



## **Kent Police's approach to efficiency is 'good' says 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 assessed that Kent Police:**

- **is outstanding in terms of its understanding of current demand and is doing considerable work to evaluate future demand;**
- **continues to manage its finances successfully and make necessary savings as well as planning prudently for the future;**
- **is using new technology such as body-worn cameras to good effect, and the force has ambitious plans for mobile devices later in the year; and**
- **is continuing to collaborate well with Essex Police to share resources and knowledge to improve services for communities across Kent.**

### **HM Inspector of Constabulary Zoë Billingham said:**

"Kent Police continues to be good in its work to keep people safe and reduce crime. During our inspection, we found that the force is outstanding in terms of understanding and dealing the wide range of demands it faces. The force demonstrates an impressive and detailed understanding of local issues and public expectations.

"I am very pleased that thanks to its excellent understanding of where crimes are most likely to occur and its focus on prevention, Kent Police continues to have the right officers and staff in place, at the right time, to meet the needs of the public. Its future plans are both realistic and sensible in considering future workforce and budget.

"I am also impressed that the force has considered areas of growing demand such as cyber-crime, people trafficking and protecting vulnerable people,

including the reporting and management of female genital mutilation. This should mean that the force has an improved understanding of the extent of these problems and will better be able to put resource in place to respond to them.

“Kent Police should be praised for its good use of new technology such as body-worn cameras. HMIC will watch with interest the results of the force’s ambitious plans for mobile devices later in the year.

“Kent Police has a good knowledge of officer and staff skills and a long commitment to joint working. I am pleased to find that the collaboration with Kent Fire and Rescue, and Essex Police is extensive and continues to expand. I am sure such joint working will continue to bear fruit and HMIC looks forward to seeing the improvements such collaboration brings.

“With these positive, well-considered plans in place, I am very pleased to judge Kent Police as outstanding in some areas of efficiency and ‘good’ overall.”

HMIC will report on its findings of all police forces’ legitimacy - 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.