BRITISH TRANSPORT POLICE

Agenda Item 3

REPORT TO:	**British Transport Police Authority**
DATE:	**7 July 2011**
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 British Transport Police Authority (BTPA) on 26 May 2011.

2. PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW

2.1 For the period 1 April 2011 to 26 June 2011, BTP are achieving 7 of the 11 national targets set in the 2011/12 Policing Plan. Appendix A details full performance data for the above period.

2.2 Key areas of performance to note from the national targets include:

- Notifiable recorded (excluding police-generated) crime currently stands at 13,221, 15 (0.1%) less than the YTD target
- The detection rate for serious violence against the person, sexual and robbery offences is 46%, against a target of 38%
- The proportion of resources allocated to NPT and response policing between 8pm and 1am continues to stand at 15%; exactly on target
- Average sickness levels stand at 1.09 days per employee, against a target of 1.28 days.
- The average time taken to release operational railway lines back to the industry following non-suspicious fatalities is currently 75 minutes, against a target of 90
- The target to respond to immediate grade incidents within 20 minutes is being exceeded, with current performance at 91%
- BTP is achieving its target to reduce the number of officers in organisational support roles at FHQ by 10%, with 86 officers against a YTD target of 97.

2.3 Areas where national Policing Plan objectives are not being achieved include:

- 3,518 disruption offences have been recorded against a target of 3,043
- The number of recorded staff assaults currently stands at 644 offences; just 1 offence (0.2%) over target
- The number of recorded anti-social behaviour incidents is 4,585, against a target of 4,419.
- Performance data for the target for reducing non-staff costs as a percentage of staff costs by at least 1.5 percentage points is not yet available.

2.4 27 of the 48 local Policing Plan targets are currently being achieved. Key areas of performance to note are:

- London Underground Area is achieving 3 out of 6 of its local targets. With 12 NPT Problem Solving Profiles (PSPs) completed, LU Area is exceeding its target of 8. Likewise, it is comfortably achieving its target for PCSO sickness with an average of 1.58 days per person, against a target of 2.01. LU Area is however not yet achieving its target for theft, with 1,641 recorded offences to date: 91 (6%) over target. No PSPs have been completed to date, for cable theft or staff assaults/violent crime, against their respective targets of 1.

- London South Area is achieving 6 out of 8 of its local targets. Detections for cycle crime offences stand at 84: 18 (27%) more than the target. Likewise, the target for ASB detections is also being achieved, with 1,033 detections against a target of 976. The detection target for staff assaults is not yet achieved, with 60 detections against a target of 65. Detections for crime relating to theft from vending machines are also not yet achieved with 13 to date, against a target of 17.

- London North Area is achieving 2 of its 6 local targets. Its detection target rate for ASB offences at selected hotspot locations between 3pm and 3am is not currently being achieved, with a rate of 70%, against a target 80%. Theft of Passenger Property and Vehicle and Cycle offences are not being achieved, with 1,503 recorded offences: 84 (6%) over target. Six operations for policing football traffic have been completed, against a target of 4. Completed joint operations for route crime are, however, 2 less than the target.

- North Eastern Area is achieving 4 of its 6 local targets, but is failing its target for recorded live Cable Theft offences. With 176 offences against a target of 166, its detection rate target is being exceeded by 1 percentage point (7%, against a target of 6%). As yet, no reassurance, visibility and ASB PSPs have been completed, therefore NE Area is failing its year to date target of 2. It is achieving both its targets for cable and football operations, with 4 operations completed, and also its police staff sickness target, with an average of 0.66 days, against a target of 0.88.

- North Western Area is achieving 5 of its 7 local targets. It is exceeding its detection rate target of 82% for football-related offences by 10 percentage points. Notifiable crime at Carlisle station is within target, whereas notifiable crime at Liverpool station currently stands at 328: 50 offences (18%) more than the target. Recorded violent offences to date stand at 56: exactly on target.

