



## **Lincolnshire Police's approach to efficiency judged to be '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 HMIC found Lincolnshire Police:**

- **is very good at understanding current and future demand;**
- **has realised the benefits of collaborative working with other forces, and has done what can be reasonably expected to become as efficient as possible;**
- **faces an uncertain financial future - the service to the public may suffer if further cuts to the workforce have to be made.**

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

"Lincolnshire Police is good in terms of the efficiency with which it keeps people safe and reduces crime. During our inspection we found that the force has a very good understanding of the broad spectrum of demand it faces when preventing and fighting crime, and protecting the diverse communities across Lincolnshire.

"I am particularly pleased that Lincolnshire Police has taken concerted action to uncover crimes that are often hidden from view, like modern-day slavery. In doing so the force is helping to protect some of the most vulnerable members of the community.

"The force provides a good policing service to the communities of Lincolnshire at one of the lowest costs per head of population in England and Wales. It has a small workforce and a large geographic area to police. In a bid to ensure that its limited resources are used to best effect, the force works effectively with partners, like local councils, and it has outsourced a range of support functions to the private sector, and has entered into extensive and wide ranging collaborative working with forces across the East Midlands region.

“Despite all of this, the force is unlikely to be able to maintain the level of service it provides to the public in the future if it has to make further savings by the last option available to it; reducing further frontline police officers and police community support officers. It is likely that there will be service loss or degradation of policing services in Lincolnshire if further reductions are made to the workforce.

The force is in this position through no fault of its own, its leadership or that of the newly elected police and crime commissioner. The force has acted responsibly and reasonably in striving to become one of the most efficient and cost effective forces in England and Wales.

“In last year’s efficiency inspection, Lincolnshire Police was judged to require improvement. “

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.