



**BRITISH
TRANSPORT
POLICE**

Chief Constable's Report

Police Authority

20 June 2019

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1. Introduction

The Chief Constable's Report provides Members with an overview of major organisational developments since the previous Police Authority meeting on 19 March 2019. The report also provides examples of British Transport Police's (BTP) operational policing response over the last three months to enhance Members' awareness of the breadth, scale and demand of policing Britain's rail, underground, tram and light rail networks.

Members are asked to note the content provided in this report. As this report is published on the BTPA website some detail has been redacted. The Chief Constable will therefore expand upon some of the items contained in this report during his verbal briefing to Police Authority on 20 June, and will be happy to provide further detail or answer any questions Members may have at the meeting.

The format and content of the Chief Constable's Report has been refreshed and the Chief Constable welcomes Members' feedback on this new reporting style and content to inform future reports.



2. Delivering the Strategy

Protecting and safeguarding people

The Strategy & Performance Committee noted the progress made against this strand of the Strategy at its meeting on 5 March 2019. Whilst overall crime increased last year by 12%, which broadly emulates the increase in crime experienced nationally, it is important to note that the rail and underground transport networks remain a safe environment with less than 20 overall crimes, less than 1 serious violent crime and less than 1 sexual crime recorded per million passenger journeys.

The success of the 61016 text service, the 'Report it to Stop it' sexual offences campaign and the 'See it Say it Sorted' DfT counter terrorism campaign have all been contributors to increased levels of reported crime.

For example, over the last year the number of text reports BTP received increased by 83%, taking total contact by text to over 105,500. Officers deployed to incidents as a result of a text report also increased by 35% with close to 3,000 text reports resulting in officer deployment. 9% of overall crime was recorded as a result of a text report, and 30% of all sexual offences are now reported via the text service.

Whilst this public contact channel has seen a significant increase in reports and represents new demand, none of the pre-existing reporting channels into BTP have decreased over the same period. A significant element of the increase in recorded crime can therefore be attributed to improved public access and reporting routes along with focused campaigns which have sought to increase reporting.

The increase in violence, including robbery, is also a contributing factor to the overall increase in crime, and a focus on reducing violent crime, which commenced mid-way through 2018, led to the development of the Violence Reduction Strategy (Operation Sentinel) at the beginning of this year. This strategy, which addresses four strands (violence against passengers, rail staff, police officers and specifically knife crime) has been extensively briefed to the industry who are engaged in joint partnership delivery of many of the activities. The focus on violent crime saw the increase reduce from 25% in July 2018 to 13% at the end of March 2019. Some examples of initiatives being carried out under Operation Sentinel are described in section 9 of this report.

In March 2019 the Home Office announced that £100m funding will be made available to police forces in the worst affected areas in England and Wales for knife and violent crime. BTP was not allocated any of this government funding to tackle violent crime. The Chief Constable has therefore engaged with his counterparts in the seven geographic forces earmarked to receive an allocation of this funding in order to coordinate operational activity across the country and seek to obtain access to available funding through joint initiatives with these forces. In London in particular engagement at senior levels in the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) has ensured BTP is integrated into the pan London knife crime activity and sharing some of the knife crime funding made available by the Mayor.

Reducing disruption and delay

Police related disruption incidents increased by 1% last year. The primary causes for disruption were fatalities and trespass.

In terms of fatalities the average hand back time for non-suspicious incidents was 84 minutes (against a 90 minute performance measure) and the average hand back time for unexplained incidents was 104 minutes. Efforts have been focused at known hotspot locations, which have resulted in a 50% reduction in incidents at these locations.

Whilst the number of suspected suicides (311 in 2018/19) were relatively static compared to the previous year, 2,511 life-saving interventions took place across the rail network, which is an increase of 16% on the previous year. The proactive approach being undertaken by BTP, but also in conjunction with the industry, to address high risk vulnerable individuals and locations appears to be having an effect.

In April 2019 BTP undertook a detailed analysis of fatalities to provide a current overview of suspected suicides, injurious attempts, fatal and non-fatal accidents that have occurred on the rail and underground networks. Headline findings from this analysis show that suspected suicides have increased by 6.5% over the past 3 years. The majority of individuals were in early adulthood (19-29 years of age) and middle aged (45-52 years of age). A greater number of suspected suicides occurred in the London and Greater London area, although West Midlands, Merseyside, Greater Manchester and Cheshire all saw increasing trends in suspected suicides and injurious attempts. The proportion of individuals involved in suspected suicide and injurious attempts who have a history of mental health issues increased from 61% in 2016/17 to 67% in 2018/19.