- Wales and Western Area is achieving 2 of its 6 local targets. It is achieving its target for live cable offences, with 52 recorded to date, against a target of 68. Although its 52% detection rate for aggression towards staff offences is 14 percentage points below the 66% target, this is an improvement of 8 percentage points. Likewise, the detection rate target for staff

assaults in the Welsh sector stands at 71%: just 3 percentage points below the 74% target. This is an improvement of 18 percentage points.

- Scottish Area is achieving 5 of its 9 local targets. Both targets for offenders detected are being achieved: 11 have been detected for sectarian offences against a target of 9 and 135 have been detected for ASB, against a target of 110. Police Officer sickness is being failed with an average of 1.57 days per person, against a target of 1.09. It is achieving 97% overall victim satisfaction in Quality of Service for victims of crime, against a target of 90%. With no PSPs completed yet, Scottish Area is currently not achieving 3 out of its 5 PSPs targets.

3. COUNTER TERRORISM

3.1 The threat level to the UK from international terrorism remains Severe (an attack is highly likely) whilst the threat to Great Britain from Irish Republican Terrorist Groups is Substantial (an attack is a strong possibility).

Ayman al-Zawahiri has now been named by Al-Qaeda (AQ) as the successor to Osama Bin Laden who was previously his deputy. Whilst there continues to be no direct intelligence of any imminent reprisal, it is assessed that AQ will wish to retaliate as soon as it can, either by direct tasking or via affiliate groups. A key figure within AQ, Fazul Mohammed, was killed by security forces in Somalia in June and he has been connected to bomb attacks against US embassies which resulted in large numbers of casualties. Following his death media reporting suggested that the UK featured within his attack planning and the implications to the rail network are currently being assessed.

The situation in Northern Ireland continues to give cause for concern despite significant operations by the Police Service for Northern Ireland (PSNI). On 27 May PSNI dealt with fourteen threats, a number of hoax devices, a pipe bomb and two Residual Terrorist Groupings (RTG) connected shootings. Large parts of Belfast and other cities in Northern Ireland became gridlocked because of road closures and the railway was also closed for several hours.

Recently public order activity in Northern Ireland has involved both Loyalist and Republican elements. During recent public order event a number of shots were fired, resulting in a journalist receiving a gun shot wound to the leg. The use of petrol bombs by the groups involved has also become a feature of the recent unrest.

BTP's Counter Terrorism Support Unit (CTSU) continues to run 2 hour table top exercises to refresh supervisors on BTP's response to Irish related terrorist methods of attack.

4. CABLE OFFENCES

4.1 June is the third month that BTP has seen a decrease in live cable offences. This is against a backdrop of increasing metal prices which historically influence the level of offending. BTP has

seen a displacement of offending in both South Wales and the North East which has resulted in our partners in local forces experiencing an increase in recorded offences.

The National Fusion Intelligence Unit (FIU) has produced its first packages which have focused on Manchester, Doncaster, Morpeth and the Middlesbrough area of Cleveland. The team has undertaken joint working with Network Rail (NWR), British Telecom (BT), industry and Home Office police forces within each of the targeted regions to tackle metal theft. The FIU has utilised its intelligence data to identify criminals and the Scrap Dealers involved in criminality. The packages have been very well received by all the agencies involved and are driving police activity. The Operational Cable team will be deploying to South Yorkshire and in particular Doncaster in the North Eastern area to support operations on a more permanent and targeted basis.

A significant amount of work is being undertaken to identify and establish the FIU as the National hub for intelligence. Officers from the unit have visited similar operations nationally including Operation Liberal, National Mobile Phone Crime Unit and the Fusion Unit in London. BTP are in the process of introducing data sharing agreements with Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC), Vehicle and Operator Service Agency (VOSA) and Environment Agency (EA) for their intelligence. BTP have already had success in securing the support of the Serious and Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) to tackle metal theft at a national level. The next National 'Day of Action' is being held on 29 July 2001 which compliment the monthly area days of action that are held across the force.

