

# Keeping everyone safe, at all times

Häme Police Department Sustainability Report 2021



**We are committed to promoting the implementation of UN Sustainable Development Goals (Agenda 2030). From among the goals in the Agenda, we have chosen the SDGs that we can best influence through our practical measures.**

Our SDGs are:

- 10 Reduced inequalities
- 11 Sustainable cities and communities
- 16 Peace, justice and strong institutions

Häme Police Department's first sustainability report provides information about the goals we have chosen and the means we use to achieve them. The contents of future sustainability reports will focus more on the indicators for the goals and the results achieved.



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# 1.

## Management review

Häme Police Department's management selected the sustainable development goals in summer 2021. The management continued to process the selected goals until autumn and decided to propose to the National Police Board the three SDGs, described in this responsibility report, as Häme Police Department's performance targets: Reduced inequalities, Sustainable cities and communities, and Peace, justice and strong institutions.

The three goals chosen by the police department involve responsibility work already in progress in the police department. The aim is to make this important work visible and perform it even better than before.

Likewise, traffic safety influences the lives of all people in the region and it is a sector in which the police has accumulated significant competence. That is why it is important to highlight the viewpoints of the police particularly at the planning stage of various decisions that influence traffic.

In our opinion, the three SDGs we have chosen are extremely important, and essential, in terms of making everyone's life safe and worth living. It is therefore presumable that in order to promote these goals, the police will have to continue with our efforts, instead of setting new goals.

**Marko Viitanen**

*Police Chief, Häme Police Department*

**What would be more important in police work than to safeguard the human rights of all people, and to help people in the weakest and most vulnerable position, using the means available for the police.**



Photo: Sofia Isokoski

## 2.

# The general principles and Ethical Code of police operations

**Even though police operations are based on the law, police work involves more than just mechanical law enforcement – it means keeping everyday life safe with respect to the rights of individuals.**

When using police powers, it is essential to choose, from among the justifiable options available, the one that best promotes the implementation of fundamental rights. The measures taken must be justifiable in relation to the importance, dangerousness and urgency of the task, the goal aimed at, the behaviour, age, health and other aspects related to the person at whom the measure is targeted, and other aspects that influence the overall assessment of the situation.

The responsibility of police operations is integrated in the basic structures of the operations by various means, including the Ethical Code. Häme Police Department views responsibility from a broader perspective and that is why we review our operations in relation to the international Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and strive to change our operations so as to meet these goals.

**The purpose of responsibility reporting is to inform openly about our aims and the aspects we find important in our operations, in addition to the national level steering.**



Figure 1. The eight main points of the Ethical Code for the Police.

The Ethical Code for the Police guides our decision-making and operations. It is based on the values and strategy of the police. Working in line with the Ethical Code we strengthen public trust in the police.

- 1. Policing is predictable and has always a legal basis.**
- 2. The police acts in an equal and fair manner.**
- 3. The police has a positive attitude to transparency.**
- 4. Police conduct is exemplary.**
- 5. The police is impartial and independent.**
- 6. Police values are evident in leadership.**
- 7. Police staff work with a sense of community.**
- 8. The police use their resources appropriately, effectively and responsibly.**

### 3.

## Briefly about Häme Police Department and the beginning of responsibility reporting

Häme Police Department is in charge of maintaining public order and security, police emergency response services, the prevention, detection and investigation of crimes and submitting cases for consideration of charges, police licence administration and other tasks of the local police in its operating area.

Häme Police Department operates in the regions of Kanta-Häme and Päijät-Häme. The number of inhabitants in the police department's area is around 384.000. The area comprises 21 municipalities: Asikkala, Forssa, Hartola, Hattula, Hausjärvi, Heinola, Hollola, Humpkala, Hämeenlinna, Iitti, Janakkala, Jokioinen, Kärkölä, Lahti, Loppi, Orimattila, Padasjoki, Riihimäki, Sysmä, Tammela and Ypäjä.

Häme Police Department's main police station is located in Lahti, and other police stations in Hämeenlinna, Riihimäki, Heinola, Forssa and Orimattila.

Häme Police Department employs a total of around 500 people in various positions. In addition to qualified police officers, experts in several branches work for us. We also offer interesting positions for university trainees.

Planning of the responsibility reporting began in 2021 with a survey of the police department's responsibility status. After that, we defined the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of UN's Agenda 2030 which the police department can best influence through its operations.

[The sustainability report prepared by the National Police Board](#), published in spring 2022, lies at the core of police organisational responsibility. Häme police is committed to the implementation of the national responsibility report and selected additional targets, through which focus on the police department's own handprint can contribute to enhancing best practices, and ethical operating methods in the operating area.

This responsibility report is the first by Häme police. In the first report, we have surveyed the initial state and considered our possibilities for influence. In the future, the report will be updated as necessary due to changes in development and the operational environment.

**Toni Käyhkö**  
*Detective Chief Inspector*



Photo: Sofia Isokoski



## Management and administration of responsibility

**Police operations are inherently a socially responsible activity and our duties have a very broad scope. Mirroring the responsibility of police work against the Agenda 2030 SDGs provides an alternative basis for comparison of the aspects that are our goals in everyday work.**

The Police Department is committed to implementing the National Police Board's responsibility strategy and seeking new ways to put responsible policing into practice, and implement it.