The Chief Constable engaged with the Chief Executive of Network Rail to secure commitment to an enhanced partnership approach to tackling disruption. BTP subsequently led the development of a Disruption Strategy which contains a number of work streams which will underpin joint activity throughout 2019/20. These include prediction, prevention, public protection, education and behavioural change. Whilst this is a BTP strategy, the activity will be undertaken in collaboration with the industry, facilitated by the Embedded Inspectors.

Following on from discussions with Network Rail's Chief Executive, the Chief Constable and DCS Furnell met with the Chief Medical Officer of Network Rail to explore developing concepts that may address the challenges faced in dealing with mental health, trespass and suicide. Some innovative and ground breaking initiatives are being scoped to seek to introduce new opportunities to break the cycle of over 300 fatalities per year and begin to make an inroad into the £125m cost of disruption to Network Rail and the industry.

There is good collaborative working with the industry to minimise incidents of disruption and trespass, and the associated impact such incidents cause. EPSAs with the industry have been developed for Embedded Officers, Emergency Intervention Units, Suicide Prevention & Mental Health functions and Disruption Tasking Teams. Other examples of collaborative initiatives with the industry include the Trespass Improvement Programme, a cross-industry initiative to prevent and reduce trespass across the rail network; the You vs Train campaign, which makes teenagers aware of the serious and sometimes devastating consequences of trespassing on the railway; and international level crossing awareness days.

Providing value for money

BTP achieved the £4m efficiencies target for 2018/19, following £17m efficiencies already delivered in previous years. Advanced planning and programme development to deliver the 2019/20 efficiencies target of £9m is underway. Further detail on the delivery of efficiencies is set out in the BTP2021 section of this report.

As directed by the BTPA Chair in his letter to the Chief Constable on 16 May 2019, work has been undertaken to identify additional savings of £4.8m to meet the in-year funding gap which has arisen after TfL cancelled its Surface EPSA for 160 officers and cease paying for them in September 2019. These cost reductions are in addition to the £9m efficiency savings already required of the Force this year. As guided by the Chair, the Force has explored how to achieve these in-year savings by reprioritising the investment profiles of BTP2021 and driving further in-year efficiencies. Options to achieve the required savings along with the associated risk were shared with Strategy & Planning Committee on 5 June. The Chair of this Committee will make a recommendation on achieving the

savings to the Police Authority meeting.

An example of ensuring the most efficient and effective service whilst delivering value for money is the recent review of fleet provision across the Force. This review was undertaken in late 2018 and following consultation and approval through the governance route in 2019, a new structure for fleet was implemented on 1 May 2019. BTP used to have an internal fleet team, use an outsourced company and use commercial garages for vehicle servicing and repair. Following the review, BTP became a member of the Chiltern Transport Consortium where Thames Valley Police manage the outsourced company on BTP's behalf and provide police force workshops for servicing and repair work. The Chiltern Transport Consortium is formed of the following police forces - Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire, Civil Nuclear Constabulary and BTP. Moving to this consortium has generated efficiency savings in the region of £220k from internal staff costs and will achieve further savings through more cost effective repairs and servicing.

Building a specialist & skilled workforce

The Director of People & Culture has been leading the work to develop and implement a People & Culture Strategy which identifies the corporate culture required to deliver the Strategy and new ways of working in BTP for 2021 and beyond. The themes of this strategy are being developed with reference to the People Survey feedback, research by Canterbury Christ Church University, a gap analysis of people processes using the employee life cycle model, the NPCC Policing Vision 2025 and discussions with BTP's employees and employee networks. The Director of People & Culture will update Members on this developing work at Strategy & Planning Committee on 5 June 2019.

In terms of resources, police officer numbers are close to full establishment (with the exception of AFOs which is explained in section 5 of this report); the overall attrition rate is lower than the previous year (11.52% compared to 14.64%); and sickness rates have improved with an average period of 8.47 days absence.

In terms of inclusion and diversity over the last year 33% of new recruits were female and 18% BME. The outcome of promotion boards also resulted in an increase in female and BME officers promoted to the rank of Chief Inspector, Inspector and Sergeant.

