



**BRITISH  
TRANSPORT  
POLICE**

**Agenda Item 5**

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**REPORT TO:** British Transport Police Authority  
**DATE:** 24 September 2009  
**SUBJECT:** Chief Constable's Report  
**SPONSOR:** Chief Constable  
**AUTHOR:** DI John McBride

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## **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide members with an overview of activity within British Transport Police (BTP) since the last Police Authority meeting in July 2009.

## **2. PERFORMANCE AGAINST 2009-10 POLICING PLAN**

2.1 It is pleasing to report that crime across the railway network continues to fall while detections have increased. 13 of the 14 national targets were achieved during the period 1 April to 13 September.

2.2 Key areas of performance to note include:

- Notifiable crime continues to fall, with 26,521 recorded offences
- The current detection rate for all crime is 34%
- Live cable related offences continue to decrease. 391 offences have been recorded
- 320 offenders have been detected for football related offences
- There have been 79 fatalities on the rail network from April to August, with an average clearance time of 79 minutes
- During the first 5 months of the 2009-10 plan both of the contact handling targets were achieved, with 92% of emergency calls being answered within 10 seconds, and 95% of non-emergency calls being answered within 40 seconds. This improvement in performance is due to the investment in the new control room and call handling structure within BTP
- The overall quality of service satisfaction rate of 87% is exceeding the target of 80%. All Areas are achieving this target



- The 3 sickness targets for police officers, PCSOs, and police staff (average sickness for the full year to be less than 8 days per person) have been combined into one target. From April to August average sickness levels are 3.1 days per employee. Performance in this area continues to be closely monitored due to the potential impact of swine flu which may, according to predictions, make the sickness targets challenging during the autumn / winter months

2.3 During the period 1 April to 31 August 57 of the 75 local targets were achieved. Key areas of performance to note include:-

- London North Area has detected 972 anti social behaviour offences against a target of 905 in operations designed to provide high visibility policing and reassurance to passengers and staff, as well as acting as a deterrent to criminals who operate on the rail network.
- London South continues efforts to reduce robbery crime. The high detection rate the Area achieves acting as a deterrent. Currently 63% of all robbery crimes are detected against a target of 49%.
- The North Eastern Area is currently detecting 63% of all Violence and Sexual Crimes against a year to date target of 57%.
- North Western Area has detected 561 anti social behaviour offences against a target of 485 in operations designed to improve partnership working, high visibility policing and reassurance to passengers and staff.
- Wales and Western Area have detected 502 route crimes against a year to date target of 360. Operation Tranquillity, targeting problematic areas agreed with partners, has enhanced partnership working.
- London Underground Area is detecting 57% of all robbery crime committed on the system. Significantly above the target of 36%.
- Stakeholder satisfaction, a measure agreed with partners and used in Scotland, is achieving a rate of 86%.



- 2.4 From April to September there were 27,563 notifiable crimes and 16,249 non-notifiable offences a reduction of 8% and 7% respectively against the same period last year.
- 2.5 The only target not currently being achieved is the promotion of BME officers. The main promotion boards however, do not take place until later in the year.
- 2.6 Attached at Appendix A is a table detailing current performance against all targets.

### **3. VISITS AND MEETINGS**

- 3.1 The new Chief Constable has embarked on a series of meetings around BTP setting out his agenda with senior colleagues on the challenges ahead and how BTP shapes itself to meet these. He is also using these to meet with senior industry partners to discuss his plans. These meetings are scheduled to continue over the next few months.
- 3.2 On 3<sup>rd</sup> September the T/Deputy Chief Constable attended a meeting with Area Commanders and Passenger Focus to establish the best way of working together to ensure that passengers are engaged in the policing plan process. Some excellent examples of passenger engagement were cited and best practice will be developed and distributed to Areas.
- 3.3 On 10<sup>th</sup> September the Chief Constable, T/Deputy Chief Constable and Chair of the Police Authority met Mike Mitchell for the bi-annual meeting at the DfT. Items discussed included an update on the Judicial Review and discussion on the Loan Agreement between BTP and DfT.
- 3.4 The Chief Constable met with the new Chair of Muslim Safety Forum Abdurahman Jafar and to build on relationships has met with the Deputy Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police and three Assistant Commissioners as well as the Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police.