5. LEVEL CROSSINGS

5.1 On 9 June the International Level Crossing Day of Action (ILCAD) took place with national BTP deployments coordinated from FHQ. The day involved working with industry partners and outside agencies which included NWR, Office of the Rail Regulator (ORR), local forces and authorities. The aim of the day was to educate motorists in terms of the dangers of level crossings and prosecute offenders where appropriate. 113 prosecutions resulted from the day and there was very positive community interaction and media reporting. BTP used its Twitter site to publicise the day of action and report on the event

6. FOOTBALL

6.1 Policing travelling football supporters was a challenge to BTP during the 2010/11 football season. By the end of the season there had been over 720 football related incidents which included low level disorder or anti-social behaviour, fare evasion, misuse of drugs and the disruption of services. Anti-social behaviour and drunkenness made up the bulk of offences committed on the network. The top teams in terms of disorder were Leeds (34 arrests), Wolverhampton (46) and Aston Villa (43). From the football crimes recorded, there were 758 arrests. It is also worth noting that 3 of the top 7 clubs in the disorder table are from Wales and Western Area (Wolverhampton Wanderers, Aston Villa and Birmingham City), which caused a considerable drain on resources on a weekly basis.

The 2011/12 season presents a number of challenges in terms of the make up the Coca-Cola Championship league with Millwall, Birmingham, Cardiff, Leeds and West Ham all within the league. Supporters follow their team to away fixtures and have reputations for poor behaviour which will place a significant demand on BTP resources as the season develops. BTP was represented at the fixtures meeting with the Football League and Premier League to ensure that the challenges provided by these were reduced as far as possible. However, the number of potential problems in this League could not be greatly reduced as a result of the relatively low fixture options available.

In Scotland considerable resources have been focussed on football related disorder. Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPT) have been active around the stations and on the train services mainly used by supporters travelling to and from matches. BTP has made applications to courts, following football related arrests, for Football Banning Orders (FBO) to be handed down as part of sentencing in 146 cases. 116 of these have come before the courts and in 75 cases the suspects were convicted. FBO cover three distinct areas, the figures in brackets show the number of cases BTP reported in each category; sectarianism (90), racial (6) and violent and disorderly behaviour (50).

BTP is third after Strathclyde and Lothian and Borders Police in terms of the number of cases reported and third after Strathclyde and Grampian in terms of FBO imposed by the courts as part of sentencing.

Following disorder during the season the police, Scottish Government and the clubs have held a series of meetings aimed at tackling sectarianism. Scottish Government intends to bring forward new legislation before the start of the new football season that will provide the police with additional powers of arrest. BTP has had an opportunity to influence this proposal through close working with ACPO.

7. DEFENCE LEAGUE

7.1 Defence League (DL) demonstrations continued to occur around the UK. Demonstrations took place in Blackpool on 28 May with 8 arrests, Dewsbury on 11 June with 3 arrests and Maidenhead on 11 June with no arrests. In addition there have been 9 smaller (DL) gatherings across the country with a further 12 planned between July and August.

There has been minimal impact on the rail network in terms of clashes between the DL and their main opposing group, United Against Fascism (UAF). However, public order offences and assaults that are linked to the demonstrations have continued to occur at distant stations. For example, recent disorder at Liverpool St and at Halifax was linked to demonstrations in Dagenham and Blackpool.

8. BTP RECEIVE IT ACCREDITATION

8.1 BTP's Information Technology (IT) Department achieved accreditation with The National Computer Centre (NCC), at the end of a long and challenging process that started last year. The NCC have examined in detail our strategy, processes, documentation, and data centre to verify that best practice is working effectively to support the business. They have also identified areas where BTP can improve its performance. BTP is only the third police force in the country to achieve this (the other two are North Wales and Lancashire), although it is quite widespread across other parts of the public sector, and private sector. NCC is the only body qualified to carry out this accreditation work which highlights the level of independent assurance that theIT department is achieving.

