

NEWS RELEASE

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HM Inspector of Constabulary Annual Report

The Scottish public can have confidence in their constabularies whose state and efficiency is of a high order, according to Bill Skelly, HM Inspector of Constabulary, in his second annual report published today.

The report also highlights that earlier inspections showed:

Proceeds of Crime Act

- The powers of the Act are being used to good effect with the number of cases identified continuing to increase year on year.
- The powers are currently focused on organised crime and are not being applied to lower level, high volume criminals
- The rigid and narrow system is preventing a number of cases from reaching the National Recovery Unit

Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements

- Arrangements for managing ex-offenders has improved but there remains considerable scope for improving practices
- It is recommended that Scottish Government and relevant agencies establish national standards and formal protocols

Attendance Management

- Levels of sickness absence among Scotland's police officers has fallen to below the UK average
- It is recommended that Managers need to make better use of data to understand and manage the financial costs of sickness absence

Mr Skelly commented: "Despite a backdrop increasingly dominated by future budget considerations, Scotland's eight forces have remained focused on delivering a high quality service to the communities they serve.

They have demonstrated that a sense of 'local policing' is not determined by the scale of the force, but by the focus on individual community needs and this should remain the foundation of any future considerations on policing

HMICS appreciates the scale of the challenge that forces will face, and will work with them to ensure that Scotland continues to have an effective policing model for the future."

Background

- The Annual Report covers the period 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010
- Upon publication, the report can be found at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2010/09/27092624>
- HM Inspectorate of Constabulary for Scotland (HMICS) is responsible for inspecting the eight Scottish police forces and the constituent services provided by SPSA. HMICS operates independently of the police forces, police authorities and the Scottish Government and exists to monitor and improve the police services in Scotland.

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