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#### 4. OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES

- 4.1 On 22nd July, Ministers agreed in principle the Olympic Security Budget, requiring Government Departments to authorise Olympic expenditure in line with the Olympic Security Strategy using an Investment Appraisal procedure that will ensure security expenditure is contained within the available £600 million.
- 4.2 DfT has already agreed a BTP Olympic budget for expenditure of up to £9.4 million for the CSR period 2008/11. Following a best value review of our budget proposals for 2008/13 (2008/11 and the subsequent 20011/13), we managed to identify £2.5 million savings. However, this process also identified a £2.3 million shortfall in the budget allowed by the Home Office for Mutual Aid to BTP from Home Office Forces during Games time and an additional BTP Airwave requirement of £1.3 million. As a result, despite the best value savings, there has been a net increase in the BTP budget for 2008/13 of £1.1 million. The 2008/13 budget now stands at £29.4 million. This total budget will be agreed using DfT Investment Appraisal procedures. No problem is expected with reaching this agreement, but DfT have indicated that the Force should endeavour to make more savings in order to come within the previously identified £23.8 million.
- 4.3 ACC Stephen Thomas continues his role as the Olympic Security Directorate Transport Security Project Lead and National Co-ordinator for Cross Modal Olympic Transport Security. He works closely with DfT, TRANSEC, the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) and the London Organising Committee (LOCOG) to ensure that all of the necessary transport security arrangements are in place.
- 4.4 The BTP Olympic project continues to take forward its 98 work packages that will ensure that all necessary planning and security tasks are completed and robust and proportionate plans in place for 2012.
- 4.5 On 4th September, with ODA colleagues, BTP hosted the Rail Olympic Security Modal Group 2009 Risk Assessment Workshop, where 40 industry and BTP delegates reviewed the previous



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risk assessments carried out in 2007 and 2008, confirming that the previous risk mitigations were still fit for purpose and identifying any new risks.

- 4.6 As yet, no suitable BTP accommodation has been identified at Stratford Regional Station, but discussions continue on this subject with Network Rail and now National Express East Anglia. The Force is exploring with them the option of extending by one storey the current BTP premises at Stratford Regional Station and building a new public facing Neighbourhood Policing Base in available space on Platform 12.

## **5. Level Crossings**

- 5.1 Recently there have been a number of tragic incidents at level crossings. In Gwynedd an 80 year old local lady was killed when her car was struck on a rural user-controlled crossing by a locomotive conducting line tests. In Cambridgeshire a two year old boy was killed by a passenger train at an unmanned crossing.
- 5.2 BTP continues to work closely with Network Rail and Train Operators in enforcement and education. BTP provided significant support for the European level crossing day of action and a number of the BTP areas have level crossing work detailed in their Area Policing Plans.
- 5.3 BTP activity ranges from targeting offenders through level crossing enforcement cameras, innovative education schemes using interview material from a young offender whose two friends were killed when he drove through red lights at a crossing, to working in partnership with Network Rail and other partners to identify the most problematic crossings and devising a management plan.

## **6. EFFICIENCY PROGRAMME**

- 6.1 Work continues on the FrontlineFirst2 programme which includes reviews to identify where costs can be driven down and efficiency improved further. Where possible IT supplier contracts are



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being renegotiated and are expected to provide real savings. A paper, providing a full update is being presented under a separate agenda item

- 6.2 BTP has started modeling different options in view of the current economic and financial situation which will be presented to the special Strategy, Budget and Performance Monitoring meeting next month.

## **7. TASERS**

- 7.1 In July the Police Authority were updated on the developments around Tasers. Following a training course on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2009, the Force now has 2 lead trainers and 5 co-trainers.
- 7.2 A pilot, covering response team officers in urban areas, area support group officers or officers responding to remote locations, will establish which officers would benefit from having Taser as a use of force tactical option. The pilot will cover the following areas London, Manchester and Cardiff and will commence in mid October once training has been completed.
- 7.3 The Taser Officers' Course is 3 days and is strictly pass or fail. Officers will be required to take a written assessment and a qualification shoot. All elements of the course must be passed.

## **8. LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT**

- 8.1 HR is reducing overall costs by 20% over three years and is looking to provide a better service for less money.
- 8.2 The Learning and Development (L&D) Transformation project is progressing following the appointment of Peter Ward as the new Head of Department. Following the decision to move away from the Force Training Centre at Tadworth, Peter has researched and established an understanding of the needs of BTP and is developing an operating model that would support that business need in a new operating environment. BTP Estates has been looking for possible



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venues for a new Force Training Centre. A suitable site has been found near to Holloway Road, London.

