



REPORT TO: British Transport Police Authority
DATE: 6 May 2008
SUBJECT: Chief Constable's Report
SPONSOR: Chief Constable
AUTHOR: A/Chief Inspector Nicholas Barker

1. PERFORMANCE AGAINST 2007-08 POLICING PLAN

- 1.1 This year British Transport Police (BTP) achieved 94% (90 out of 96) of the operational targets in 2007-2008. This is a tremendous result, especially as the year saw a major change in the way BTP moved from central to local targets. Attached at Appendix A is a table detailing performance against all of the operational targets.
- 1.2 11 out of 12 Common Objectives Common Targets were achieved. Key areas to note are:-
- Fatality management – there have been 186 fatalities on the overground rail network this year, with an average clearance time of 76 minutes, against a target of 90 minutes. All areas achieved their target
 - Cable related offences – 319 offenders have been detected against a target of 223. A more detailed update on Cable Theft is included in Appendix B of this report
 - Serious football related offences – the target was to reduce them by 5%. A total of 63 offences against a target of 75 were recorded, which is a reduction of 20%. In addition banning orders were applied for in 99% of all football related offences against a target of 90%
 - Quality of service – the target was to achieve an overall satisfaction rate of 80% across BTP. Although London North, London South and Wales and Western just fell short of 80%, the performance in other Areas ensured the overall target was met
 - Offences brought to justice – all Areas achieved their individual targets to ensure that BTP's total of offenders brought to justice was 26.2% against a target of 22%. North West delivered a particularly noteworthy result of 42%.



- 1.3 Persistent Young Offenders - the average number of days between arrest and sentence for the full year was 95 against a target of 65. Only North West Area achieved their target at 50 days. However, BTP has made excellent progress against this target over the last eighteen months, since data first became available to measure BTP performance. However, as the Policing Plan target for PYO performance is based on the rolling calendar year, it paints a picture which reflects the impact of a long 'out of time' backlog. It also is affected by complex cases whose resolution is beyond BTP's control. For example, there are currently five BTP cases linked to a Metropolitan Police murder trial where the Judge has refused to hear BTP's GBH case until he has heard the murder trial, despite all of the defendants being ready to plead guilty to BTP charges in June 2007. These five defendants presently account for 350+ days each, and the murder trial was not heard until 31 March 2008. The Ministry of Justice measures the PYO target against rolling quarterly periods. In the last five Quarters, BTP has achieved, 71, 60, 66, 67 and 70 days respectively. The next Quarterly figures (to February 2008) are provisionally released by The Ministry of Justice as 66 days.
- 1.4 43 of the 44 common objectives, local targets have been achieved. Key areas to note are:
- The only target missed related to London Underground who were unable to achieve the reduction target for route crime (142 Crimes against a target of 134)
 - All areas achieved their target in relation to the detection rate for violent and sexual offences, with Scotland achieving a detection rate of 67%
 - The detection rate for Staff Assault was 56% against a target of 51% with North Eastern Area achieving 64% and Scotland, the North West and Wales and Western achieving detection rates in excess of 60%
 - The detection targets for anti-social behaviour were achieved by all Areas, with London Underground detecting 7388 offenders. London North also performed very well detecting 1922 offenders against their target of 1500.



1.5 36 of the 40 local objectives, local targets have been achieved. Key points to note for each Area are:

