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London South Area
Policing Plan



BRITISH
TRANSPORT
POLICE

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Chief Constable Ian Johnston Sir Alistair Graham, Chairman, British Transport Police Authority (BTPA)

As the dedicated, specialist police force for Britain's railways, British Transport Police's (BTP's) ongoing mission is to ensure that passengers, rail staff, operators and infrastructure owners can all use the railways free from crime and the fear of crime.

BTP begins its reporting year 2008-09 from an enviable position based on the operational success and increased investment of the past few years. As a result, Britain's railways are a low crime environment and arguably safer than ever before.

Success has been hard won through increasingly focused and intelligence-led policing and improved partnership working with other forces, railway businesses, operators, and Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships. Our 2008-09 Policing Plans set detailed objectives and measureable targets that we are confident will take that operational success to the next level.

During the life of the last three-year Strategic Plan, the BTPA invested heavily in BTP to take the organisation forward from a position of historic under-investment. Recent investment by the industry has paid real dividends in reduced crime and disorder, resulting in more offenders being brought to justice and an improved travelling and working environment.

The new three-year Strategic Plan will build on what has already been achieved. The context for the strategic goals and the operational objectives set out in this annual plan remain challenging. The threat from terrorism remain high and protecting the rail infrastructure from this threat remains a priority and the focus of much day-to-day activity. The railways are not immune from national and local trends in the communities they serve, and violent crime continues to be a concern in 21st century Britain.

BTP works within the national policing context and the priorities set by the governments and executives in Westminster, Edinburgh and Cardiff. The Force makes an important contribution to national objectives, but, in line with the strategic direction set by the Department for Transport, is increasingly focusing on the specific needs of the rail system and strengthening those partnerships.

BTP and the BTPA are committed to working with the rail industry to ensure safe travel and working environments for passengers, rail staff, freight users and tenants. We are deploying Neighbourhood Policing Teams to deliver improved service at a local level, backed by a national, specialist organisation that is a world leader in railway policing.

Towards a safer railway...

Introduction

Chief Superintendent Stephen J. Morgan London South Area Commander

British Transport Police London South Area plays a vital role in maintaining the safety and security of the National Rail system in south London and the southern Home Counties, as well as the Croydon Tramlink. The Area is responsible for policing a travelling population of some 475 million passenger journeys a year, passing through the whole or part of the 2,200 miles of track and 528 stations within our remit.

We have more than 388 police officers, 65 special constables and 150 police staff (including PCSOs) based at 13 police stations across the Area. Our aim is to work closely with our partners to achieve a safe railway environment, free from disruption and the fear of crime. Our partners include; eight train operators, three Network Rail regions, and eight Home Office police forces, as well as numerous tenants and business concerns within our jurisdiction. Strong links with Transport for London (TfL) are in place via the introduction of Neighbourhood Policing Teams based at Lewisham and London Victoria.

We are also in the process of setting up a third Neighbourhood Policing Team, directly funded by the British Transport Police Authority. The new team will be based at Clapham Junction and will police the South West Trains Metro line from that location to Staines and the Kingston loop line. The introduction of this new team means that London South will have dedicated NPTs operating within the three largest train operators on the Area, namely Southern, Southeastern and South West Trains.

In addition to this, a separate joint initiative with South West Trains will see the introduction of seven teams of accredited Rail Community Officers, led by BTP officers.

These teams will be based at Southampton, Bournemouth, Guildford and Portsmouth in the outer London area and Staines, Richmond and Raynes Park in the Metro area. These teams will further enhance our capability to reduce crime and detect offenders within the South West Quadrant of the Area.

In addition, a new Southern Trains Task Force under the command of the Inspector at Brighton, is due to commence activities on the coastal line of route between Hove and Littlehampton from early summer 2008 and we look forward to the benefits this will bring.

Our local priorities in 2008-09, identified in consultation with partners and stakeholders, reflect local needs whilst also contributing to national, organisational and governmental objectives. This year there will be a focus on crime reduction to a greater extent than in the past. However, it is still widely recognised that one of the best ways of achieving crime reduction is to detect offenders, especially in relation to graffiti and robbery, and this too is reflected in the objective crime targets for the coming year.

Our mission is to work in partnership with others to help build a safe railway environment, free from disruption and the fear of crime.

We are always striving for excellence and will continue to build on our successes.

This plan sets out clearly what our objectives and targets are for 2008-09. Through improved partnership working, intelligence-led policing and deploying the right resources quickly and flexibly, we can proactively police the National Rail overland network in the south and south eastern counties, to reduce crime and disorder and improve the safety and security of railway passengers and staff.



National targets

Crime reduction

BTP is committed to reducing crime and disorder on the railways. This is an especially challenging target, given that both passenger numbers and kilometres travelled will increase next year. BTP recorded 70,368 notifiable crimes in 2007-08, an 11% reduction compared to 2006-07.

- Reduce notifiable crime by at least 2%

Notifiable detection rate

BTP has increased detection rates for notifiable offences from 17% in 2004-05 to 27% in 2007-08. Setting this target will ensure that efforts are focused on further improving performance.

