë Billingham said:

"We found Essex Police to be 'good' for the second year running at how it manages its resources against current and future demand for its services, and it has developed an impressive and comprehensive mapping exercise to identify current demand and model future demand for its services.

"The force has also developed a sophisticated understanding of hidden and emerging crimes such as cyber crime, hate crime and female genital mutilation.

"I am pleased that Essex Police has made significant strides in ensuring it has the right number of properly trained officers and staff in the right place to provide an effective service to the public. It has also improved upon its management of resources to tackle a backlog of unattended incidents in its control room since last year, but there is still more it can do here.

"Essex Police has a very strong track record in working closely with other forces and with partner organisations to improve the service it can offer to its communities and to reduce inefficiencies. Its extensive collaboration with Kent Police on a broad range of policing functions from tackling organised crime to preventing cyber crime is particularly impressive. The force has a proven

ability to deliver savings and has ambitious but credible and realistic plans in place to continue to achieve further efficiencies.”

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.