



**Kent Police has made some progress in how it tackles anti-social behaviour, but is not always able to identify repeat and vulnerable ASB victims as soon as they contact the police.**

In Spring 2010, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) carried out a review to find out how the police can best tackle anti-social behaviour (ASB). The national findings were published alongside individual reports that outlined how successfully each force was dealing with the problem.

The results of a follow-up inspection published today found that Kent Police has made some progress since 2010 in the way it understands and tackles ASB problems.

In 2010 HMIC identified that many cases of ASB reported directly to staff (rather than phoned into the force control room) were not being recorded on the force system. The force has now addressed this, and as a consequence has a better understanding of the extent of ASB across Kent and Medway. The force and its local authority partners have a joint strategy to address ASB, and have also agreed to put in place a shared IT system for managing long-term ASB problems. This will make it easier for the police and local councils to work together to address local ASB issues.

Despite this, the force is still unable to consistently identify repeat and vulnerable victims when they first call. This means some of these victims may not be getting the extra support they need. In addition, some concerns raised by HMIC in 2010 have yet to be addressed. For example, supervision of the management of long-term ASB issues is still not as consistent as it could be.

HM Inspector of Constabulary for the Eastern Region, Zoe Billingham, said:

*“Anti-social behaviour is a blight that can wreck lives and communities. Our review shows that Kent Police has made some progress in how it tackles the problem, and victim satisfaction is in line with the average for England and Wales. The force should be commended for this – especially as it comes against the backdrop of significant budget cuts across the Service.*”

*“However, while the progress the force has made so far represents another step towards delivering a much better service to victims, there is no room for complacency. In particular, Kent Police should ensure repeat and vulnerable callers are consistently identified at the first point of contact, and that they address concerns HMIC has raised previously.”*

The full report for Kent Police, along with the national thematic review ‘A Step in the Right Direction’, can be found at [www.hmic.gov.uk](http://www.hmic.gov.uk)

## Notes to editors

1. The full thematic report 'A Step in the Right Direction' and supporting material can be found at [www.hmic.gov.uk](http://www.hmic.gov.uk)
2. The review 'Stop the Rot' published in September 2010 and the accompanying force reports can be found at [www.hmic.gov.uk](http://www.hmic.gov.uk)
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. HMIC's out-of-hours press office line for urgent media enquiries is 07836 217 729.