3. BTP2021 - delivering transformation

Successful delivery in 2018/19

The Force delivered £4m of efficiencies in 2018/19, meeting the first year target towards the overall £30m efficiencies required over the life of the Strategy and BTP2021 transformation programme. Change programmes developed and delivered in 2018/19 and for which a new structure and ways of working came into full effect from April 2019 include Custody, Justice, and the Strategic Centre.

Development and delivery in 2019/20

Key work programmes under development for delivery in 2019/20 include Intelligence, Public Protection, Investigations, Resolution Centre and the Technology Operating Model. In terms of technology, there are 3 programmes – National Network Service (NNS), Office 365, and Power BI which are key enablers to deliver the required BTP2021 transformation and associated savings.

The progress made by the digital transformation programme, which is focused on delivering solutions to enable more flexible ways of working and provide greater agility was welcomed by Strategy & Planning Committee. Priorities of the digital programme are focused on those which are of greatest value to the workforce. For example mobile working, where over 2000 mobile devices have been issued to front line officers providing access to core systems and apps whilst they are out on patrol, negating the need for them to return to the office to log on to systems. The issue of mobile devices has been extremely well received by officers who appreciate the benefits that these devices bring. To further build on this success, the roll out of additional apps for mobile devices has been prioritised to secure early benefits and engage the workforce in the wider change programme.

Delivery Partner

The Delivery Partner, PA Consulting, commenced support to the delivery of BTP2021 in March 2019. This followed receipt of Cabinet Office agreement after a lengthy approval route through the governance process. The initial priority programmes of focus set for the Delivery Partner are Organisational Support and control rooms. £1.75m has been allocated in this year's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for the delivery partner and performance and spend is being closely monitored by the Directors of Strategy & Change and Finance & Commercial.

Impact on our people

A high level of strategic and local engagement with BTP's workforce was undertaken throughout 2018 and this has continued into 2019. The latest round of face to face briefings to the top 500 managers/supervisors across the Force took place during February and March to bring local leaders up to speed with the BTP2021 programme. An easy to read BTP2021 bitesize newsletter on transformation is also issued to all staff. Consultation with affected staff continues to take place as does early engagement with staff associations. Feedback was received from TSSA in relation to the level of engagement and consultation that was undertaken under the Justice programme and this will be used as an example of best practice for future work streams.

In terms of supporting our people through change, last year the Force managed to redeploy 171 people whose roles had been put at risk as a result of transformation. Whilst 51 people left the Force through voluntary redundancy, only 3 people left through compulsory redundancy. This evidence demonstrates BTP's commitment to redeploy affected employees where at all possible.

4. Engaging with our stakeholders

Stakeholder Engagement Plan

BTP's Executive Stakeholder Engagement Plan, which was developed in March 2019 and has been shared with the Strategy & Performance Committee, sets out a coordinated programme of engagement across key stakeholders which will be undertaken by the Chief Officers, Divisional and Sub Divisional Commanders. The plan is a working document and updated and recirculated each month, setting out planned engagement over the coming months. The plan is shared with the BTPA's Stakeholder Manager to ensure there is a cohesive approach to engagement with stakeholders between the Force and Authority.

A searchable and easy to use stakeholder database management system has been developed to track all engagement, provide an intelligence base across our stakeholders, identify trends, and measure improvements in relationships across the industry.

Recent engagement

Since the previous Police Authority meeting in March 2019, the Chief Constable has met with a number of stakeholders including the Chair and Managing Director of Network Rail, Managing Directors of Chiltern and Great Western Railway, the Director General Rail at DfT, HMI Matt Parr, the Commissioners of the MPS and City of London Police and the Chief Executive of the NPCC. Over this period other Chief Officers or Divisional Commanders have also met with the Managing Director and Engineering Director of HS1, and Managing Directors of Arriva Rail North, Caledonian Sleeper, CrossCountry, East Midlands Trains, London Trams, London Underground, Merseyrail, Scotrail, Transpennine Express, Virgin Trains, West Midlands Trains and Transport for London.

A record of these meetings has been maintained in the stakeholder database management system. Topics discussed included an update on BTP activities including delivery against the strategy, the Force's response to increasing violence, industry relationships, local topics relevant to individual stakeholders and listening to and following up on any matters individuals raised.

