



BRITISH
TRANSPORT
POLICE

Agenda Item

REPORT TO: British Transport Police Authority
DATE: 29 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 activity within British Transport Police (BTP) since the last report to the Police Authority at its meeting on 8 July 2010.

2. PERFORMANCE AGAINST POLICING PLAN

2.1 For the period 1 April to 18 July 2010 BTP achieved 7 of the 15 national targets set in the 2010/11 Policing Plan.

2.2 Key areas of performance to 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 81 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 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 16% and BME officers 6.6%, against targets of 16% and 6.6% respectively.
- Average sickness levels are currently at 1.85 days per employee against a target of 1.93 days.

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

- Live cable offences where recorded crime is 460 against a target of 246. The North Eastern Area has recorded the highest level of offences (252) accounting for 54.7% of all BTP crimes in this category. A detailed presentation on the work being undertaken to tackle the increase in this type of criminality will be presented to Police Authority in September.



- Notifiable recorded crime is currently 16,068 or 3.13% above the target of 15,580. However, when compared to the same period last year there has been an improvement with 526 fewer offences recorded.
- The number of detections for staff assault is 392 against a target of 409. However, detections have increased on the same period last year when 380 offences were detected.
- There are 1095 serious violence, sexual and robbery crimes recorded against a target of 1075. Compared to last year there has been a significant improvement when in the same period the recorded figure was 1,156 offences. The offender brought to justice performance is currently 26% 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 1,320 against a target of 1,431.
- The number of offenders detected for offences relating to football related disorder is 253 against a target of 300.

2.4 Nineteen of the 36 local Policing Plan targets are currently being achieved. Key areas of performance to note are:

- London Underground Area is achieving 7 of the 10 local targets. The most notable being Theft of Passenger Property (TPP) with 1,653 recorded offences against a target of 1,899. Recorded offences last year were 1,925 which highlight a significant improvement in year on year performance. Detections for TPP currently stand at 138 against a target of 97. Recorded staff assaults are 140 against a target of 97. Recorded cycle crime offences stand at 23 against a target of 16. The graffiti detection rate is 16% against a target of 24%. The visibility and joint engagement operations are exceeding target at 118 against a target of 17.
- London South Area is achieving 5 of the 7 local objectives with the most notable being neighbourhood initiatives at 232 against a target of 81 and antisocial behaviour offence detections are 1098 against a target of 836. Trespass detections are 212 against a target of 180. Cycle crime detections are 37 against a target of 65 and staff assaults are slightly above target at 156 against a target of 150.
- London North Area is achieving 2 of the 7 local targets with the most notable being cycle crime detections which are currently 71 against a target of 65. Industry visibility and engagement operations are 36 against the target of 30. Route crime has dropped to 232 against a target of 234 and the hate crime detection rate is 50% against the target of 55%.
- North Eastern Area is achieving 1 of its 4 local objectives with staff assault incidents at 171 against a target of 206. The violence and sexual offences



detection rate is 41% against the target of 64% serious route crime is 19% against the target of 21%.

- North Western Area is achieving 1 of the 4 local targets with staff assault incidents at 130 against a target of 166. Violence and sexual detection rate at 45% against a target of 52%
- Wales and Western Area is achieving 1 of its 2 targets with antisocial behaviour problem solving profiles at 7 against a target of 6. Aggression towards staff detection rate of 60% against a target of 64%.
- The Scottish Area is achieving both of local targets with 20 sectarian offences detected against a target of 4 and service response agreements running at 90% against a target of 80%.

3. POTTERS BAR INQUEST

- 3.1 The Potters Bar Inquest opened on 1 June 2010 with evidence being heard from the surviving passengers, including those who were badly injured during the accident. Evidence has also been heard from technical witnesses including health and safety, laboratory, police, scenes of crime and other experts. The closing submissions to the Coroner are scheduled for 22 July 2010.

4. 7/7 INQUEST

- 4.1 The London Bombings on 7 July 2005 occurred in three Coroners' Districts – City of London, Inner West London (Westminster) and Inner North London (Camden). The Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice have directed that the Inquests be held under the jurisdiction of Inner West London (Westminster) and has nominated Lady Justice Hallett to be appointed as the Assistant Deputy Coroner. A Directions Hearing took place on 23 July 2010. BTP will be represented by Patrick Gibbs QC. Mr Gibbs lists the Victoria Climbié Inquiry (2002) and the De Menezes Inquest, (2008) amongst his notable cases.

The Coroner has indicated that live evidence will be heard in the autumn and the Inquest is expected to start on 7 October 2010. BTP has set up a gold group chaired by the Deputy Chief Constable and an operational team to prepare the Force for the Inquest.

5. OLYMPICS

- 5.1 Operation PODIUM a Metropolitan Police operation relating to the fraudulent payment of £2.3 million from the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA). The ODA is the publicly funded body responsible for developing and building the new venues and infrastructure for the games. In May a letter was sent to the ODA purporting to be from one of the



construction firms working on the Olympic Park site. The letter requested bank details were changed and £2.3 million was transferred into the new account. A total of seventeen transactions were made from this account to a value of £167k, the remaining monies have since been frozen. As a result of this investigation two further losses have been prevented, including a payment of £3.25 million to Network Rail and £1.3 million to Dorset County Council.

