



## HMIC has assessed the effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy of Suffolk Constabulary

HM Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) has today published an assessment of the **effectiveness, efficiency** and **legitimacy** with which **Suffolk Constabulary** keeps people safe and reduces crime.

### HMI Zoë Billingham has given her assessment of the force:

"I am very pleased with the performance of Suffolk Constabulary in keeping people safe and reducing crime.

"The force has a strong focus on preventing crime. It is good at investigating crime and managing offenders, including those involved in serious and organised crime. I particularly welcome the force's commitment to a strong local policing presence, and I have seen officers and staff working well with local authorities and other organisations to keep people safe.

"Although the force needs to improve its approach to keeping some vulnerable people safe, in particular children, I am reassured that the force is taking steps to address this issue. In particular, I welcome the additional resources that it has devoted to supporting missing and absent people, and tackling child sexual exploitation and human trafficking.

"The force has performed well in reducing its costs while maintaining the service to the public. It is working hard to understand fully the future demands for its services and it recognises that its current workforce model needs to be changed so that the force can continue to provide an effective service to the communities of Suffolk. Together with Norfolk Constabulary, the force has joined with academic institutions to carefully review how it provides services to ensure it represents value for money.

"I am pleased that there is a strong culture within Suffolk Constabulary of listening to the public and acting on their concerns. Local officers and staff demonstrate an impressive commitment to engaging with their neighbourhoods and generally have a sound understanding of the issues affecting local people.

"The chief officer team has undergone significant change in the last 12 months, but it continues to promote an ethical culture and to treat its workforce well. It is also working hard to develop the force's future plans and priorities.

"I look forward to witnessing the contribution the new chief constable and his team will make over the next year to further improving policing services to the people of Suffolk."

For HMIC's annual assessments, each force is given a grading of either 'outstanding', 'good', 'requires improvement' or 'inadequate' in each of the three 'PEEL' areas (police effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy).

### Gradings for Suffolk Constabulary:

	<b>Effectiveness</b>	<b>Efficiency</b>	<b>Legitimacy</b>
2015	Good	Good	Good

This year, for the first time, HMIC has also assessed the capacity and capability of **leadership** within each force.

Further information on how **Suffolk Constabulary** is performing in these areas, including the full HM Inspector's assessment, can be found at [www.justiceinspectors.gov.uk/hmic/peel](http://www.justiceinspectors.gov.uk/hmic/peel).

**Notes to editors:**

**Under Embargo until 00.01am 25 February 2016**



- HMIC is an independent inspectorate, inspecting policing in the public interest, and rigorously examines the effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy of police forces to tackle 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.
- HMIC's annual inspections into police effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy (PEEL) consider whether forces keep people safe and reduce crime (how effective a force is), whether these activities are being carried out at the most appropriate cost (how efficient a force is), and how forces are ensuring they have the confidence of their communities (the public legitimacy of a force). The separate judgments on how each force performs in these areas count towards the HMIC annual assessment of each force, published today.
- HMIC assessed the leadership of forces, looking at how well the force is led at every rank and grade of the organisation and across all areas inspected in PEEL. We reviewed how well a force understands and is developing its leaders; whether it has set a clear and compelling future direction; and how well it motivates and engages the workforce.
- In our annual assessment of 2014, HMIC did not grade forces' 'legitimacy'.
- For further information, HMIC's press office can be contacted during office hours from 8:30am 5:00pm Monday – Friday on 020 3513 0600.
- HMIC's out-of-hours press office line for urgent media enquiries is 07836 217 729.