- London North – achieved all their targets. Particularly noteworthy is the number of detections in relation to trespass increased from 218 to 512 (an increase of 135% against a target of 15%). The reduction in thefts from motor vehicle was 34%, against a target of 5%
- London South – achieved all their targets. Robbery offences fell from a target of 815 to 382 (a reduction of 53% against a target of 5%) with a 42% detection rate, against a target of 33%. The number of serious staff assaults fell from 145 offences to 118 (a reduction of 19% against a target of 10%)
- London Underground – achieved all their targets and in particular managed to reduce the number of offences of graffiti from 2248 to 1580 (a 30% reduction against a target of 3%). The number of robberies was reduced from 399 to 192 (a reduction of 52%)
- North Eastern – achieved all their targets, and have reduced assaults on Northern Rail staff from a target of 62 to a total of 45 recorded crimes (a reduction of 27% against a target of 3%)
- North Western – achieved 3 out of their 4 targets. The number of recorded staff assaults for Northern Rail increased by 10%, but there was also a 10% increase in detections. The detection rate for route crime on the Trans Pennine Express improved from 22% to 47%
- Scotland – achieved both its local targets including increasing detections for failing to obey traffic signs at level crossings from 59 to 79 (34% against a target of 10%). The detections for graffiti were 72 offences achieved against a target of 50
- Wales and Western – achieved 7 out of 10 targets. The most significant success was in the robbery offences in the West Midlands Sector where a 66% detection rate was achieved against a target of 36%. The three targets that were not reached were; anti-social behaviour at Cardiff Central Station, where offences increased from 128 to 157 (an increase of 23%) against 115 target; serious staff assaults recorded in the Welsh Sector where 8 offences were recorded against a target of 5; and the number of anti-social behaviour offences



recorded on Virgin Trains which were 219 offences against a target of 202 (a 2% reduction against a target of 6%).

OVERALL OFFENCES

- 1.6 The total number of recorded offences on the railway in 2007-08 fell from 124,900 to 107,343 (14.1% reduction).
- 1.7 There were 70,368 notifiable offences this year compared to 79,191 last year showing a decrease of 11.1%.
- 1.8 There were 36,975 non-notifiable offences this year compared to 45,709 last year. This is a reduction of 19.1%.
- 1.9 The detection rate for notifiable offences has also increased to 27%, against 24.6% last year, with 18,999 offences detected this year.

DIVERSITY TARGETS

- 1.10 A total of 27.4% of officers promoted were female against a target of 18%. This was the only Diversity Target achieved.
- 1.11 The target for BME promotion was narrowly missed, with the number of BME officers promoted reaching 5.5% against a target of 5.9%.
- 1.12 Total BME officer strength rose from 167 in 2006-07 to 173 officers by the end of 2007-08, but this only took BTP to 6.1% against a target of 6.4%. Female officers' represented 16.1% of total officer strength against a target of 17.5%. To achieve the 17.5% target would have required an additional 40 officers. In fact the overall number of female officers decreased from 470 to 457.



1.13 The recruitment targets will remain a challenge for BTP next year as the current waiting list for applicants does not contain sufficient female or BME applicants.

2. OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES

2.1 The Department for Transport (DfT) has now outlined the arrangements for funding in support of BTP's preparation for 2012 Olympic Games. It has been recognised by DfT that there is preparatory work that needs to be progressed, and they have agreed to fund these costs which are currently estimated at £9.4 Million. This funding is for CSR period 2008-11 only and is subject to DfT oversight in quarterly meetings.

2.2 The funding of Explosive Search Dogs and Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) systems has been put on hold, pending further research on the use of passive Explosive Dogs in the railway environment, and the bigger picture emerging on the use of ANPR in the run up to and during the Olympic Games.

2.3 An Olympic Seminar for Train Operating Companies (TOCs) and other rail industry stakeholders was held on the 15th of April 2008 in London, with speakers from the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA), BTP, DfT and The British Security Industry. This BTP initiative was well attended and has received positive feedback.

2.4 An initial briefing session for BTP's Olympic Shadow Silver and Bronze Commanders took place on 4 April 2008 at Stratford. By identifying key post holders at this very early stage, and linking these individuals with BTP Olympic command positions, the aim is to involve our commanders in the planning, preparation and testing from an early stage.



3. FRONTLINEFIRST (BTP Efficiency Programme)

- 3.1 The early work has focused on the Regional Areas and since 1 April 2008 the following savings have been identified:
- Scotland - £46,484 – which has been translated into 2 Police Constables and a Case Management Manager
 - North Western - £98,000 – which has been translated into 1 Police Sergeant and 2 PCSOs
 - North Eastern - £57,118 - which has been translated into 1 Police Constable / Shared Training Manager and there is £15,000 awaiting allocation
 - Wales & Western - £93,000 – which has been translated into 4 PCSOs
 - FHQ Finance - £500,000 – 1 NPT (1Ps / 2Pcs / 6 PCSOs / Analyst or Admin support) for both North Eastern Area and Wales and Western.
- 3.2 These savings, totalling £809,602, have been made by combination of changing business processes and reprioritising.
- 3.3 Early indications for the HR review suggest that this has the potential for savings of an additional £2.32 million.