The L&D Transformation Project has been split into 4 phases:

- Phase 1 – Identify and appoint the top tier of the new organisation structure
- Phase 2 – Expand the operating model and define the full organisation structure
- Phase 3 – Appoint to the full structure
- Phase 4 – Move from Tadworth to Holloway Road and transition from the old organisation structure to the new

Phase 1 is already underway, Phase 2 is due by December 2009, Phase 3 will be early 2010 and Phase 4 planned for end March 2010.

## **9. OPERATIONAL POLICING OVERVIEW**

- 9.1 The following section provides an overview of some of the recent operations and investigations that have taken place across BTP. The aim of this section of the report is to provide members with an overview of the type of crime that occurs on the rail network and the investigation that subsequently follows.
- 9.2 The Chief Constable is determined to improve visibility, improve performance and responsiveness and make officers more approachable and has implemented a single officer patrol strategy. This will be based around proximity patrolling, providing speedy backup for officers when necessary. It will increase officer visibility and availability and is designed to positively influence confidence levels. It will be implemented with additional guidance to encourage increased interaction with staff and the public by officers.
- 9.3 An Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) investigation into BTP's management and investigation of the death of Cheryl Flanagan on the Midland Metro in 2002 has been received. The report makes criticism of the procedures in place at that time, some decision



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making and command responsibilities and training. The report makes a number of recommendations. A Gold Group has been formed under the T/Deputy Chief Constable to review the recommendations and respond.

#### 9.4 **Operations Chicago and Velocity**

These two operations were designed to combat anti-social behaviour and general criminality on the rail system in South East London area during August. The police activity resulted 244 offences being detected, these included fare evasion, public order, robbery, possession of offensive weapons, trespass and drugs.

#### 9.5 **Operation Flatline**

Operation Flatline was a protracted and in depth investigation into a large scale Conspiracy to Steal from ATM cash machines across the Country and involved a large number of offences and offenders. As a result of the investigation and subsequent charges there were Guilty pleas from all but one defendant. It culminated in sentencing for 11 out of 12 offenders, as one is still wanted for sentence. So far, all have received terms of imprisonment. The presiding trial judge commended the investigation team.

#### 9.6 **Grievous Bodily Harm - Deptford**

On 24<sup>th</sup> July, a 40 year old male was seriously assaulted at Deptford railway station following an argument on a train with two other males in their early twenties. The victim suffered serious head injuries and underwent surgery to remove a blood clot in his brain. Medical opinion was that he would die over the weekend. However, he made a remarkable recovery despite contracting MRSA whilst in hospital, and has now returned to Switzerland. The investigation identified two offenders, who were related to each other. They have been arrested and charged with causing GBH with intent. One is in custody and the other on bail awaiting trial. The Major Investigation Team made excellent use of CCTV and worked closely with local media to identify the culprits.





## 9.7 Football Policing

The new football season has placed a huge demand on police resources in the policing of football matches across the country. The Chief Constable has undertaken a number of media interviews (BBC Football Focus, The Today programme, Radio 5 Live and LBC Radio) outlining the demands on BTP of policing football and the issues faced by BTP around cost recovery.

It has been a violent start to the new season with large scale fighting and disorder at Stonehaven, Newcastle and London. Football is a 6 day commitment that runs for 10 months of the year. The following data gives an overview of the scale of recent incidents and arrests on the rail network:

- BTP have made 93 arrests / reports (where a person was arrested, reported, cautioned, or issues with a fixed penalty notice) for football related offences.
- There were 12 serious football incidents (serious impact on the railway, staff, passengers or police). This includes violent disorder, GBH, serious disruption to the rail network, serious criminal damage above £5000, staff assault, sexual assault or racially motivated assault.
- There were 104 football impact factors (an incident caused by the presence of football fans on the rail network). An impact factor includes low level disorder, anti social behaviour, breach of conditions of carriage or bye laws, fare evasion, and misuse of drugs. Alcohol is a key contributing factor to football related disorder offences which relates to the majority of the increase over last year in this type of offence.

## 9.8 Counter Terrorism and Domestic Extremism

The move in the national threat level from SEVERE to SUBSTANTIAL was mirrored by the change in the threat to railways and the London Underground. However SUBSTANTIAL still represents a high level of threat ('an attack is a strong possibility'). It is assessed that the railway remains a highly attractive target for international terrorists. The security response levels for the industry as described in the National Railways Security Programme (NRSP) remain the same at



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the new threat level. As a consequence of the change BTP has re-examined the areas on the network subject to authorised powers under section 44 of the Terrorism Act. These will remain under review.

The recent conviction of individuals concerned in the airline plot has served to remind the general public and railway staff of the ever present challenge of combating terrorism. The sentencing of a man for having home made incendiary devices after being arrested at a rural station has raised the profile of the threat from extreme political groups.

