



Sussex Police has made good progress in achieving its savings for the comprehensive spending review period – but the proportion of its workforce in frontline roles will be lower than in any other force.

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) has today published a report on Sussex 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:** Sussex Police needs to save £50 million between March 2011 and March 2015. By spring 2012 they had planned how to save 95% of 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 990 between March 2010 and March 2015.
- 470 of these will be police officer posts. This means there will be 15% fewer officers in Sussex (compared with the 10% average officer reduction across England and Wales).
- **The front line:** By 2015 65% of its workforce will be in frontline roles. This is a lower proportion than in any other force in England and Wales.
- The proportion of police officers on the front line will remain static over the same period (at 84%). Again, this is low in comparison to most other forces.
- **Crime:** Unlike in England and Wales as a whole, overall crime increased slightly in Sussex between December 2010 and December 2011.
- **Victim satisfaction:** 84% of victims in were satisfied with the service they received from Sussex Police. This is in line with the national figure.

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

“Sussex Police has plans in place to achieve the majority of their savings target by March 2015, and are working hard to meet the shortfall. Our review has given us confidence that these projected savings are realistic and achievable.

“However, Sussex Police is cutting a higher percentage of police officer posts than most other forces; and by 2015, the proportion of its total workforce in frontline roles will be lower than in any other force. As they work to deliver their financial plans Sussex Police will therefore need to focus on both increasing and making the best possible use of its frontline, crime-fighting resources, which will help it to bring its crime levels in line with other forces.”

The full report for Sussex 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.