



Nottinghamshire

POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

The Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner's response to the publication of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary's (HMIC) - Responding to Austerity: progress report (May 2015).

[The report can be found here](#)

In the **October 2010** spending review, the government announced that central funding to the police service in England and Wales would be reduced in real terms by 20% in the four years from March 2011 to March 2015.¹

HMIC's Valuing the Police Programme has tracked how forces have planned to make savings to meet this budget requirement. HMIC published findings on this in July 2011, June 2012 and July 2013.

The Policing in Austerity report, published in **July 2014**, in the final year of the spending review, focused on how well the force is achieving value for money. To answer this question HMIC looked at three areas:

- To what extent is the force taking the necessary steps to ensure a secure financial position for the short and long term?
- To what extent has the force an affordable way of providing policing?
- To what extent is the force efficient?

HMIC made a judgment as to the extent to which each force provides value for money in the context of current spending constraints and rated Nottinghamshire Police as requiring improvement in the way it achieves value for money, and/or there are some weaknesses.

HMIC stated that Nottinghamshire would be revisited to monitor progress with implementing its new operating model and identified two specific areas to follow up:

- Is the force taking the necessary steps to ensure a secure financial position for the short and long term? and
- Has the force an affordable way of providing policing?

In **May 2015**, HMIC's published its '[Responding to Austerity: Progress Report](#)' in respect of HMICs re-inspection of Nottinghamshire Police in **October 2014**. The report indicates that HMIC found that the Force is:

Making good progress on its new operating model and is starting to implement a more affordable way of providing effective policing services.

Able to demonstrate how it plans to have a secure financial position for the short and long term.

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Within the context of this report I would like to say that all public bodies, including Nottinghamshire Police face a challenging financial climate. Over the past three years savings of £42million and a budget reduction of 20%, have been made. This year (2015-2016) savings of a further £11 million are planned so there are real challenges ahead. There is a disproportionate impact on Nottinghamshire's Policing budget because of the reliance on the central grant. Furthermore, under the national funding formula, which distributes Government funding to each local policing body based on their needs, because a national 'damping mechanism' is applied to equalise the annual increase in funding across the country, Nottinghamshire Police loses out £12m which would otherwise be used to resource policing in the area.

It is quite possible that the grant Nottinghamshire Police receives from Government will have reduced by 50% between 2010 and 2020. Less money means less everything and, as time goes on, it will mean fewer people to tackle crime. With 80% of our costs spent on people, and our falling budget likely to be halved by 2020, we will inevitably have fewer officers, PCSOs and support staff.

Just weeks ago, we reduced our Assistant Chief Constables from two to one in order to cut expenditure. In June 2010 there were three ACCs, three ACOs, a DCC and a Chief. Since 2012 we have reduced from three ACCs to just one. What's more, in recent years the number of Chief Superintendents has fallen from eleven to four and Superintendents down from 26 to 12. I also will continue to drive down my Office's costs which, nonetheless, are already lower than those of the previous Police Authority and 8th lowest nationally.

It is crucial that we continue to share what practices we can with local partnerships and regional forces. Changes to how we work are achieving cost efficiencies and service effectiveness. We are also developing a range of far-reaching activities to prevent crime and support victims. Although it will take time to reap their benefits and achieve the excellent performance I believe them to be capable of, I am heartened by their potential and their investment in a safer future.

Within Theme 7 'Spending your money wisely' of my refreshed [Police and Crime Plan \(2015-18\)](#) I have included 18 strategic activities intended to drive further efficiency savings such as implementing 'Designing the future', further collaboration with partners and other forces, maximising funding opportunities, rationalising the police estate, recruiting more volunteers, introducing more agile mobile data solutions, exploiting technology, more effective commissioning, and greater partnership working but to name a few.

Finally, I will be working closely with the Chief Constable to ensure that our efficiencies plans are implemented to achieve a balanced budget not only this year but future years.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paddy Tipping'.

Paddy Tipping
Police and Crime Commissioner