The continuing high level of activity by dissident republican groups in Northern Ireland is a cause for concern and in force systems for dealing with threats posed by these groups have been refreshed.

The emergence of the England and Wales Defence League (a right wing organisation) and recent violent demonstrations in Birmingham and London between this group and anti fascists has the potential to place significant demands on BTP. There are natural links between the right wing and a small but significant minority of football hooligans. BTP is monitoring the situation.

The BTPA member with responsibility for CT matters is updated in detail on relevant matters by a programme of meetings / briefings.

#### 9.9 **Protests**

There have been a number of large environmental protests policed by the force including climate camps in Douglas Lanarkshire, Blackheath London, Merthyr Tydfil and most recently Bristol. These like previous protests at the Drax and Kingsnorth power stations often attract significant media coverage, are often high profile and have the potential to disrupt elements of the national infrastructure.



Meanwhile, 4 people pleaded guilty to their involvement in the Ravenstruther, Lanarkshire (open coal mining) protests where they 'locked on' to conveyors carrying coal to freight trains. Each was fined at Lanark Sheriff Court.

29 protesters who hijacked a freight train carrying coal to Drax Power Station have been found guilty of obstructing the railways at Leeds Crown Court. Sentences ranged from unpaid community work, costs and compensation to Network Rail and conditional discharges.

#### 9.10 **Robbery at West Bromwich**

A 91 year old lady had her possessions stolen and suffered a fractured shoulder, deep laceration to her right eye brow, and grazing to her knees and wrist during a robbery at the Trinity Way Tramstop West Bromwich. CCTV, house to house and neighbourhood enquiries have so far proved unsuccessful. Further enquiries regarding intelligence, known offenders and information as a result of media appeals are continuing.

#### 9.11 **Public Order and Events**

Events and football policing has contributed to a busy period for BTP. The Home Nations have been involved in World Cup qualifying matches recently with England hosting Slovenia and Croatia at Wembley. Each fixture attracted capacity crowds of 80,000 supporters. In Glasgow, Scotland played Macedonia and The Netherlands with 52,000 supporters attending each game and in Cardiff Wales met Russia at the Millenium stadium attracting 14,000 fans.

Climate camp demonstrations have been held around the country and BTP has continued to police these in partnership with local police forces at an appropriate level to the threat posed. Camps have taken place over the summer in Lanarkshire, Merthyr Tydfil, Blackheath London and Bristol.

Large music festivals attracting tens of thousands have been held over the summer at Reading, Chelmsford, Stafford, Fife and Leeds. BTP has provided support to local police and industry partners during these major events.



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A successful police operation in conjunction with the Metropolitan Police was mounted to minimise any disruption or disorder associated with the Defence Systems and Equipment International Exhibition (DSEI) which took place in Docklands. This operation lasted for 5 days and 110 officers were committed each day.

The policing operation for the Notting Hill Carnival was extremely successful. This joint policing operation with the Metropolitan Police saw over 700 BTP officers on patrol leading to 66 arrests.

# 2009-10 POLICING PLAN: NATIONAL TARGETS

Updated to: **13 Sep 2009**

Targets N1- N3, N5 are updated to: 13 Sep 2009 (Last month to: 16 Aug 2009 )  
 Targets N4, N6- N7c are updated to: 31 Aug 2009 (Last month to: 31 Jul 2009 )

Key:  
GREEN Achieving target  
AMBER Failing target by < 5%  
RED Failing target by ≥ 5%

	LONDON NORTH	LONDON SOUTH	LONDON UNDERGROUND	NORTH EASTERN	NORTH WESTERN	SCOTTISH	WALES & WESTERN	FHQ	BTP TOTAL
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## N1 Reduce notifiable crime (excl. "police generated crime")

YTD Performance	5509	6457	5898	2498	2132	1014	3013		26521
YTD Target	5751	6883	6061	2807	2121	983	2875		27480
Last month performance	4582	5451	4926	2098	1787	898	2549		22291
Last month target	4781	5722	5038	2334	1763	817	2390		22845
Better/worse	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑		↑
Same period last year	6152	7412	5897	3119	2287	1083	2944		28894

## N2 Achieve a detection rate of at least 33% for notifiable offences

YTD Performance	36%	34%	29%	35%	42%	38%	36%		34%
Target	33%	32%	30%	34%	43%	38%	34%		33%
Last month performance	35%	33%	28%	35%	39%	35%	36%		33%
Last month target	33%	32%	30%	34%	43%	38%	34%		33%
Better/worse	↑	↑	↑	↓	↑	↑	↓		↑
Same period last year	30%	32%	31%	29%	40%	36%	32%		32%

