



HMICS Statement of efficiency, effectiveness and economy 2011/12

Section 32 (1)(b) of the Act requires listed public bodies to publish a statement of the steps they have taken to improve efficiency, effectiveness and economy in the exercise of their functions.

Introduction

HMICS is an independent body that exists to assure Scottish Parliament and the people of Scotland as to the effectiveness and the efficiency of the police service in Scotland. An integral part of our role centres on the inspection of policing services, supporting improvement through our findings and identification and sharing good practice, as well as providing independent advice to stakeholders. We are committed to the principals of Best Value, seeking an appropriate balance between the quality of services and the costs of providing them. Our activities focus on improving outcomes for users of policing services¹.

Efficiency, effectiveness and economy improvements during 2011/12

All public bodies are under pressure to reduce costs while maintaining the level and quality of the services they provide.

We inspect forces with a total annual budget of £1.37bn. Over the last year we have continued to ensure that our inspection activity is more risk based and proportionate than it has been in the past, reducing the burden on forces and allowing us to focus on matters of greatest significance and risk. During the year we introduced force 'conferences', where we met with each force executive and their police authorities/joint boards to share current strategic thinking on local and national policing issues and to discuss the many challenges of Scottish police reform, whilst also increasing our liaison commitment with forces and common policing services.

During this period we also submitted written evidence to the Scottish Parliament, Justice, Local Government and Regeneration and Finance Committees in relation to the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Bill 2010. Following this, HM Inspector of Constabulary was invited to give evidence at all three committees.

We are a small team with an annual budget equivalent to 0.08% of the total budget allocated to Scottish policing. Through careful workforce planning and a programme of efficiency projects, we have identified new ways of working to ensure that we remain able to carry out our inspection activity within the available

¹ Users of police services includes persons who will or may use policing services in the future, persons who act on behalf of others in respect of whom policing services are provided, and other persons with a direct interest in, or directly affected by (i) the provision of policing services, or (ii) the scrutiny of policing services or the person, body or office holder providing it.

level of staffing and resources. We continue to make use of shared services, using IT, estates and other services provided by the Scottish Government. During 2011/12, through robust financial management we achieved an under-spend of £74k (subject to end of financial year audit) from our total budget of £1.08m.

During this period we also commenced work to ensure that the inspectorate remains effective and fit for purpose following the creation of the single police service for Scotland in April 2013;

- We commenced a programme of work to deliver an inspection framework for policing in Scotland post reform. From a staffing perspective this includes reducing the number of serving police officers involved in inspection activity, whilst also developing a pool of associate inspectors with a variety of backgrounds and specialisms which can be utilised for specific areas of inspectorate work.
- We initiated a Scottish policing performance project to develop a common set of performance indicators for Scottish policing.
- We developed user involvement and communication strategies which have resulted in streamlining our publications processes and the creation of a new website, including the use of social media to facilitate increased access to our publications and to encourage user involvement.