- Detect at least 28% of notifiable offences

Fatality management

BTP has a proven ability to deal effectively with fatalities and to strike a balance between respecting the dignity of the deceased, thoroughly investigating the fatality and keeping the railway running. This target excludes major incidents and those classified as unexplained, suspicious, road traffic accident and level crossing. BTP achieved an average of 76 minutes in 2007-08.

- To conclude police activity which disrupts train movement within an average of 90 minutes from receiving a report of a fatal incident

Counter terrorism

Countering the terrorist threat will remain a key priority for both BTP and the railway industry during 2008-09. A number of other targets will be included within the Operations department plan, but due to the sensitivity of such data, they will not be published. BTP achieved its Chemical, Biological and Radiological (CBR) profiling target in 2007-08.

- To carry out CBR profiling to a defined target (target not published)
 - To implement and monitor a new Operation Alert policy
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National targets

Cable theft

The increasing problem of cable theft from the railway network, driven by world commodity prices, is significantly impacting on railway operations. Offenders attack live cabling and critical parts of the infrastructure where the impact can cause disruption for weeks or longer. BTP will disrupt, arrest and detect offenders engaged in this type of activity. The occurrence of cable theft offences is closely related to the market price of copper. If the price of copper rises above \$US9,000 per tonne on the London Metal Exchange, then the reduction target may be adjusted in consultation with the Cable Theft Gold Group. BTP recorded 2,027 cable-related offences in 2007-08, with a detection rate of 10%.

- **To reduce live cable-related offences by at least 5%**
- **To increase the number of offenders detected for cable-related offences from 2007-08 levels**
- **To seize assets and cash in connection with the investigation of cable-related offences to the value of at least £500,000**

Football

Football banning orders provide an effective punishment for people convicted of football-related disorder and can be used in addition to any fines or custodial sentences issued by the courts. BTP is committed to combating football hooliganism and ensuring the safe and orderly movement of sports fans on the rail system. A serious football-related offence is defined as one which is in a football context and has a serious impact on the railway or its staff, the public or the police. Types of offences include violent disorder, grievous bodily harm, serious criminal damage (£5,000 and above), any assault on railway staff or police, any sexual assault and any racially-motivated incident. During 2007-08, BTP successfully applied for 53 banning orders and reduced the number of serious football-related offences by 20%.

- **To obtain at least 63 football banning orders**
- **To reduce the number of serious football-related incidents by at least 5%**

Quality of service

BTP aims to provide a high quality of service regardless of why or how contact is made. This target measures the overall satisfaction of victims of crime with the service that BTP provides through the annual Victims of Crime Survey. BTP achieved an 80% satisfaction rate in 2007-08.

- **To achieve at least 80% overall victim satisfaction**

National targets

Contact management

BTP has recently implemented a contact management strategy to improve its resilience and call handling performance. Achievement of these targets will ensure that BTP manages its call handling effectively and is able to provide a quick response to those who need to make contact. BTP is currently achieving these targets, which are national targets contained within the National Call Handling Standards.

- **At least 90% of emergency calls to be answered within 10 seconds**
- **At least 90% of non-emergency calls to be answered within 40 seconds**

Efficiency

To deliver its objectives successfully, BTP will need to secure 2% year-on-year efficiency savings for reinvestment in order to meet growing demand and to continue to modernise. This target will be monitored and managed through the Frontline First programme.

- **Achieve at least 2% efficiency savings**

Persistent young offenders

This target is important in ensuring that young people are able to see the direct correlation between their actions and the consequences of those actions – the offence that they commit and the subsequent consequences in court. In order for this to take place, justice needs to be quick and effective. BTP's focus on this area has seen significant improvements in performance and BTP achieved an average of 95 days in 2007.

- **The average time from arrest to sentence to be no longer than 65 days**

Offences brought to justice

This target is intended to sustain improvements in BTP's criminal justice processes. In particular it complements efforts to improve the quality of case files, corporacy around criminal justice processes and performance management. The target measures the number of notifiable offences which result in a conviction, caution (youth offender equivalents of reprimand and final warning), cannabis street warning, penalty notice for disorder or are taken into consideration. This is another area where management focus has brought about considerable improvement in performance over the last year resulting in an end of year figure of 26%.

- **At least 27% of offences to be brought to justice**

National targets

Absence management

BTP is committed to achieving a high level of attendance from police officers, police staff and PCSOs, as this is essential to the maintenance of an efficient and effective policing service. BTP failed its 2007-08 targets with regard to sickness absence for police staff, officers and PCSOs. A substantial programme of action has been undertaken and setting this target for 2008-09 will provide further incentive for improvement. In 2007-08, BTP recorded an average of 10.4 days sickness absence for police staff and police officers and 10.5 days for PCSOs.