We believe that the coaching leadership in the HR strategy must be reflected in our operations and in the midst of citizens. Our operations and the goals we have chosen are discussed at intervals in the meetings of various management groups to ensure continuous development.

The National Police Board has published the sustainability report of the police organisation in spring 2022. The responsibility report includes the goals of the National Police Board, the Police University College, the National Bureau

of Investigation and police departments. We are committed to the common goals and together with our own goals, they form the most important objectives for responsible police operations.

Häme Police Department sustainability report focuses on social responsibility at the local level, and on building a responsibility handprint.

Responsibility reporting also provides the possibility to communicate about the values, tasks and operations of the police in a new way that is not visible in ordinary performance management or other communications. It is important for us that the critical review of our operations is not limited to measuring finances and efficiency only.



## 4. Police for all



### The goal of Häme police is to safeguard, respect and guarantee human rights in police work.

We do not tolerate discrimination in any form. We are committed to developing cooperation models to identify risk groups and to refer them to the appropriate service. We ensure the presence of social safety networks in our encounters with customers and actively obtain information about new services and cooperation models.

It is important for us to develop our competence in order to be able to respond to challenges posed by inequalities in society. The Government Report on Internal Security and the police's strategy for the years 2020–2024 lies in the background of our goals.

Continuous development of competence is key in ensuring social and cultural responsibility. One of our development targets is to better identify crimes related to human trafficking.

The aim is to produce high-quality, consistent police services in an ethically sustainable manner, regardless of gender, age, origin, language, religion, conviction, opinion, state of health, disability or other personal characteristics.

Professional interpretation services are used to ensure the language rights of police customers.

We seek to promote diversity and reduce inequality through gender equality and by promoting the rights and opportunities of women and girls in particular, both in recruitment and encounters with customers.

We have participated actively in the operations of the national USEL network of the police for victims, mediation, supervision of interests and restraining order. Through this network, we have developed multi-professional cooperation with various authorities and organisations.

In order to ensure the safety net of social security, we engage in active cooperation, in as real-time as possible, with emergency social services employees, reachable on a 24/7 basis. The contacts are most commonly related to child welfare or various reports of concern relating to various age groups.

The preventive action team is networked with diverse parties, with young people and immigrants as a special target group. The specific purpose of anchor activities is to prevent the social exclusion of juveniles.

*Chief Inspector **Lila Havusela**, Chief Investigating Officer of violent and sexual crimes targeting children, and chief commanding officer of the USEL network at Häme Police Department.*



Photo: Sofia Isokoski



## 5. Building urban security



Häme Police Department has the possibility to influence, as an independent expert, for example land use planning, infrastructure and traffic arrangements overall, and put forward the law enforcement's point of view in planning and decision-making, whenever suitable for the municipality or city in question.

Typical issues relating to sustainable traffic include improving the possibilities for pedestrian and bicycle traffic and reviewing the speed limits for motoring, in most cases to introduce lower speed limits. With regard to motoring, various other restrictions, including drive-through bans on a certain street, are matters that arise.

The Police Department has regularly participated in cooperation with stakeholders and local authorities since 2014. We participate actively as experts in various sustainable mobility projects both at the regional level and in cities.

Unlike other partners, the police have access to information both on accident locations and their

investigation. Based on experience, we can anticipate the behaviour of vehicles or others moving in a specific area. In many cases, based on experience, the police can anticipate the behaviour of vehicles or others moving in a future environment (In the background, police's strategy for the years 2020–2024). This activity is supported by national traffic strategies and the action plan of the police, valid until 2030.

We have participated for example in the following cooperation projects:

- Regional and municipality-specific traffic safety programs.
- Survey of main bicycle routes in Päijät-Häme.
- The Kanta-Häme regional mobility project.
- City of Lahti city centre development project.

*Superintendent **Jouni Takala**  
Chief of the traffic police sector*

**When we succeed in sustainable mobility projects, we enhance traffic safety and can target our resources more systematically than before.**



Photo: Sofia Isokoski

## 6. Fair and service- minded police



### **Our aim is to identify persons in a vulnerable position in particular, and take the required measures in a timely manner.**

The police provide everyday security. We focus on the prevention of crimes and disturbances. Examples of preventive work by the police include the multi-professional Anchor teams and the multiprofessional risk assessment meetings in the MARAK operative model. The multiprofessional risk assessment meeting (MARAK) is an operative model helping the victims of domestic violence as well as those living under the threat of such violence.

We also develop methods for preventing recidivism of violent crime in order to reduce all forms of violence more efficiently, and thus the number of related deaths.

We aim to target the resources of crime prevention particularly at crimes that involve children or the elderly, for example.

Our aim is to develop a new type of analytic cooperation with the emergency response centre to better recognise cases in which the recidivism of violent crime could be prevented in advance.

We will continue the development of support services for victims and suspects in the third sector with various associations.

Within the framework of Anchor and MARAK multiprofessional cooperation of the authorities, I have seen how the situational picture becomes very different when the actors involved come together to review the case at hand, based on information collected from all actors.

