



# **HM Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland**

## **Improving Policing across Scotland**

**28 July 2014**

### **PRESS RELEASE**

## **HMICS Publish Thematic Inspection of Road Policing**

The Road Policing function within Scotland's new single police service is performing well with specialised officers providing improved capacity across the country, says HMICS in a report published today (Monday 28 July 2014).

However, against the backdrop of reducing figures for casualties, the number of fatalities on Scotland's roads increased by 24 (14%) in 2013-2014.

The HMICS report 'Thematic Inspection of Road Policing 2014' is the first published inspection of road policing arrangements in Scotland. It examines the state, effectiveness and efficiency of new road policing arrangements in Scotland under the single service.

The findings highlight that national leadership over road policing is strong and many partner agencies believe the single service has led to more effective and efficient decision making.

HMICS also found there is more equal access to specialist policing resources throughout Scotland through the ability to flex national resources and meet the needs of local communities.

It has made five recommendations for improvement to Police Scotland around target setting and performance, linking activity to outcomes, re-distribution of resources, analytical support and real time information sharing. It has also made one recommendation for improvement to the Scottish Police Authority around defining the relationships with local scrutiny committees and better engagement over national decisions which impact on local policing.

HM Inspector of Constabulary in Scotland, Derek Penman, said:

“Following our scrutiny, it is our assessment that the objectives of police reform in relation to road policing are being achieved and road policing services in Scotland are improving for the benefit of local communities across Scotland.

While there has been an increase in the number of fatalities on Scottish roads, overall road casualties continue to decrease and are below the Scottish Government milestone targets to 2015. There is evidence of more equal access to specialist policing support, and with this, enhanced national capacity.

However, more needs to be done by Police Scotland to understand the impact of performance management on operational officers and link activity to outcomes. We recognise that local policing is key to the success of policing in Scotland and that more needs to be done around clarifying the roles of local scrutiny bodies, with better engagement over national decisions which impact on local communities.

“Overall we conclude that the new road policing model is working effectively and it is strengthening the connections between police services and communities”.

## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

The HMICS Thematic Inspection of Road Policing 2014 is available to download at the HMICS website [www.hmics.org](http://www.hmics.org)

To arrange an interview with HM Inspector of Constabulary in Scotland, Mr Derek Penman QPM, or to request a photograph, please contact:

Kevin Struthers  
HMICS Staff Officer  
0131 244 5698 / 07919 298 129  
[kevin.struthers@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:kevin.struthers@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)

## **KEY FINDINGS**

- Road casualties continue to decrease and are below the Scottish Government milestone targets to 2015. While those slightly or seriously injured has decreased this year, the number of adults and children killed on the roads of Scotland in 2013-14 increased by 14%.
- National leadership of road policing is strong. The challenges of converging the resources and assets from the former legacy forces and also introducing a new two-tier national operating model have been significant.
- Enforcement has increased significantly under Police Scotland and there was a 36.8% increase in speeding offence detections to 31 December 2013.
- Police Scotland should examine the extent to which target setting and performance management processes drive operational behaviours and assess their impact in terms of delivering outcomes and maintaining public satisfaction and confidence.

- Police Scotland should satisfy itself that the road policing key performance indicators (KPIs) and targets within its performance framework contribute effectively to road casualty reduction across Scotland, and explicitly support the outcomes sought from *Scotland's Road Safety Framework to 2020*.
- Police Scotland should take the opportunity to reassess authorised establishment for road policing and the proposed redistribution of resources. This should be informed by 12 months' experience of the new structures and operating model.
- Officers within road policing are motivated and passionate about their role and are keen to retain their identity as specialist officers. They are clear that their overarching role is to keep people safe on the roads and they work hard to achieve this.
- National partners were positive about their interactions with Police Scotland. They welcomed the single point of contact that a national police service provided and thought this led to more effective and efficient decision making.
- While it was acknowledged that road crime and tackling travelling criminals is a priority for road policing officers, there is a lack of clarity and emphasis on this by officers. The measures by which outcomes related to road crime are assessed could be improved.
- It would be helpful for the Scottish Police Authority to lead a piece of work to define the roles and responsibilities for local scrutiny committees and understand their legitimate interest in issues beyond setting the local policing plan and holding the divisional commander to account for its delivery. This should involve Police Scotland and result in a shared understanding around future consultation processes, including how local authorities can escalate concerns around national decisions which have the potential to impact on local policing.
- Sustainable savings arising from the reform of roads policing are not yet fully identified and should be included within the financial strategy being developed by the SPA and Police Scotland.
- The absence of national ICT integration is constraining the ability of officers to function fully at a regional or national level, thereby limiting the effectiveness and efficiency of police reform. These 'roam-and-detect' issues have been captured as part of the user specifications for the new i6 integration programme.
- Police Scotland should conduct a review of the analytical and administrative support arrangements within Operational Support Division and identify what capacity and capability is necessary to support road policing. This review should consider the analytical support requirements necessary to deploy road policing assets intelligently, and should also consider whether there is sufficient administrative research capacity to support work that links intelligence led deployments and activity more clearly to outcomes.
- Police Scotland should review what 'real-time' information sharing exists between Area Control Rooms (ACR's) and key strategic roads network partners including Traffic Scotland to improve information exchange, incident management and journey reliability for motorists.
- There is future learning in terms of any national organisation assessing the impact of strategic or operational decisions which may directly affect resource planning or strategic change within other agencies or organisations.

- Police Scotland is still in the very early stages of a significant programme of transformational change. Some of that change will take time to achieve, and only once implemented will all of the envisaged benefits of reform be fully realised.
- **Our overall assessment is that the objectives of police reform in relation to road policing are being achieved and local services have been protected and are improving. There is evidence of more equal access to specialist support and enhanced national capacity. The new road policing model is strengthening the connection between police services and communities.**

**END**