

Most police forces do not have a thorough understanding of demand or what affects their costs.

The Home Office has insufficient information, within the police accountability system, to judge the financial and service stress on police forces.

Read report



Spending

Real-terms funding reductions



estimated 2014-15



2010-11 to 2015-16



Recommendations



Issues

Policing and expenditure

43



Territorial police forces in England & Wales

*Met and City of London have their own unique arrangements

41



Police and Crime Commissioners*

Home Office responsible for **funding, oversight and intervention**



An estimated **£12.8 billion**



was spent in 2014-15 by police forces and police and crime commissioners

79%



of police spending is on workforce costs (2014-15 estimates)

Funding has reduced

Government funding to

Police and Crime Commissioners reduced by **£2.3 billion** (25%) in real-terms between 2010-11 to 2015-16



2010-11 to 2015-16



Home Office's current funding approach does not take **full** account of the circumstances of individual forces, including **funding, income, reserves,** and wider **financial pressures**

68%

funding comes from central government (2015-16)



32%

local taxation

But these proportions vary between police forces

Significant savings required of police forces



Police forces report they have had to make **savings of £2.5 billion** between 2011-12 and 2014-15 and will likely face further funding reductions

Demand & impact must be better understood



The Home Office has **insufficient information** to determine how much further it can reduce funding without degrading services, or when it may need to support individual forces

Police forces have **insufficient data** to fully understand their value for money and how to transform effectively

Police forces have **insufficient understanding of the demand** for services

10 OUT OF THE **43** forces



that HM Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) considered, had a sophisticated understanding of the demand for police services in 2014

22%

Crime



Only an estimated 22% of incidents that police responded to in 2013-14 were crime-related. This reflects the number of incidents rather than the workload they generate

14%

Anti-social behaviour

64%

Other incidents

3 forces

rated by HMIC, who independently inspect police forces, as "requires improvement" against their efficiency pillar of PEEL (police effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy). Further detail in *Policing in Austerity: Meeting the Challenge* (July 2014)



Organisations in the accountability system are **not yet supporting forces** to improve their capacity and capability around business skills



Recommendations

- The Home Office should adopt an approach to funding that takes account of forces' local circumstances more fairly.
- The police sector should develop a better understanding of demand for its services.
- The Home Office should work with other bodies in the police accountability system to develop better information to give the Department more assurance on the health of the service and give early warning of when a force might fail.
- The College of Policing should, with other bodies, consider how best to support and develop business skills at all levels within forces, both in officers and police staff.
- The College of Policing, with the Home Office, HMIC and the National Police Chief's Council, should improve the sharing of good practice and learning.

Louise Bladen
Director of
Home Office VFM
020 7798 7587
07985 273 992

© Design and
Production by NAO
Communications
DP Ref: 10729-001