4. MEETINGS OF INTEREST

- 4.1 BTP hosted a visit from Jan Pethick the High Sheriff of Greater London on 28 March. Mr Pethick was given an overview of BTP and received a briefing on key areas of policing including Cable Theft, Counter Terrorism, CCTV and Policing Football.
- 4.2 On 31 March the Chief Constable met with Tom Harris MP. During their meeting they discussed; Counter Terrorism, including the use of S44 Powers, the availability of Home Office grants, CCTV, Cable Theft, funding for the Olympics, and BTP's operational achievements. This was a very productive meeting and Mr. Harris was very supportive of the work of BTP. He took the



opportunity to reinforce the accountability responsibility between BTP and DfT for our Area in Scotland, as it is elsewhere in the UK.

- 4.3 On 2 April the Chief Constable gave a presentation to the Railway Study Association at the London School of Economics. His presentation covered the challenges and opportunities of policing a growing rail industry.
- 4.4 On 4 April the Chief Constable in his ACPO Crime Role was at the Law Enforcement Conference hosted by Microsoft to discuss the issue of E Crime.
- 4.5 On 9 April the Chief Constable and ACC Crowther attended the National Task Force where they spoke to senior members of the TOCs, Network Rail and representatives from DfT about CCTV and cable theft. Industry colleagues have given their support to lobbying government on legislative change and tighter enforcement of regulations relating to scrap metal dealers. Higher level representation from TOCs was agreed on the Joint BTP/Industry CCTV Steering Group to help progress the project.
- 4.6 On 23 April David Ruffley MP, the Shadow Minister for Police Reform, visited BTP. He was given an overview of Mobile Data and how it impacts on police work, and a more general briefing on BTP issues.
- 4.7 The Chief Constable completed his 3 year tenure as Head of ACPO Crime Business Area but has now been re elected for a second term.
- 4.8 Following lobbying by BTP and other forces, new sentencing guidelines published in February recommend greater sentences for offenders who attack people working in the public sector, and this includes rail staff.



5. OTHER FORCE NEWS

- 5.1 Pc Zaheer Ahmad from LU Heathrow has been elected as President of the National Association of Muslim Police (NAMP) following the organisation's inaugural conference held in January.
- 5.2 The NAMP's conference attracted nearly 300 delegates and boasted an impressive cast of speakers, including Tony McNulty, Sir Ronnie Flanagan and Sir Ian Blair. Prime Minister Gordon Brown recorded a video message for the conference, in which he offered his personal support for the NAMP and praised the work they were doing both in the police service and the wider community.
- 5.3 This is an excellent achievement for Pc Ahmad and helps raise BTP profile in an important area. A strong and positive relationship with the Muslim Community is an essential part of our operational strategy in tackling terrorism, and helps to gain support from the Muslim Community for particularly challenging tactics such as stop and search.

6. OPERATIONAL POLICING OVERVIEW

- 6.1 Attached for information at Appendix B is an overview of some policing operations, incidents and convictions that took place since the last report.