5. Countering the threat of terrorism

Countering terrorism on Britain's railways

2018/19 saw a continuance of the trend for terror attacks on Britain's railways. On New Year's Eve 2018, a knife attack occurred at Manchester Victoria Station and a BTP Sergeant was stabbed along with two members of the public. On 31 May 2019 a man was charged with three counts of attempted murder and possessing a document likely to be useful to a person committing or preparing an act of terrorism. He is due to appear at Westminster Magistrates' Court on 12 June. On 5 March 2019 an Improvised Explosive Device was recovered at Waterloo Station. It was assessed by the BTP's Specialist Response Unit before being dealt with by explosives officers. The device has been linked to others recovered over the same period at Heathrow and London City airports, and also recently linked to devices recovered in 2014.

Delivery of BTP's enhanced counter terrorism (CT) capability in the Midlands and North East of England has proved complex and has consequently taken longer to deliver than originally planned. The main reasons for this were securing suitable estate provision after a number of false starts on premises, complex lease issues over which BTP has minimal leverage, and the recruitment of Authorised Firearms Officers (AFOs). However, the Midlands hub is now fully operational with final estates work on schedule for full completion on 21 June.

The Manchester hub is also operational, operating from an interim location which has been achieved through an innovative redeployment of temporary armoury facilities. The license to occupy premises for the Manchester hub has been agreed, a feasibility

study on works undertaken and quotes received.

In terms of recruiting and retaining AFOs, the extremely competitive market with demand across the wider police service has been a real hindrance factor. This has been further exasperated by the pension issue which has had an adverse impact on recruiting transferees from other forces and potentially retaining those already employed by the Force. Limitations in newly appointed AFO availability have been mitigated by deployment of outreach patrols. Regular updates on the development of the additional CT capability have been provided throughout the year to BTPA Committees or direct to the Chief Executive. ACC O'Callaghan is scheduled to provide Members with an update on the recruitment plan at the Police Authority meeting.

Conscious of the financial concerns of the industry in relation to the absence of direct government funding for CT activity for BTP, the Chief Constable has led debate and discussions across the security spectrum and with government officials in order that BTP's CT activity is recognised as part of the national security wider provision and government funding secured for this activity. Through successful engagement at Ministerial level, support was secured from DfT for a bid to be submitted to the 2019 Spending Review for funding for digitally enabled technology to support the counter terrorism activity. Following this engagement, DfT have drafted a security funding bid for the 2019 spending review which advocates similar analysis of capability gaps and aligns with BTP's proposals.

London Bridge Inquests

The inquests into the deaths of the 8 individuals killed as a result of the terrorist attack on 3 June 2017 at London Bridge and Borough Market commenced on 7 May 2019. The inquest into the deaths of the victims will be immediately followed by the inquest into the deaths of the 3 attackers. Four BTP officers - PCs Wayne Marques GM, Leon McLeod QGM and Paul Attwood gave praiseworthy testimonies to the inquest about their actions on the day of the attack. Chief Superintendent Fry also gave evidence to the inquest covering BTP's operational response. All officers received legal and welfare support in preparation for the inquest and were accompanied to court by a Chief Officer.

Manchester Arena Inquests

A date for the inquests to commence into the deaths of the 22 individuals killed as a result of the Manchester Arena terror attack has been set for 6 April 2020. At the current time the list of those required to give evidence to the inquest has not been confirmed, however it is expected that BTP officers will be called upon to give evidence.



6. Our people

Awards and recognition

On 15 May 2019 BTP won the Public Sector People Managers Association (PPMA) Wellbeing and Mental Health award for the Force's work on trauma support. The Force was also highly commended for its positive action recruitment work. This was fantastic recognition for the great work of BTP's Occupational Health and Recruitment teams.



On 29 May 2019 22 police officers, 3 Special Constables and 6 members of police staff received their Long Service & Good Conduct Medal / Award from the Chief Constable at a ceremony held at BMA House in London. The presentation of these awards recognise 20 years commendable service for police officers and staff, and 9 years commendable voluntary service for Specials. The Chief Executive, Jeremy Mayhew and Shrin Honap represented the Police Authority at the ceremony.



Two members of BTP's Learning and Development team, Dave Harding and Diane Doyle, were nominated for a Drapers' Company medal in recognition of their endeavour and achievement in the support of training, learning and leadership. Diane was awarded the Drapers' Medal and Dave was highly commended at a ceremony at the Drapers' Hall on 6 June 2019. The Drapers' Company established an affiliation with BTP last year.

