



Suffolk Constabulary's approach to efficiency judged to be 'good' - HMIC

HM Inspectorate of Constabulary has inspected how efficiently Suffolk Constabulary operates. This inspection focused on the overall question, 'How efficient is the force at keeping people safe and reducing crime?'

Suffolk Constabulary:

- **is good at using its resources to meet demand;**
- **requires improvement to its workforce model to ensure that it is sustainable and affordable; but**
- **has shown good planning for the short and long term.**

HM Inspector of Constabulary Zoë Billingham said:

"HMIC found that Suffolk Constabulary is adequately prepared to face its future financial challenges, and has judged the force to be good.

"Suffolk Constabulary's current workforce model matches demand, organisational and financial requirements well. However, the constabulary recognises that this model will become unsustainable given the need to reduce spending still further, which will result in reduced workforce numbers.

"HMIC is encouraged to see that the constabulary is currently undertaking more detailed analysis to support the case for change so that the impact of any further reductions in staff can be fully evaluated.

"The constabulary's control of its expenditure is good, with clear leadership and accountability processes in place.

"The constabulary recognises the value of working proactively with other local partners to tackle jointly the underlying causes of crime and anti-social behaviour in order to prevent it and reduce demand on all services in the longer term. An example of this is Lowestoft Rising, a project that aims to integrate council, health and police services so that through working together they can better address a complex range of social issues.

"The constabulary also collaborates well with Norfolk Constabulary and has not only been able to save money, but also provide greater resilience by joining forces to provide specialist services."

Force in numbers	Suffolk Constabulary	England and Wales
Planned change in police officer numbers 31 March 2015 – 31 March 18	-5%	-6%
Planned proportion of police officers on the operational frontline 31 March 2018	94%	92%

Notes to editors

1. As part of its annual inspections of police efficiency, effectiveness and legitimacy (PEEL), HMIC's Efficiency programme assessed and graded all 43 forces in England and Wales on how they maximise the outcomes from their available resources. Our inspection focused on the overall question, 'How efficient is the force 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?
2. Five of the 43 forces in England and Wales received an 'outstanding' grade in HMIC's efficiency inspection (Cheshire; Durham; Lancashire; Norfolk; and West Midlands).
3. Eight forces received a 'requires improvement' grade (Bedfordshire; Cleveland; Dorset; Dyfed Powys; Lincolnshire; Northamptonshire; South Yorkshire; and Surrey).
4. One force received an 'inadequate' grade (Humberside).
5. The remaining 29 forces were judged as 'good'.
6. In addition to an inspection report for each force, a national report, PEEL: Police Efficiency 2015 gives an overview of findings across England and Wales. See <http://www.justiceinspectors.gov.uk/hmic/publications/peel-police-efficiency-2015/>
7. This report will be followed by reports into the remaining strands of the annual PEEL assessments - Effectiveness and Legitimacy - of all 43 police forces of England and Wales which will be published early in the spring. The judgments in this report will be counted towards the next HMIC PEEL assessment, published next year
8. Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) is an independent inspectorate, which promotes improvements in policing to make everyone safer. In pursuit of this, we rigorously examine the efficiency and effectiveness of police forces to tackle crime and terrorism, improve criminal justice and raise confidence.
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.