APPENDIX A

PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

Common Objectives - Common Targets

		Fatalities - average time cleared (min)	CBR Profiling - number conducted	% Force Trained as CBR(N) Responders	Visible Policing, police officers - hours at location Apr07 - Mar08	Visible Policing, PCSOs - hours at location, Apr07 - Mar08	Cable Related Offences - offenders detected	PYO's - average arrest to sentence (days) (November 2008 data)	Football Banning Orders - number obtained (Full Year Targets)	Football Banning Orders - % applied for	Serious Football Related Offences - number recorded	Quality of Service - overall satisfaction rate	Offences Brought to Justice - performance
London	Actual	77		8%	22757	20792	26	102	3			76%	24%
North	PYTD Target	90		No target set	6270	16758	21	65	6			80%	22%
London	Actual	78		8%	14269	26523	34	88	12			74%	25%
South	PYTD Target	90		No target set	5016	15048	32	65	6			80%	20%
London	Actual			10%	37273	6859	8	99	4			83%	21%
Undergroun	PYTD Target			No target set	16302	8778	8	65	6			80%	20%
North	Actual	74		12%	6375	2674	117	88	3			86%	29%
Eastern	PYTD Target	90		No target set	2508	2508	93	65	6			80%	22%
North	Actual	61		8%	11593	7239	50	50	13			84%	42%
Western	PYTD Target	90		No target set	3762	5016	28	65	6			80%	27%
Scottish	Actual	89		8%	19000		18		2			86%	
	PYTD Target	90		No target set	5016		6		6			80%	
Wales and	Actual	77		14%	12642	4585	66	74	16			77%	30%
Western	PYTD Target	90		No target set	6270	2508	35	65	6			80%	24%
Force	Actual	76	1070	11%	123913	68675	319	95	53	99%	63	80%	26%
	PYTD Target	90	840	8%	45144	50616	223	65	42	90%	75	80%	22%

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Common Objectives - Local Targets

		Route - recorded	Route - detected	Route - det. rate	Theft of Passenger Property - recorded	Theft of Passenger Property - detected	Theft of Passenger Property - det. rate	Violent & Sexual Offences - recorded	Violent & Sexual Offences - det. rate	Hate - recorded	Hate - det.rate	Anti-Social Behaviour - detected (inc. PND's issued)	Anti-Social Behaviour offenders detected (inc. PND's issued)	Staff Assaults - recorded	Staff Assaults - det. rate
London North	Actual			14%		140			48%		54%		1922		58%
	PYTD Target			12%		120			45%		46%		1500		53%
London South	Actual			11%	3839				47%		45%	2135			46%
	PYTD Target			10%	4691				45%		42%	2081			40%
London Underground	Actual	142			7481		5%	790		528			7388	698	45%
	PYTD Target	134			7987		5%	862		576			7061	845	42%
North Eastern	Actual			18%			6%		57%		65%		1805		64%
	PYTD Target			14%			5%		55%		55%		1500		58%
North Western	Actual	424					6%		57%		57%		1911		62%
	PYTD Target	522					4%		51%		52%		1600		53%
Scottish	Actual	269			396				67%		69%		1800		63%
	PYTD Target	324			467				63%		65%		1741		61%
Wales and Western	Actual		1050				4%		62%		56%		2001		60%
	PYTD Target		964				4%		57%		53%		1957		50%

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Agenda Item 4

Local Objectives - Local Targets

		Trespass - detected (inc. PND's issued)	Driving Offences at L/Crossings - detected	Robbery - detection rate	Notifiable Fraud - detected	Non-Notifiable Fraud - detected	M/Vehicle Crime (exc. CTRL) - recorded	M/Vehicle Crime (inc. CTRL) - det. rate	Graffiti - detected	Cycle Crime-detection rate
London North	Actual	512	116	34%	159	578	1136	13%	95	5%
	PYTD Target	250	100	33%	150	550	1634	12%	82	4%
		Graffiti (value of damage £1000 or more) - recorded	Neighbourhood Policing - detected notifiable offences	Robbery - recorded	Robbery - det. rate	Serious Staff Assaults - recorded	Trespass - detected (inc. PND's issued)			
London South	Actual	173	383	382	42%	118	355			
	PYTD Target	183	162	771	33%	126	196			
		Graffiti - recorded	Notifiable Offences - recorded	Robbery - recorded	Robbery - det. rate	Offensive Weapons - detected				
London Underground	Actual	1580	16445	192	33%	146				
	PYTD Target	2180	18116	398	33%	141				
		Graffiti - detected	Staff Assaults (Northern Rail) - recorded	Theft of Passenger Property (Trans Pennine Express) - recorded	Non-Notifiable Fraud - detected					
North Eastern	Actual	75	45	191	250					
	PYTD Target	52	60	218	170					

