



Inspecting policing  
in the **public interest**

# Terms of Reference

## Review of the Policing of Public Protest

## HER MAJESTY'S INSPECTORATE OF CONSTABULARY

### REVIEW OF THE POLICING OF PUBLIC PROTEST

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#### TERMS OF REFERENCE

##### OVERVIEW

HMIC will conduct a review of the public order tactics deployed in response to significant protests involving disorder or the threat of disorder. 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.

HMIC will engage in consultation and debate with key stakeholders and the public regarding the policing of protest. The aim of the HMIC report will be to test the arguments for and against the use of police public order tactics from **public**, **legal** and **operational** perspectives.

The review will consider emerging evidence against the acknowledged principles of British policing - public consent, minimal use of force and individual accountability, and highlight any tensions between these and operational practice.

##### OBJECTIVES

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 protesters
2. Identify difficulties and barriers to the successful implementation of those tactics
3. Examine the overall direction of public order goals, strategies and tactics in dealing with such protests and demonstrations, against the acknowledged principles of British policing

## **APPROACH**

The review will examine:

1. The operational and legal context (including human rights legislation) for policing major protests
2. MPS operating framework for G20 in relation to both planning, and command and control arrangements
3. Specific public order tactics and measures used to police G20 protests
4. Public opinion of strategy and tactics employed in relation to G20 and policing protest generally
5. Key stakeholder views in relation to G20 and policing protest generally
6. National and international approaches to policing major protests
7. Operational debriefing processes for policing protest

In the interim stage the review will predominately focus on tactics used to police the G20 protests. Consideration will be given to emerging findings for wider examination within the final report, in consultation with a wide range of people.

## **OUT OF SCOPE OF REVIEW**

All matters relating to specific incidents or individuals subject to investigation by the MPS or the IPCC are excluded from this review. However, such incidents may provide contextual background to any findings or recommendations.

## **GOVERNANCE**

This is an independent public review, requested by the MPS Commissioner. Copies of the report, both interim and final, will be provided to the MPS, Home Secretary, MPA, ACPO, APA, IPCC and published on the HMIC website.

### **External Reference Group:**

Review methodology and emerging findings will be tested with an external reference group, drawn from the broad spectrum of interested groups. It will include representation from Human Rights Groups, the Media, Academics, Government Departments and the Police.<sup>1</sup>

## **TIMESCALE**

Interim Report	June 30th
Final report	September 30th

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<sup>1</sup> Reference Group Membership will be found on HMIC website when full membership has been established.