



**Northamptonshire Police has made good progress in achieving its savings for the comprehensive spending review period – but by 2015 the proportion of police officers in frontline roles will be considerably lower than in most other forces**

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

- **Money:** Northamptonshire Police needs to save £14 million between March 2011 and March 2015. By spring 2012 they had planned how to save more than this amount.
- **People:** The force is planning to cut its total workforce number (i.e. police officers, police staff and police community support officers) by 510 between March 2010 and March 2015.
- 130 of these will be police officer posts. This means there will be 10% fewer officers in Northamptonshire (which is in line with the average officer reduction across England and Wales).
- **The front line:** By 2015, 72% of its workforce will be in frontline roles. which is lower than most other forces.
- Whilst the proportion of police officers on the front line will increase slightly (from 80% to 81%), this percentage will still be considerably lower than in most other forces.
- **Crime:** The force continues to drive down crime, and was in line with the average rate of overall crime reduction between December 2010 and December 2011.
- **Victim satisfaction:** 85% of victims were satisfied with the overall service provided by the Northamptonshire Police. This is in line with the national figure.

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

*“Northamptonshire Police has put in place a comprehensive plan to manage the reductions in its budget. It has started to reduce costs and change the way it delivers policing, including through ongoing collaboration with other East Midlands forces to share staff and work in some specialist areas. As a result, they are in a good position to achieve their savings target by March 2015.*

*“The force plans to increase the proportion of its workforce and police officers dedicated to frontline, crime-fighting roles. However, it will still have considerably fewer police officers in these roles by 2015 than most other forces. Northamptonshire Police should continue to focus on its front line, as this will help in its efforts to bring down crime and keep local communities safe.”*

The full report for Northamptonshire 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.