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		Anti-Social Behaviour (Merseyrail) - detected	Anti-Social Behaviour (Virgin) - detected	Route Crime (Trans Pennine Express) - detection rate	Staff Assaults (Northern Rail) - recorded							
North Western	Actual	623	68	47%	64							
	PYTD Target	601	67	26%	58							
		Failing to Obey Road Traffic Signs at Level Crossings - detected	Graffiti - detected									
Scottish	Actual	79	72									
	PYTD Target	65	50									
		Anti-Social Behaviour (Cardiff Central Station) - recorded	Anti-Social Behaviour (Cardiff Central Station) - offenders detected	Graffiti (South Western Sector) - detected	Robbery (West Midlands Sector) - detection rate	Serious Staff Assaults (West Midlands Sector) - recorded	Serious Staff Assaults (West Midlands Sector) - detected	Serious Staff Assaults (Welsh Sector) - recorded	Serious Staff Assaults (Welsh Sector) - detected	Anti-Social Behaviour (Virgin Trains) - recorded	Anti-Social Behaviour (Virgin Trains) - detected	
Wales & Western	Actual	157	149	54	66%	14	12	8	6	219	129	
	PYTD Target	115	105	49	36%	14	4	5	3	202	129	



APPENDIX B

OPERATIONAL POLICING OVERVIEW

1. ST PANCRAS INTERNATIONAL

- 1.1 A large scale evacuation of St Pancras station took place on 7 April after suspicious items were found in one part of the station. The incident required the attendance of specialist units from BTP and explosive officers from the Metropolitan Police. It was soon established that the incident was caused by human error by a training wing of a private security company and a full debrief of the incident is being undertaken. The evacuation caused significant disruption to the rail network.

2. CABLE THEFT

- 2.1 On the 25 March 2008 BTP hosted a national conference at British Telecom HQ to gain more support from other forces and the utilities in tackling cable theft, and to try and secure financial backing for a national metal theft taskforce. 29 Home Office forces attended, together with senior executives from water, power and telecoms utilities, and representatives from SOCA, VOSA, Environmental Agency, NPIA, Home Office and BMRA.
- 2.2 BTP Areas and FHQ worked with Network Rail over the Easter weekend to ensure that cable theft did not occur and that the Nuneaton project could be completed on time so the railway could be open for business after the break. The BTP Organised Crime Team set up a meeting in Rugby before Easter to bring together the interested parties. BTP Officers, in conjunction with private security staff, undertook 24 hour patrols, as well as targeting specific known criminals to disrupt and arrest offenders. Work continues to disrupt and detect offenders in this area. Between the 11 and 28 March 2008 a helicopter was deployed to tackle the metal theft offences in the Midlands and North East Areas. The helicopter was crewed by BTP flight observers and



operated out of Coventry and Wakefield airports. Financial provision of £85k + VAT was made for this deployment and a cost benefit analysis is being undertaken to consider future use.

- 2.4 A day of action was undertaken on 31 March by BTP in the Stoke Area to target scrap dealers. This was a multi agency operation and produced the following results

Day of Action Activity	Results
Stops conducted	78
Referrals to Environment Agency	22
VOSA prohibitions	5
HORT/1 Issued	1
No Insurance ticket issued	1
VDRS (vehicle defect rectification scheme) issued	1

- 2.5 A European Day of Action took place on 22 April which involved all BTP areas and European police forces. The object was for participating countries to follow a common strategy and visit as many metal depots as possible in order to locate copper and other metal stolen from the railways. This strategy was combined with a united message to countries that may import stolen metals. The results will be reported at the Police Authority meeting.
- 2.6 BTP has been in discussions with the British Metals Recycling Association (BMRA), both directly and through the ACPO Metal Thefts Working Group to seek their assistance to raise the industry's awareness of the problem, and to secure their support in tackling it. BTP has also made use of BMRA's offer to utilize its website to display stolen railway property



3. TERRORISM

- 3.1 The national threat level for railways remains Severe. This means that an attack is highly likely. Threat levels have recently been re-assessed and no immediate change is likely.
- 3.2 The practice of using specialist CT assets across BTP has continued and support has been provided from FHQ to Wales & Western and North East Areas.
- 3.3 BTP remains involved in several investigations in conjunction with partners in other agencies. Reports of hostile reconnaissance have continued at around the same level as the last period. One report led to an extensive investigation in the Scottish Area before it was satisfactorily resolved. The two current high profile trials of suspects for the plot to bring down aircraft and for supporting the 7 July 2005 attackers, may lead to a heightening of public awareness of counter- terrorism matters with a consequent increase in reports.

