



Merseyside Police has made good progress in achieving its savings for the comprehensive spending review period.

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

- Merseyside Police needs to save £61 million between March 2011 and March 2015. By spring 2012 they had planned how to save 100% 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 1,070 between March 2010 and March 2015.
- 550 of these will be police officer posts; this means there will be 12% fewer officers in Merseyside (compared with the 10% average officer reduction across England and Wales).
- The force plans to have 76% of its workforce in frontline roles by 2015, which is a higher proportion than most other forces.
- The proportion of officers in frontline roles will increase between March 2010 and March 2015 (from 85% to 91%) This means Merseyside Police will also have a greater proportion of police officers on the front line than most other forces.
- The force continues to drive down crime. The drop in recorded crime levels is broadly in line with the rest of England and Wales as a whole.
- 88% of victims in Merseyside are satisfied with the overall service provided by the force, which is better than the national figure.

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

"Merseyside Police has put in place comprehensive measures to manage the reductions in its budget. Although plans are still at an early stage it is reassuring that

the financial strategy has been further developed to deliver all savings required by March 2015.

“Although the force is reducing police officer posts it will have 91% of its police officers in frontline policing roles by 2015 – a higher proportion than many other forces. This will help the force to continue to reduce crime and to keep the public of Merseyside safe.”

The full report for Merseyside 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.