



**BRITISH
TRANSPORT
POLICE**

Agenda Item 3

REPORT TO: British Transport Police Authority
DATE: 8 July 2010
SUBJECT: Chief Constable's Report
SPONSOR: Chief Constable
AUTHOR: PI Robin Edwards

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an overview of operational activity within British Transport Police (BTP) since the last report to the British Transport Police Authority (BTPA) at its meeting in May 2010.

2. PERFORMANCE AGAINST POLICING PLAN

2.1 The 2010 - 2011 Policing Plan year commenced at the beginning of April. In the period from 1 April to 27 June BTP is achieving 7 of the 15 national targets set in the Plan.

2.2 Key areas of performance of note from the national targets include;

- The average time taken to release operational railway lines back to the industry following non Suspicious Fatalities is currently 80 minutes against a target of 90 minutes
- The target of 80%, to respond to all immediate-grade incidents within 20 minutes is being exceeded. The current performance is 90%
- BTP is currently achieving 87% in Quality of Service against a target of 80%
- BTP is achieving its performance objective in relation to the level of representation of female officers, currently 16% and BME officers 6.5%.
- Police staff sickness levels are within target with 1.27 days per employee against a target of 1.28 days.



2.3 Areas where national Policing Plan objectives have yet to be achieved include:

- Live Cable Offences, where recorded crime is 389 against a target of 212
- Notifiable recorded crime is currently 13,689 or 1.8% above the target of 13,442. However, when compared to the same period last year there has been an improvement with 590 fewer offences recorded
- The number of detections for staff assault is 334 against a target of 353.
- There are 938 serious violence, sexual and robbery crimes recorded against a target of 928. Compared to last year there has been a significant improvement when in the same period the recorded figure was 1,004 offences. The offenders brought to justice target is currently 27% against a target of 31%. The comparable figure for last year was 23%
- The number of offenders detected for anti-social behaviour between 8pm and 2am is currently 1,117 against a target of 1,235. Last month saw the number off offenders detected rise to 645 demonstrating a significant improvement in performance.

2.4 Live Cable related offences continue to increase. There is a direct correlation between thefts of metal and commodity prices on the world stock exchanges. 389 offences have been recorded against a target of 212. The North Eastern Area has recorded the highest level of offences (215) and accounts for 55% of all BTP crimes in this category. Operation Unity commences on the 6 July 2010 in the Middlesbrough area and will run for two weeks. Ten additional officers will be imbedded in the North East Area to disrupt and identify volume metal thieves. A media appeal will be held which will focus on a £5000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of offenders.

2.5 Of the local targets in the Policing Plan the key areas of performance to note are;

- London Underground Area is achieving 8 of the 11 local targets. The most notable being Theft of Passenger Property (TPP) with 1,399 recorded offences against a target of 1638. Recorded offences to last year were 1,655 which highlight a significant improvement in year on year performance. Detections for TPP currently stand at 130 against a target of 84



- London South Area is achieving 5 of the 7 local objectives with the most notable being Neighbourhood Initiatives at 162 against a target of 54 and Antisocial Behaviour offence detections are 936 against a target of 721
- London North Area is achieving 3 of the 8 local targets with the most notable being Route Crime detections which are currently 212 against a target of 202.
- North Eastern Area is achieving 1 of its 4 local objectives with Staff Assault incidents at 108 against a target of 138.
- North Western Area is achieving 2 of the 4 local targets with Staff Assault incidents at 78 against a target of 111.
- Wales and Western Area is achieving 1 of its 2 targets with Anti Social Behaviour Problem Solving Profiles at 5 against a target of 4.
- The Scottish Area is achieving 1 of its 2 local targets with 19 Sectarian offences detected against a target of 4.

3. 2012 OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES

- 3.1 The BTP 2008-13 Olympic budget of £24.9 million was agreed by the Department for Transport (DfT) Rail Investment Board on 11 November 2009, with the direction that BTP should make all efforts to reduce it to £23.8 million. This has now been achieved through efficiency savings made in 2009/10 and identified savings to be made in 2010-11.
- 3.2 The BTP Olympic Project continues to take forward its 122 work packages with 68 now completed that will ensure that all necessary planning and security tasks are completed. The project works closely with the Olympic Security Directorates Transport Security Project, the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA), (DfT), TRANSEC, Transport for London (TfL), London Underground, Network Rail (NWR) and Rail Operators.
- 3.3 Letters of intent have been exchanged with the ODA for the BTP briefing and feeding accommodation at Stratford, which is their regional control centre. A memorandum of understanding has been signed with the University of Hertfordshire for the accommodation of



BTP officers, police staff and mutual aid officers during the games. A contract and deposit will be exchanged in July 2011.