## N3 Reduce live cable related offences by 2% (excl. LU Area)

YTD Performance	58	20	1	195	31	7	80		391
YTD Target	62	47	-	268	42	11	97		524
Last month performance	52	14	1	154	24	7	69		320
Last month target	52	39	-	223	35	9	81		436
Better/worse	↑	↓	-	↓	↓	↑	↑		↓
Same period last year	82	80	12	380	51	16	126		735

## N4 On average, clear fatalities within 90 minutes

YTD Performance (mins)	77	76	72	70	81	83	95		79
Target (mins)	90	90	90	90	90	90	90		90
Last month performance	77	64	72	70	81	76	97		75
Last month target	90	90	90	90	90	90	90		90
Better/worse	↓	↓	↓	←	←	↓	↑		↓
Same period last year	70	82	82	71	72	77	68		73

## N5 Increase the number of offenders detected for football related offences by 7%

YTD Performance	39	14	28	77	35	30	97		320
YTD Target	22	11	17	48	24	15	45		185
Last month performance	26	14	24	64	25	23	88		264
Last month target	8	10	17	42	17	7	42		145
Better/worse	↓	↓	↑	↑	↓	↓	↑		↓
Same period last year	20	10	16	46	23	15	43		173

## N6 Quality of Service: Achieve overall victim satisfaction of at least 80%

YTD Performance	84%	85%	89%	88%	90%	91%	87%		87%
Target	80%	80%	80%	80%	80%	80%	80%		80%
Last month performance	84%	85%	90%	89%	90%	95%	87%		87%
Last month target	80%	80%	80%	80%	80%	80%	80%		80%
Better/worse	↑	↑	↓	↓	↑	↓	↑		↓
Same period last year	77%	74%	85%	83%	83%	79%	80%		80%

## N7 Average sickness per employee to be less than eight days

YTD Performance	3.00	2.76	2.39	3.44	4.14	4.67	3.33	3.06	3.10
YTD Target	3.33	3.33	3.33	3.33	3.33	3.33	3.33	3.33	3.33
Last month performance	2.36	1.93	1.88	2.52	3.15	3.78	2.79	2.32	2.39
Last month target	2.67	2.67	2.67	2.67	2.67	2.67	2.67	2.67	2.67
Better/worse	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↑	↑	↓	↓
Same period last year	3.31	3.41	3.24	3.33	3.17	5.19	3.64	2.28	3.20

## N7a Average sickness per police officer to be less than eight days

YTD Performance	3.53	2.41	1.99	3.80	3.84	5.00	3.43	3.34	3.14
YTD Target	3.33	3.33	3.33	3.33	3.33	3.33	3.33	3.33	3.33
Last month performance	2.83	1.66	1.65	2.81	2.99	4.02	2.97	2.59	2.48
Last month target	2.67	2.67	2.67	2.67	2.67	2.67	2.67	2.67	2.67
Better/worse	↑	↓	↑	↓	↓	↑	↑	↓	↓
Same period last year	3.78	2.60	2.74	3.62	3.21	5.29	4.38	2.32	3.30

## N7b Average sickness per PCSO to be less than eight days

YTD Performance	1.98	2.46	5.30	3.78	6.25	N/A	5.74		3.70
YTD Target	3.33	3.33	3.33	3.33	3.33	N/A	3.33		3.33
Last month performance	1.30	1.68	3.37	2.84	4.52	N/A	4.75		2.64
Last month target	2.67	2.67	2.67	2.67	2.67	N/A	2.67		2.67
Better/worse	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓		↑		↓
Same period last year	1.64	7.24	5.70	3.93	1.52	N/A	0.95		3.17

## N7c Average sickness per staff employee to be less than eight days

YTD Performance	1.69	4.48	2.97	2.06	4.19	1.67	1.39	2.90	2.84
YTD Target	3.33	3.33	3.33	3.33	3.33	3.33	3.33	3.33	3.33
Last month performance	1.36	3.25	2.25	1.42	3.03	1.58	0.89	2.17	2.12
Last month target	2.67	2.67	2.67	2.67	2.67	2.67	2.67	2.67	2.67
Better/worse	↑	↓	↓	↓	↓	↑	↓	↓	↓
Same period last year	2.99	4.45	4.86	2.36	3.85	4.49	2.01	2.27	3.00