

City of London Police judged as 'good' at how legitimately it keeps people safe and reduces crime - HMIC

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) has assessed how legitimate The City of London Police is at keeping people safe and reducing crime. This is the second year running HMIC has carried out inspections of this kind, which makes up part of HMIC's Legitimacy inspections.

HMIC considers a police force to be legitimate if it has the consent of the public, and if those working in the force consistently behave in a way that is fair, ethical, and within the law.

To assess this, HMIC has inspected how well forces treat the people they serve; ensure their workforce acts ethically and lawfully and treat their workforces with fairness and respect. The findings of this inspection are included in a report, published today.

This inspection also included, for the first time, an assessment of how well forces tackle the problem of abuse of authority for sexual gain by members of its workforce. This serious form of corruption betrays the trust of the public and, while we identified some examples of good practice, there remain significant areas where forces must improve. The service needs to be more proactive in seeking out and preventing this form of corruption, and referring cases of abuse of authority to the IPCC.

HMIC found that The City of London Police:

- is good at treating all the people it serves with fairness and respect;
- is in general good at ensuring that its workforce behaves ethically and lawfully; and
- could do more to demonstrate how it has responded to staff concerns.

HM Inspector of Constabulary Matt Parr said:

"The City of London Police's approach to legitimacy continues to be judged as 'good'. Last year we also graded the force as 'good' overall.

"The College of Policing code of ethics has been incorporated into how the force operates, and staff have a good knowledge of what ethical behaviour looks like. The force also engages well with the communities it serves.

However, more work is needed for it to properly understand what issues are of the greatest importance. It also needs to better communicate what action it has taken based on public feedback.

"The force in general works well to reinforce acceptable standards of behaviour. It also identifies threats to its integrity through effective monitoring of staff's business interests. It is also good at informing the public about outcomes of misconduct cases.

"The force needs to develop its approach to identifying instances of staff abusing their authority for sexual gain. At the time of our inspection, the force didn't recognise this as serious corruption. It needs to improve how this issue is recognised within the force.

"The force does recognise the importance of treating its officers and staff fairly and with respect. We found that the force is good at seeking feedback from its workforce, but could do more to communicate the changes it has made as a result."

HMIC has also published individual assessments of the leadership within each police force in England and Wales. These, along with individual reports on the legitimacy of all forces in England and Wales, are available on HMIC's website.