BTP also received an international award for its work on the Apollo GIS system which follows the recent award for the server virtualisation work and the NCC certificate.

9. MEETINGS AND EVENTS

9.1 Stakeholder meetings

The Chief Constable continues to meet with key stakeholders, since the last Authority meeting he has met with the following.

On 25 May, the Chief Constable met the Attorney General at the House of Commons. Areas of discussion during the meeting included the review of current contempt laws and issues relating to levels of press intrusion and behaviour of the media.

On 27 May, the Chief Constable attended a passing out parade for 23 Police Community Support Officers (PCSO) at Spring House. The Chief Constable was impressed with the high standards achieved by the new PCSOs, their professionalism and appearance. Overall, the passing out parade was a great success.

Between 4 and 6 July, the Chief Constable attended the ACPO Summer Conference in Harrogate. During the Conference, the Chief Constable chaired a breakout group which focused on major incidents and how they impact on the day to day running of a force. The session also focused on the significance of national level media relationships, the impact of 24 hour news coverage and media expectations.

On 7 June, the Chief Constable met with Assistant Commissioner Lynne Owens of the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS). Topics of discussion during the meeting included BTP and MPS public order issues.

9.2 Events

On 9 June the Chief Constable and SCT attended a Chief Officer Leadership Visit (COLV) on London South hosted by Chief Superintendent Steve Morgan and his command team. The visit

went very well with performance and stakeholder engagement forming the main areas of discussion.

On 23 June, the Chief Constable participated in an interview in his capacity of ACPO National Media Lead for BBC Radio 4's PM Programme. The interview focused on the impact of naming people who have been arrested and the subsequent invasion of their privacy. The interview was as a result of the High Court decision to allow the Attorney General permission to bring proceedings against the Sun and Daily Mirror following their reports about the December arrest of the landscape architect's landlord, Christopher Jefferies, who was vilified in the press and later released without charge.

On 24 June, the Chief Constable participated in an interview with BBC Radio 4's Today Programme. The interview focused on the national picture around metal theft following the Mayor, Boris Johnson's comments about theft of bus shelters in London.

10. OPERATIONAL OVERVIEW

10.1 Suspect jailed for staff assault

Just before 5am on Friday 4 March the supervisor at Cockfosters was opening the Tube station to customers when he was approached by the suspect who asked to borrow his phone to make a call. The member of staff informed the suspect he didn't have a phone at which point he racially abused him. He continued to subject the member of staff to a tirade of racial abuse and proceeded to follow him around the station as he carried out his duties.

When the supervisor asked him to leave the station as a result of his behaviour he was assaulted by the male who grabbed him forcibly by the arm. The suspect then tried to encourage him to fight with him before eventually leaving the station.

The member of staff reported the incident to BTP, and when officers arrived at Cockfosters tube station the suspect was located outside and was detained and arrested for assault. He was charged with assault and at City of Westminster Magistrates' Court, after pleading guilty to racially abusing and assaulting a member of London Underground staff, was fined £5,000, the maximum fine possible. He was in addition ordered to pay his victim £150 compensation and £85 costs.

10.2 Drug dealer jailed

On Thursday 20 September 2010 a member of security staff at Huyton railway station, Liverpool was on duty conducting ticket checks when he observed a male coming through the station that appeared very nervous and agitated. He could smell cannabis and observed the male purchase a rail ticket to Aberdeen with cash.

The member of staff advised a BTP officer of what he had seen and as the train had already departed the officer alerted officers in Scotland. Although the suspect had changed trains at Edinburgh he was traced to a service as it approached Dundee station. He was detained by

officers at Dundee who discovered the male was in possession of one and a half kilograms of heroin. He was interviewed by BTP officers and admitted the offence of possession with intent to supply. During his court appearance in May he pleaded guilty to possession of heroin with intent to supply and was sentenced to two years imprisonment.