Three BTP employees, 2 officers and 1 member of police staff have been shortlisted by the British Association of Women Policing Awards 2019. The awards, which recognise the contribution and achievement of women within the police service, will be announced on 14 October 2019. Further to this the International Association for Women Policing have highly commended 3 BTP employees for their positive and proactive work in helping advance and improve the balance of diversity across BTP.

Plans have commenced for BTP's Make the Difference Awards 2019, an annual event to recognise and celebrate the best in BTP. The Force is exploring greater industry involvement this year including seeking sponsorship of awards. The event will be held towards the latter part of the year.

At the PDSA Dog Awards, which took place on 30 May 2019 at the Honourable Artillery Company, the PDSA Order of Merit was awarded to 10 BTP dogs and their handlers in recognition of their response to the terrorist attacks at London Bridge and Westminster in 2017. Dogs and their handlers from the MPS were also recognised at this event. These awards received positive media coverage including a good feature on BTP broadcast on This Morning.



BTP officer found guilty of common assault

On 10 June 2019 a BTP officer was sentenced after he was found guilty of common assault. The Police Constable denied the charge which had been brought following an investigation by the Independent Office for Police Conduct. Following a trial at Birmingham Magistrates' Court the officer, who denied the charge, was found guilty of assault and handed a 16 week prison sentence suspended for one year, ordered to undertake 120 hours of unpaid work and pay £500 compensation to the victim, £775 court costs and a £115 victim surcharge. The officer has lodged an appeal to the court findings. A second BTP officer was also charged with assault in relation to this incident, however his case was dismissed at Court.

Sexual harassment in the workplace

The NPCC launched a campaign on 3 June aimed at drawing attention to sexual harassment across the police service. This follows a survey of 1,776 police staff carried out by UNISON, London School of Economics and the University of Surrey, which showed half had heard sexualised jokes being told at work and one in 5 had received a sexually explicit email or text from a colleague.

The boundaries around ethical behaviour are not always clear. When does an exchange of words or office banter become sexual harassment for example? BTP has been rolling out Ethical Dilemmas workshops which over 1,200 employees have so far attended. These workshops are clear about the standards of behaviour BTP expects of its workforce. BTP has supported the NPCC campaign by tying the messaging around sexual harassment into the ethical dilemmas workshops, supported by a 'Let's Talk' campaign launched by the Chief Constable which makes clear that unethical behaviour will not be tolerated within BTP and empowering staff to call out behaviour that does not feel right.



**“They were just
messing around.
Someone else
would say some-
thing if they
went too far.”**

**If someone's crossed the line –
talk about it.**

Find out more at [BTP One](#) > [Our BTP](#) > ['Let's Talk](#)

**'Let'sTalk'
Sexual Harassment**

7. Governance

HMICFRS inspections

BTP was inspected in February 2019 as part of HMICFRS rolling programme in relation to Counter Terrorism. The inspection examined “how effective is the police contribution to the Prevent Strategy” and involved all Home Office forces, BTP, Ministry of Defence Police, and Civil Nuclear Constabulary. HMICFRS’ report will be published as a thematic paper containing observations across the policing landscape. In the hot debrief HMICFRS highlighted that frontline officers exhibited good knowledge of the CT strategy. ACC O’Callaghan was the Chief Officer lead for this inspection.

In April 2019, the Force was inspected as part of HMICFRS’ thematic inspection of ‘County Lines’ Drugs Supply, focusing on exploitation of vulnerability. As part of this inspection, HMICFRS will also be inspecting 10 other police forces, 3 Regional Organised Crime Units and the National Crime Agency. The thematic report for this inspection is due for publication in September 2019. In the hot debrief HMICFRS were complementary of BTP’s governance arrangements, tactics and intelligence products. ACC Doyle was the Chief Officer lead for this inspection.

HMICFRS have included BTP in their thematic inspection of Senior Police Leadership Selection and Development. The inspection will explore how well the police service selects and develops candidates for chief officer roles. The Director of People & Culture is the Chief Officer lead for this thematic inspection.

The Department for Transport commissioned HMICRS to undertake a bespoke inspection around disruption. This forms part of HMICFRS’ new inspection regime of BTP where they will conduct bespoke inspections which focus on the specialist nature of the Force and specific policing matters that are of most significance for passengers and the rail industry.

