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**Report to:** Police Authority  
**Agenda item:** 3  
**Date:** 6 November 2013  
**Subject:** Chief Constable's Report  
**Sponsor:** Chief Constable  
**For:** Information

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**1. PURPOSE OF PAPER**

1.1 This report provides members with an overview of operational and organisational activity within British Transport Police (BTP) since the last report to Police Authority on 26 September.

**2. POLICING PLAN**

2.1 As at 30 September the Force was achieving 6 of the 9 national and 27 of the 42 local targets set in the 2013/14 Policing Plan. The following section provides a headline overview of performance against the national Policing Plan targets during this period. A detailed report on all targets was provided to Performance Review Committee on 18 October and the Chair of this Committee will provide an update to members at the Police Authority meeting.

2.2 The 6 national targets being achieved are:

- The average clearance time for non-suspicious and unexplained fatalities is 75 minutes against a 90 minute target. All Areas are achieving this target. Further detail on fatality management and suicide prevention is included in section 4.1 of this report.
- The notifiable detection rate is being maintained at 33% against a target of 31%.
- 58% of the overall Force budget was spent on frontline resources during the first and second quarters of 2013/14, which is in line with target.
- The average sickness year to date per employee was 3.61 days against a year to date target of 3.65 days.
- 95% of employees on temporary duty restrictions (TDR) returned to full time hours within 4 weeks of their return to work against a 90% target. There have been 146



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employees return to work on TDR this year, 7 of these remained on reduced hours for longer than the 4 week target. Employees on TDR for longer than 4 weeks are reviewed on a weekly basis.

- The hours worked by Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPTs) and Response Teams between the hours of 7pm and 3am have increased from 509,526 last year to 512,853 this year.

2.3 The 3 national targets that are currently not being achieved are:

- Reduce police related disruption minutes by 3% - Police related disruption minutes have increased, with 641,207 minutes (11,538 incidents) recorded by Network Rail against a target of 569,845 minutes and 581,310 minutes (11,229 incidents) last year
- Reduce the number of recorded notifiable offences by 3% - recorded offences are 4% less than last year (24,435 offences compared to 25,352 offences). However, the Policing Plan target of 24,355 offences is being narrowly missed (0.32%) as performance against this target is measured on a linear basis.
- Improve the detection rate for notifiable public order offences – There have been 3,154 public order offences so far this year, with a detection rate being achieved of 57% against a target of 59%.

### **3. FORCE RESTRUCTURE**

3.1 The Force Executive Board approved the detail of the new structure of the Force at its meeting on 10 October 2013. The detail presented by the Force Restructure Project team included the new Divisional structures, sub divisions and operational functions. ACC Pacey will update members on the detail of the new structure at the Police Authority meeting.

3.2 The Force Executive Board also agreed the postings of Chief Superintendents and Superintendents. The Chief Superintendent postings were agreed following a selection process undertaken by a panel formed of the Deputy Chief Constable, ACC McCall and Brian Phillpott, BTPA Deputy Chair.



3.3 The postings of Chief Superintendents are as follows:

B Divisional Commander	Paul Brogden
C Divisional Commander	Peter Holden
D Divisional Commander	Ellie Bird
FHQ Operations	Peter Davies
FHQ Crime	Martin Fry
FHQ DCC OCU	Mark Newton (T.C/Supt Gareth Williams)

3.4 The postings agreed by Force Executive Board for the Superintendents are as follows:

<u>A Division (FHQ)</u>	
FHQ Operations	Phil Trendall
Counter Terrorism	Dave Roney
Major Crime	Gary Richardson
Director of Intelligence	Paul Shrubsole
Offender Management	Vacant
PSD	Gareth Williams (T.Det Supt Hugh Borgeat)

<u>B Division</u>	
Sub Divisional Commander - East	Richard Moffatt
Sub Divisional Commander - South	Jason Bunyard
Sub Divisional Commander – TfL & Crime	Matt Wratten
Divisional Operations	Jeff Boothe

<u>C Division</u>	
Sub Divisional Commander – Pennines	Vacant
Sub Divisional Commander – Midlands	Allan Gregory
Sub Divisional Commander – Wales	Andy Morgan
Sub Divisional Commander – Western	Vacant
Divisional Operations	Peter Mason

<u>D Division</u>	
Superintendent	John McBride

The 3 Superintendent vacancies have been advertised and the selection process will take place in November.

3.5 Members of the Strategic Command Team undertook a series of starburst events across the Force on 23 October to personally brief employees in departments directly affected by the restructure on the new operating model and the next steps. A detailed briefing pack was published on the Force intranet on 24 October which informed all employees of the detail of the new Force structure.



3.6 The job matching process for posts in the new structure commenced week beginning 28 October and one-to-one meetings will commence with all affected staff in mid November. In tandem with the job matching process the Force will open the Voluntary Severance Scheme (VSS) to staff directly affected by the restructure. The VSS document has been available for staff to view since September, to provide those directly affected by the restructure proposals with the opportunity to consider their options before the new structure was agreed. All VSS applications will be considered in view of operational demands. Support is being offered both by line managers, HR and Care First for all affected staff.

