

BRITISH TRANSPORT POLICE AUTHORITY

MINUTES

BRITISH TRANSPORT POLICE AUTHORITY
2ND NOVEMBER 2004, 10.00AM

at

THE LAW SOCIETY, CHANCERY LANE, LONDON

Present: Sir Alistair Graham (Chair)
Sir David O'Dowd
Mr M Brown
Mr M Holden
Mr K Ludeman
Mr L Adams
Mr J King
Mrs W Towers
Ms C Knights

Apologies: Suzanne May
Mr R Gisby

In attendance: Mr I Johnston, Chief Constable
Mr A Trotter, Deputy Chief Constable
Mr P Robb, Assistant Chief Constable
Mr P Nicholas, Assistant Chief Constable
Mr D McCall, Assistant Chief Constable
Ms S Budden, Director of Finance and Corporate Affairs
Mr S Thomas, Director of Human Resources
Mr P Zieminski, Chief Superintendent

Mr R Hemmings, Chief Executive & Clerk
Ms D McGovern, Deputy Clerk & Minutes
Mrs L Pike, Treasurer
Miss L Bryant, PA

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67/2004 APOLOGIES

Non-Agenda

Sir Alistair gave two apologies for the meeting, from Suzanne May and Mr Gisby.

68/2004 MINUTES OF MEETING 21ST SEPTEMBER 2004

Agenda Item 1

The Authority received and **approved** the minutes.

69/2004 MATTERS ARISING/ACTIONS OUTSTANDING

Agenda Item 2

- It was confirmed Mr Johnston would attend the December ATOC meeting.
- PSA holders had been informed of the increase in the budget. Mr Holden asked when this would impact, and was informed it would be within the next two weeks.
- Representation had been made to DfT with regards to capital for 04/05, but so far had been unsuccessful, and the Force remained with half its capital budget for 2004/5.
- The situation with EWS had been researched and it was concluded they were not in fundamental breach of their PSA, therefore it was not void, therefore no offence was being committed. The Authority wished it minuted that the fact EWS had been able to withhold payment, and the fact that the dispute was taking so long was **very unsatisfactory**.

70/2004 COMMITTEE ISSUES

Agenda Item 3

- Mrs Towers stated the Professional Standards Committee meeting had been inquorate, and requested the quora be reviewed.
- Ms Knights confirmed the Human Resources and Remuneration committee had had its first meeting and had developed a workplan to review policies and issues
- Mr King reported the Stakeholder audit was ongoing and Phase I would be reported to the next meeting.

ACTION: Mr Hemmings to review Committee quora

71/2004 CHANNEL TUNNEL RAIL LINK

Agenda Item 4

Mr Trotter spoke to his report, and confirmed there was now a full-time resource at FHQ to take this forward. Sir Alistair asked if there were any issues around CCTV. It was confirmed that LCR would not integrate their CCTV with the rest of the London stations, despite continued advice/pressure from the Force. It was **agreed** that the Authority would support the Force in this. Ms McGovern confirmed that PSAs existed with LCR, Eurostar, Network Rail and Network Rail (CTRL). This left the future operators of Ebbsfleet and Stratford, however under s33 & 34 of the RTSA 2003, they would be required to hold a PSA. The Authority expressed concern over the

possibility that BTP may not be considered to police St. Pancras. Mr Trotter confirmed that he continued in discussions with the MPS, however nobody had any clarity over what the end product would look like. Mr Brown reminded the Authority that CTRL was linked into the Olympic bid, and that BTP/BTPA would need to be alert to any funding opportunities. The Authority **noted** the report.

ACTION: Secretariat to write to LCR regarding CCTV and future policing
Mr Gisby to feedback his Stakeholder Interview with LCR to Mr Trotter and Ms McGovern

72/2004
Agenda Item 5

BUDGET UPDATE 2005/6

Ms Budden spoke to her report outlining the projected cost pressures of a minimum £18.5m for 2005/6. This included £10m unavoidable costs, mainly pensions and VAT, and £8m arising from the supplementary budget for 2004/5. It was noted that Home Office Forces were predicting an increase of 5.7% to stand still, and that these Forces had not had the legacy of underfunding BTP had. Sir Alistair confirmed that he had met with Sue Killen and the Minister and emphasised the fact that there would be a crisis if DfT did not deliver the capital funding they had promised. Sir Alistair also reported that the Secretary of State had written to the Treasury with regards to extending the VAT dispensation. Mr Ludeman requested the pressure on DfT be maintained and asked if there were any updates on the disputes. Mr Hemmings reported that the situation had not progressed since the last Authority meeting in September.

Ms Budden confirmed that the budget process and the Strategic and Policing Plan process were occurring in parallel. Ms Budden further confirmed that the Force were examining (with the auditors) ways to switch expenditure between capital and revenue, for example leasing new dog vans rather than buying them. Mr Brown advised caution in the way BTPA exerted itself in this issue, whilst Mr Johnston felt that the Transport Select Committee were likely to call him again for an update. It was **agreed** that the issue of capital funding was causing problems in establishing a new relationship with DfT, and that the DfT were currently vulnerable in this regard.

73/2004
Agenda Item 6

REVIEW OF BTP

Mr Hemmings spoke to his report, which outlined a number of actions for the Authority to progress. It was confirmed that at each meeting with Sue Killen, each party come with an progress update. The action plan was **agreed**.

ACTION: Report from Chief Constable on counter-terrorism for December meeting
Authority to meet with Home Office re: central funding for national initiatives

74/2004 **COMPLEMENTARY POLICING**

Agenda Item 7

ACC Nicholas updated the situation with regards to complementary policing. A number of companies had expressed an interest in accreditation and the Force was currently considering how best to market this. The SWT Travel safe scheme was currently being subject to an independent review, and the results of this would provide further best practice.

There had been 2000 requests for information on PCSOs, some of these were from existing PCSOs from other Forces. This meant that the Force looked well able to reach its target for recruiting PCSOs. An Inspector had been appointed to co-ordinate the PCSOs and admin support was due to be appointed that week. The issue of clarity over powers for PCSOs was discussed, and ACC Nicholas stated that BTP PCSOs would have a wide range of powers, including bye-laws but stopping short of handcuffs.

The Force currently had 223 Specials, which exceeded the number in similar size Forces. 57 of these Specials were industry sponsored. It was agreed that Specials needed careful management, both by BTP and by the industry (where they were sponsored), and noted that each Special cost around £2000 per year. This was offset by the number who subsequently joined a police Force. ACC Nicholas stated the Force was developing a careful marketing and education strategy in line with HMIC recommendations. Sir Alistair asked whether there were any gaps around the country. ACC Nicholas stated that to date there were in fact few schemes running: North West were taking forward PCSOs; North East had taken forward Sponsored Specials, and there were also the Sponsored Specials at South Eastern Trains and The Travel Safe scheme at SWT.

It was agreed that successful marketing of these schemes was important, specifically in respect of being able to get the message to the right people, and of selling the business benefits to companies. Mr Brown agreed that the best advocates were the industry themselves, and LU had some very positive experiences to contribute.

In response to a question from Ms Knights, ACC Robb updated on the FPN pilot, with the options going forward being to use a central provider (eg WMP or MPS), go through the RPSS at Portsmouth, or plug into the new Home Office system if funding was available. The report was **noted**.

75/2004 **AOB**

There was no AOB raised.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 7th December 2004,
10.00am at BMA House, Southampton Row, London**

Signed.....

Chairman

There was no Part II (private) meeting. The Authority had a seminar discussion about the development of the three year Strategic Plan and the Annual Policing Plan for 2005/6.