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Following today's publication of the PEEL report on the effectiveness of individual police forces in England and Wales, **Labour's Shadow Home Secretary Diane Abbott said:**

"HMIC has previously warned that the police are not well equipped to prevent crime. These individual assessments of police forces show that verdict is fully justified.

"We have some police forces artificially lowering demand, crimes being written off and fewer arrests being made, even for serious crimes. HMIC also found that in some forces key capabilities, such as skilled investigators and community policing are insufficient or are declining.

"We should be clear. This is not the fault of the police forces or individual officers. The government is in denial, but the Inspectorate is clear, police funding and police numbers have been cut under the Tories. This is where the problem lies. These problems of police effectiveness are a Tory failure."