

Humberside Police judged as 'good' at legitimately keeping people safe and reducing crime – HMIC

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) has assessed how legitimate Humberside 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 annual PEEL 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 Humberside Police:

- understands the importance of treating the people it serves with fairness and respect;
- has a good understanding of local and national corruption threats, and these have informed its intelligence gathering and prevention activities; and
- has a range of methods to identify issues that affect the workforce's perceptions of fair and respectful treatment, but it could do more to show how feedback has been used to make improvements.

HM Inspector of Constabulary Mike Cunningham said:

"Following our inspection, I have judged Humberside Police as 'good' at how legitimately it keeps people safe and reduces crime. Humberside Police understands the importance of treating the people it serves with fairness and respect, and actively seeks feedback and challenge from the community.

"The force demonstrated a good understanding of both local and national corruption threats, which informs how it plans prevention. This is supported by a good approach to intelligence gathering, which is evaluated promptly. The force has educated its staff about the standards of professional behaviour and provided guidance around the abuse of authority for sexual gain. It could however work more closely with organisations like women's refuges and charities in order to identify potential corruption and encourage reporting of inappropriate behaviour.

"When inspecting how the force treats its workforce with fairness and respect, we found a mixed picture. There were positive examples of the force showing a commitment to staff wellbeing, in particular staff mental health. It could however do more to show how it was using feedback to make improvements."

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.