



Greater Manchester Police has made good progress in achieving its savings for the comprehensive spending review period and is working to protect the front line

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) has today published a report on Greater Manchester Police'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:

- Greater Manchester Police needs to save £135 million between March 2011 and March 2015. By spring 2012, they had planned how to save 92% of this.
- The force is planning to cut its total workforce number (i.e. police officers, police staff and police community support officers) by 2,460 between March 2010 and March 2015.
- 1,520 of these will be police officer posts; this means there will be 19% fewer officers in Greater Manchester (compared with a 10% reduction across England and Wales).
- By March 2015, 74% of Greater Manchester Police's total workforce will be in frontline roles. This is in line with most other forces.
- The proportion of police officers on the front line increases over the same period (from 80% to 85%). This is a lower proportion of officers on the front line than in most other forces.
- Crime rates fell in Greater Manchester between December 2010 and December 2011 at a higher rate than across England and Wales as a whole.
- 84% of victims in Greater Manchester were satisfied with the service they received from the police, which is in line with the national figure.

HM Inspector of Constabulary for the Northern Region, Roger Baker, said:

“Greater Manchester Police has put in place a comprehensive change programme to manage the reductions in its budgets, which it is in the process of implementing. The

force has reviewed many of its key functions and departments and has set out a programme of change which is focused on reducing costs in non-frontline support functions, making sure they deliver a more efficient service. The force is in a good position to achieve its savings target by March 2015.

“Greater Manchester Police should consider how it can improve the proportion of officers in frontline, crime-fighting roles, as this would help it to maintain its above average crime reduction performance of December 2010 to December 2011.”

The full report for Greater Manchester Police, 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.