HMICFRS spent 3 to 14 June 2019 with the Force conducting the Disruption inspection. The inspection focussed on how well BTP aligned its priorities with the rail industry and how the Force minimises disruption across the rail network. The HMI attended the strategic presentation on the first day of the inspection which was delivered by the Chief Constable and ACC Smith. During the inspection HMICFRS conducted interviews and focus groups with BTP, BTPA and industry stakeholders. The initial debrief following the inspection is due to be received by the end of June. ACC Smith is the Chief Officer lead for this inspection.



GDPR - Data Protection Act 2018

In March 2019 the GIAA undertook an internal audit to provide independent assurance that BTP has robust and effective governance and risk management arrangements in place to comply with GDPR under the Data Protection Act 2018. GDPR is a regulation in EU law which covers the collection, storage, processing, transfer, and destruction of personal data.

The GIAA provided BTP with a Substantial opinion as a result of their audit, which is an excellent outcome and evidence of the strong leadership by BTP's Information Management team in this area.

In 2016 a GIAA audit of Information Management resulted in a Limited opinion. In this recent audit, the GIAA noted that 'BTP have made extensive progress in this area and this is evident in our findings during this review.' The GIAA also noted BTP's effective approach in the following areas - 'good GDPR guidance developed and easily accessible', 'raising GDPR awareness across the Force', and 'records management processes are robust and fully embedded throughout the Force'.

The GIAA report is due to be presented in full to the Audit & Risk Assurance Committee Officer on 14 June.

Force Assurance Statement

As Additional Accounting Officer, the Chief Constable provided the Force Assurance Statement to the BTPA Interim Accounting Officer on 30 May 2019. This statement supports the production of the Accounting Officer's Annual Governance Statement within the BTPA accounts, and lays out the external and internal control environment that governs the management of the Force. The statement comprehensively set out the governance structures and controls deployed by the Chief Constable and critically assessed the principal control areas of BTP requiring improvement identified during the accounting year. The Accounting Officer is due to share the Force Assurance Statement with Audit & Risk Assurance Committee on 14 June.

Force Management Statement

The Force Management Statement (FMS) is a self-assessment that Chief Constables are required to submit to HMICFRS each year. The FMS sets out a description of the demand police forces expect to face in the next four years; how the force will change and improve its workforce and assets to cope with that demand; how the force will improve its efficiency to ensure the gap between future demand and future capability is as small as reasonably possible; and the budget the Force expects to have to achieve this. BTP's FMS for 2019 is currently being finalised and is due to be submitted to HMICFRS in June.

8. External influences

Scotland

An update on policing the railways in Scotland is included as a main item on the Police Authority agenda and will be presented by the BTPA Executive.

Brexit

ACC O'Callaghan is the Chief Officer lead for BTP's preparations for Brexit and sits on the NPCC National Strategic Leads EU Exit Steering Group and the Resilience Forum to ensure any emerging risks to policing emanating from a 'no deal' Brexit are identified and mitigated. ACC O'Callaghan has produced a Gold Strategy which sets out BTP's broad intentions to police potential impact on the transport network in the case of a 'no deal' Brexit. ACC O'Callaghan is also due to brief Audit & Risk Assurance Committee on 14 June on planning and arrangements.

Williams Rail Review

The Williams Rail Review was established in September 2018 to look at the structure of the whole rail industry and the way passenger rail services are delivered. BTP and BTPA have produced a joint submission to the Review's call for evidence (if Members would like a copy this can be obtained from the BTPA Executive). BTP have made contact with the review team to seek an opportunity to meet to discuss the written submission in greater detail. The review's findings and recommendations will be published in a Government White Paper in autumn 2019 and reform will begin in 2020.

London Assembly investigation into hate crime in London

The London Assembly Police and Crime Committee wrote to the Chief Constable inviting BTP to contribute to their investigation into hate crime in London. The PCC's investigation aims to assess the Mayor's progress in protecting Londoners from hate crime and delivering a better support for victims. BTP has provided a written submission to inform this inquiry.

9. Policing Britain's railway and London Underground networks

The purpose of this section of the Chief Constable's report is to provide Members with an example of the depth and scope of incidents and subsequent investigations that BTP respond to policing the rail and underground networks and keeping them running. As this report is published the content has been anonymised but the Chief Constable can provide further detail if required at the Police Authority meeting on 20 June.