4. NIGHT TIME ECONOMY

- 4.1 There is growing concern of the impact on BTP of licensed premises situated within, or immediately adjacent to, railway stations. The relaxation in licensing legislation has led to a number of premises remaining open after the end of the train operating service. Because the premises are within the jurisdiction of BTP there is a requirement to retain officers on duty to be deployed to deal with the increase in crime and disorder that often occurs inside or near these premises.
- 4.2 Recent experience in Leeds has highlighted this issue. Leeds City station has over 20 licensed premises that fall within the jurisdiction of BTP. These range from Café's and restaurants to pubs and nightclubs. BTP resources are being diverted away from our core business in order to deal with the problems that arise. The common factor with all the premises is that the landlord is Network Rail operating through its subsidiary Spacia.



4.3 McDonald's Restaurant is currently applying to be open until 0500. BTP have objected to this, and will attend a hearing next month and seek to oppose an extension. The concern for BTP is that should the extension be granted, then it is possible that applications from other premises on the station would quickly follow. We have been in dialogue with Network Rail about this issue.

5. OPERATION ERA – FOOTBALL POLICING

5.1 BTP deployed over 650 officers between 19 and 20 April during a busy weekend of football across the country, with disorder taking place after several fixtures.

5.2 On Saturday 19 April, BTP officers took part in Operation Era – a national day of action against football disorder. During the day 33 football-related arrests were carried out as transport police monitored fans traveling to and from 42 fixtures across the country. Most arrests related to public order and drugs offences. The Millwall v Leeds fixture proved busy with 23 arrests at stations across London. A group of 120 known hooligan supporters from Leeds were escorted by police from central London to South Bermondsey. After the match a total of 12 people were arrested following disorder at London Bridge station. Banning orders will be sought against all those arrested for football disorder.

5.3 On Sunday 20 April, BTP officers in the North East were faced with trouble between Newcastle and Sunderland fans after a fight broke out. A group of Sunderland fans, who were taken off a train at the station due to a faulty door, crossed the tracks and began to fight with Newcastle fans on the opposite platform. One person was arrested for public order offences. Police dogs were used to restore order at the station and a police escort was put in place to ensure no further disruption. The station was closed for 1 hour 15 minutes while police dealt with crowding issues.



6. LONDON UNDERGROUND

- 6.1 There is a growing problem on the underground where organised criminal gangs are placing skimming devices on Multi fare Machines. Op Expand has been set up to tackle this problem. Recently two men were arrested for possession of articles to commit fraud after they were seen by police officers to remove a skimming device from a multi fare machine. The men were arrested and pleaded guilty at Magistrates Court. They have been sent to Crown Court for sentencing.
- 6.2 On 27 March a man was charged with twenty separate offences of theft and breach of trust following a complaint from TFL. The man worked in the booking office at Canning Town Station and was issuing Travel Cards that have been paid for by members of the public for a zero value and keeping the money. Following a test purchase operation the male was arrested whilst at work in the booking office. The total value of the series of thefts was approximately £10,000.
- 6.3 On 25 February, an NCP Cash Van was collecting money from the cash machines at North Ealing station Car Park. Whilst the NCP security guards were unloading the cash machines, their vehicle was stolen. The van was driven to a location a short distance away where 24 cash boxes were transferred to another vehicle by the suspects, who then made off with just over £2,000 leaving the cash van at the scene. As a result of extensive enquiries six suspects have now been arrested in relation to this crime. One of the suspects arrested was found to have cash boxes stolen from the NCP cash van in his house. A handgun was also recovered from the property. Subsequent forensic examination found fingerprints linking them to the people arrested. The investigation is still ongoing and numerous other items of property have been recovered which could link these suspects to other crimes.



