



Report to: Scottish Railway Committee
Date: 22 October 2019
Agenda Item: 5
Subject: Interoperability BTP and Police Scotland
COG Sponsor: DCC Hanstock
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For: Noting

1. PURPOSE OF PAPER

1.1 To provide the Scottish Railway Policing Committee with an overview of interoperability arrangements and activity across British Transport Police (BTP) D Division.

2. INTEROPERABILITY ARRANGEMENTS

2.1 D Division participate in joint initiatives with both Police Scotland and partner agencies to ensure a cohesive approach to a variety of policing issues. We work with various partners including Train Operators, Network Rail, Border and Immigration, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Social Services, environmental agencies and local and national Government. BTP and Police Scotland operate jointly often on a daily basis across all of Scotland. This ranges from event policing to joint initiatives on particular issues such as drug use, anti-social behaviour, anti-violence or general reassurance policing. On a regular basis officers from both organisations will operate on one another's jurisdiction to offer assistance. This can include BTP officers making arrests from offences that occur on Police Scotland jurisdiction or Police Scotland assisting BTP officers at railway locations across the country. This is particularly evident in locations such as Inverness where the relationship between both organisations is excellent.

2.2 Recent examples of this include joint working with Police Scotland in Edinburgh to deal with youth disorder near Waverley Station, in Ayrshire and Dunbartonshire to manage groups travelling to beaches and tourist spots in good weather and a multi-agency approach to deal with social issues including begging, drug use and homelessness in and around Glasgow Central station.

2.3 A current interoperability example can be seen under Operation Shad/Op Pontoon. This is a Police Scotland Operation targeting drug dealing in Glasgow city centre around the wider



footprint of Glasgow Central Station. BTP contribute with a 'business as usual' approach, utilised during the long-term Problem-Solving Plan run by the Glasgow neighbourhood policing team. This ensures intervention with the homeless, drug users and vulnerable individuals who congregate around the footprint of the station. Days of action see BTP deploy neighbourhood policing resources to work alongside colleagues in Police Scotland. The most recent days of activity were on the 1st and 4th of October. As well as working with Police Scotland, BTP are working with Glasgow City Council and the 3rd sector on the begging strategic group. This has included facilitated work with the station managers of Glasgow Central and Queen Street stations to roll out alternative giving programme. This scheme will provide grants to those on the streets, with a view to diverting people with complex needs away from street begging providing a pathway away from drug use and criminality.

- 2.4 D Division has introduced reciprocal shadowing opportunities to assist with the development of officers to help encourage shared 'best practice' with partners. Examples of this include BTP command-trained officers shadowing Police Scotland officers at Public Order deployments; this is often at Inspector and Chief Inspector level. A Police Scotland officer was also seconded to work in D Division's North Sector to work alongside BTP colleagues. This presented an opportunity for officers of both forces to better understand how each force operates at a local level. It has improved relationships as well as understanding. The officer from Police Scotland was very complimentary about the overall experience and this initiative will be repeated when practicable. As well as the personal development it allowed both forces to share best practice and to make local processes easier to work together. Having introduced Taser-only officers into BTP Scotland in 2016, D Division also supported Police Scotland in the development of their policies and processes to introduce Taser-only officers.
- 2.5 Other regular engagement with Police Scotland takes place at many levels and assists with interoperability on priority policing issues. A separate paper detailing examples of engagement has been produced and is available to the committee. BTP are an integral part of the planning process for major football matches and BTP officers work alongside Police Scotland in the events room on match days. BTP are heavily involved in the planning and delivery of major events policing including the recent disorder associated with loyalist and republican groups in the west of Scotland. Working jointly on events brings huge benefit for both organisations and allows for the effective sharing of information and coordination of resources. We have many examples where this co-location has assisted with effective



railway policing whether that be through the live time sharing of information/intelligence or through the provision of additional resources being supplied to assist with policing on the rail network.

- 2.6 BTP has embedded 2 Sergeants with Police Scotland. These officers work within custody suites and provide additional resilience in dealing with all prisoners who enter the custody suite. This is a development opportunity and also an opportunity to give assistance to Police Scotland. BTP also has an officer embedded with an intelligence function at Gartcosh. Intelligence is shared within both organisations and has provided many benefits. This is especially relevant in the policing of football and the intelligence provided by BTP is regularly adding value to the wider policing of football.
- 2.7 In terms of future events, 2020 is likely to be a busy year in Scotland with Euro2020 matches taking place at Hampden Park and the recently announced CoP26 climate conference taking place in Glasgow. BTP are already fully integrated with Police Scotland colleagues in the planning process for both of these events. BTP currently sit on the Gold and Silver groups which have been set up by Police Scotland. As the planning process develops it is our intention to look at embedding officers into the multi-agency planning structure which is currently being developed. A letter is due to be sent from the Gold Commander, ACC Higgins, requesting BTP participation in the planning team which start in earnest on 11/11/19.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Members to note the interoperability arrangements in place across D Division. The committee will be provided with regular updates to evidence interoperability.