10.3 **Station thief jailed for two years**

The offender, who had no fixed abode and frequented South London, was responsible for eleven thefts at Paddington station, totaling more than £23,000. His offences began in February 2010 when he stole high value items from passengers who were preoccupied purchasing tickets or queuing for taxis. He targeted victims he knew would have high-value items in their bags, several of which were visitors to this country.

BTP officers from London North viewed CCTV for each of the reported offences and were able to place the suspect at the scene of each theft. He was witnessed acting suspiciously in April this year by a member of the public, who alerted the police. A PCSO attended the area where the suspect was spotted and although he initially ran away, he was detained and arrested. During interview, officers questioned him in connection with the eleven thefts, to which he gave no comment replies. The evidence against the suspect was overwhelming and he pleaded guilty to all eleven offences. When he appeared at a court he was sentenced to two years imprisonment.

10.4 **Man sentenced after vicious assault**

On 27 June 2010, a 28-year-old woman, was waiting on the platform at Harrow and Wealdstone rail station when the suspect sat down next to her. He began tapping a glass bottle against the side of the seat and when the woman asked him to stop he became aggressive and verbally abusive, making lewd and sexual remarks. The victim boarded her train but was followed by the suspect who later followed her into the station underpass at her destination. As the woman was leaving the station and climbed a flight of stairs the suspect grabbed her from behind and punched her in the face, before running away. The force of the blow caused the victim to fall down the stairs and it was later confirmed that she suffered a broken nose and a fractured left cheekbone.

CCTV images from the station cameras were released and, following a widespread media appeal, several members of the public came forward to identify the suspect. He was arrested in August 2010 by BTP officers and during interview denied any involvement in the assault. The suspect appeared at Blackfriars Crown Court on 7 June 2011 and pleaded guilty to a charge of grievous bodily harm and was sentenced to 30 months imprisonment.

10.5 **Cable operation in Scotland**

From February 2011, an operation was carried out in the Scottish area to target cable thefts where it was suspected there was a degree of insider knowledge. The offences included disabling power to line side location boxes to remove fuses which indicated possession of particular keys due to the absence of forced entry.

Following a detailed enquiry and the examination of hours of CCTV, officers searched premises in the East End of Glasgow and detained two suspects they believed were involved in the offences. Officers recovered 80 items of evidence for court which included cable sheathing, specific railway keys and cutting equipment. It also transpired the two males were hiring vehicles on a regular basis to commit theft but were rotating these to mislead police. Officers discovered a room within the house that was dedicated to cable stripping and the males had a contract agreement for the hire of plant and other small items of equipment. The suspects were interviewed by CID officers from BTP and as a result of the investigation both males were charged with 26 counts of theft, 16 of which related to live cable incidents. A report has been submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

The Scottish Area ran a three day training course focusing on the theft of metals in April this year to raise awareness of the issue. The Area secured attendance of officers from four of the eight Scottish Forces. One officer who attended the course provided intelligence on the two suspects in the days leading up to the day of action and closed many of the intelligence gaps that existed.

10.6 **Conductor jailed for possession of child pornography**

In July 2010 a Northern Rail conductor was arrested by BTP officers following a complaint from a teenage girl that he had slipped a handwritten message to her on a train asking her to contact him for modelling opportunities. It transpired that the conductor was subject to a Sexual Offences Prevention Order (SOPO) for previous convictions linked to similar offences in 2007. The suspect's house was subsequently searched and a number of indecent images of children on his computer and mobile phone were uncovered. He was additionally arrested on suspicion of breaking his previous SOPO, and for making indecent images of children. During his interview he admitted he had relapsed and was communicating with young female girls on the internet asking them to engage in sexual behaviour.

In June 2011 the suspect was charged with a string of offences including making and possessing indecent images of children and inciting children to commit sexual acts and was jailed for 14 months.