7. LONDON SOUTH

- 7.1 Following a series of thefts of cash machines in south east England where property to the value of £2.2 million was stolen, on 17 March, BTP arrested 14 people in a series of dawn raids. This operation involved 130 officers. Nine men and five women were arrested during the operation. The gang is thought to be responsible for other offences across the whole of the UK.
- 7.2 Last month a 24-year-old unemployed man, was jailed for causing more than £30,000 damage to the railway network, throughout south London and the southern Home Counties. This damage involved graffiti to Southern, South West trains and Network Rail property, caused during October last year. The tag used was the word 'MILK', which he had been previously convicted for using on the railways. Variations of this tag also appeared across the network, with depots at Streatham Hill and Strawberry Hill, and railway stations at Streatham Hill, Streatham, Norbury and North Dulwich being targets. As part of the investigation, BTP officers were also able to link with two other tags, 'Emma' and " 'I LOVE EMMA.' The link was established after it was revealed to be the name of his girlfriend.
- 7.3 Two men were arrested in relation to a series of thefts from ticket machines at railway stations across Kent since December 31 2007.

8. LONDON NORTH

- 8.1 On 7 March at Southwark Crown Court a man was jailed for five years for possession of a loaded firearm in a public place. The man was arrested following an Operation Shield at Hackney Station. He was searched after trying to avoid a metal detector arch, and a starting pistol was found that had been converted to fire live rounds. During interview the male claimed he had found the pistol and was about to hand it to police. However, some excellent detective work, including examination of the man's mobile phone, where he was pictured holding two other guns, gave the man little option but to plead guilty.



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- 8.2 A man has been charged by officers from the BTP Stratford robbery squad in connection with an armed robbery at Upminster station, in January this year. The robbery involved a member of rail staff being tied to a chair and threatened with a taser device. The suspect was identified through extensive investigation and DNA evidence. A taser, a pair of gloves and £15,000 were recovered from his home address when he was arrested. The man will appear at Snaresbrook Crown Court in July.
- 8.3 A 13-year-old persistent young offender (PYO) was sentenced to eight months in a young offenders institute, for a violent assault and robbery at Newbury station last year. The victim, age 16, was at the station on a Sunday evening in December, when he was approached by three youths who started an argument with him. Two of the youths, aged 13 and 17, then attempted to push the victim on to the track while punching him in the face and head. The boy tried to get away but was soon caught and assaulted again. The offenders then stole the victim's mobile phone and wallet. With the victim's bank card and pin number, they made their way to the nearest cash point, where they were captured on CCTV. Later that evening, a witness picked out the offenders in a street identification and they were arrested by Reading-based officers.
- 8.4 On 13 April TV presenter Mark Speight was found hanged on the roof of a building adjacent to Paddington station. His body was found by rail staff and was not in public view. There were no suspicious circumstances and a full inquest will open in May.

9. WALES & WESTERN

- 9.1 The Bristol area has recently been subjected to over £80,000 of damage caused by graffiti. The gang believed to be responsible is known as The TNP Crew. The Crew is well known and has previously caused damage across the UK Rail Network. They attack trains, spraying them extensively. There have been some instances of trackside damage but their primary target is trains. It is believed that the target train is disabled via the butterfly switches to give them extra time to cause the damage. There have been approximately 80 recorded crimes across the BTP, which seem to relate to the Crew. On 10 January, 2 people from the Bristol Area were arrested



after being seen running away from a stabled train. As a result of further investigation, including evidence obtained from the computer of one of the suspects, 2 people were charged with 10 offences of causing damage, and have asked for 60 offences to be taken into consideration. In addition, they admitted to being responsible for the graffiti in January 2007, which was a personal attack on a BTP officer and his family. They appeared in Bristol Magistrates Court on April 2 and a trial date has been set. Further members of the Crew have been identified and are awaiting further police action.