*Detective Chief Inspector **Päivi Suokas**  
Chief of the crime prevention sector*



Photo: Marko Suokas

## Example

### Examples of the current problems with helping persons in a vulnerable position

For persons in a vulnerable position, including children and the elderly, it would be necessary for the child welfare notification or report of concern submitted to trigger joint compilation of information and thus an overall assessment of the case. Decisions on the measures required would only be made after that.

At present, each actor makes the decisions based on the information available. Persons in a vulnerable position are unable to demand themselves what they need, and the measures taken remain insufficient. The collection and compilation of information should be made more efficient by creating a ready-made form, like the MARAK risk assessment.

The exchange of information between the authorities is not the only problem, as within the police forces, emergency response tasks in the field, child welfare reports, and crime reports, are processed in separate systems. The information is classified in different ways. Emergency response tasks can mainly be found with the address, and the crime reports are based on personal data. Families with problems often move from one locality to another, while the authorities target for example child welfare measures at them.

For the aforementioned reasons, the overall picture of the situation of the persons involved remains inadequate.

Moreover, people in a vulnerable position have not necessarily developed a will of their own yet or it their spirit has been broken in the long run. Therefore, a guardian should be appointed for these people to deal with these reports. An outside guardian could, for example, give consent to disclosure of information between the various parties involved.

In Finland, the guideline is largely the will of the target person, and in that case, the essence of domestic violence is not understood. Victims of domestic violence are in a submissive position and in many cases, their spirit has been defeated. These people think they deserve the treatment they get. Particularly when no children are involved in domestic violence, the authorities still think that adults have the right to choose the way they live their lives.

In England, however, the authorities intervene with domestic violence regardless of what the victim wants. Last year, illegal threat became an offence subject to public prosecution, which can be processed in the criminal process regardless of what the victim wants. The aim of this is, for example, to protect child welfare employees who no longer need to demand punishment for the threatening perpetrator. Their employers can do that on their behalf. The same should apply to domestic violence, if the genuine intention is to relieve people from the vicious circle of violence running in the family.

In my experience, the victims of domestic violence will see their situation differently after a proper rest following the acute situation. Usually, the perpetrator will only be away for one night and on the next day, may take revenge on the victim for the measures taken by the authorities, and with interest. In such cases, the victim is tired with the situation and does not have the strength to present claims. Moreover, the victims may be so repressed mentally that they think they deserve the treatment they get.

*Detective Chief Inspector Pålvi Suokas*  
*Chief of the crime prevention sector*



## 7. Responsible operating methods

Häme Police Department is using Finland's first electric patrol car, taken into use in summer 2021.



Photo: Maritta Roslakka

As the largest authority within the administrative branch of the Ministry of the Interior, the police strongly supports the Ministry of the Interior's commitment to sustainable development measures.

The carbon footprint of the police consists almost exclusively of vehicle emissions, the energy consumed by property maintenance and property use, procurements and the processes of disposing with materials.

The National Police Board's comprehensive sustainable development plan is based on three interactively supportive plans. They are the roadmap for reducing the carbon footprint of the police, the roadmap for constructing vehicle charging stations, and the roadmap for the procurement of police vehicles.

Häme Police Department is using Finland's first electric patrol car, taken into use in summer 2021. Our vehicle fleet includes not only ordinary vehicles, but also several hybrid vehicles and electric cars, the number of which has increased in recent years.

The nature of police operations places special functional needs on the vehicle fleet, which means that vehicle performance must be sufficient even in extreme conditions. Therefore, we have allocated low-emission vehicles to the purposes for which this type of vehicle fleet is best suited. This way, we develop operating models for reducing our carbon footprint without jeopardising the operational capacity and resources of the police.

At present, we are piloting department-specific recycling points in Lahti. The aim is to reduce the number of personal waste bins and facilitate recycling. This project was launched owing to development proposals from the personnel. By actively developing new operating models, we create the possibility to share the best practices with other police departments in our region.

Our police stations use 100% carbon neutral A4 copying paper, and we seek to reduce its consumption through replacement of devices and development of operating methods.

## 8. Preparation of the report



Photo: Maritta Roslakka

Lahti Main Police Station.

Häme Police Department's first sustainability report was prepared in connection with the [national sustainability report of the police](#).

The first sustainability report of the police as a whole was prepared in cooperation between the National Police Board, the Police University College and Häme Police Department. All police units participated in producing the background information for the report. The national sustainability report of the police will be prepared annually in the future.

Sustainable development goals for the police were defined in spring 2021 in line with the State Treasury's

Guidelines for Government responsibility reporting. The National Police Board, the Police University College and Häme Police Department participated in defining the goals.

The development of sustainable development goals, measures and indicators is a continuous activity in the police.

To support this work, the National Police Board will establish a police responsibility network to involve police agencies in our common responsibility work.

The sustainability report is one tool in the development of operations. It helps in refining the goals, measures and indicators.

In addition, our sustainability efforts are guided by Finland's [national sustainable development strategy](#) and the [sustainable development commitments of the Ministry of the Interior and the police](#) (in Finnish).