Operation Sentinel

Operation Sentinel is BTP's strategy to reduce violence and weapon enabled offences. The overarching aim of the strategy is to reduce serious violence offences by at least 10%.

As at 10 June 2019 there had been 765 violence and robbery offences across BTP's jurisdiction compared to 700 offences against the same period last year. Whilst this is a 9% increase, this can be attribute to the proactive targetted activity that is taking place across the network. During May over 500 taskings took place linked to Operation Sentinel which resulted in 83 arrests including 23 for violent offences, 21 for weapons, 21 for drug offences and 3 for robbery.

In June there are over 70 Sentinel operations planned across the network, including hotspot locations such as Stratford, Barking and Seven Sisters in B Division, and Cardiff, Birmingham and Manchester in C Division. These pre-planned operations are often joint initiatives with the industry and local police force.

Many operations under this strategy are taking place across the railway as joint initiatives with partners. One example was a joint at Plumstead station where 5 police officers and 2 PCSOs conducted a high visibility operation alongside South Eastern Railway revenue officers. Over a 4 hour operation, 35 individuals were subject to a Stop and Account, 4 searches were carried out, 1 individual was arrested for trespass and possession of an offensive weapon (sword) and 2 persons were arrested for possession of Class A drugs. South Eastern revenue officers also issued 75 penalty fares.



Extinction Rebellion demonstrations

Extinction Rebellion is an environmental protest group. In February 2019 they announced they would conduct 2 weeks of civil disobedience and protest in London between 15 to 28 April.

On 11 April Extinction Rebellion posted on their open Facebook account that they would target London Underground on 17, 18 and 19 April, with the aim of shutting the underground network down.

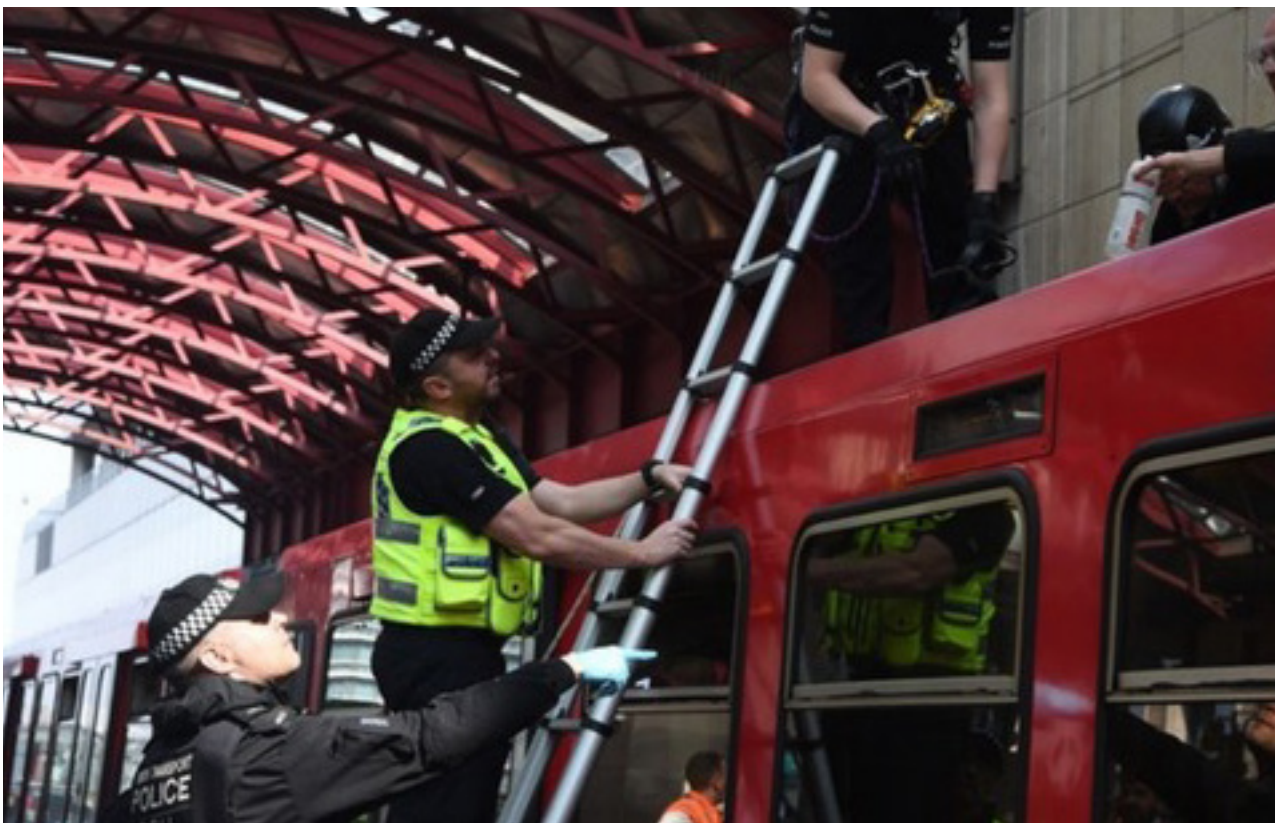
ACC O'Callaghan adopted Gold Command for this operation and planning meetings were held with stakeholders including the MPS, CoLP, TfL, LUL, Network Rail, Rail Delivery Group and train operators which run across London. The approach taken by BTP, in partnership with key stakeholders, was robust.