- 3.4 A Rail Model Working Group meeting took place on the 10 June 2010, attended by representatives from the BTP, the ODA, DfT, TRANSEC, TfL, London Underground, Dockland Light Railway (DLR), NWR and Rail operators. There were a number of presentations at the meeting with ACC Thomas outlining the lessons from the Vancouver Winter Olympics. The next meeting is on the 3 September 2010.

4. NATIONAL ACPO CABLE THEFT CONFERENCE

- 4.1 This national conference was held in Leeds on 14 June 2010. Deputy Chief Constable Paul Crowther in his national role as ACPO lead on conductive metal theft opened the conference and delivered the keynote address. The conference highlighted areas of investigative and stakeholder management good practice as well as identifying vulnerabilities for affected industries across Britain.
- 4.2 The conference attracted delegates from Home Office Forces and a wide range of industry representatives were present to discuss the issues of metal theft and explore methods of crime reduction. Following the conference an ACPO day of action will take place on the 14 July 2010 involving the BTP, Home Office Forces and Industry to tackle metal theft. All industry partners have been encouraged to use SIRS an Electricity De France (EDF) run data base used to record and map offences. The ACPO Metal Theft group will be meeting in August and one of the agenda items will be the possible introduction of a task force specifically to tackle metal theft.
- 4.3 A conservative estimate puts the cost of metal theft to UK businesses at around £700 million each year. Ian Hetherington, Director General of the British Metal Recycling Association (BMRA) stressed that the organisation has been working with police forces to ensure errant scrap metal dealers are punished without criminalising or victimising the whole industry. He estimated that 13 million tonnes of scrap metal were processed in total within the UK, with stolen metal



accounting for around 10,000 tonnes. The BMRA is currently finalising a code of practice for its members which will be produced shortly.

5. GENERAL ELECTION

- 5.1 Operation Opener, BTP's response to the movement of protected persons by rail during the General Election has now concluded. During the 32 day period leading up to the election 180 protected persons travelled by rail at very short notice. The Operation, which was affected by the closure of UK airspace due to volcanic ash, was finalised with no significant incidents being reported. A de-brief will be held shortly to capture any learning points for future operations and to improve efficiency and operational effectiveness.

6. MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- 6.1 The Chief Constable met with Vic Hogg, the senior Home Office civil servant responsible for the introduction of the new Government's proposal for a National Border Police Force (NBPF). The Government plans are at an early stage and the Chief Constable has also met with ACPO colleagues to discuss the proposals to help inform Mr Hogg's advice to Ministers on how such a force might operate in practice. The Chief Constable recognises there are opportunities, for those responsible for the implementation of the NBPF, to draw on the experience of BTP's unique national operating environment, infrastructure and stakeholder relations that will be beneficial.
- 6.2 The Chief Constable attended the DfT National Networks Group on 24 June and talked about the role of the BTP and the operational challenges. The Group were particularly interested to hear of BTP's preparations for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games and also the challenges around cable theft and the policing of football.
- 6.3 The Chief Constable attended the London First Leadership Exchange Programme. This is a joint mentoring initiative facilitated by London First for the benefit of senior police officers and staff and business leaders. This innovative programme, which partners senior Metropolitan Police,



City of London Police and BTP staff with business leaders, brings fresh perspectives to the working environment which can lead to creative and collaborative problem solving. A number of staff will be attending the programme this year.

- 6.4 Two BTP officers were recognised in Her Majesty's Birthday Honours announced in June. Superintendent Phil Trendall who was recognised for his service to policing was awarded the Queens Police Medal and Police Constable Zahir Amhed who is the chair of the Association of Muslim Police (AMP) was awarded the MBE for services to policing.
- 6.5 The Chief Constable has embarked on a series of 'Meet the Chief' sessions around BTP and so far London North, London South and London Underground Areas have participated. The sessions with police staff allow for an exchange of views on a wide variety of topics and issues effecting BTP. Dates for the remaining Areas and FHQ are scheduled.