- 9.2 The West Midlands Sector of Wales & Western Area has been running induction sessions for new staff with London Midland and Midland Metro for the last eighteen months, with the Chief Inspector for West Midlands personally delivering a presentation. Feedback has been consistently positive. This scheme has been extended to inductees into Cross Country Trains TOCs. Run from Crewe, this commitment is substantially greater than anything before, because of the national nature of the operator, and the fact that inductees, from around the country, all pass through the process. This is an initiative which we hope will benefit both BTP and the TOCs in terms of managing expectations and raising awareness. The focus of the presentations is primarily aimed at workplace violence. However, there is also input on counter-terrorism, managing crime and victims, and actions on fatalities. The anticipation is that all new arrivals at the three TOCs will continue to benefit from the presentation, with the hope that the content can also be briefed to those already in-service. Other TOCs – Virgin Trains and Chiltern Railways - have expressed an interest in the process and are considering it. Whilst it is difficult to measure the impact, the reduction in workplace violence figures in the West Midlands has been notable (a reduction of 27%), and with the process having touched on some 150 plus members of staff thus far, there is a likely correlation.
- 9.3 In the January report to the Police Authority, a serious and potentially life threatening incident at Llanbradach was reported. Vandals had attempted to derail a train by placing a grease pot on the track. In total 13 individuals have been arrested and interviewed for that offence.



Unfortunately there is insufficient evidence to bring any charges. Although a reward of £5000 was offered, as yet there has been no hard evidence, allowing for a charge in this case. There was also a lack of forensic evidence which again has made it difficult to detect. The investigation is ongoing.

10. NORTH WESTERN

- 10.1 An appeal on BBC's Crimewatch (March 31), following an armed robbery at Maghull station in November, yielded an excellent response from the public. On the evening a total of 11 calls were made to the studio and further information was received throughout the week. Officers are now following up these enquiries with a view to making arrests in the near future.
- 10.2 A new BTP police station was officially opened on Monday 31 March, at Southport railway station. The Managing Director of Merseyrail Electrics was joined by other of dignitaries to open the station, which is now home to BTP's dedicated Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) for the Northern Line, which covers all stations from Southport to Sandhills. Also present at the ceremony was the Deputy Chief Constable along with representatives from the British Transport Police Authority Chair, NIAG, Merseytravel, and Merseyside Police.
- 10.3 A 47 year old man has been jailed for three and a half years for his part in setting up a cannabis factory in railway arches near to Warrington Central Station in 2005. The male was sentenced at Warrington Crown Court on Monday 31 March. BTP officers raided the premises in September 2005, discovering 722 plants with an estimated street value of £18,000. DNA was recovered from cigarette butts amongst the plants in the factory, leading to the arrest of the man in January 2006.



11. NORTH EASTERN

11.1 On 25 March a 19 year old man was jailed for eight months for actual bodily harm and possessing an offensive weapon, following a vicious and unprovoked attack at Sunderland University Metro station on the 25 January 2008. The victim was a 16 year old youth who was standing on the platform when he was approached by the man who asked what he was looking at and then attacked him.

11.2 A man has been sentenced to 84 days imprisonment for stealing 30 metres of cable from a railway line in the Firbeck Junction area of Tickhill, Doncaster on 1 March 2008. The man was arrested after police were called to the scene after receiving reports from a train driver of a man burning railway cable at the junction. Attending officers discovered the man attempting to leave the area carrying approximately 30 metres of cable in a rucksack. The male was sentenced at Doncaster Magistrates Court on 5 March. The report from this train driver was extremely valuable, and BTP would welcome any other reports of suspicious behaviour.

12. SCOTLAND

12.1 On 15 February a terrorism related intelligence report was received in respect of five men at Cathcart station in Glasgow. They had been asking detailed questions of staff, particularly about the Railway Electrical Control, which is located in a street near to the station. This caused significant concern, and an investigation commenced. An enquiry team was set up, supported by Special Branch, the Security Service and the Scottish Regional Intelligence Cell. Enquiries established that the males were in fact potential contractors for Network Rail who were reviewing electrical engineering work to facilitate their tender application. However, the incident served as a good test of our operational readiness and ability to work together with other agencies to tackle the terrorist threat. It was also established that senior Network Rail managers had been aware that the work was being conducted and we are working with Network Rail to ensure we avoid similar situations in the future.



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12.2 On 19 March at Ayr Sheriff court a Glasgow man was convicted of eight charges of graffiti on the railway. He was sentenced to 28 months imprisonment. Damage alleged against him was valued at £270,000. He was traced and convicted with the assistance of the extensive intelligence that has been amassed on tags and suspects, known offenders and associates. This case attracted good media coverage.