



Inspecting policing
in the **public interest**

Independent Review of the Policing of Public Protest

Terms of Reference

The External Reference Group

Background

HMIC will conduct an independent review of the policing of public protest. This process will be informed by examining the tactics adopted by the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) during the G20 London Summit, one of the largest policing operations to have taken place anywhere in the United Kingdom, and other relevant experiences of policing protest both nationally and internationally.

Objectives of review

Through consideration of **public**, **legal** and **operational** perspectives the review will:

1. Assess the effectiveness and impact of public order tactics deployed in response to significant protests involving disorder or the threat of disorder, specifically:
 - containment
 - use of force
 - liaison with media
 - communication with public and protestors
2. Identify difficulties and barriers to the successful implementation of those tactics; and
3. Examine the overall direction of public order goals, strategic and tactics in dealing with such protests and demonstrations.

Timing

An interim report will be published on **June 30th**
The final report will be published on **September 30th**

Purpose of the External Reference Group

The External Reference Group will provide support and challenge to the review team, to develop thinking and ensure that:

- the approach is rigorous and balanced, drawing in divergent views appropriately;
- presentation of findings balances views from across the broad spectrum of opinion;
- the review and report balances public, legal and operational perspectives appropriately
- any conclusions drawn are sound and evidence-based.

Membership

Members were invited to join the External Reference Group because of their widely acknowledged expertise and interest in fields of particular relevance to this review.

Members are asked to contribute personal views and insight and HMIC accept that these will not necessarily represent the opinion or position of other groups or organisations to which they are associated.

As such, personal views expressed within the Reference Group will remain confidential to that group. Likewise, information provided to Reference Group members in order to allow them to perform their role must remain strictly confidential to the review. We request all members agree that confidentiality of evidence and debate be respected at all times.

Frequency of meetings

The Reference Group will meet, as a group, at 4 key decision points during the review period:

1. Week commencing **15th June**: to consider evidence gathered and discuss emerging areas of interest
2. Week commencing **6th July**: to review emerging findings from the interim report and discuss focus of the remaining review
3. Week commencing **24th Aug**: to review evidence and test emerging conclusions and recommendations
4. Week commencing **21st Sept**: to provide final comments on report and publication

In addition, members of the review team will invite individual reference group members to contribute periodically:

- Week commencing **25th May**: to consider and input to the review methodology
- **July-August**: 1-2-1 conversation(s) - keeping in touch

A single point of contact will be identified within the review team to provide Reference Group members with direct access to the team.