



**Warwickshire Police has made good progress in achieving its savings for the comprehensive spending review period, but victims satisfaction levels are some cause for concern**

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

- Warwickshire Police needs £23 million between March 2011 and March 2015. By spring 2012 they had planned how to exceed this amount.
- The force is planning to cut its total workforce number (i.e. police officers, police staff and police community support officers) by 350 between March 2010 and March 2015.
- 170 of these will be police officer posts; this means there will be 17% fewer officers in Warwickshire (compared with a 10% average officer reduction across England and Wales).
- By 2015 70% of its workforce will be on the front line. This is a lower proportion than in most other forces.
- The proportion of police officers on the front line will remain the same over the same period. At 83%, this is again a lower proportion than in most other forces.
- Unlike in England and Wales as a whole, crime increased in Warwickshire between December 2010 and December 2011. The force has put in place measures to address this.
- 81% of victims in Warwickshire were satisfied with the service from Warwickshire Police. This is lower than the national figure.

HM Inspector of Constabulary for the Western Region, Dru Sharpling, said:

*“Warwickshire Police is committed to delivering services that are both high quality and represent value for money, and has a good track record of delivering savings and efficiencies.*

*“The force has recently carried out a major restructuring programme, which has resulted in a smaller management team, with fewer police officers and police staff. Warwickshire Police is also finalising details of how it will work collaboratively with West Mercia Police in future. This will result in both forces delivering policing services more efficiently, while at the same time making significant savings through sharing resources.*

*“As Warwickshire Police develops its plans it should focus on increasing the proportions of its workforce (and in particular police officers) in frontline, crime-fighting roles. This should help the force to bring down crime rates and make its communities feel safe.”*

The full report for Warwickshire 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.