3.7 The interim structure will commence on 4 November 2013, with the Chief Superintendents and Superintendents taking up their new posting.

#### **4. REDUCING DISRUPTION**

##### **4.1 Fatality management & suicide prevention**

4.1.1 From 1 April to 30 September 2013 there have been 234 suspected suicides and injurious incidents on the rail network. This compares to 385 incidents during the whole of 2012/13. Of these 234 incidents 186 (79%) were fatalities, 84% involved males, and the average age was 44 years. The 234 incidents occurred across 211 different locations (18 locations have seen 2 incidents this year and 2 locations (Kings Cross LUL and South Croydon) have seen 3 incidents).

4.1.2 BTP's Suicide Prevention & Mental Health Team (SPMH) is working closely with Network Rail and the Samaritans on the National Suicide Prevention Steering Group to achieve a reduction in suicides on the railway. SPMH initiatives include the identification of high risk locations, site surveys of all fatality locations, e-learning awareness courses for officers and rail staff, and attendance at a course developed with the Samaritans aimed at helping front line officers manage suicidal contract.

4.1.3 In December a new Pan London policy regarding Section 136(1) of the Mental Health Act 1983 will come into effect. This policy supports a more coordinated efficient practice for

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delivering Section 136 across Mental Health Trusts, police and the London Ambulance Service in London. Specific benefits for BTP and the railway include:

- Improved understanding and use of Section 136
- Reduced average waiting times for officers in hospitals
- Reduced multiple journeys transporting individuals detained under Section 136
- Improved escalation processes between the police and mental health staff.

#### 4.2 Operation Avert

4.2.1 Operation Avert is a national initiative running during September and October aimed at minimising disruption to the rail network from trespass and suicide attempts. This partnership initiative with Network Rail and other agencies is aimed at tackling the two biggest causes of rail disruption at 64 target locations across England, Scotland and Wales. A further 11 locations are being targeted on London Underground.

4.2.2 In its first month Operation Avert has achieved a reduction in the number of suspected suicides and injurious attempts on the rail network. September saw the lowest number of suspected suicides per month (29) since May 2013, and is the first month this year where the number of suspected suicides is lower than the same period last year.

4.2.3 Since 1 April 2013 there have been 277 suicide / mental health interventions at 258 different locations. The number of interventions increased significantly in September (72) and have been a success factor of Operation Avert, together with the targeted patrols, increased awareness of police and rail staff and local community based work at key locations.

### 5. **REDUCING CRIME**

#### 5.1 Operation Magnum

5.1.1 Operation Magnum was rolled out nationally in June to reduce theft of passenger property (TPP), which has increased over the last year across the rail network. The majority of TPP offences are opportunistic thefts, where victims have had personal property stolen from them on trains and at stations. The thefts are primarily by snatch, distraction and dipping in bags. Thefts on board trains, particular long distance journeys, have also increased

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where thieves steal property from luggage racks. The operation is proving successful and has generated a 2.6% reduction in TPP across the Force since the operation commenced.

5.1.2 A national day of action is taking place each month to raise awareness, reduce offences, and detect offenders. July's day of action focused on raising public awareness, August's focused on processes in lost property offices across the rail network, September's focused on students returning to school and university after the summer break, and October's focused on 'locking down' the rail network with multi-area operational activity on key routes.

5.2 Firearms conspirators jailed for 32 years

Four men were sentenced at Liverpool Crown Court in October for a plot to move illegal firearms onto the streets of Scotland. On 17 August 2012 a male engaged two cleaners in conversation at Carlisle station and asked them to look after two bags he was carrying as he believed he was being followed. He left the station and when he failed to return the cleaners handed the bags to BTP. The bags were searched and found to contain an Uzi sub-machine gun with silencer, a sawn-off shotgun, a hand gun, a variety of ammunition. Officers searched the vicinity, found the offender on a rail viaduct and arrested him. He was a serving member of the army and a search at his barracks and family home uncovered a hand gun-shaped crossbow, several metal tipped arrows, large military batteries and a small supply of drugs. The Battalion duty officer confirmed that no weapons were missing from the armoury and officers suspected the offender was part of a supply chain moving firearms across the country.

Forensic analysis of his mobile phone revealed messages regarding large cash payments for 'toys'. The investigation identified three more suspects, one of whom was captured on CCTV paying £3,500 into the main offender's account. Officers arrested the suspects and seized £20,000 cash during the subsequent house searches.

5.3 Officer's suspicion leads to arrest

Whilst undertaking routine patrol during a rugby match at Wembley, a BTP officer saw a male collecting for charity dressed in a Naval Officer's uniform in the rank of Petty Officer



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second class. Passers by thought he was collecting for Help for Heroes and were generous with their donations (the collection box contained over £400). The officer noticed the collection box was not sealed and did not have a registered number. He also noticed the man was wearing an improbable combination on his medal ribbon bar. The officer stopped and questioned the man who gave plausible answers to the questions and thanked the officer for being so diligent. However the officer remained suspicious and after further questioning established the man had never served in the Royal Navy and the rank of Petty Officer second class had been abolished in 1913. The man was arrested and is due to answer bail on 19 November for various offences in relation to the improper wearing of military uniform and for collection offences. During investigation the officer discovered the male had been previously arrested by BTP in July 2013 for assaulting two Revenue Protection Inspectors and had answered bail for this offence in full military regalia. He had also been arrested by BTP in 2010 for assaulting a PCSO.

