

Policing in the coronavirus pandemic – response to HMICFRS report

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Officers, staff and volunteers praised for 'exceptional dedication and commitment' to keeping people safe

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His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) has released a report that shows policing has demonstrated its ability to respond to emergencies and quickly adapt to fast-moving and changing situations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The [**HMICFRS report**](#) credits the police service for taking swift and clear steps to protect the public when the pandemic struck in March 2020.

'Stepping in when many others could not or would not, the police took immediate and decisive action to keep people safe, tackle crime and find answers to problems brought by the pandemic,' said HMI Matt Parr.

Bernie O'Reilly, interim CEO of the College of Policing, said in response to the report: 'It is pleasing that today's report acknowledges the extraordinary efforts and professionalism demonstrated across policing to keep people safe during the pandemic.

'Throughout this very challenging period the College of Policing and a range of stakeholders worked tirelessly to ensure there was a coordinated and consistent national response which provided police forces in England and Wales with up-to-date guidance and information on the COVID-19 restrictions.

'This proactive approach helped to support officers, staff and volunteers so they could engage positively with the public and explain the lockdown restrictions and changes in the law.

'The College of Policing is continuing to support police forces, particularly around the recruitment of new officers, as lockdown restrictions are eased to ensure the service meets demand and effectively protects the public.'

Related resources

- [Read our policing guidance on the COVID-19 restrictions](#)

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