



Gloucestershire Constabulary has made good progress in achieving its savings for the comprehensive spending review period, but victim satisfaction and crime levels are some cause for concern.

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) has today published a report on Gloucestershire Constabulary's progress in meeting the challenges of the 2010 comprehensive spending review.

A thematic report, *Policing in Austerity: One Year On*, found that police forces across England and Wales have risen to the financial challenge of the spending review, cutting their spending while largely maintaining the service they provide to the public; but HMIC has some concerns about whether all forces have transformed their efficiency to the extent that this can be sustained through the next three years (and into future spending reviews).

Based on the data provided by the force, HMIC found that:

- Gloucestershire Constabulary needs to save £18 million between March 2011 and March 2015. By spring 2012 they had planned how to save 98% of this amount.
- The constabulary is planning to cut its total workforce numbers (i.e. police officers, police staff and police community support officers) by 340 between March 2010 and March 2015.
- 120 of these will be police officer posts; this means there will be 10% fewer officers in Gloucestershire (which is in line with the officer reduction across England and Wales).
- By 2015 73% of the constabulary's workforce will be in frontline roles. This is broadly similar to other forces.
- The proportion of police officers in frontline roles will increase between March 2010 and March 2015 (from 82% to 87%). However, there will still be a lower proportion of police officers on the front line in Gloucestershire than in other forces.
- Unlike elsewhere in England and Wales, there was a rise in crime in Gloucestershire between December 2010 and December 2011. However, the amount of crime is relatively low: over the same period, Gloucestershire had the thirteenth lowest crime rate (per 1,000 people) of 42 forces.
- 82% of victims were satisfied with the service from Gloucestershire Constabulary. This is lower than the national figure.

HM Inspector of Constabulary for the Western Region, Dru Sharpling, said:

“Gloucestershire Constabulary has a track record of reducing costs. It has carried out a number of reviews and started to implement change programmes to deliver the savings it needs to make over the 2010 spending review period. As a result, the constabulary are in a good position to balance their books by March 2015.

“Gloucestershire Constabulary should focus on increasing the proportion of police officer posts it allocates to the front line. This will help it to bring down crime levels and to increase victim satisfaction levels.”

The full report for Gloucestershire Constabulary, along with the national thematic review ‘Policing in austerity: One year on’, can be found at www.hmic.gov.uk

Notes to editors

1. The full thematic report ‘Policing in austerity: One year on’ and supporting material can be found at www.hmic.gov.uk
2. The review ‘Adapting to Austerity’ published in July 2011 and the accompanying force reports can be found at www.hmic.gov.uk
3. In October 2010, the government announced that the central funding provided to the police service would reduce by 20% in the four years between March 2011 and March 2015.
4. Figures are rounded (financial figures to the nearest million and workforce figures to the nearest 10) and financial figures are in cash prices.
5. For further information, or to request an interview, HMIC’s press office can be contacted during office hours from 8:30am – 5:30pm Monday – Friday on 0203 513 0600.
6. Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) is an independent inspectorate, inspecting policing in the public interest, and rigorously examines the effectiveness of police forces and authorities to tackle crime and terrorism, improve criminal justice and raise confidence. HMIC inspects and regulates all 43 police forces in England and Wales together with other major policing bodies such as the Serious Organised Crime Agency, the Police Service of Northern Ireland and the British Transport Police and HMRC.
7. HMIC’s out-of-hours press office line for urgent media enquiries is 07836 217 729.
8. Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) carried out an inspection of all 43 police forces in England and Wales in spring 2011, to see how they were planning to meet this financial challenge. When the results were published in July 2011 (search for ‘Valuing the Police’ on www.hmic.gov.uk), we committed to returning one year later to report on progress, and to assess whether there had been any impact on the service provided to the public.