7. COUNTER TERRORISM (CT) AND DOMESTIC EXTREMISM

- 7.1 BTP continues to work with colleagues to monitor developments in Northern Ireland where there have been continuing attacks aimed at the police and wider Criminal Justice System. Attacks on the railway infrastructure are of specific interest and are assessed to see if the capability exists to transfer such tactics to the mainland.
- 7.2 BTP resources continue to work with colleagues to assist with the policing of demonstrations organised by the three Defence Leagues (English / Welsh and Scottish) and the resultant counter-demonstrations which, are becoming regular events throughout the country and have the potential to pose a threat to public safety. These events have in the past impacted on the railway network and those who work on it and use it.

8. FOOTBALL POLICING

- 8.1 The end of football season revealed an increase in serious football related incidents that affected the railway, its staff and passengers - rising from 51 incidents during the 2008-09



football season to 68 incidents last year. There was also an increase in the number of incidents that impacted on the railway with an increase from 538 during 2008-09 to 582 during 2009-10. There was also a slight reduction in arrests, from 838 to 743.

- 8.2 BTP established an operation following a violent confrontation between Leeds United supporters and Bradford City supporters. Operation Chariot saw Seven men from Leeds sentenced at Leeds Crown Court on the 25 May, after pleading guilty to violent disorder at Leeds City station on 21 March 2009.

The Leeds supporters, aged between 17 and 21, armed with sticks and planks of wood which they used as weapons attacked the train and passengers onboard, including the driver, in order to get at a group of Bradford supporters as the train pulled into the station. During the attack two passengers were injured and a number of windows were broken. Many other passengers including children on board the service were traumatised by the incident

BTP officers undertook an extensive investigation involving CCTV retrieval in and around the station, forensic evidence was recovered from the scene and detailed witness statements were obtained. Officers utilised social networking sites to identify the suspects.

- 8.3 On 6 March following disorder in Weymouth by a group of 100 Newport County fans BTP officers escorted the group back to Newport. The escort had to be supplemented by additional resources and partially by Dorset Police (as far as Dorchester) as a result of the behaviour of the fans. As the journey progressed, the fans became increasingly aggressive towards the escorting officers. On arrival at Bristol, the service was met by officers who arrested the main offenders. Due to the level of aggression and violence offered officers had to deploy CAPTOR spray and draw their batons. After a brief stand-off, the remaining members of the group were escorted back to Newport.



9. TASER

- 9.1 The BTP TASER pilot which commenced on the 19 November 2009 at six locations was completed in May 2010. BTP currently has 103 trained TASER officers. During the pilot there were 26 deployments of TASER during 22 incidents. Feedback from officers who have been involved in the pilot has been very positive. There is broad agreement on the effectiveness of the device, to bring control to otherwise heated and difficult situations thus preventing any escalating action.
- 9.2 Of the 26 deployments of TASER there were three instances where a red dot (laser sight) was placed on a subject. Following the successful conclusion of the pilot there has been 1 TASER firing where the barbs were discharged. The discharge took place in Manchester on the 11 June 2010. A violent male was arrested by two off duty Greater Manchester Police Officers after threatening to stab the Conductor. One of the officers was assaulted by the suspect during the arrest but no knife was found. The suspect was taken to the custody suite in the secure cage of a BTP police vehicle, but during the journey he was able to remove his handcuffs. He offered significant aggression towards the officers and refused to comply with any of their instructions. He was eventually TASERED which resulted in one barb striking his arm and the other his chest. He immediately collapsed and was restrained by officers. The suspect suffered no injuries as a result of the discharge and no further officers were injured.
- 9.3 The initial findings from the pilot suggest the deployment of TASER has been a success. The Strategic Command Team will consider a report on the pilot which provides options for the future use of the device.

10. OPERATIONAL POLICING OVERVIEW

- 10.1 This following section provides Members with an overview of some of the recent operations and investigations that have taken place across BTP.



GRAFFITI OFFENDERS JAILED

10.2 Operation Quartz was a BTP operation concerning conspiracy to cause graffiti to London Underground between 2006 and 2010. The investigation involved officers from London South, Home Office forces and London Underground. BTP High Tech Crime Unit assisted officers with detailed analysis of computers, mobile phones and cell site data. Area Intelligence Bureaux from London Underground and London South provided a high level of intelligence supported by the Scientific Support Unit who assisted with forensic examination of exhibits seized during the course of the investigation. This case generated a high level of interest from the media and was covered by national media organisations. Six defendants were all jailed for a total of five years. The cost of the damage was £275,000.