BTP proactively liaised with leaders of Extinction Rebellion to emphasise the safety risks and consequences to protestors of

demonstrating on the rail and underground network.

During planning, high impact stations were identified and BTP based a static police presence at these stations during the demonstrations. Other stations were covered by roving police units including a Working at Heights Team and Protester Removal Teams. Throughout the protests a number of individuals were apprehended, charged and remanded in custody ahead of forthcoming court appearances.

To police this operation BTP deployed officers on 12 hours shifts across 3 days, with officers from C Division travelling to London to support the policing operation. The overall cost to BTP of this policing operation has been calculated at £320k, which includes additional costs totalling £170k such as overtime and hotel accommodation for C Division officers who were required to stay in London for the duration of the operation.



Organised crime group counterfeit travel card arrests

A year long investigation by BTP's Major & Serious Organised Crime into a significant counterfeit TfL travelcard fraud culminated in 19 arrests during dawn raids in London and Romania earlier this month. This operation ran as a Joint Investigative Treaty through the Hague. Arrests were made simultaneously in London, Leicester and Romania.

A large stock of counterfeit blank TfL travelcards were recovered during searches of property in Romania. In the UK in excess of 70,000 blank TfL travelcards were recovered.

It is estimated this operation prevented a potential loss to TfL in the region of £20m through the sale of counterfeit travelcards.

Of the 19 individuals arrested, 10 have been charged with conspiracy, and others with money laundering. Some of those charged have been remanded in custody and all are pending a court appearance.

Football policing

ACC Smith continues to make good traction with the Transforming Football Related Travel Programme, after securing Ministerial support and working in partnership with the rail industry and football associations. A further meeting of the Football Rail Strategic Group, which will be attended by the Rail Minister, DfT officials, Premier League, English Football League, Network Rail, Rail Delivery Group and BTP, has been arranged for 17 June.

An example of a recent prosecution following unacceptable behaviour of football supporters travelling on the rail network saw 3 football supporters appear before Court and receive a 3 year football banning order and a hefty fine. The 3 individuals, who had been travelling by train to a fixture, were behaving in an anti-social manner, shouting, swearing and causing other passengers to feel intimidated

and frightened for their safety. The train manager called BTP and officers met the train and arrested the individuals. Due to good joint working and utilisation of the information sharing agreement between BTP and the football club, the men also received a club imposed ban pending their court appearance.

County Lines

County Lines is a term used when drug gangs from big cities expand their operations to smaller towns, often exploiting children and vulnerable people to sell or traffic drugs or move large amounts of cash. Often the gangs use Britain's transport network to transport the drugs and cash.

Operation Intensification, a national County Lines operation coordinated by the National Crime Agency ran from 13 to 17 May. All BTP Divisions supported this operation with multi-agency initiatives taking place across the course of the week.

One example was a joint operation at Woking between BTP, Surrey Police and the Royal Military Police. Over the 2 day operation 75 drug searches were undertaken resulting in 3 arrests, a number of cannabis warnings and an intervention with a vulnerable person. The NPCC promoted the outcomes of the national operation on social media, and part of their messaging included footage from the joint operation at Woking - it made impressive viewing.