



Suffolk Constabulary'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 Suffolk Constabulary:

- **is good at understanding current and planning for future demand;**
- **has an impressive record of collaborating with Norfolk Constabulary and local partners to improve efficiency and make savings;**
- **is making good use of officer and staff skills, ensuring they have skills to meet future demands; and**
- **has been developing its understanding of future crime trends, such as cyber-crime.**

HM Inspector of Constabulary Zoë Billingham said:

"Suffolk Constabulary continues to perform well in offering a cost-effective and efficient service, keeping people safe and reducing crime. During our inspection, we found that the force has improved its understanding of the wide range of demand it faces when preventing and fighting crime and protecting local communities.

"I am pleased to see that improvements have been made since our 2015 inspection. In particular, the force is now better able to assess current and future demand, and officers and staff are being deployed according to their skills and where they can best make a real difference in preventing and fighting crime and antisocial behaviour.

"Suffolk Constabulary has worked with a wide range of partners like local councils to uncover hidden harm within local communities. This ranges from protecting people from harm to emerging crimes including modern-day

slavery. I was impressed to find that the force recently extended its pilot scheme of having mental health professionals working alongside officers within its force contact and control room to identify safeguarding issues.

“Suffolk Constabulary has good collaboration arrangements in place with Norfolk Constabulary, local councils and mental health practitioners which has undoubtedly improved the services it delivers while saving money.

“HMIC will watch with interest how the force maintains this efficiency, making sure that the skills and capability of the workforce meet future crime trends such as cyber-crime. It should also invest in ICT and consider updating its ICT strategy.

“Therefore, I am pleased to judge Suffolk Constabulary as ‘good’ overall in terms of the efficiency with which it keeps the public safe and reduces crime.”

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. 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.