- **To achieve an average of less than eight days' sickness absence for BTP employees**

Recruitment and progression

BTP is committed to recruiting and retaining people from different backgrounds so that it can continue to develop a workforce that reflects the diversity of the UK population and travelling public. The recruitment targets have been changed from overall representation targets to targets which monitor the ethnicity and gender of newly-recruited officers. This allows for the HR department to be held more fully accountable and is also more reflective of the work that they do.

- **At least 14% of all police officers recruited to be from a BME background**
- **At least 25% of all police officers recruited to be female**
- **At least 6% of police officers promoted to be from a BME background**
- **At least 18% of police officers promoted to be female**

In 2007-08, BTP achieved its target with regard to female progression with performance of 27.4% against a target of 18%, but the BME progression target was failed with an end of year figure of 5.5% against a target of 5.9%. Both overall recruitment targets were failed with a female representation of 16.1% and BME representation of 6.1% against targets of 17.5% and 6.4% respectively.

London South Area targets

Violent and sexual assaults

BTP is committed to bringing those responsible for committing violent and sexual offences to justice. 956 violent and sexual offences were recorded in the London South Area in 2007-08 and 355 were detected.

- To reduce the number of violent and sexual offences
 - To increase the number of detections for violent and sexual offences
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Robbery

Robbery is a particularly unpleasant crime, and in order to emphasise the priority BTP places on combating it, all London Areas have specific robbery targets for 2008-09. There were 382 robbery offences recorded within the London South Area in 2007-08 and the detection rate was 42%.

- To reduce the number of robbery offences
 - To increase the number of detections for robbery offences
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Offensive weapons offences

BTP is committed to keeping knives and other offensive weapons off the railway system. This target complements BTP's Operation Shield, which is a national campaign to deter knife crime on Britain's railways. In 2007-08, 142 offensive weapons offences were detected.

- To increase the number of detections for offensive weapon offences
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Hate crime

BTP is determined to bring offenders to justice for this type of crime, which can often impact not only on the victim but on their family and the community as well. During 2007-08, London South Area detected 45% of hate crime offences.

- To detect at least 46% of hate crime offences
-

Staff assaults

Public servants deserve to be able to do their job without fear of harm and BTP will work in partnership to bring offenders who assault rail staff to justice. 629 staff assaults were recorded within the London South Area during 2007-08 and 287 were detected.

- To reduce the number of assaults on staff by at least 5%
 - To increase the number of detections for staff assaults
-

Route crime

Route crime offences against the railway infrastructure can lead to serious injury and serious disruption to the network. London South Area recorded 473 route crime offences in 2007-08.

- To reduce the number of route crime offences
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Theft of passenger property

Theft of passenger property offences account for 28% of notifiable offences recorded by BTP, and as such present a serious problem to both passengers and the industry. There were 3839 theft of passenger property offences recorded within the London South Area in 2007-08.

- To reduce the number of theft of passenger property offences
-

London South Area targets

Anti-social behaviour

BTP is committed to detecting anti-social behaviour offences, which has been identified as a key priority by rail passengers and staff. 2,138 offences were detected during 2007-08.

- To increase the number of detections for anti-social behaviour offences by 10%

Graffiti

These targets have been set to reflect the considerable importance London South's stakeholders place on the reduction and detection of graffiti offences. In 2007-08, 173 offences were recorded with a value of more than £1,000. 38 graffiti offences were detected within the South West Trains area and 125 were detected outside of it.

- To reduce the number of graffiti offences which damage property to the value of £1,000 or more
- To increase the number of detections for graffiti offences within the South West Trains Area by 50%
- To increase the number of detections for graffiti offences elsewhere on the Area by 5%

Ticket vending machine related offences

Ticket vending machine crime was highlighted as a particular problem for London South Area's stakeholders; specific targets have been set to reduce and detect offences. 287 offences were recorded during 2007-08 and 59 were detected.

- To reduce the number of ticket vending machine related offences
- To increase the number of detections for vending machine related offences

Trespass offences

Through local consultation with community partners, trespass was identified as a particular priority for the London South Area. 355 trespass offences were detected during 2007-08.

- To increase the number of detections for trespass offences by 10%

Neighbourhood policing

London South Area will continue to develop dedicated Neighbourhood Policing Teams to provide visible reassurance, joint problem solving and an intelligence-led approach to tackling the issues that matter most to the railway community. 383 offences were detected within areas patrolled by the Lewisham and Victoria Neighbourhood Policing Teams during 2007-08 and 199 were detected within the areas patrolled by the South West Trains Team.

- To increase the number of detections for offences committed on the area covered by the Lewisham and Victoria Neighbourhood Policing Teams
- To increase the number of detections for offences committed on the area covered by the South West Trains Neighbourhood Policing Team by 25%

Notifiable detections per officer

All of BTP's London Areas have included a target relating to detections per officer as it is a good indicator of efficiency and effectiveness. London South Area achieved 12 notifiable detections per officer in 2007-08, which is the highest of all BTP Areas.

- To maintain the number of notifiable detections per officer

Have your say

British Transport Police welcomes your feedback. To send us a comment or for additional information about British Transport Police, visit: www.btp.police.uk

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