

**Gwent Police has made good progress in achieving its savings for the comprehensive spending review period but victim satisfaction is some cause for concern**

*Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) has today published a report on Gwent 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:

- Gwent Police needs to save £25 million between March 2011 and March 2015. By spring 2012 they had planned how to save 95% of this amount.
- The force is planning to cut its total workforce number (i.e. police officers, police staff and police community support officers) by 380 between March 2010 and March 2015.
- 130 of these will be police officer posts; this means there will be 9% fewer officers in Gwent (compared with a 10% officer reduction across England and Wales as a whole).
- The force plans to have 78% of its workforce in frontline roles by 2015, which is a higher proportion than many other forces.
- Over the same period, the proportion of police officers on the front line will remain at 91% – one of the highest in the country.
- Gwent Police continues to drive down crime and has achieved a much higher reduction than most other forces between December 2010 and December 2011.
- 82% of victims in Gwent are satisfied with the overall service provided by the force. This is below the national figure.

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

*"Gwent Police force has a history of reducing costs through careful management and business planning. This has placed them in a good position to meet the financial*

*challenges of the spending review, although additional savings may be required if their assumptions about extra money coming in from council tax precept in the last two years of the spending review are not realised.*

*“As the force develops its plans to close the funding gap it should continue to focus on maintaining the proportion of its workforce in crime-fighting roles. The very high proportion of police officers in frontline roles should place the force in a strong position to maintain its excellent level of crime reduction, and also contribute to higher levels of victim satisfaction.”*

The full report for Gwent Police, along with the national thematic review ‘Policing in austerity: One year on’, can be found at [www.hmic.gov.uk](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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.