

Lincolnshire Police is 'good' at legitimately keeping people safe and reducing crime - HMIC

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

- continues to reinforce the importance of treating people with fairness and respect to its officers and staff;
- has continued to develop and maintain an ethical culture where challenge and improvement are supported; and
- is good at ensuring that it treats its workforce with fairness and respect..

HM Inspector of Constabulary Zoë Billingham said:

"Lincolnshire Police has again performed well in our legitimacy inspection. As was the case in 2015, we have judged the force to be 'good' at legitimately keeping people safe and reducing crime.

"The force has a good understanding of the importance of public feedback, and works hard to use this information to identify areas to improve. I was

pleased to find that when the force recognised a decline in victim satisfaction, it looked at ways to improve contact with victims and witnesses.

"Another example of where the force is performing well is in its work with communities made up of people whose first language isn't English, or where their confidence in the police is low due to how policing is viewed in their country of origin.

"Despite a lot of positives, there are some improvements the force needs to make. There is a lack of capacity within its anti-corruption unit, which prevents the force from proactively uncovering corruption, although the force does respond quickly when problems are highlighted. It also needs to be more proactive in how it gathers intelligence on potential abuse of authority for sexual gain (taking advantage of a position of power to exploit vulnerable victims of crime).

"The force is good at ensuring it treats the workforce with respect, as demonstrated by a culture which is receptive to feedback from staff. I am particularly impressed with the force's commitment to raising awareness about mental health, and it is training supervisors to spot early warning signs.

"I will monitor how the force addresses the areas we have identified for improvement, however overall, Lincolnshire Police has done well."

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.