5.4 Arrest of prison escapee sentenced for stabbing a police officer

Two BTP officers based at Croydon have been congratulated for using their initiative when stopping a male for fare evasion on 23 October. The PC and PCSO were at Phipps Bridge Tram stop with revenue teams when a routine check uncovered a male wanted by police. The officers took his details but were not happy that these were correct. When his identification was correctly established it was discovered that the male had absconded from a category D prison at the end of August where he was serving life for stabbing a police officer with a screw driver. Following his re-arrest the offender spent a short time at Sutton Police station before he was transferred back to prison to complete the rest of his life sentence. The officers have been personally congratulated by the MPS Borough Commander at Sutton.

**6. INCREASING CONFIDENCE**

6.1 Travel disruption during adverse weather conditions

6.1.1 BTP put in place its adverse weather strategy in response to the weather conditions caused by Storm St Jude on Monday 28 October. There were over 150 incidents of tree debris on the railway lines and severe disruption caused after train services were suspended and subject to delay. BTP worked in close liaison with the rail industry during



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this period and was involved in the various conference calls and briefings that took place over the weekend and during the course of Monday.

**6.2 Commonwealth Games**

6.2.1 The Commonwealth Games takes place between 23 July and 3 August 2014 with over 4,500 athletes competing in 17 sports at 15 venues across Scotland. Chief Superintendent Bird will perform the role of Bronze Transport, supporting Police Scotland's Silver Commander. The deployment plan, stakeholder engagement, and policing operation are all in advanced stages. ACC McCall will provide members with a more detailed update on the police preparations for the Commonwealth Games at the Police Authority meeting.

**7. OTHER MATTERS**

**7.1 BTP Scotland and Police Scotland**

7.1.1 On 22 October ACC McCall and Andrew Figures met with Scottish Government officials to discuss the Scottish Government's proposal to merge BTP Scotland Area with Police Scotland. Officials confirmed they had met with BTP's stakeholders in Scotland, including First ScotRail, Network Rail, Virgin, Transpennine, East Coast and others. They had also consulted with Police Scotland.

7.1.2 The unanimous feedback received was that BTP Scotland works well and its officers are effective and professional. Stakeholders spoke highly of BTP's close interaction with them and if given the choice, would prefer BTP to continue to police the railways across England, Wales and Scotland. Nevertheless, there is a clear desire on the part of Scottish ministers for a merger and to that end they are now preparing a business case with options to be presented to the Cabinet Secretary for Justice.

7.1.3 It is our understanding that officials will present three options:

- 1) The status quo
- 2) Full integration with Police Scotland
- 3) The creation of a Transport Division within Police Scotland which would police the rail network, buses, ports, airports and trunk roads and motorways.





7.1.4 If the Cabinet Secretary for Justice is persuaded by the business case, he may enter into dialogue with the Secretary of State for Transport to discuss requirements for the merger to occur. It seems likely that any such merger will at least require change in primary Westminster legislation however it is not clear as to how soon that could, if there is the political will at Westminster, be effected.

## 7.2 Transport Select Committee

7.2.1 BTP has submitted written evidence to the Transport Select Committee's inquiries on 'Safety at Level Crossings' and 'Winter Resilience in Transport', and is currently producing a submission for the Strategic Road Network Inquiry. The Deputy Chief Constable gave oral evidence to the Safety at Level Crossings Inquiry on 21 October. In this joint session with the Law Commission the Deputy Chief Constable and Superintendent Trendall answered questions around jurisdiction, use of mobile vehicles, partnership work with Network Rail, and preventative and enforcement measures. The transcript of the session can be found at <http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/WrittenEvidence.svc/EvidenceHtml/3166> .

## 7.3 Anti Social Behaviour, Crime & Policing Bill

7.3.1 The first reading of the Anti Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill took place on 16 October 2013. This stage is a formality that signals the start of the Bill's journey through the Lords. The second reading, which was a general debate on all aspects of the Bill, took place on 29 October.

7.3.2 The Bill includes the following clause:

### ***103 British Transport Police: Crown status under Firearms Act 1968***

*(1) In section 54 of the Firearms Act 1968 (application to Crown servants), in subsection (3), at the end of paragraph (d) there is inserted “, or*

*(e) a member of the British Transport Police Force, or*

*(f) a person employed by the British Transport Police Authority who is under the direction and control of the Chief Constable of the British Transport Police Force.”*

*(2) The following are repealed—*

*(a) subsections (3A) and (3B) of section 54 of the Firearms Act 1968, and*



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*(b) paragraph 9 of Schedule 7 to the Anti-terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001 (which inserted those subsections).*

7.3.3 Clause 103 of the Bill is tabled to place BTP, in respect of firearms, on the same footing as other forces and therefore remove the need for individual certificates.

## **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

8.1 That members note the update provided in this report.