A prolific graffiti vandal was jailed at Bristol Crown Court following an extensive investigation by BTP and Avon & Somerset Constabulary. The culprit caused widespread damage 2005 and 2009 writing the tags of 'OSNE' and 'ENSO' and was also a member of the Scum For Life (SFL) graffiti crew. He travelled extensively throughout the UK and Europe, with his tags becoming a regular feature on trains in London and then in Bristol. He was convicted of a total of 46 offences which were valued at £86,000. Evidence seized from the culprit's computer and phone, CCTV images from an offence in Bristol and forensics on a spray paint can from Blackfriars Railway Station all provided an overwhelming case and resulted in a unanimous guilty verdict from the Crown Court jury.

He was given an 18 month custodial sentence and an order was made for the destruction of all graffiti related paraphernalia including computers and mobile phones. The investigating officer, DC Saysell was commended by the trial judge.

ROBBERY - LADBROKE GROVE

10.3 Following a thorough investigation BTP officer's charged an offender who was responsible for attempted robbery to appear before Southwark Crown Court in June. The defendant, who pleaded guilty attempted to rob a mobile phone from the victim who was on his way to play



football and used his phone to obtain directions as he stood by the entrance to Ladbrooke Grove station. The offender tried to wrestle the phone out of his hand before assaulting him; the victim managed to fend off the attacker and retreated into the station as the offender fled. CCTV was seized and after careful viewing by BTP officers investigating the crime they were able to produce a picture for circulation. The offender was subsequently identified by a police officer from the images circulated across BTP and the Metropolitan Police intelligence systems.

ROBBERIES ON THE DISTRICT LINE

- 10.4 A male who committed three robberies on the District Line in East London was jailed for five years following a BTP investigation that involved CCTV and witness identification. The male used threats of violence to force his victims to hand over their mobile phones. On the third occasion he produced a knife to the victim in order to carry out the robbery which highlighted an escalation in the level of violence offered to the victims. The suspect was identified from CCTV images that were circulated which resulted in him being charged with all three crimes.

THEFT FROM TICKET MACHINES - DOCKLANDS

- 10.5 A prolific thief who stole coins from Docklands Light Railway (DLR) ticket vending machines was jailed for four months and banned from using the network for two years after BTP officers successfully applied for and were granted an Anti-Social Behaviour Order (ASBO) against him. The offender appeared before City of Westminster Magistrates in April and was jailed following the hearing.

The male stole from a number of DLR ticket machines over two months between January and February 2010 using a tool he had fashioned to break into the machines. BTP officers worked in partnership with DLR staff and were able to apprehend the male in the process of breaking into a ticket vending machine and due to overwhelming CCTV and witness evidence he pleaded guilty to twelve separate offences.



BULGARIAN PICKPOCKET GANG

- 10.6 A Bulgarian pickpocket gang who stole more than £100,000 from tube and bus passengers had 12 month prison sentences and deportation orders imposed on them.

The gang all Bulgarian nationals were arrested in December 2009 and appeared at Southwark Crown Court in May 2010. They admitted transferring criminal property back to Bulgaria. During the investigation a tube map marked with pick pocketing hotspots was recovered and details of how at least £100,000 had been sent to Bulgaria. The ten gang members used the money from their criminality to fund property ventures in their home country. Joint working between BTP and Bulgarian police resulted in their arrest and charge.

OPERATION COLUMBIA - MERTHYR

- 10.7 On 26 April 2010, eighteen activists belonging to the Rising Tide Campaign for Climate Change targeted a freight train leaving Ffros y Fan Open Cast Mine in Merthyr which was bound for Aberthaw Steelworks. Once on the line, the activists chained and locked themselves to the track preventing the train continuing its journey. Officers from BTP assisted by colleagues from local forces attended the scene and, with the use of specialist equipment, released the protesters from the track. All were subsequently arrested for obstruction of the railway. The Crown Prosecution service (CPS) authorised charging each of the offenders with obstruction of the railway with intent. All the offenders were charged and bailed to appear at Merthyr Magistrates Court.

PREDATORY SEX OFFENDER - BRADFORD

- 10.8 An offender who terrorised his victims in a hideous Halloween mask has been given a seven-year extended prison sentence. The offender who targeted young girls on the railway and struck under cover of darkness will spend four years in jail and three on extended licence.

The 31 year old former fitness instructor took cannabis and anabolic steroids before boarding the Wharfedale line to seek out and follow his victims. He pleaded guilty to sexually assaulting a



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14-year-old girl and indecently exposing himself to three teenagers and a young woman between November 2009 and January 2010.

11 RECOMMENDATIONS

11.1 That Members note the contents of this paper.