



**Lincolnshire Police has made progress in achieving its savings for the comprehensive spending review period, but still has some way to go in order to identify all the savings it needs to balance its books.**

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

- **Money:** Lincolnshire Police needs to save £21 million between March 2011 and March 2015. By spring 2012 they had planned how to save 85% of this amount.
- A comprehensive change programme to manage the reductions in funding is being implemented. The force and police authority have entered into a partnership with the private sector to provide a number of their non frontline functions for example call handling and custody suites (where arrested people are detained). This has led to efficiency and cost savings and provides the potential for further savings. Despite this and other cost reductions the force still has some way to go in order to identify all the savings it needs to find to balance its books.
- **People:** The force is planning to cut its total workforce number (i.e. police officers, police staff and police community support officers) by 610 between March 2010 and March 2015.
- 140 of these will be police officer posts; this means there will be 11% fewer officers in Lincolnshire (compared with the 10% average officer reduction across England and Wales).
- **The front line:** By 2015 84% of its workforce will be in frontline roles. Although this is a higher proportion than in most other forces, direct comparison should be avoided: more than 500 staff have been outsourced by the force, and this skews the overall workforce figures.

- The proportion of officers in frontline roles will increase between March 2010 and March 2015 (from 80% to 90%). This means Lincolnshire Police will have a higher proportion of police officers on the front line than most other forces
- **Crime:** While overall crime rates are falling across England and Wales, they increased in Lincolnshire between December 2010 and December 2011. However, HMIC has been monitoring performance since then, and the force has shown signs of improvement.
- **Victim satisfaction:** 83% of victims are satisfied with the overall service provided by Lincolnshire Police. This is in line with most other forces.

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

*“Lincolnshire Police has more work to do to ensure it achieves its savings target by March 2015.*

*“A key part of Lincolnshire’s plans to balance their books rely on a partnership with the private sector for the delivery of a number of back office functions. Although this has secured efficiency and financial savings, these fall short of the overall savings requirement. Whilst the force has pursued a number of other measures within an overall savings programme the force still needs to find 15% of the total amount it needs to save between March 2011 and March 2015.*

*“Although the new leadership has committed to succeeding in this, there are as yet no plans outlining how this will be achieved. It is crucial the force addresses this identifying how it will close the savings gap and ensure the maintenance of services to the public.*

*“Lincolnshire Police plans to increase the proportion of police officers in frontline crime fighting roles. This should assist the force to focus on the reduction of crime and keeping their communities safe.”*

The full report for Lincolnshire 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.