10.7 **Suspect arrested for Murder**

On 5 June 2011 information was received that a suspect who was responsible for strangling an 83 year old man was traveling on a train, bound for Bristol. The suspect was being tracked by a surveillance team from West Mercia Police and the service was due to arrive into Bristol Parkway. BTP officers responded from Temple Meads Station to support the surveillance team in detaining and arresting the suspect on suspicion of murder. BTP officers requested the support of TASER from Avon and Somerset Police as the suspect had warnings for weapons and was suspected of carrying a wood chisel on his person.

BTP took command of the situation and with the support Avon and Somerset TASER officers and cleared the platform in anticipation of the suspect's arrival. Officers conducted a detailed search of the train and the suspect was located and arrested by BTP for murder without incident.

He was conveyed to West Mercia where he was interviewed and eventually charged with murder. The suspect was remanded in custody and is awaiting trial for following a court appearance.

10.8 **Vehicle fraud suspects jailed**

Between October 2009 and April 2010 a suspect contacted internet users who were selling cars with outstanding finance. Where the selling price of the vehicle was less than the amount of finance owed, he would offer to settle the victim's account with the finance company on their behalf, with the victim paying him the remaining amount in cash once their account had been reconciled. After taking ownership of the vehicles he would quickly sell them on to private buyers and car dealerships for cash, before the payments were then rejected some weeks later. As a result the innocent private sellers not only lost their cars but remained liable to the finance companies for the full debts on their former vehicles.

With most of the fraudulent transactions taking place at railway stations across London and Southern England, London South detectives launched Operation Brutus and arrested the suspect when he tried to sell a car in a supermarket car park in East London, in April 2010.

The suspect was held incommunicado in custody, meaning his right to inform someone of his arrest was withdrawn because of the risk of outside interference that could see vital evidence lost. When the suspect's solicitor attended, he was told about him being held incommunicado but was allowed to hold a private consultation with his client at Camberwell Magistrates' Court. It was later discovered that the solicitor delivered two handwritten notes from the suspect to his girlfriend with instructions for his family to remove incriminating evidence from his home.

The suspect was sentenced to five and a half years prison at Blackfriars Crown Court on Tuesday, 31 May. His solicitor pleaded guilty to perverting the course of justice and was given a twelve month suspended prison sentence. The suspect's girlfriend and sister were handed suspended prison sentences after a previous five day trial saw them convicted of conspiracy to pervert the course of justice.

10.9 **Robbery suspect Jailed**

On 12 September 2011, a suspect approached his victim and demanded he hand over his possessions. During the robbery the victim was punched in the face but the victim was helped by two men on the platform and was able to escape on a train.

The suspect then travelled to Snaresbrook where he tried to snatch a woman's handbag. Although the victim who was 28 was punched in the face by the suspect she was able to hold on to her bag. The woman managed to escape from the male and leave the station before she was also helped by a member of the public.

BTP officers attended Snaresbrook station and the suspect was identified and arrested for robbery. The suspect from Walthamstow was charged to Snaresbrook Crown Court and on 11

April pleaded guilty to two counts of attempted robbery. He was sentenced to three years imprisonment.

10.10 **Graffiti vandal sentenced**

A prolific graffiti vandal responsible for the tag TOX, along with three other men, was sentenced following a campaign of graffiti damage. Between January 2007 and July 2010, he and his accomplices tagged trains, buses, bridges, walls and even a funeral home across England and Scotland as well as on the continent in France and Spain, with the damage running into many tens of thousands of pounds.

Detectives from London South's Graffiti Unit uncovered their actions and launched Operation Misfit after arresting a separate man for causing criminal damage in Bristol. Forensic examination of his computer uncovered camera images of the four defendants going abroad to graffiti trains and locations in France and Barcelona in 2007. Officers were able to successfully link the defendants with their respective tags through articles seized at their home addresses, telephone and financial data, internet investigation and with the assistance of expert evidence provided by one of the Graffiti Unit's detectives. Despite two defendants pleading not guilty, the overwhelming evidence against them, along with BTP's expert evidence, saw the jury find all four suspects guilty.

11. RECOMMENDATIONS

11.1 That Members note the contents of this paper.