
State of Policing: The Annual Assessment of Policing in England and Wales 2024-25 (September 2024)

Report: [State of Policing: The Annual Assessment of Policing in England and Wales 2024-25](#)

Response from: Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Hampshire and Isle of Wight

In this Annual Assessment of Policing we see the focus on community safety and the Safer Streets mission. The introduction of the Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee has provided a platform for renewed focus on neighbourhood policing across forces, while here in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight we are building upon an already strong foundation of community policing and delivery via our local bobbies and Neighbourhood teams. Public confidence is key, with national trends indicating this is stabilising compared to previous years, my police force continues to engage with our communities to build strong and lasting relationships.

The overall PEEL inspection findings indicate that the areas force continue to struggle with are:

- Responding to the public (e.g., slow 101 call handling, delayed incident attendance).
- Investigating crime (e.g., poor supervision, inexperienced staff, high workloads).
- Protecting vulnerable people (e.g., delays in safeguarding, inconsistent use of protective orders).

I'll continue to work with my Chief Constable to ensure he prioritises and invests in these key areas to safeguard the public, and to take the necessary action to keep our communities safe.

With the continued commitment on recruiting officers, HMICFRS rightly identifies the challenges experienced across forces. We can see that 35% of officers have less than 5 years' experience, leading to capability gaps and low morale across the workforce, with many officers feeling undervalued, this presents as an opportunity to upskill our workforce and target our workforce skill gaps effectively. I continue to challenge my Chief Constable around the ongoing recruitment of new and experienced officers coming into our force to provide the policing levels needed across our force area.

HMICFRS have reviewed specialist areas of policing, highlighting:

- Operation Soteria is improving responses to rape and serious sexual offences
- Child protection is improving but still inconsistent across forces
- Custody inspections show progress in detainee care and safety
- Serious and organised crime response varies across regions; some ROCUs and forces are underperforming.

Finally, we continue to see that the current system of police funding is both outdated and unfair. While council tax contributions toward police funding have increased, the funding formula remains unchanged, leading to disproportionate allocation that doesn't reflect current needs. Many forces are compelled to scale back capital investments, not due to lack of necessity but due to insufficient funds. Government must conclude its review of the police funding formula and provide multi-year funding settlements, ensuring equitable distribution according to community needs and a substantial increase in capital funding for police forces. This approach is crucial to maintain the effectiveness and efficiency of policing services in the UK. Here in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, as recognised by HMICFRS, we continue to be under-funded as a force area, and I welcome the

introduction of a fairer funding formula to ensure my force can deliver the best public service to our communities.

Donna Jones
Police and Crime Commissioner

Recommendations:

No force level or PCC level recommendations were made.