



Report to: Scottish Railway Committee
Date: 14 February 2020
Agenda Item: 6.3
Subject: Interoperability
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 update on current interoperability arrangements and activity across BTP's D Division. This builds upon the paper submitted at the previous committee meeting.

2. INTEROPERABILITY ARRANGEMENTS

2.1 A current interoperability example is the Transport Threat Forum. BTP chair this group and have recently gained an overall feel for what members are looking to achieve in the year ahead. The forum is an opportunity for members to plan and conduct multi-agency operational activities that have tangible results that contribute to the objectives of the group. There is a broad spectrum of member agencies that cover various aspects of the transport network including ports, airports, DVSA, SEPA, rail network and road policing. This provides scope for effective multi-agency deployments and allows members to share tactics and good working practices as the year progresses. As an example, the group are collectively working with SEPA to tackle a current operation that they are running.

2.2 BTP are members of the Multi Agency Tactical Delivery Board (MATDB) who sit at a strategic level. This forum presents the opportunity to bid for additional specialist resources and support to augment any planned operational activities. The MATDB is also moving towards being more operationally focussed and it is an excellent forum to secure specialist support. Recent example where BTP required Romanian interpreters for an operation which resulted in two Romanian police officers giving immediate assistance.



- 2.3 Joint working with Police Scotland continues notably joint patrolling in and around Glasgow Central station over the festive period particularly targeting issues associated with the night time economy and associated low level disorder. A similar approach was taken in Edinburgh where officers from both forces patrolled in and around Waverley Station, including the adjacent Christmas Markets maximising the uniformed police presence in the vicinity.
- 2.4 A further interoperability example can be seen in Ayrshire where, again, scheduled joint uniformed patrolling with Police Scotland officers now routinely takes place to address areas of mutual concern, most notably low level anti social behaviour that impacts on both the rail network and local communities.
- 2.5 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 Detective Inspectors who are trained Senior Investigating Officers (SIO's) being given the opportunity to shadow Police Scotland detective colleagues in live homicide investigations.
- 2.6 As previously stated in the last paper on interoperability arrangements BTP has an officer embedded with an intelligence function at Gartcosh. Intelligence is shared within both organisations and has provided many benefits. This has become particularly relevant as the focus on County Lines drugs activity has been enhanced across the UK with routine operations now taking place on the network including a recent joint operation at Aberdeen Railway Station. Such operations have proven successful and will continue to be a feature of the interoperability arrangements that are constantly being further developed.
- 2.7 In terms of future events, this year is likely to be an eventful and challenging year for policing in Scotland with four Euro 2020 matches taking place at Hampden Park and the recently announced CoP26 climate conference taking place in Glasgow. BTP are 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. BTP have established a planning team and members of this team will now be embedded within the COP 26 multi agency planning team at Eastgate, Glasgow.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS



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