



West Midlands 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 West Midlands 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:

- West Midlands Police needs to save £112 million between March 2011 and March 2015. By spring 2012 they had planned how to save 92% of this amount.
- The force is planning to cut 1,060 police officer posts by 2015. This means there will be 12% fewer officers in the West Midlands area (compared with the 10% average reduction across England and Wales).
- By 2015 79% of its total workforce (i.e. police officers, police staff and police community support officers) will be in frontline roles. This is a higher percentage than in most other forces.
- The proportion of police officers in frontline roles will increase between March 2010 and March 2015 (from 86% to 90%). This is in step with most other forces.
- Crime rates fell more between December 2010 and December 2011 in the West Midlands than in most other force areas in England and Wales.
- 86% of victims were satisfied with the service from West Midlands Police, which is higher than the national figure.

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

"West Midlands Police has a track record of reducing costs. Its careful approach and ongoing change programme place it in a good position to make the savings it needs to by March 2015."

“Although the force is cutting a slightly higher percentage of its police officer posts than most other forces, it plans to increase the proportion of officers working in crime-fighting, frontline roles. This should help West Midlands Police to maintain the impressive crime reduction it achieved between December 2010 and December 2011.”

The full report for West Midlands 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.