6. CABLE OPERATION IN THE NORTH EAST AREA

- 6.1 Operation Unity commenced on 7 July 2010 in the Middlesbrough area and will run for six weeks. Eighteen additional officers have been embedded in the North Eastern Area to disrupt and identify volume metal thieves. A media appeal will focus on a £5000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of offenders. An update on this operation will be provided at the meeting.

7. SECTION 44 STOP AND SEARCH

- 7.1 On 8 July 2010 the Home Secretary made a statement to Parliament indicating that she would not approve any further Section 44 authorities except in limited circumstances regarding vehicles. This announcement follows a ruling on 28 July 2010 when the European Court of Human Rights refused to refer a case to the Grand Chamber. This impacted significantly on Section 44 requiring it be brought into line with the judgement or repealed. BTP has led the way in the proper use of Section 44 powers and is fully engaged in the discussions about the legislation that will result from the review of counter terrorism powers.

8. MEETINGS AND EVENTS

8.1 BBC presentation on communications challenges of 7/7

The Chief Constable gave a lecture to a group of eighty communication professionals from the BBC Academy on 6 July 2010. The lecture focused on crisis communications and the challenges presented by the events of 7/7. The lecture followed the inaugural lecture that was given by Kevin Johnston from United Airlines who handled 9/11 for the airline.

8.2 DfT meeting to discuss expansionist opportunities

The Deputy Chief Constable will meet Mike Mitchell, the Director General of National Networks, Department for Transport (DfT) on 21 July 2010. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the merit in seeking to amalgamate BTP with the Highways Agency Traffic Officer Service (HATO) and the Vehicle Operator and Service Agency (VOSA). The Chief Constable recognises there are opportunities for the amalgamation of VOSA and HATO to draw on the experience of BTP's unique national operating environment, infrastructure. There are potential financial opportunities in terms of streamlining and



merging processes within the BTP of a possible amalgamation. An update on the outcome of this meeting will be provided on 29 July.

8.3 David Hanson Policing Minister

David Hanson, Policing Minister and Theresa May, Home Secretary met with the Chief Constable and Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) Cabinet members on 7 July 2010. The purpose of the meeting was to share with the government ACPO's view on the future of policing and the work it was preparing on the six work streams that have been identified.

- Cost reduction
- Workforces reform
- Policing landscape
- Local policing and partnerships
- Accountability and performance / inspection
- Developing effective processes

9. OPERATIONAL OVERVIEW

9.1 Three men jailed for assault of passenger and rail staff

Three men who beat up a passenger and a member of Network Rail staff at Warwick station were jailed for four and a half years each. The three men attempted to rob a passenger and then subjected him to savage and sustained attack. They then turned their attention to a Network Rail employee as he attempted to call the police on his mobile phone. The staff member was also subjected to an attack from the males who fled from the scene on the arrival of the police. The incident was captured on CCTV and the males were arrested in Warwick city centre.

9.2 Criminal damage - Beckenham

On 7 April 2010 two men threw stones at trains travelling between Beckenham Hill and Beckenham Junction causing over £10,000 worth of damage. A trainee driver travelling on one of the services targeted received multiple cuts to his face as a result of his cab window being smashed. The offenders were captured on CCTV and arrested the day after the incident in Bromley. Following advice from the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) the offenders were each charged with 14 offences.

9.3 Operation Parker

Operation Parker commenced on 25 January 2010 as a joint operation between London North Area and the National Crime Team. The operation focused on a linked series of high value jewellery robberies across the UK totalling £3.3million. Offences within the jurisdiction of BTP at Glasgow and Paddington were valued at £720,000. The operation was conducted using surveillance and financial investigation resulting in the offender



being arrested and remanded in prison pending his trial. Diamonds from the Paddington robbery valued at £70,000 have been recovered from America.

9.4 **Cable thieves arrested in Newcastle**

On 10 June 2010 a man was arrested after activating a number of tremble alarms on the King Edward Bridge in Newcastle. The area had been subject to a number of previous offences and was identified as a cable theft hot spot. The suspect was found to be in possession of bolt croppers, copper earthing straps, and lengths of cable which were identified as being stolen from the bridge infrastructure. The suspect's house was searched during which numerous items linked to the theft and sale of cable were located. At the same time as the search was being carried out Northumbria Police were engaged in the arrest of three burglars on the same street. During the arrest by Northumbria officers the three males were discovered stripping cable in the address and were arrested for BTP offences. Since the arrests, incidents of theft on the King Edward Bridge have been eradicated.

9.5 **Pickpockets arrested**

Two Eastern European pickpockets were arrested following an investigation by officers from BTP Nottingham. The two men arrested targeted their vulnerable victims with an average age of 70 at Sheffield, Derby and Birmingham stations. The suspects operated as a team with one suspect diverting the attention of the victim by barging them as they boarded a service. The other suspect would then steal either the purse or wallet. The suspects were identified through CCTV and nine identification parades conducted throughout the country. Following consultation with the CPS the suspects were charged on 25 July 2010 with 34 offences of conspiracy to commit robbery

9.6 **Credit Card Thieves Jailed**

Two men who set up a card cloning factory and stole more than £50,000 were sentenced to two and a half years on 12 July 2010. They used cloned credit cards encoded with details stolen from unsuspecting credit card holders to top up Oyster cards which they then sold on for profit. London Underground officers conducted a detailed investigation to identify the suspects and prove their conspiracy. A search of the suspect's house uncovered a large amount of blank credit cards and machines which could encode the magnetic strips and emboss the cards.

10. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

10.1 That Members note the contents of this paper.